

# Berwick Wildlife Group

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

## Monthly Review November 2008



### WILDLIFE REPORTS.

**Weather.** A fairly mild month with a cold spell appearing during the last week. There were several wet days with variable winds, but none up to gale force. Total rainfall was 65mm (2.6 inches). The 23<sup>rd</sup> saw a snow cover at dawn, which thawed quickly during the day. The frost came again on the 28<sup>th</sup> and the following day was cold with freezing fog in some places. The temperature fell to -5.6°C (21.9°F) on 30<sup>th</sup> with a fine display of hoar frost showing all day, as the maximum only reached zero centigrade (32°F).

**Birds.** A good month for winter visitors, the first Waxwings and Snow Buntings being seen and several days busy with geese moving in all directions. A prime time for garden feeders and some surprises at sites of the second season of the Winter Atlas survey.

The month started with a **Short-eared Owl** on Halidon Hill (1<sup>st</sup>) and 9 **Pheasants** seen together on stubble at Hiveacres. 84 **Pink-footed** and 22 **Barnacle Geese** fed on Ord Moor (2<sup>nd</sup>) with 70 **Teal** and 84 **Mallard** on Middle Ord pond. The same day, 15 **Mute Swans** and 14 **Canada Geese** were at West Ord, and 16 **Shag** and 6 **Wigeon** on Meadow Haven. A **Great spotted Woodpecker** was at Ord House (3<sup>rd</sup>). 20 **Dunlin**, 38 **Sanderling**, 13 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 26 **Curlew** were on Little Beach (4<sup>th</sup>) with a single **Fieldfare** roosting with them. 36 **Eiders**, 16 **Common Scoters** and 3 **Shags** were at Cocklawburn (5<sup>th</sup>) with 16 **Common Snipe** at Yarrow Slake. 6 **Waxwings** and 2 **Goldcrests** were in Hiveacres area all day (6<sup>th</sup>) and a **Nuthatch** was in the Castle Terrace area. 230 **Pink-footed Geese** flew south over East Ord (7<sup>th</sup>) with 250 **Wood Pigeons** in three large flocks flying up the Tweed. Also 5 **Bullfinches** and 2 **Song Thrushes** were on Yarrow Slake with 44 **Dunlin** on the marsh. At Cocklawburn (9<sup>th</sup>) were 5 **Red-throated Diver**, 3 **Shags** and 6 **Wigeon**, with 16 **Goldeneye**, 3 **Goosanders** and 30 **Golden Plovers** at West Ord, and a Swedish-ringed **Black-headed Gull** was seen at Carr Rock. 3 immature **Gannets** and 12 **Shags** were feeding in Meadow Haven (10<sup>th</sup>), while 13 **Long-tailed Tits** were seen in Hiveacres.

A high count was 248 **Sanderling**, 38 **Dunlin**, 210 **Turnstones**, 230 **Redshanks**, 11 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 9 **Purple Sandpipers** on Little Beach (13<sup>th</sup>), showing the possibilities of this site when not disturbed. 120 **Pink-footed Geese** flew north overhead. The Estuary WeBS count (14<sup>th</sup>) saw 33 **Mute Swans**, 64 **Greylag Geese**, 10 **Canada Geese**, 125 **Mallard**, 54 **Goldeneye**, 670 **Lapwing**, 9 **Common Snipe** and 342 **Redshank**, while 2 **Yellowhammers** and 5 **Long-tailed Tits** were at the sewage works and a **Treecreeper** was found in the Parish Churchyard. 2 **Stonechats** were at Mill Farm (15<sup>th</sup>) and 7 **Red-throated Divers** were in Spittal Bay (16<sup>th</sup>). A **Grey Wagtail** was at Jingling Bridge (18<sup>th</sup>) with 20 **Eiders**, 3 **Grey Plovers** and 9 **Purple Sandpipers** in Dodds Well, and 4 **Eider**, 2 **Common Scoters**, 36 **Sanderling**, 3 **Grey Plover** and 11 **Bar-tailed Godwits** along in Fisherman's Cove.

On the 20<sup>th</sup>, 27 **Purple Sandpipers** and 154 **Turnstones** were feeding in the wrack on Little Beach with 5 **Rock Pipits** and a **Black-throated Diver** off the Pier while a **Sparrow Hawk** and 12 **Long-tailed Tits** were in East Ord. A **Gannet** and a **Red-throated Diver** fed in Spittal Bay (21<sup>st</sup>) with 4 **Goldeneye** flying north overhead. 83 **Oystercatchers** were on the Golf Course (25<sup>th</sup>), with 266 **Dunlin** joining the other waders on Little Beach. A **Grey Heron**

was seen flying south well offshore and high up off the Pier. 26 **Twite** were at Cocklawburn (26<sup>th</sup>) with 26 **Sanderling** on Sandstell Point. A pair of **Stonechats** were at Spittal. 11 **Red-breasted Mergansers** and 2 **Red-throated Divers** were in Meadow Haven (27<sup>th</sup>), with 160 **Pink-footed Geese** flying in off the sea. The cold snap brought 30 **Goldfinches**, 24 **Chaffinches** and 14 **Greenfinches** to Hiveacres bird-tables (29<sup>th</sup>), and a **Barn Owl** was seen crossing the A1 just S of Scremerston. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, a **Rock Pipit** was on the shore at Yarrow Slake and 16 **Linnets** on Sandstell Point.

**Elsewhere.** A **Red-throated Diver**, 5 **Common Scoters** and 5 **Goosanders** were offshore just north of Eyemouth on the 1<sup>st</sup>. 12 **Yellowhammers** were at Shoresdean (2<sup>nd</sup>), and about 20 **Purple Sandpipers** were on the rocks south of Eyemouth. A count on Holy Island on the 3<sup>rd</sup> showed several hundred **Brent Geese**, plus 3 **Red-throated Divers**, 2 **Slavonian Grebes**, a **Sparrowhawk**, a **Kestrel**, 4 **Black-tailed Godwits**, a **Long-eared Owl** and 4 **Short-eared Owls**. 50 **Fieldfares** were at Whitsome (7<sup>th</sup>). A **Dipper** was seen on the Ale Water outside Eyemouth on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A **Chiff-chaff** was reported on Holy Island (9<sup>th</sup>), and 36 **Snow Buntings** were in Cheswick dunes, with 3 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 5 **Purple Sandpipers** on the shore. A **Merlin** and 2 **Mistle Thrushes** were seen at Foulden (25<sup>th</sup>) and 32 **Pink-footed Geese** were feeding on stubble at Cheswick House (26<sup>th</sup>).

**BTO Winter Atlas survey.** The best sightings were 2 **Little Egrets**, a **Waxwing** and 2 **Stonechats** at Beal; 20 **Tufted Ducks** and 3 **Bullfinches** at Oxford, and 30 **Fieldfares** and 6 **Redwings** at Cheswick Buildings.

**Mammals** Several reports of **Stoats** from Beal, Cheswick, Murton and Middle Ord.

**Butterflies and moths.** Late **Red Admirals** were seen in Berwick on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and at Berwick and East Ord on the 4<sup>th</sup>. A **Peacock** was disturbed in a garage at Cot Hill, also on the 4<sup>th</sup>. An **Angled Shades** moth was attracted to a security light at Eyemouth on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank you very much to Malcolm Hutcheson and everyone who sent in wildlife records.** Please send us your records and also photos, particularly if we can use them in our "Berwick is Brilliant for Wildlife" CD for 2008 (printed photos can be scanned). E-mail [mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](mailto:mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk) or phone 01289 309046.

**BORDERS BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER** as mentioned last month – to get on the (e-)mailing list please e-mail Barry Prater at [barry@prater.myzen.co.uk](mailto:barry@prater.myzen.co.uk) .

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Last meeting for 2008 - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Big Cats.** A talk on his overseas work, by Richard Wales (now Red Squirrel Project Officer for South Scotland). Seasonal refreshments provided. **7.30pm.** Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, SPITTAL. Everyone welcome, members £2.00, non-members £3.00, accompanied children free.

**First meeting for 2009 - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Berwick is Brilliant for Wildlife Event.** A display to consolidate (and show off) BWG's work in 2008, to thank all who have helped us, and especially to celebrate our wonderful local wildlife. **7.30pm.** Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, SPITTAL. Refreshments. Everyone welcome. No charge.

**Want to know more?** Look at 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 along to one of our events.

❄️ **WITH VERY BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR** ❄️