April Newsletter

Last month's Speaker **Geoff Sample**

Trumpet Gentian - Geoff Sample

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Club Information

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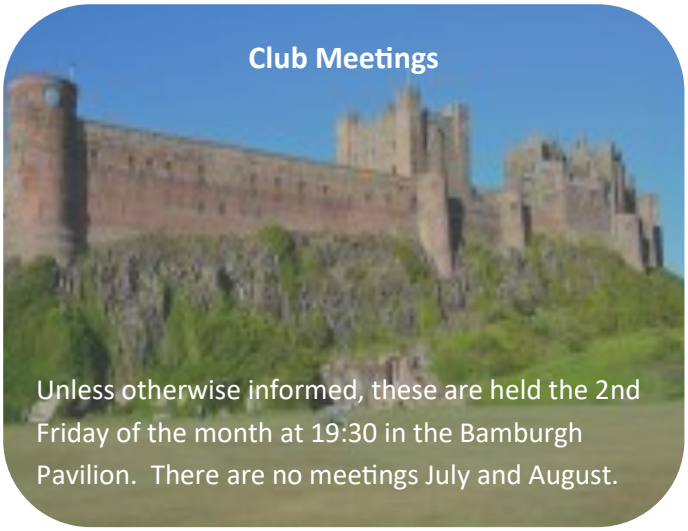

Club Meetings

Unless otherwise informed, these are held the 2nd Friday of the month at 19:30 in the Bamburgh Pavilion. There are no meetings July and August.

"Birds sing after a storm; why shouldn't people feel as free to delight in whatever sunlight remains to them?"
Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy

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Check out our Internet presence

On our web site at:
northnorthumberlandbirdclub.co.uk

On our Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/NorthNorthumberlandBirdClub

Email us at:
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Members WhatsApp Group Chat
NNBC Chat (Join by requesting a link)

NNBC's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 18th May 2024, 12:30 to 15:30 at the Bamburgh Pavilion

A buffet lunch with ornithological entertainment of various kinds!

Costs: The event costs **£18** per person to include a finger buffet (provided by Carnaby's). Drinks will be provided. Please pay in full to Fiona Southern at the club meeting on 12th April.

Not too late to decide to come! But please pay in full by 12th April

Bird Photo Competition: There is going to be a fun photo competition on the day, with the winners decided by the attendees' votes. The TV in the Pavilion will show the photos, and members will vote for their favourites. Please send digital photos (max size 2Mb) to Richard Poyer at richardpoyer67@gmail.com by 1st May.

The email should have the name of the species and the photographer taking the image. Please no more than five photos per member. Good Luck!

Remember this is a fun thing!

Upcoming Field Trips

21st April 2024
Druridge Pools / Bay area
Leader: **Iain Robson**
See details on following page

12th May 2024
Dawn Chorus at Ford and Etal
Leader: **Lord James Joicey**
See details on following page

June 2024
St Abbs Head
Leader: **Richard Poyer**. Date and Details to follow

For all Field Trips please read the Risk Assessment on our Web site beforehand. For dates and times and last minute changes / cancellations check our Facebook Page, NNBC Chat, or directly with Leaders for the event.

See web site for details of other Field Trips

Upcoming Meetings

Friday 12th April at 19:30
Seven years with the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project with **Rick Taylor**

Friday 10th May at 19:30
The Little Tern Project at Long Nanny with **James Porteus**

Friday 14th June at 19:30
The wildlife of Outer Mongolia with **Brian Clasper**

See web site for details of other Meetings

Noticeboard

Druridge Pools / Bay Field Trip on April 21st

Our April field trip is to Druridge Bay area and Druridge Pools, led by Iain Robson

Meet at **9:00** at Druridge Links, where free parking on the roadside is available. This is notionally between the two Northumberland Wildlife Trust hides.

What3Words "spotted. spindles.attends", Lat/Long 55.263166 , -1.568726, Grid Ref NZ 275966

Café and loos 2 miles south at the Drift Café (Good for Creswell Pools) or at Druridge Country Park, a similar distance North.

Dawn Chorus Field Trip on May 12th

Our May field trip is the Annual Dawn Chorus trip to Ford and Etal estate, led by Lord James Joicey.

This will be around the newly planted woodland sites at Watchlaw, adjacent to Etal Moor (aka Slainsfield Moor).

Over 40,000 trees are being planted there, so the landscape will be changed. It would be excellent to get a good list of May-time birds there, whilst the trees are only just planted and the landscape remains as it is. Over time, things will change and it is important (and interesting) to keep a record of the changes.

The meeting point is at the **Cheviot Brewery Car Park** at **Slainsfield**, at **05.30 am**

Grid Ref NT 950 394, What3Words "guests.tropic.vent ", Lat/long 49.766809 , -7.5571598

Breakfast will follow!

Shorebird Volunteers Wanted!

Do you have a few hours free each week this Spring, which you could spend on the beach helping Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve protect breeding waders such as Little Terns and Ringed Plovers?

The Reserve is looking for volunteers to join their small but enthusiastic team as the Shorebird Breeding season is fast approaching and volunteers are needed: to help Shorebird Wardens and Staff, supervise important areas of the beach where waders will be nesting.

This will involve talking to visitors and explaining what we are doing, and to explain the importance of allowing the birds to breed without disturbance by people or dogs. There is evidence that supervision and protection of such areas results in less disturbance and a higher rate of success.

The Reserve also needs volunteers to undertake a coordinated fortnightly survey of Ringed Plovers on a designated patch of beach on the Reserve. Training will be given and there is excellent support from the Reserve Wardens.

If you are interested please chat to me (Liz Harrison 07778 552259) or contact Bex Outram, Reserve Manager at the Reserve Office on 01289 381470.

Noticeboard

Volunteer(s) for a Bird Survey please!

Chris Walton of Peelham Farm asks if any NNBC member(s) would be willing to do a bird survey of the family's organic farm, near Foulden, north-west of Berwick.

The volunteer(s) would ideally do four visits: the earlier in the day - at dawn - is best, but to suit the surveyor – evening is possible on one of the visits. It entails walking boundary hedgerows with binoculars, a clipboard-notepad and pen to record all birds heard or seen: species and numbers. (Singing denotes declaration of a territory, a bird carrying food indicates breeding.)

The farm is organic and Chris farms with his son and wife and they are very sympathetic to biodiversity and environmental issues. They are certified organic with the Soil Association and with 'Pasture For Life' for their grain-free livestock system. A degree of fitness and following your favourite hobby (bird-watching) is all that is required!

It would be a privilege to have access to this private property in a delightful setting. Chris (whose late father Lord Walton of Detchant was a stalwart supporter of NNBC for many years and his mother Betty a passionate bird watcher) would give any volunteer a guided tour of the farm to indicate access routes.

Please contact Chris directly at chris@peelham.co.uk and copy to denise@peelham.co.uk

THE CLUB NEEDS YOU

There are still two spaces on the committee and we would like to encourage members to consider joining it to help organise and run the club. It is not really onerous, but it's essential to have new blood and ideas to ensure the club continues and thrives. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the NNBC and it would be good to think that it still has many years to contribute to birding in the area. Please ask any committee member if you are interested.

Speaker's Presentation

35 years of Tracking Europe's Wild Soundscapes with Geoff Sample

Those of us at the Pavilion for the club's March talk by Geoff Sample were privileged to hear one of the best talks in my time as a member. Geoff's humour, excellent photographs and great sound recordings transported us into the varied environments of Europe.

In many ways, having reached 70 years of age, it was a retrospective of his 35 years as a sound recordist. We saw the various vehicles that had carried him and his wife across Europe through the years, culminating in his current "posh" campervan. This gives him the luxury of being able to be on the spot for those early morning or late evening recordings in out of the way places without intrusive noise.

Geoff has produced two books on bird songs and calls. His first concentrated on the British Isles Bird Songs and Calls and his second on Warbler Songs and Calls in Europe. His talk was mainly concerned with his journeys to record for the latter book: visits to Bulgaria, Poland, France, Spain, The Balkans and the Lesvos Island in Greece, especially wetland areas.

One of his favourite locations is the Camargue and the nearby limestone hills. We heard Spectacled, Sardinian and Sub-Alpine Warblers as well as mosquitoes and frogs. The birds being set in their wider environment. On the hills it was sound of cow bells to go with the bird song.

Spain has been a very fruitful country for Geoff's work with the wetlands and reserves south of Barcelona, including the Ebro delta and the Island of Fuerteventura. They hold many of the Warblers such as Western Orphean and Western Bonellis as well as Pelicans, Flamingos and Ibis. Inland, along the Ebro valley with its different environment of the pseudo-steppe, Geoff has recorded many Lark species such as Dupont and other species such as Sand Grouse. On the Plateau of Maestrazgo, seeing little change in 200 years, were Golden Eagle and Scops Owl.

White Pelicans and Cormorants Lake Kerkini Bulgaria

Trumpeter Finch

Fuerteventura, with its altitudinal zonation of environments has a diversity of bird species that include the Cream-coloured Courser, Houbara Bustard, Sandgrouse, Hoopoe, Stone Curlew and the Trumpeter Finch with its unusual Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzz song.

Another favourite island of Geoff's is Lesvos. With its many Warblers, Nuthatches, Buntings and Shrikes it provides a lot of birds in a small area – Orphean and Ruppel's Warblers, Nightingale, Black-headed Bunting, Rock Nuthatch and Rock Thrush.

Speaker's Presentation

Geoff does go to the cooler environments of Poland, the Balkans, Bulgaria and Northern Scotland. From these more northerly locations we heard and saw the Semi - Collared Flycatcher from the beechwoods of the Rhodopi Mts., Great Snipe leking at night from the Polish wetlands of the Biebrza National Park, White Pelicans and Cormorants on Lake Lekini in Bulgaria, Great Northern Diver calling on Mull with White-tailed Eagle in the background and Ptarmigan in the Scottish Highland.

However, Geoff sometimes comes home without the recording he was hoping for. He admitted not having a Golden Eagle recording that was really good and told us of missed opportunities in the Highlands.

In each of the sites it wasn't just the birds that he was interested in but in putting the bird songs and calls in the context of the wider environment of insects, mammals and plants. Insects such as the beautiful Owl Fly in the Camargue, Box moth caterpillar in the limestone hills near the Camargue and very rare Spanish Moon moth. Or sharing a hide with a family of Grass Snakes and, of course, being bitten by mosquitoes.

The written word can't do justice to the many recordings of beautiful and unusual bird song and call that we heard. In his preface to the 2nd Edition of Bird Song and Calls, Geoff writes of his recordings that, "I hope.. (they bring) the natural world closer to your heart".

His talk certainly achieved that.

Richard Poyer

Field Trip Report

The Hirsel on Saturday 23rd March 2024

February's field trip was to The Hirsel: just inside Scotland, beside Coldstream. After some early car park ticks, the group of 13 began with a perimeter walk, which incorporated views over the lake, open countryside, estate settings, woodland, and stream.

We were progressing quite well with our species count, though we had unfortunately picked the one day each year whereby dozens of agricultural tractors chug noisily around the countryside to raise money for charity… including driving right through the centre of the Hirsel Estate!! An early sand martin helped ease this frustration.

Whilst a few enjoyed their picnic, most decided to have lunch in the cafe. A fourteenth club member had now joined us for the afternoon, involving a circular walk around the lake. All the usual species were seen, as well as managing to sneak up on the few remaining Mandarin Duck that were, otherwise, hiding very effectively.

A final, enjoyable (though desperate) attempt back at the car park to fill some glaring gaps in our tally, before departure around 15:30.

All seemed to have enjoyed the day, as well as remaining dry despite the forecast of showers.

Neil Hinchliff

48 species seen:

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Dunnock, Gadwall, Goldcrest, Goldeneye, Goldfinch, Goosander, G S Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Lapwing, Little Grebe, L T Tit, Mallard, Mandarin, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Redwing, Reed Bunting, Robin, Rook, Sand Martin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Teal, Treecreeper, Tufted Duck, Wood Pigeon, Wren, Tree Sparrow, Magpie.

Photos courtesy of Phil and Alison Hanmer, Neil Hinchliff and John McCutcheon

Bird Sighting Records

Below are the highlights for March...

Whooper Swan	26 near Beadnell on 8th	DG&RB
	27 at Branton on 24th	JMcC
	20+ north of Embleton until 23rd	PCA
Mandarin Duck	1 male at Howick Pool on 3rd	P&AH
Common Scoter	14 at Alnmouth Bay on 14th	RP
Great Crested Grebe	1 at Branton on 16th	JMcC
Avocet	4-6 at Newton Scrape from 6th	PCA
	9 at Coquet Estuary on 29th	RP
Knot	101 at Coquet Estuary on 29th	RP
Ruff	2 at Newton Scrapes on 6th and 29th	PCA
Woodcock	1 at Long Nanny on 20th	PCA
Red-throated Diver	1 off Bamburgh on 30th	PCA
Sparrowhawk	1 female at Yearle on 31st	DG&RB
	1 at Chathill on 2nd	PCA
Barn Owl	1 at Yearle on 12th	DG&RB
	1 at Newton on 24th	P&AH
	1 at Warkworth on 17th	P&AH
Kingfisher	1 at Howick burn mouth on 24th	P&AH
Merlin	1 at Long Nanny on 7th	PCA
Peregrine	1 at Howick Pool on 24th	P&AH
Waxwing	2 at Powburn on 18th	DR
Marsh Tit	1 at Howick Pool on 24th	P&AH
Goldcrest	1 at Cragside on 5th	JMcC
	1 at Newton Pool on 15th	PCA
Nuthatch	1 at Yearle on 4th and 31st	DG&RB
Treecreeper	1 at Yearle on 1st	DG&RB
	1 at Shilbottle on 16th	RP
Brambling	4 at Longframlington on 26th	JMcC
Bullfinch	4 at Branton on 5th	JMcC
	1 at Branton on 27th	JMcC
	1 at Rothbury on 28th	JMcC
	2 at Tin Church, Low Newton on 15th	PCA
Twite	c20 at Long Nanny on 6th	PCA
Common/Lesser Redpoll	1 at Lemmington Hall on 2nd	P&AH
Siskin	2 at Branton on 7th	JMcC
	2 at Longframlington on 28th	JMcC
	2 at Chathill on 21st	PCA

Bird Sighting Records

Contributors

Paul Armstrong (PCA)
Graham & Rosemary Bell (DG&RB)
Phil & Alison Hanmer (P&AH)
John McCutcheon (JMcC)
Richard Poyer (RP)
David Richens (DR)

North Northumberland Bird Club's area is between the River Tweed in the north and the River Coquet in the south, east to the sea and west to the Northumberland county border.

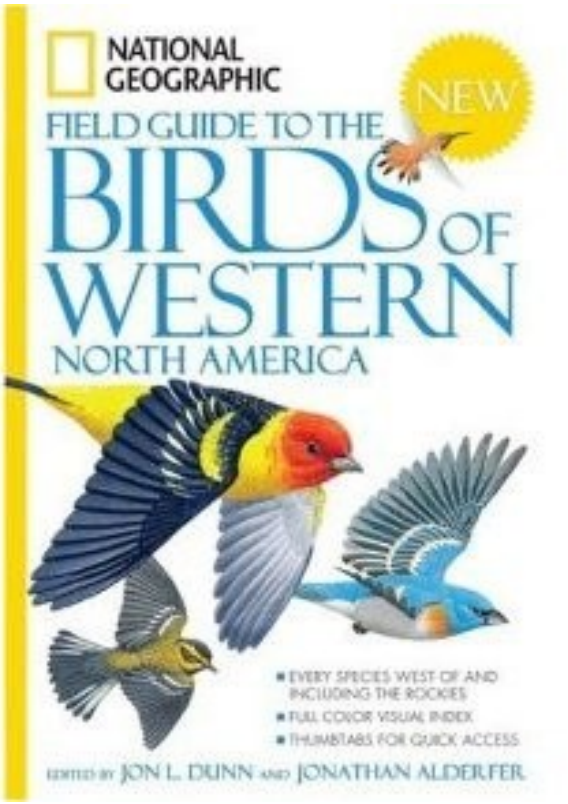
Brambling getting crumbs from Goldfinch

Please send sighting records to **Paul Armstrong** NNBCrecords@yahoo.com by 1st of next month.
If you want a bird adding to the highlights list, you will need to submit the species, location, date(s) and count, together with any comments. If you just want it added to the species list, then you only need to submit the name of the bird.

Members' Contributions

Sea of Cortes by Steve Newman

Birding in the Sea of Cortes is one of life's great experiences. There are some three hundred species with three endemics (Belding's Yellowthroat, Xantus's Hummingbird, and Gray Thrasher). This may not be the Galapagos but it comes pretty close. Sandwiched between the Mexican mainland and the Baja Peninsula stretching down from California, it is some 100 miles across at its widest point and some 4,000 ft deep in places.



What appears to be a barren, lifeless coastline is extremely high in minerals and nutrients and so produces one of the Earth's richest seas for plankton. This in turn attracts fish in huge numbers which mean the seabirds here are very well fed, and because of the lack of human contact are easily seen and observed.

We visited in early January, a little bit too soon for the Blue, Humpback and Grey Whales but one evening the warm sun had forced the plankton to the surface and the fish were having a feeding frenzy. A couple of Brown pelicans noticed this and started diving to feed. Within five minutes this was noticed by others and without a word of a lie we must have had two thousand birds diving and swooping around us. These included not only the pelicans, but Brown and Blue Footed Boobies, Black Vented Shearwaters, Eared Grebes, Ospreys and Yellow Footed and Heerman's Gulls whilst above waiting to pounce Magnificent Frigate Birds circling and soaring.

Most of the mainland of the peninsula is desert. This term is however somewhat misleading: the desert stretches up to Arizona and consists of cacti and acacia tress with other scrub plants. It also consists of different hights, individual micro climates, and vegetation areas. We were lucky as the area had had the first rain for some three years which made all the plant life erupt. However the desert has a completely different set of bird species and the built up areas have another, which makes your stay very profitable.

We flew into the airport of Los Cabos right on the southernmost tip of the peninsula. The road from the airport to the town gave us Turkey Vulture (they are everywhere you go on the peninsula), Crested Caracara, Black Throated Sparrow and Red Tailed hawk.

I would recommend if you can, go to the golf course (We got Black–crowned Night Heron on one of the water hazards) and walk into the town. Loggerhead Shrikes and a Harris Hawk sat kindly for us on the top of telegraph poles whilst Belted Kingfishers, Great and Snowy Egrets and Great Blue Heron flew along the coast line.
The new highway to La Paz where we were to join the boats slices through the desert or you can go via a different way through the mountains. We went one way and came back the other, which resulted in species such as Raven, American Kestrel, what we thought was an Ash Throated Flycatcher and White Winged Dove being seen, whilst every now and then a flash of brilliant red betrayed the presence of a Northern Cardinal.

The main highway road comes pretty close to the beaches of the pacific popular with turtles, and depending on the water level in some of the lagoons and ponds you may be able to pick up some interesting waders such as Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Marbled Godwit and Greater Yellowlegs.

It is the islands on the east coast that produce the most spectacular birding including the occasional Peregrine. Boats are available from La Paz (The sewage ponds here are supposed to be good for waders) and other coastal towns which you can hire to see the Whale Sharks or visit the islands such as Esprito Santo and Los Islotes.
The main attraction at Los Islotes is to snorkel with the baby sea lions. This was quite fun but to me far superior was the Brandt's and Double Crested Cormorants that sat on the water beside us until they decided to dive. To watch them effortlessly glide down towards the shoals of fish that parted to let them pass through is an incredible experience. It was interesting to compare their leg movements with the cycling motion of the Eared Grebes.
The rocks here are home to Brown Pelicans and Brown and Blue footed boobies whilst at the lower levels Spotted Sandpipers and American Oyster Catchers were hopping about and Craven's Murrelet (A sort of guillemot) were occasionally seen bobbing on the waves. Vaux Swifts have been reported here but unfortunately we didn't see them.

Other seabirds you may see around the islands and coast include Royal, Caspian, Elegant, Forster's and Common Terns Short-tailed and Sooty Shearwaters', and Black, Least and Leach's Storm-petrels. Ring-billed, Western, Bonaparte's, and California Gulls and Red-billed Tropicbird.

We thought we had got a first at the small town of Loreto when an all black bird looking suspiciously like a Skua was spotted on a lamp post. The fact that other gulls were chasing it however soon proved that with the aid of the book what we had was a first winter Heerman's Gull!

The desert areas are just as rich in bird life giving us a Ladder-backed Woodpecker boring into a cactus, more shrikes and Northern Mockingbirds perched on high, a beautiful bright yellow headed Verdin, and Black

Capped Grey Warblers scurried around in the rocks.

For some five minutes a Costa's Hummingbird sat obligingly on the top of an acacia tree for us. Other smaller desert specialists were Rock Wren, Blue-Gray and California Gnatcatchers, Gila Woodpecker, and the occasional flash of brilliant red betrayed the presence of a Northern Cardinal.
We just touched the southern end of this amazing place. There are huge marshlands, estuaries, lagoons etc to the north and huge areas still basically untouched by birders. There is no doubt that is one of the major birdwatching areas of the world waiting to be discovered.

Websites:
I can recommend the Baja California Sur Birds website (BCS Birds, www.bcsbirds.com) It is dedicated to raising awareness of the area's potential as a world-class bird-watching destination and is designed as a reference for birders who wish to identify what they have seen there and who wish to learn what species are regularly observed.

Field Guides:
Most of the American birders we met had a copy of The National Geographic Birds of Western North America. This includes the Baja peninsula and is available from Amazon for £10.79. There are others available but in my opinion this very good in terms of maps and information.

Getting there:
A visa is not required for Mexico but you will need a transit visa for the United States if you have an overnight stay in the country as part of your travel plans. You can fly to Los Cabos or La Paz form cities such as Houston or Dallas. I found Los Cabos to be cheaper and easier to get to. Car hire and accommodation are found on the internet. Most people go on organised birding tours and again these can be found on the internet.

We travelled with Un-cruise adventures in for a seven day tour of the islands and desert. www.un-cruise.com
Others are:
www.naturetrek.co.uk
www.mexico-birding.com
www.birdtours.co.uk
If you want to make up your own itinerary you can do this quite easily.

Trips to the islands from La Paz:
www.espiritubaja.com.mx/index.php
www.bajaseafaris.com
www.bajaairventures.com

Steve Newman

A Ringer's Year - March 2024

Long time readers of this article will remember that several years ago I used to ring and record a heavy passage of Siskins through our garden in the Spring every year. However, this evaporated about five years ago, until this March when this passage from south to north re-occurred. Over five short morning sessions I have captured approximately 100 new birds plus retraps including 10 from previous years. Along with the Siskins come a smaller number of Redpoll and a few Goldfinch (which seem to be travelling with them). The most startling is the bird shown in the photograph which is a male Redpoll I first ringed back on 13/4/18 (when it was just less than one year old). I recaptured it again on 20/12/19 and 9/2/21 and yet again this year on 2/3/24. This makes it nearly 7 yrs old which just might be an age record.

Meanwhile one of my C Ringers (Allan) at Selkirk has also been catching Siskins and after having two interesting controls in the New Year (with birds previously ringed at Thurso and Peebles) he has just had this repeated with different birds! This time adult male [ANV3709] which was ringed at Forse, Thurso on the 1/7/22 was at Selkirk on 16/3/24, presumably going North again 300 plus Km. Meanwhile another younger male [ADV4074] ringed at Peebles on 4/3/22 at less than one year old; was at Selkirk on 16/3/24.

March is when we start work on monitoring Barn Owls; and also checking to see how the boxes have survived the winter (not to mention the trees and hemmels).

With the help of my C Ringers, we have checked 65 odd sites and ringed or seen 30 owls. The most fascinating is a bird that is now giving every indication she is going to nest near Newton by the Sea which came from Bacton in Suffolk! We know this because I controlled her roosting in a tawny-duck box in December 2022 and was able to check her Suffolk ring number [GY17093] and the BTO told me where she had been ringed in July 2022 in the nest. No one has seen this owl since, until 24/3/24 when she was found in her 'new' box. Down near Warkworth there is another pair of owls where the female [GK41046] is now 10 yrs old (while her mate is

several years younger).

Another gratifying find was of an entirely new pair in a farm hemmel near Boulmer. This is a little building that was in continuous nesting occupation from 2016 to 2020; then Kestrels took over for a year before it stood empty until this year when a pair of owls are again in occupation.

During the course of checking these boxes we met a farmer, near the coast, who was able to tell us of Barn Owls being seen in and around a disused stable.

The usual assumption is that they are nesting in such buildings. However, a visit established that while it was a good winter roosting site there really was nowhere for the owls to nest in this building, and so we were able to come back with a Coast Care/AONB Barn Owl box and erect this in the building.

Of course, we don't know how long it will take the owls to use this box but hopefully it will be used soon.

Another story I wanted to relate concerns another farm near Longframlington. Sometimes a farmer is reluctant to have an owl box because they think it will stop them changing the use of a building; in this case a box (which was successfully used last year) was in a building that was now going to be used for pigs. It's unlikely the owls would use it in these circumstances and if they did the pigs would have posed a lethal hazard to a young owl emerging from the box. The farmer let us know of this 'change of use' and we were able to move the box to another (close) location on the farm and in the process, we briefly captured a roosting owl and transferred it to the relocated box (and the owl went to sleep almost immediately). Of course, we could not have done this if they were actually nesting but I relate this to emphasise that boxes can be moved.

None of the female owls we have weighed have been at breeding weight yet (400g plus) so we are not expecting an early nesting year. We leave Barn Owls in peace for most of April and May to let them start nesting and move onto checking for the much earlier nesting Tawny Owl.

Phil Hanmer
S Ringer/Trainer, Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group (Hancock Museum)
Email: tytoalbas@btinternet.com

Epilogue

Classic Bird Books for Sale

- Hodgson & Rossiter: The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Northumbria 1995. 1st edition, dust wrapper size 305 x 220 very fine condition (Barter Books £60/£70 when available) £30
- Snow & Perrins: The Birds of the Western Palearctic 2 volume boxed set. 1st Concise Edition 1998 size 270 x 220, dust wrappers very fine condition (online price £80/120) £50
- Clarke: Montagu's Harrier 1996. 1st edition, dust wrapper size 232 x 167 very fine condition £25
- Newton: Bird Migration 2010. 1st edition, card covers (New Naturalist) signed by author. In fine condition £25
- Gaston The Ancient Murrelet 1992. 1st edition, dust wrapper, very good £15.
- Marzluff & Balda The Pinyon Jay 1992. 1st edition, dust wrapper, good £8

Contact John Lumby Tel; 01665 720654
or at North Sunderland, Seahouses, Northumberland, NE68 7WG.
On sale a small donation will be made to club funds.

Got something you'd like to add? Please let us know.

Content for the Newsletter

Submissions for inclusion in the form of notes, articles, photographs etc are welcomed. These should be Emailed to the Newsletter Editor. Deadline for copy is the first Friday of the month, but earlier is preferred. The target date for distribution is the weekend before the club's meeting, usually on the Sunday.

Epilogue

A Blast from the Past - this month's hint

Now that Spring is nearly here, please do not stop feeding your garden birds; they are physically at their lowest ebb, having survived a tough winter, and particularly the females who need to build up their reserves for egg-laying.

Hints are from Graham Bell's early newsletters

New walk added to Web Site...

Check out Steve Newman's guide to Buston Links in the Bird Watching Places on our web site.

GO BIRDING

NORTHUMBERLAND

MAX MILES ON FOOT: 4 MIN TIME: 3 HOURS

BUSTON LINKS

Hedgerows, sand dunes, saltmarsh, beach and estuary!

PRACTICAL INFO

INSIDER KNOWLEDGE

TARGET SPECIES WINTER

WHERE TO WATCH

Waxwing—David Richens