April Newsletter

Last month's Speaker **James Porteus**

Wow - who's that!
Bridled Tern and Puffin
Neil Hinchliff

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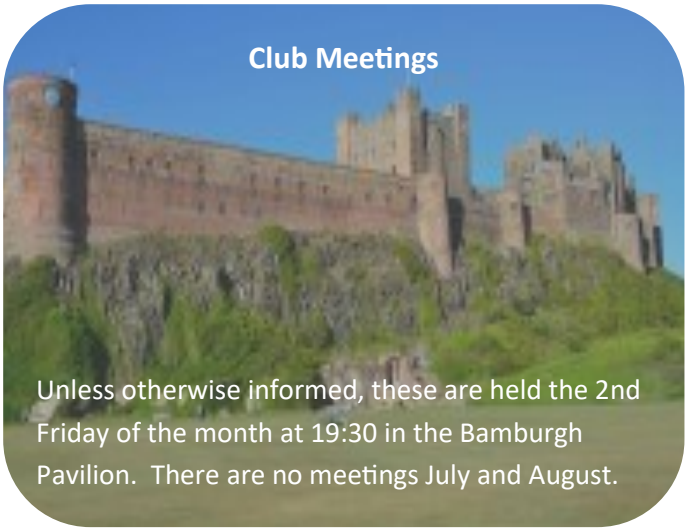
Club Meetings



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.

"The presence of a single bird can change everything for one who appreciates them "

Julie Zickefoose

Bird Recorder
Paul Armstrong

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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:
ringouzel@northnorthumberlandbirdclub.co.uk

Members WhatsApp Group Chat
NNBC Chat (Join by requesting a link)

Noticeboard

Bird Records

While there are no club meetings in July and August, please do remember to send your bird records to Paul (our recorder) who will compile the monthly lists. These will be circulated to all as usual.

nnbcrecords@yahoo.com

Members' Contributions to the Newsletter

Several members have submitted articles for publishing in the Newsletter, offered on their own volition to add interest, inform and entertain the other members.. so far all have been very interesting and much appreciated. BUT we need more, so please consider an offering you think will interest, enlighten or simply amuse your fellow members.

In 99.9% of cases, they should of course relate to birding!

Look forward to receiving your offerings!

THE CLUB NEEDS YOU

There is still a space 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.

Upcoming Field Trips

September 2024
RSPB Saltholme - Details to follow
Leader: John Lumby

Note:
There are no club field trips in July and August

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

Friday 13th Sept at 19:30
The Wildlife of Costa Rica with **Alan Yeomans**

Friday 11th June at 19:30
Update on Morpeth's Swifts with **Graham Sorrie**

See web site for details of other Meetings

NNBC's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 18th May 2024, at the Bamburgh Pavilion

Around 40 club members gathered in the Bamburgh Pavilion to celebrate the club's 40th Anniversary. Upon arrival guests were offered a celebratory glass of fizz by our '*effervescent*' club secretary Paul, and treated to the sight of a delicious looking buffet covering the whole width of the room. Tables and chairs were laid out around the sides, and the screen at the other end was already playing through the entries in the photo competition.

With plenty of greetings and chat, it didn't take long for guests to fill their plates with the tasty sausage rolls, goujons, sauces, quiche and sandwiches on offer. The committee were working very hard trying to entice members to the kitchen hatch where they were dishing out wine and soft drinks. A certain member denied making several visits to the bar and even more to the buffet! For the sweet tooths among us the savouries were followed by cake and Millionaire Shortbread (a personal favourite of mine and yes I visited at least as often as 'the aforementioned' - delicious!)

While this talking, eating and drinking was going on guests viewed the photo display which was rotating through the 60+ entries and adding their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices on the voting forms. As expected there was a stunning array of photos of very high quality.

Getting the attention of the room, Richard welcomed everyone and dished out thanks to the committee members (current and past) for keeping the club going for 40 years - and looking forward to 40 more.

A special thank you was given to our founder Graham Bell, who spoke jokingly of 40 years ago trying to get 'another' club to have the odd meeting in the north of the county. When they declined and said they would consider it in another 10 years Graham thought "to **** with them, I'll start my own club" and so he did. His amusing piece was met with much applause and thanks.

Then came the quiz, with the quiz master (aka Neil) rearranging the tables of members to give a balance of expertise within teams. Much shuffling ensued! After the usual chants of 'please speak up' the maestro started the deluge of questions. The first five were general knowledge relating to our formation year 1984; the last five were similar - but for our anniversary year 2024. In the middle were 15 ornithological questions (eg what species is Puffinus Puffinus? and something strange about an empty sandwich!). There seemed to be an equal number of groans and laughs.

And so to the results: starting at the top, Neil asked if any team had got all 25 right and was met by silence. He got the same silent response until he got to 20 - when two teams cheered their success. A tie breaker was needed, with the answer to be written down. "How many species of bird have been seen in Northumberland?" But when? This year or ever? It was 'ever' - so some quick scribbled changes were made. Neil viewed the answers and announced "Lizzie and her Mizzies" (Liz Harrison, Andrew & Janet Hindle, Phil & Alison Hamner, and John McCutcheon) had 'narrowly beaten' "John and his Condors" (John Lumby, Trish Botten, Winnie banks, Andrew and Tracey Green). The grand prize was the glory of winning!

Ruby Dooby Done...

While all this excitement was going on, the count was being made of the votes for the photo competition.

The voting was widespread, such was the quality of entries. Only one photo got 4 votes and was declared the winner, with several photos each receiving 3 and 2 votes.

With the UK system of voting being first past the post and after adjudication due to the winning photographer doing the counting, first place went to “Whoops” by Richard Poyer .

Again the grand prize was the glory of winning!

Note about 10 images have been added to the web site gallery.

It seemed that everyone enjoyed the afternoon celebration of the club’s anniversary and we look forward to many more.

John McCutcheon

A Blast from the Past - this month’s hint

Mowing your lawn not only invigorates it but also enables harassed Blackbird and Thrush parents to locate food more easily. In prolonged dry spells keep one area damp to attract worms and other invertebrates near the surface

Hints are from Graham Bell’s early newsletters

Speaker's Presentation

The Little Tern Project at Long Nanny with James Porteous

For our talk this May the NNBC stayed at home and got a wonderful insight into the work being done to help birds at one of our most important local sites, Long Nanny. James Porteous, the National Trust's Coastal Warden gave us all an inside view of the efforts he and his team put in, and of the huge challenges they face. In this our 40th anniversary year, it is quite heartening to hear that the nationally important tern colony at Long Nanny is about the same age as our Club!

When the National Trust first took over the site in 1977, there were only a few pairs of Little Terns and a couple of Arctic Terns, but a combination of natural coastal processes modifying and extending the dunes, and a regime of controlled access during the breeding season, has transformed this into the largest mainland colony for terns in England. Although the bigger picture for all the birds at the Nanny is grim, it is really good to have such a positive story on our doorstep.

James gave us a detailed look at the three key species nesting at Long Nanny that make it so important – Arctic and Little Terns, plus Ringed Plover.

We have probably all visited the hut on the dunes and experienced the spectacle of hundreds of Arctic Terns feeding chicks, filling the air with squeaky cries, and working as a mob in response to any intruder. The raucous and hectic activity of the birds disguises the fragility of the colony. Some years hardly any young fledge as the birds face continual challenges from predation, disturbance, disease, bad weather and food supply problems. James and his team work hard to ameliorate these where they can, putting up predator fences and trying to ensure out of control dogs (and walkers) don't wander into the colony and cause mayhem. Managing the "Tern Garden" with early season mowing has certainly helped to create a more secure colony off the pressures of the beach, and it is a little frustrating that James hasn't yet managed to persuade English Nature to allow for this area to be expanded.

Even more frustrating must be the disturbances caused by low-flying aircraft (up to 60 logged instances in a year). Despite all these challenges, the Arctic Tern colony does seem to be on a positive trend despite national decline for the species. Perhaps interventions like the recent ban on commercial Sand Eel fishing will also help.

The Little Terns are not quite so "in your face" as the Arctics, but their smaller colony is perhaps even more important and more fragile. These are our second rarest sea-bird, and it is always a delight to see them feeding along the coast through the summer, hunting small fish in the surf.

Speaker's Presentation

They nest in the sand and shingle on the bare part of Long Nanny as it thrusts north into the estuary. James explained that they like open landscape so that they have 360 vision, but this leaves them acutely vulnerable to high tides which can sweep through all the nests. In response, James and his team have tried to raise the level of the Nanny by burying naturally occurring brash and wood in the sand, which then helps to secure further deposits of material, slowly, and slightly, engineering a raised nest site.

Although he had some concerns that the material used in this way might put the terns off by interrupting their views, birds are nesting in the new area. However, not all the birds choose this safer option, and really high tides will overwhelm even this. So James took us through his team's second intervention used in "emergency" situations: raising individual nests by moving them into fish-boxes filled with sand and grass. He explained that each nest had to be carefully recreated so that parents would recognise it, and when done carefully, most parents will continue to brood and feed.

A similar sort of intervention is used to help the Ringed Plovers which nest alongside the Terns. These birds suffer more from predation by corvids and gulls, especially where they can't use air-cover provided by the terns! To help them, each vulnerable nest is covered with a wire cage, and again this has to be done carefully to avoid the parents taking fright and abandoning the nest. With this sort of help, the plovers seem to be doing quite well, and Long Nanny has perhaps the most concentrated population of these birds in Northumberland. Their catastrophic decline in the UK as a breeding bird is disguised by the fact that we host so many migratory birds over the winter, so that they feel like a familiar and regular part of the scenery. In reality, they are suffering just as much as the terns and need every bit of help we can give them.

All good conservation work needs to be under-pinned with science, and another key part of the work James leads is the regular surveying and monitoring of the colonies. This includes counting nests, monitoring overall numbers, and working out productivity rates each year. Delivering accurate counts without causing undue disturbance must be a real challenge. If you get a chance to look over the Little Tern nesting site with a scope, you will see that each nest is marked with a numbered pebble so that checks can be made at a good distance. When they can, the wardens also do things like monitor the food being brought in by the adults to feed the young, watching out for poor quality food which could indicate pressure on prey fish stocks from climate change.

The work undertaken by James and his team helps us all to enjoy the spectacle of Long Nanny. It was great to have such a refreshing and intimate look into this work at the cutting edge of conservation in our own patch. I am sure that all of us at NNBC were impressed and have fingers crossed for a good year!

Report by Paul Ashdown

Field Trip Report

Dawn Chorus - Ford & Etal: Led by Lord James Joicey

Slainsfield and Watchlaw, Sunday 12th May 2024 - 05.30-09.15

A record number of people (27), including some welcome non-members, arrived at Slainsfield on a bright sunny morning. We were soon up onto Slainsfield Moor from where the views back to the Cheviots were a little opaque in the haze, despite a stiff south-easterly wind. Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs were everywhere as we climbed up to the gate and a Cuckoo was calling from the woodland on the other side. On the moorland itself, pairs of Stonechats whistled and clacked as we walked past and a beautiful male Reed Bunting flew over the reedbed. But are times hard for Yellowhammers on Slainsfield Moor these days? One poor specimen was only expecting us to give him a Little Bit of Bread … No talk of any cheese. But perhaps he was vegan?

Having persuaded a bunch of cows and calves to allow us to cross a corner of their field, and quickly too, we negotiated a muddy gateway to safety. We were immediately greeted by loud song from the veteran pines close by – a magnificent male Redstart flew onto the topmost branch and gave us great views. The Redstart is often overlooked so we were delighted to enjoy this.

Then we were truly amongst something different. The estate is half way through a woodland creation programme at Watchlaw Farm, adjacent to the moor. It has been severely delayed by the bureaucratic processes involved and by the horrendous wet weather.

However, by the time it is complete (in 2025/26), about 50,000 trees will have been planted, five kilometres of deer-fencing erected and over a mile of new roadways built. The first stage was completed this past winter and tubed saplings are everywhere, as far as the eye can see.

These are protecting the mixed-species biodiversity section of the plan and – at the command of the Forestry Commission – the estate has to erect tubes and stakes for each. For compartments planted with commercial conifers (Sitka and Norway Spruce), however, deer-fencing is permitted. Happily, the mixed

saplings planted in the next stage of the biodiversity plan can be deer-fenced, though nobody is quite sure why …

This will fundamentally change the landscape at Watchlaw. In years to come, a wide sweep of wooded upland will stretch from Slainsfield as far as Doddington and beyond. It's not only the visual character that will change; so too will all aspects of wildlife in that area. The estate is keen to record these latter changes as they occur.

Whilst we completed our customary circuit of the woodland garden at Etal Manor, in which we added other species such as Greenfinch (much less common than it once was), Bullfinch (a flock of them are to be seen every winter in the bushes outside Etal Church) and Treecreeper, and admired a splendid Peony and the almost black 'Queen of the Night' tulips, Harriet's activity and work rate in the kitchen outdid that of McDonalds at rush hour as she prepared a delicious Bird Club breakfast during which Fiona read out the roll call of the 42 species seen.

Harriet thanks everyone very warmly for the generous donations (£207) towards Hospice Care North Northumberland. She appreciates it so much.

Species seen / heard: Mallard, Pheasant, Sparrowhawk, Moorhen, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Cuckoo, Skylark, Swallow, House Martin, Meadow Pipit, Pied Wagtail, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Redstart, Stonechat, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Grasshopper Warbler, Blackcap, Common Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Goldcrest, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Starling, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Bullfinch, Reed Bunting

James Joicey

Ford & Etal Estates

Bird Sighting Records

Below are the highlights for May...

Garganey	1 at Holy Island on 19th	NH
Cinnamon teal	1 at Bamburgh on 5th	NH
Cinnamon Teal	1 at Bamburgh on 5th	PCA
Long-tailed Duck	1 at Monk's House Pool on 1st	PCA
Nightjar	1 on Holy Island on 24th	NH
Cuckoo	1 at Ingram on 14th	PCA
Cuckoo	1 at Long Nanny on 29th and 31st	PCA
Avocet	10 at Low Newton on 18th	JMcC
Avocet	2 at Long Nanny on 26th	PCA
Avocet	3 at Coquet Estuary on 5th	RP
Grey Plover	1 at Seahouses on 13th	BRW
Ringed Plover	390 at Coquet Estuary on 19th	RP
Little Ringed Plover	1 at Hedgeley on 11th	PCA
Knot	24 at Coquet Estuary on 5th and 14 on 19th	RP
Curlew Sandpiper	3 at Budle Bay on 14th	NH
Temminck's Stint	2 at Newton Scrape on 14th	NH
Temminck's Stint	2 at Newton Scrape on 17th	PCA
Jack Snipe	1 on Holy Island on 25th	NH
Little Gull	1 at Long Nanny on 10th	PCA
Black Tern (American)	1 at Long Nanny on 14th	NH
Black Tern (American)	1 at Long Nanny on 26th	PCA
Sparrowhawk	1 at Longframlington on 14th	JMcC
Sparrowhawk	1 at Chathill on 29th	PCA
Sparrowhawk	1 at Holy Island Lough on 8th	PCA
Marsh Harrier	1 at Long Nanny on 28th	PCA
Marsh Harrier	1 at Low Newton on 2nd	PCA
Red Kite	1 at Hedgeley on 8th	BRW
Kingfisher	1 at Howick Pool on 19th	P&AH
Red-backed Shrike	1 at Holy Island on 19th and 24th	NH
Indian Golden Oriole	1 at Holy Island Snook on 21st	NH
Grasshopper Warbler	1 at Rothbury on 5th	JMcC
Grasshopper Warbler	1 at Annstead on 9th	PCA
Grasshopper Warbler	1 at Bamburgh on 1st, 3rd and 5th	PCA
Garden Warbler	1 at Holy Island on 8th	PCA
Lesser Whitethroat	1 at Annstead on 9th	PCA
Goldcrest	1 at Branton on 11th	JMcC
Goldcrest	1 at Doxford on 4th and 18th	PCA
Nuthatch	1 at Cragside on 1st	JMcC
Nuthatch	1 at Branton on 26th	JMcC
Nuthatch	1 at Spindlestone on 5th	PCA
Treecreeper	1 at Doxford on 18th	PCA

Spotted Flycatcher	2 on Holy Island on 23rd	NH
Spotted Flycatcher	1 at Howick Hall on 19th	P&AH
Pied Flycatcher	1 at Vicar's Garden, Holy Island	NH
Whinchat	1 at Bamburgh on 5th	NH
Wheatear	2 at Clennell Street on 9th	JMcC
Wheatear	1 at Long Nanny on 1st and 15th	PCA
Dipper	1 at Rothbury on 19th	JMcC
Dipper	2 at Ingram on 14th	PCA
Bullfinch	1 at Chathill on 1st	PCA
Lesser Redpoll	1 at Rothbury on 5th	JMcC
Lesser Redpoll	1 at Chathill on 6th	PCA
Redpoll	10 at Kimmer Lough on 24th	PHa
Siskin	1 at Chathill from 1st to 8th	PCA

Contributors

Paul Armstrong (PCA)
Phil & Alison Hanmer (P&AH)
Phil Hanmer (PHa)
Neil Hinchliff (NH)
Richard Poyer (RP)
Barry Whitehead (BRW)
John McCutcheon (JMcC)

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.

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.

Norfolk 6 day Field Trip by John Lumby

Three cars (six members) convened at 7:30 am on **Sunday 28th April** in the Hogshead car park Alnwick, to begin our convoy down to the RSPB Frampton Reserve, in south Lincolnshire. We duly arrived about 12:30, meeting up with our advance car (two members) to find blustery showers (not good!). After quick snacks the birding began, by spotting about 60 Dark Bellied Brent Geese, Shoveler, Gadwall, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Swift, several pairs of Great Crested Grebes display dancing across the water! (interesting!), Avocet, Ringed & Little Ringed Plovers, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Black -winged Stilt, 2 immature Little Gulls wheeled across the water, Great White Egret, Little Egret, several Marsh Harriers hunted over the reeds, Sand Martins & Swallows, Cetti's Warblers sang & seen, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Yellow Wagtail, plus more common species brought our afternoon total up to 61. After our birding we drove to Wymondham, where our final member from London met up with the party at the Townhouse Hotel.

Monday 29th April dawned sunny, so with a good start, we were off to the NWT Weeting Reserve for nesting Stone Curlew plus Skylark, Wood Lark, Common Buzzard, Red Kite, Whimbrel, Kestrel, etc. Other stops at the NWT Holme Dunes reserve produced Marsh Harrier and a male Montaque's Harrier. At Holme Dunes we managed to add Eastern Subalpine Warbler, Redstart, Black Redstart, Greenfinch, Yellowhammer, Goldcrest, etc. Dotterel were not at their traditional site (disappointing!). The Guys & Dolls were now on 95 species.

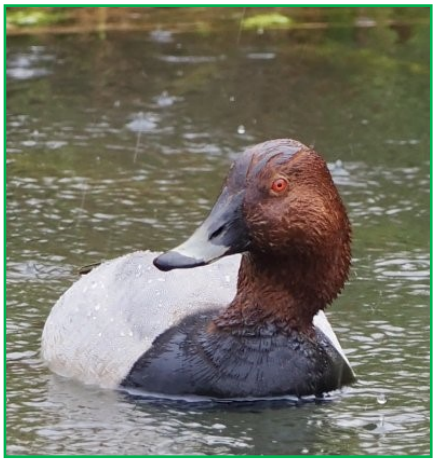
Tuesday 30th April saw us heading off to the main NWT Cley Reserve, where we saw Egyptian Goose with goslings, Cuckoo, Avocet + chicks, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper, 1 Long billed Dowitcher, Great White Egret, Marsh Harriers, Red Kite, Bearded Tit, Wheatears still in good numbers moving north, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, etc bringing our total to 107. Return to Wymondham and the Townhouse Hotel after a very good day on the marsh.

Members' Contributions

Wednesday 1st May was hot & sunny for our trip south into Suffolk. We became the Marauders visiting the main RSPB Minsmere Reserve seeing Barnacle Geese, Cuckoo's, Hobbies, Spoonbill, Bitterns, Great White Egrets, Little Egrets, Marsh Harriers, Bearded Tits, Nightingales, Dartford Warblers etc. A cracking day and a very pleasant dinner at the cordon bleu Crown restaurant in Westleton rounded off the evening. Unfortunately no Owls on the way back to Wymondham (strange!), our total was now 123 species.

Thursday 2nd May was again hot and sunny for another trip into Suffolk to the RSPB Lakenheath Reserve seeing Arctic Tern, Little Egrets, Kingfisher Grasshopper Warblers, Cuckoo's, Swallows and Sand Martins, etc bringing the total to 126. We had hoped to see Crane at this reserve, so a pity they did not oblige. On reflection we should have gone to Hickling Broad where Crane & Osprey were seen. We then returned to the Townhouse Hotel in Wymondham.

Friday 3rd May dawned with a fine smirr of rain which did not improve. We made a morning dash to the RSPB Titchwell Reserve where we added Bar-tailed Godwit, Mediterranean Gull, Siskin etc bringing our total to 131 species. In worsening weather conditions, we reluctantly called it a day, and set off to drive back to Northumberland.



Everybody had a great trip, some seeing several new birds. It was a brilliant six days!

Where can we go next?

Leader John Lumby (Photos courtesy of Neil Hinchliff)

A Ringer's Year - May 2024

Well it's always a busy month for birds nesting but monitoring them has been a bit difficult with all the rain and wind. From the point of view of Tawny Owls there has been no shortage of food (small mammals) so any failures to 'catch prey' by the birds has to be down to the weather. It looks like we have had three failed nesters that laid eggs and then did not incubate them; in one case a Grey Squirrel seems to have been involved and another is a complete mystery with the nest near Howick appeared completely clean and with no sign of the eggs on a second visit. However, we have had nine successful nests broods ranging from one – three young (normal in this part of Northumberland where we rarely get large broods). One was ringed with an audience of Students from the USA on an Ornithology course organised at St Cloud University, Alnwick (picture of Young Tawny Owl). There is still one Tawny nest outstanding with a fifteen-year-old female owl apparently still incubating past the time we think she should have hatched her eggs. We also had a Mandarin duck nest in a box in a wood near Wingates that is more correctly the haunt of Tawny Owls!

The Howick Swans continue to entertain with the male approaching visitors asking for food while his mate incubates her eggs and occasionally leaves these to feed. So, while he is putting weight on, she is losing it. They did not start nesting until after the 25/4/24 so at the time of writing have not hatched any eggs.

While helping with the Longhorsley Swift Box Project on the 4/5/24 I was entertained by a flock of Redpoll using bird feeders in the front garden on a housing estate which I thought was rather unusual. It's hoped that swifts will inspect these boxes and start using them next year.

Starting to check small nest boxes on the 10th we found Blue Tits and Great Tits nesting near the Breamish (with some American students in tow) but very few Tree Sparrows. A Treecreeper in a box was a surprise at Ingram in a very old and battered 'treecreeper box' that has never been used before (apart from by some Great Tits)! We also found a Marsh Tit near Longhorsley and a Redstart near Longframlington (with some new trainees observing).

Productivity figures have to be provisional at the moment but it seems we have about 33% occupancy: Great Tits are ahead of Blue Tits, and Tree Sparrows are not doing very well. It was notable that there were many tree sparrow eggs at a farm near Longhorsley at the start of the month but after two days of rainy/cold weather they seem to have become abandoned.
Also, we have found very few at other locations near the Breamish. On the Farm there may also be another factor: the presence of a regularly hunting Sparrowhawk (picture of Tit nestlings; Adult Marsh Tit).

Ringer's Roundup

In the Breamish Valley some of our Tawny Owls nest alongside our unusual Goldeneye duck colony. It looks like 15 females are nesting this year (similar to last year) and so far, we have retrapped 8 females and ringed 4 new birds. One retrap was unfortunately of a dead bird which seems to have died in a fight with a predatory stoat. The winter storms nearly destroyed two nest sites with one box being laid almost horizontal as its tree collapsed but still a determined duck is nesting in it!

At another location the box was completely on the floor and we decided to replace it on the 10th (ready for next year). However, spotting some downy feathers caught on the lip of the box Alison and I decided to check it out on the 27th and amazingly found 10 eggs and a new female duck in residence, who we ringed. She seemed very indignant about this whole procedure but quickly settled down on being returned to her box! Two broods have been seen out on the water to date.

Finally, we started to check on nesting Barn Owls on the 29th (they always nest later than Tawny Owls) and to date have recorded: Jackdaws = 6; Empty = 2; Stock Doves = 5 and Barn Owls = 5. The owls include our female from Suffolk (hatched herself in 2022).

Four of our nesting Barn Owls have very small young (very recently hatched) but one surprised us by having three pulli big enough to ring. Being Barn Owls they will still be in their nest box for another 6 weeks as they never leave home quickly (again unlike Tawny Owls that can't wait to leave home). All the boxes had evidence of prey brought in by the male birds, waiting for the parents to feed to the young (note the size of the two mice in the picture).

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.