



BIRD NEWS
Vol. 26 No. 2 Summer 2015

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Club news and announcements

Ian Kinley

We are sad to announce that Ian Kinley passed away on 26th June 2015. Ian was a founder member and a true stalwart of Cumbria Bird Club. He has always taken on key roles and been a leading light of the club since its inception and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. We are hoping to print a full appreciation of Ian in the next newsletter.

AGM

The AGM will be held at Penrith United Reformed Church on Friday 2nd October 2015 at 7.30pm. The business of the AGM is intended to be as brief as possible and will be followed by a talk by Lee Schofield on 'Farming for Wildlife at Haweswater'.

Vacancies on Council: Secretary, Treasurer, up to three vice-chairmen and two ordinary members.

We would welcome any members willing to help in the running of the club. We are currently struggling to keep the club moving forward. There is so much we can achieve but we need more help. Please volunteer.

According to the terms of the constitution the above posts will become vacant at the AGM though there is a proviso that the current incumbents may remain another year if there are no other suitable candidates. This note is to seek nominations from members to fill these posts. According to the terms of the constitution, nominations should be submitted to the secretary not later than seven days before the AGM (i.e. by 25th September).

Talks, events and outings

The club desperately needs one or more organisers. Please offer help if you can.

Subscription increases/changes and Gift Aid

Unfortunately the club is at present living beyond its means. The treasurer has calculated that the basics costs of producing and posting out the "Birds and Wildlife in Cumbria" report, newsletter & web site costs, talks, general postage etc come to around £16 per member. Currently we have an array of membership types with payments of £15, £12.50, £11.50 and £9.50.

Council are discussing restructuring the memberships and would like your thoughts. Do we need different types of membership such as Single, Joint (Couple/family), Reduced (over 65/unemployed/under 18) and Joint reduced? The current membership price has been the same for over a decade. When we decide to increase it we would hope that the new rate would suffice for

some years to come. For the present we have decided to delay the increase and try to increase our income from Gift Aid.

Gift Aid

There is one way we can stave off large subscription increases and that is by more members signing up for Gift Aid. Gift Aid allows us to claim back the tax of at least 25% that you have paid the government so if you currently pay £15 subscription we can claim back £3.75.

I have hopefully attached a gift aid form if we don't have a record of you signing one previously. If you do pay tax please send it back to the secretary signed and dated even if you think you have already done this before. It is a very simple form. We do understand that many members may not be liable for income tax so apologies for sending a form to you.

Raven nesting on factory outlet



Raven guarding nest, Dave Piercy

I hope you can make out the Raven's nest seemingly balanced precariously on a factory outlet. These birds managed to successfully rear a brood here. I couldn't see any evidence of any fumes/heat coming through the outflow. Just wondered if any heat generated from the factory would be helpful or otherwise to hatching/fledging success?

Dave Piercy

CBC indoor meeting programme winter 2015/2016



Friday 2nd Oct (AGM): Penrith United Reformed Church 7.30pm
'Farming for wildlife at RSPB Haweswater' - *Lee Schofield*



African Grey Hornbill, Gambia, Denis Atherton

Fri 6th Nov: Marchesi Centre, Windermere 7.30pm

Joint with RSPB South Lakeland group
'The Birds of the Gambia' - *Dennis Atherton*

Wednesday 6th January 2016: Tullie House 7.15pm

Joint with Carlisle NHS
'Ethiopia - Disappearing Paradise' - *Angus Hogg*

Monday 25th Jan 2016: Friend's Meeting House Stramongate 7.30pm

Joint with Kendal NHS
'Hen Harriers' - *James Bray of the RSPB*

Monitoring of Goosanders in West Cumbria in the winters of 2013/14 and 2014/15



Goosanders, Siddick Pond, March 2014, Tony Marsh

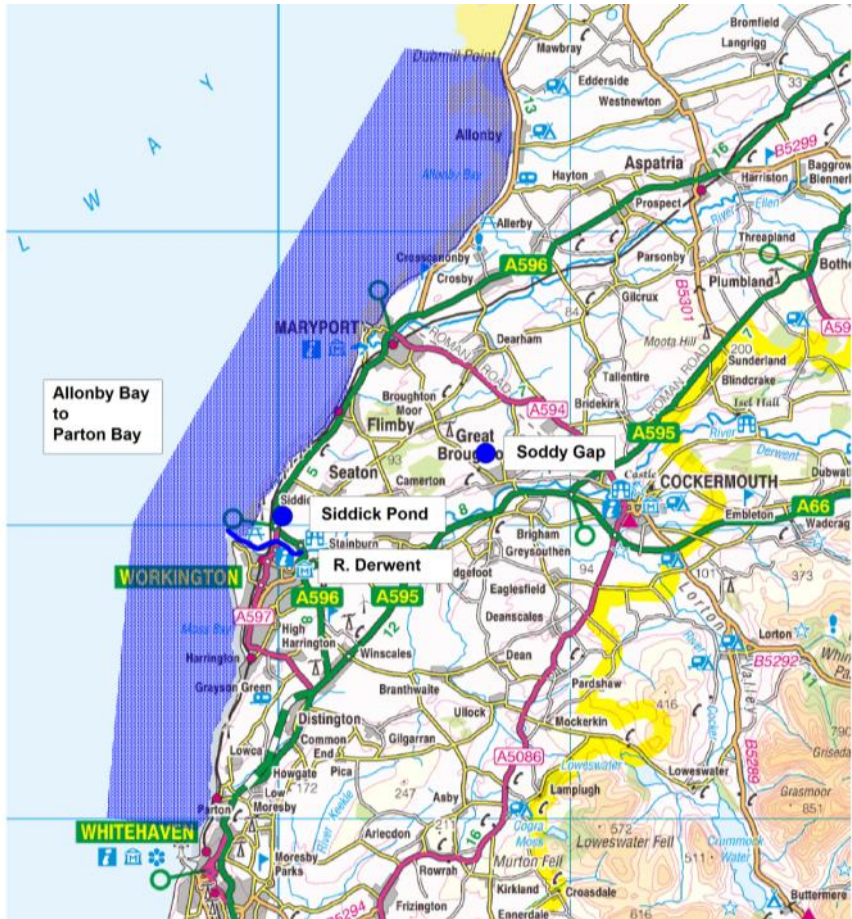
Introduction

Large numbers of Goosanders wintering off the Cumbrian coast of the outer Solway south of Allonby first became apparent in the very cold winter of 2009/10 when up to 150 were reported. It is not known if large numbers occurred prior to this, but there are no documented records. Monthly counts in the following, even harsher winter confirmed the continuous presence of birds drifting in and out with the tide in Allonby and Flimby Bays, and also the first indication of at the time, lesser usage of Soddy Gap Pond about 5.5km from the coast and Siddick Pond just 0.8km from the coast.

The 557 recorded on the sea on 22nd January 2011 was the highest single site count by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) since similar numbers in the inner Moray Firth in the winters of 1994/95 and 1995/96 (WeBS data). At the time these high numbers were thought to be the result of hard weather movements of birds displaced from frozen waterbodies inland. However significant usage of both the coast and the inland still waters has continued in subsequent much milder winters with birds commuting between locations. The second half of the winter of 2011/12 produced the first substantial still water counts with the first of 291 on Soddy Gap on 3rd January and site maximums of 436 at Soddy Gap and 250 on Siddick Pond. The following winter continued the trend with an astonishing 518 on Soddy Gap on 25th December 2012.

Sequential “within one day” counts of the sites mentioned above were made only once in January of the 2011/12 and 2012/13 winters and it was felt that more counts would give a better idea of usage levels at different sites and the population as a whole throughout a winter. Hence counts were carried out more frequently in 2013/14 and bi-monthly in 2014/15. In addition the count area was extended to include the River Derwent at Workington Harbour in 2013/14 and the coastal bays south of Workington in the 2014/15 winter.

Figure 1: Map of study area



Methods

Goosanders were counted sequentially on the still waters of Soddie Gap and Siddick Pond, on the coast in Allonby, Flimby, Harrington and Parton Bays and on the River Derwent upstream of Workington Harbour about 2km inland to the second road bridge. Counts were made on 12 dates between 17th October 2013 and 18th April 2014 and on 16 dates between 5th November 2014 and 8th April 2015. All sites were covered within a four hour period at various states of the tide. Counts were only made on fine days with light winds and a sea state of three or less in order to detect birds on the sea.

Monitoring of Goosanders in West Cumbria in the winters of 2013/14 and 2014/15

On each count males and redheads were separated where possible. This was achieved for all birds present on all visits except on 15th December 2013 when no separation was possible and on 29th November 2014 and 10th January 2015 when only partial sexing was possible and extrapolations made. On 29th January 2015 no sexing was attempted. Though some redheads were obviously moulting into adult plumage and were obviously first winter males, they were still counted as redheads to ensure consistency of separation throughout the winter.

Results

Overall numbers

Despite increased geographical coverage in 2013/14 and further increased coverage in 2014/15, the maximum number counted in either winter did not exceed the maximum of the previous winters (Table 1). The maximum in 2013/14 was 461 on 11th January 2014 and in the 2014/15 winter was 456 on 29th January 2015.

Table 1: Maximum counts of Goosander in the West Cumbria study area 2010/11 to 2014/15

| 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| minimum 557 (Jan) | minimum 458 (Jan) | minimum 518 (Dec) | 461 (Jan) | 456 (Jan) |

In 2013/14 a visit on 17th October failed to locate any Goosanders. By 10th November 196 were present and numbers continued to rise to peak around mid-January. Numbers remained high until at least early February and though the data suggests a decline subsequently, a lack of counts in Harrington Bay means the rapidity of the decline was unknown. Likewise a lack of counts in late March precludes any assessment of the late winter population, but by mid-April only a handful of birds were present (Figure 2).

In 2014/15 no count was made in October and only small numbers were present on the first count in early November. The main influx was between mid and late December, though birds continued to arrive through January with the maximum counted late in January. (The slight dip in numbers in mid-February could be accounted for by some mist at sea which may have marginally reduced detectability of birds at distance). Numbers remained high until at least early March after which there was a significant reduction by the middle of the month, with only a small presence by the end of the first week in April (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Number of Goosander between Allonby Bay and Flimby Bay including the River Derwent at Workington and at Soddy Gap and Siddick Pond 2013/14

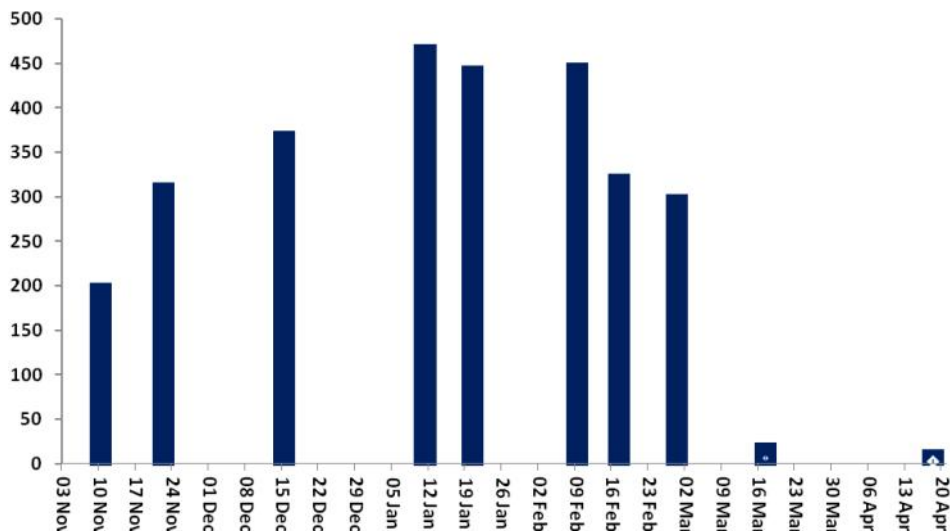
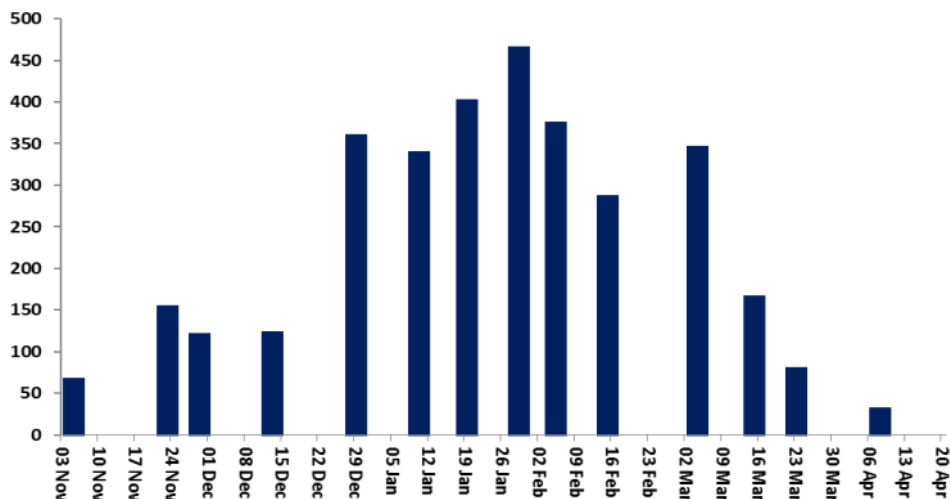


Figure 3: Number of Goosander between Allonby Bay and Parton Bay including the River Derwent at Workington and at Soddy Gap and Siddick Pond 2014/15



Monitoring of Goosanders in West Cumbria in the winters of 2013/14 and 2014/15

Habitat use

Though visited fairly regularly by birdwatchers and counted monthly for the Wetland Bird Survey, neither Soddy Gap nor Siddick Pond produced counts of more than 75 birds in either the 2009/10 or 2010/11 winters. This and the limited observations of the sea in these winters where higher numbers were reported, suggests coastal waters to have been favoured at this time. Counts in 2011/12 found possibly the majority of the wintering population present either entirely on the still waters or entirely at sea on different dates e.g. 436 birds on Soddy Gap on 21st January and 458 birds in Flimby and Allonby Bays on 28th January. The following winter showed a similar pattern.

The 2013/14 winter with improved coverage showed a preference for the still waters, though towards the end of February significant usage of the River Derwent at Workington was first recorded (Figure 4). Habitat usage was apparently much more evenly spread in the 2014/15 winter than in any previous winter though with the importance of the sea and river declining as overall numbers declined following the mid winter peak (Figure 5).

Figure 4: Habitat use by Goosander between Allonby Bay and Flimby Bay including the River Derwent at Workington and at Soddy Gap and Siddick Pond 2013/14

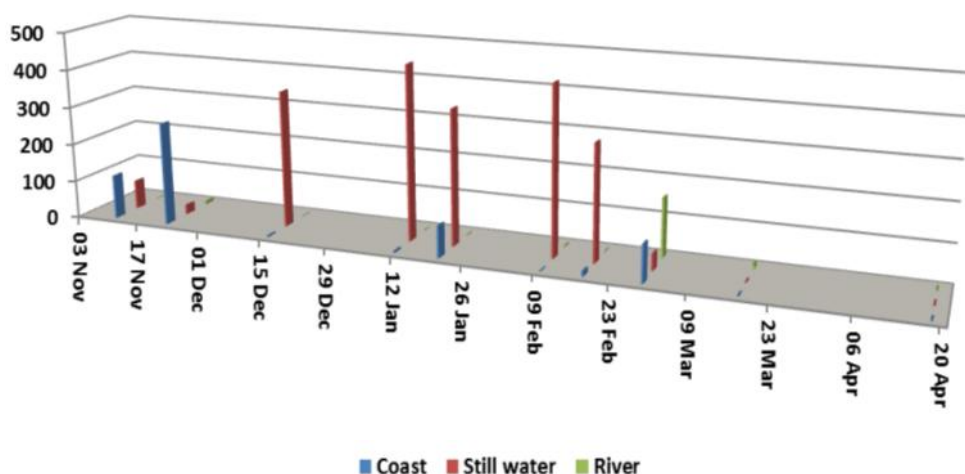
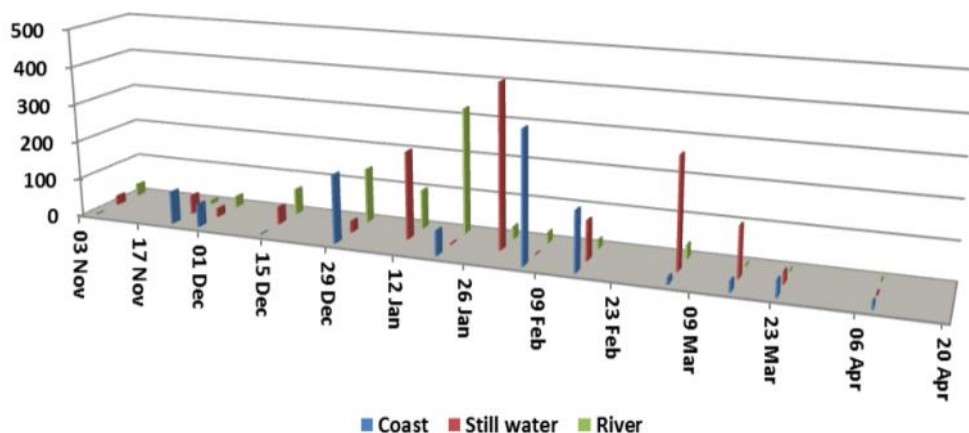


Figure 5: Habitat use by Goosander between Allonby Bay and Parton Bay including the River Derwent at Workington and at Soddy Gap and Siddick Pond 2014/15



Based on limited data, this analysis of habitat usage should be treated with caution. The degree of interchange by individual birds between locations is unknown either over long periods of time or over very short periods e.g. within a day. Weather, state of tide, time of day, disturbance and the location and abundance of food may all influence the location of birds. Anecdotal observation in the earlier years suggested birds favoured the still waters during bad weather as daytime loafing areas rather than being at sea.

Systematic counts in the latter two winters have all taken place during calm weather when birds might be expected to be on the sea. However certainly in the middle of the day when most counts have taken place, there is no strong evidence for this, with birds regularly on the still waters and the river in good weather. There is observational evidence that birds leave the still waters and the river at dusk to night roost on the sea, particularly in the southern bays off Parton and Harrington. There is also evidence that birds on the sea drift up and down the coast with the tide. During all counting periods there has been no evidence of concerted feeding at any site either by individuals, small groups or large flocks. Most birds are seen loafing in rafts on the sea or on Siddick Pond. At Soddy Gap most are on the water but some roost on the island, and on the river most are roosting on the bank. It is tempting to suggest that most feeding in any weather is done out at sea, early in the morning, and that the location may be to some extent determined by the depth of water and hence the state of the tide. More observations are required to confirm this.

Proportion of males to redheads

Early winter counts in 2013/14 suggested the presence of more redheads than males. By the time of peak numbers in mid-January the majority were males and this balance persisted throughout the period of highest numbers (Figure 6). With more counts of sexed birds made, the pattern in 2014/15 was clearer and was characterised by an increase in both groups but with an abundance of males over redheads throughout the first part of the winter and up to the period of maximum numbers. This preponderance of males of about 70% was maintained until at least 19th January. By 5th February, though overall numbers remained about the same, the proportions were roughly equal as males had declined while redheads increased. By 4th March the number of redheads had remained the same but the number of males had declined slightly to the extent that redheads were in the majority and as overall numbers subsequently declined redheads remained in the ascendancy (Figure 7).

The number of first winter males within the redhead group could not be assessed with any degree of confidence, though as moult progressed in the late winter and spring, it was apparent that it included a reasonable component. Notably, 15 redheads present on 8th April included a flock of 10 first summer males together in Parton Bay. A lack of data from previous winters precludes any comparisons. Interestingly however, the 518 birds present at Soddy Gap on 25th December 2012 were judged to contain only about 40% males.

Figure 6: Proportion off male & redhead Goosander between Allonby Bay and Flimby Bay including the River Derwent at Workington and at Soddy Gap and Siddick Pond 2013/14

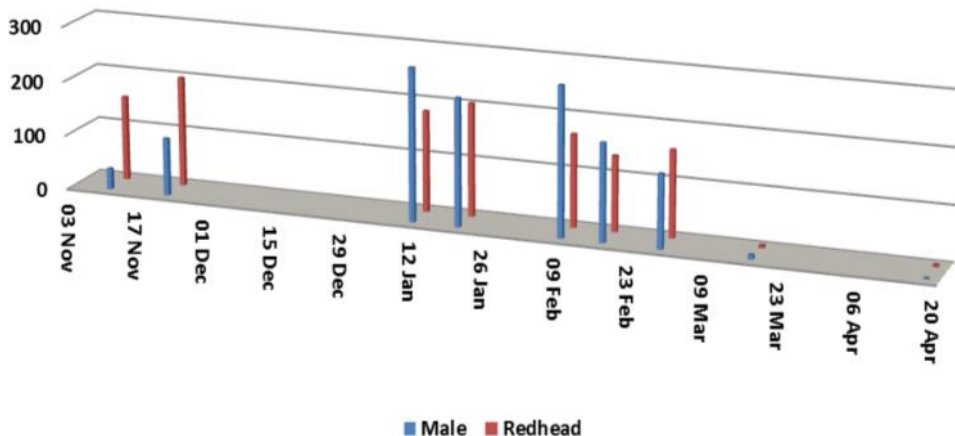
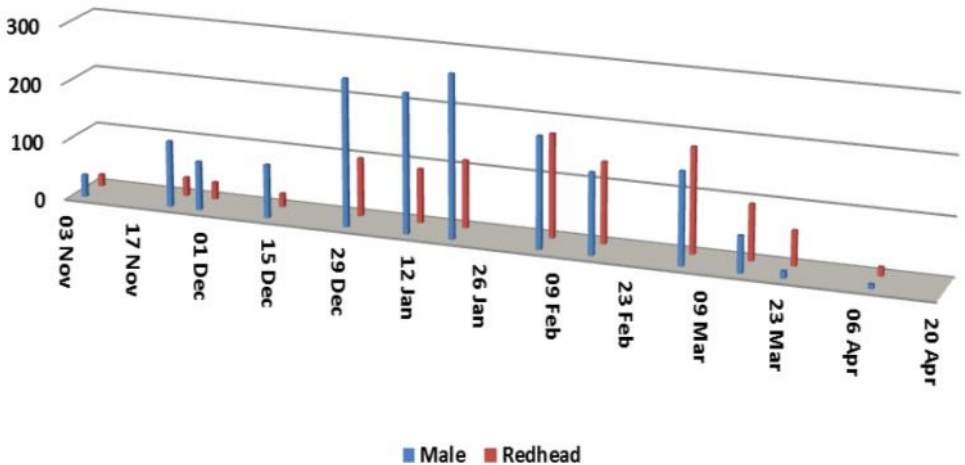


Figure 7: Proportion off male & redhead Goosander between Allonby Bay and Parton Bay including the River Derwent at Workington and at Soddy Gap and Siddick Pond 2014/15



Origin of birds

The likely breeding sites of adults and natal sites of juveniles within this wintering population are unknown. The size of the Cumbrian breeding population is also unknown, however with “possible to confirmed” breeding evidence in 248 tetrads in Cumbria between 2008 and 2012 (CBC online Atlas in prep), it is unlikely to be of a magnitude equating to the number of birds present in the study area, plus the birds at other sites in the county in winter.

During the Cumbria winter Goosander survey in the winter of 2013/14 1136 birds were found in the county in January, of which about 650 were found in the study area and the adjacent River Derwent catchment. The total number of birds found in the county survey in January 2014 was just less than double that found in a similar survey in January 1991 (Priestley 2014), with the increase almost entirely accounted for by the number of birds in the West Cumbria study area. Atlas comparisons suggest a recent stable breeding population with 15% of tetrads with some evidence of breeding in 1997-2001 down to 13.7 % in 2008-2012 (Cumbria online Atlas in prep). Hence assuming there was no large congregation of Goosanders in West Cumbria in the early 1990s and that there has been no substantial increase in the County breeding population, it is likely that very few of the study area population are



Goosanders, Siddick Pond, March 2014, Tony Marsh

drawn from the local breeding population. It is more probable that birds have come from further afield. Though it is thought that wintering birds in northern England are mainly from the British breeding population (Brown & Grice 2005), a bird ringed as a pullus in Norway in June 1981 and recovered in Lancashire in the following December (Wernham et al 2002) suggests some immigration of birds of continental origin into western Northern England.

References

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- Priestley, M. 2014. The 2013/14 wintering sawbill survey: a preliminary report. Cumbria Bird Club News 25: 60-62
- Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre & Cumbria Bird Club. 2015. (Cumbria online Atlas in prep)
- Wernham, C., Toms, M, Marchant, J. Clark, J., Siriwardena, G. & Baillie, S. 2002. The Migration Atlas. T & A D Poyser

Acknowledgements

Susan Brandes counted both Soddy Gap and Siddick Pond for the Wetland Bird Survey and assisted with counts in 2013/14 and Keith Hamilton supplied additional counts.

Appendix 1: Maximum site counts per winter within the West Cumbria Study Area 2009/10 – 2014/15

| Winter | R. Derwent at Workington | Siddick Pond | Soddy Gap | Harrington Bay to Parton Bay | Allonby Bay to Flimby Bay |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2009/10 | | 57 | | | 150 |
| 2010/11 | | 45 | 75 | | 557 |
| 2011/12 | | 250 | 436 | 150 | 458 |
| 2012/13 | 83 | 80 | 518 | | 344 |
| 2013/14 | 153 | 124 | 422 | | 271 |
| 2014/15 | 321 | 130 | 361 | 184 | 168 |

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Goosanders, Anthorn, Roger Ridley

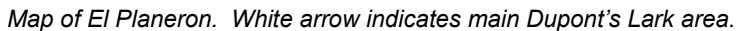
Dupont's Lark revisited April 2015



El Planeron Reserve with the Lomazas Reserve on the plateau in the background.

Some places in the world seem to have a magical quality and stick in the memory as vivid images. For me the plains of Zaragoza are one such place. The location that comes to mind is the El Planeron Reserve near Belchite which I first visited in 2006 in search of the near mythical Dupont's Lark. I described this in Bird News Vol. 18 No. 2.

This is 'Larkfest' at its best with Callandra, Short-toed, Lesser Short-toed and Thekla Larks all around and performing their song flights in the wild and harsh landscape. This place certainly polarises opinion with some describing it as desolate and grim while others seem to be just as enchanted by its timeless character as I am. Part of my motivation to return to this area was to make sound recordings of the song of Dupont's Lark but also to see some of the other bird species that frequent this habitat. Pin-tailed Sandgrouse and Stone Curlews made appearances with their calls adding to the weirdness and wildness of the soundscape. Woodchat Shrikes perched on the few bushes while Griffon Vultures wheeled overhead and Montagu's Harriers floated by.



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Dupont's Lark revisited April 2015

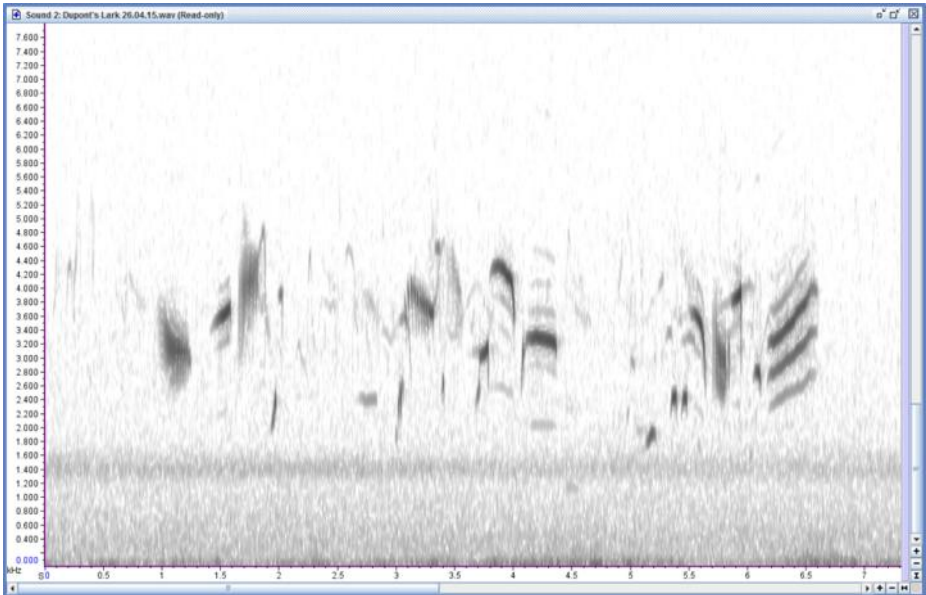
With evening approaching the wind abated and many of the other species of lark fell silent so I was able to record some Dupont's song. The following day they were singing well just before sunrise and were now perching up on tussocks and showing well.



Dupont's Larks singing just before the sun came up.

The sound recording can be found at <http://www.xeno-canto.org/248107>

The sonogram demonstrates the complexity of the structure and individual notes. Notice particularly the four separate harmonics of the final ascending note which explains the richness that it has. The fine striations in some of the notes represent their slightly trilling quality.



Chris Hind

Recent reports

The period covered is March 2015 to May 2015. Some of these records are unauthenticated and may require review by the Club Records Panel or British Birds Rarities Committee. Species order and nomenclature follow that used in *Birds and Wildlife in Cumbria*.



Smew with Goldeneye, Linstock, February, Nick Franklin

Wildfowl

Whooper Swans included a maximum of 128 on Walney on 22nd March, 186 in the Kirkbride area and 23 at Arnside, 12 on Coniston Water, four in the Lyth Valley all in March; April northbound birds included a total of 54 from Walney, 14 at Halforth whilst some 80 remained in the Kirkbride area early into the month. A total of 1042 **Pink-footed Geese** headed north from Walney in March and 150 in April. Up to 25000 **Barnacle Geese** lingered around the Inner Solway in April. In March Walney held 180 pale-bellied **Brent Geese** on 21st, 65 dark-bellied **Brent Geese** on 27th whilst in April departures from Walney included 77 pale-bellied on 6th April and 40 dark-bellied on 19th April. An **Egyptian Goose** was near Rogersceugh in March.

Fifteen **Gadwall** were at Ulpha Meadows and ten were on Hodbarrow Lagoon in March with three remaining to April, a drake was on Walney on dates from 8th May. A drake **Green-winged Teal** was found at North Plain

Farm on 23rd March. A pair of **Garganey** arrived on Walney on 12th May. Inland **Scaup** comprised two on Walney to 18th March, two on Bassenthwaite, two near Linstock, three at Hodbarrow Lagoon all in March and singles near Linstock, Hodbarrow Lagoon and at Wet Sleddale in April. The long-staying first-winter drake **Long-tailed Duck** departed Walney on 18th April. **Common Scoters** off Walney peaked at 231 on 11th April.

Divers to Grebes



Red-throated Diver, Bowness Viaduct, Roger Ridley

Walney logged 24 **Red-throated Divers** and Bowness-on-Solway 30 in March and there were five off Walney on 17th May. A **Black-throated Diver** appeared off Nethertown on 1st April and 12th May. Bowness-on-Solway produced a **Great Northern Diver** on April 15th and May 16th and a summer plumaged bird was off Walney on 21st May. A single **Fulmar** was at Bowness-on-Solway in March and here a few passed through in April as well as a single seen from Nethertown.

Small numbers of **Manx Shearwaters** were noted from Walney from 11th April with 200 on 31st May. There two **Gannets** off Walney on 28th March peaking at 212 on 11th April and a few were seen passing by Bowness-on-Solway in April. **Shags** included six off Walney in March and a single off Nethertown and ten by Walney in April.

In March there were at least 21 **Little Egrets** on Walney, 19 in the Lyth valley and up to ten by the Kent Estuary and three by the Esk and several around the Inner Solway and in April at least 19 were present in the Kent estuary, 12 in the Lyth Valley, at least seven roamed the Inner Solway, several on Walney through to May and a single was by the Esk.

Recent reports

Of perhaps doubtful origin, a **White Stork** flew over Sizergh on April 13th. Two **Slavonian Grebes** graced the lagoon at Hodbarrow from 14th March to April 19th.



Slavonian Grebes, Hodbarrow, Ian Kinley

Raptors to waders

There were a good scattering of **Red Kite** records from around the county. Two **Marsh Harriers** continued to be seen around the Kent Estuary in March and April and a single was in the Lyth Valley in March and singles passed through Thacka Beck and North Plain Farm in April. A ringtail **Hen Harrier** continued to be seen around the Kent Estuary in March. At Bassenthwaite Lake and Foulshaw Moss the **Osprey** pairs returned on cue and eggs were duly laid well before the end of April. Several passage birds moved through Geltsdale with others noted at Carlisle airport, Caldbeck and Lambrigg. A **Merlin** was regularly spotted on Walney until 27th April. **Peregrine** put in regular appearances on Walney in March.

The **Water Rail** still appeared occasionally at Foulshaw Moss in March and one was logged on Walney on 22nd March. Two **Common Cranes** spent an evening in the Lyth Valley on April 18th and were then seen circling over Foulshaw Moss next day. There were also two over Drumburgh Moss on 3rd May.

There were 34 **Purple Sandpipers** on Walney on 5th April with 25 in March. Single **Jack Snipe** were seen at Finglandrigg and Silloth in March. A spectacular 440 **Black-tailed Godwits** were near Arnside in March and 150



Red Kite, Frank Burns



Woodcock, Teesdale, Tony Martin

were there in April, nine on Walney in April and eight were by Hodbarrow Lagoon from March to April. The **Woodcock** above was seen feeding by a lane off the A69 in Teesdale.

A flock of 12 **Bar-tailed Godwits** flying over Hallbankgate on 3rd March was a very unusual inland record and there were 65 on Walney on 31st May.

The first **Whimbrel** appeared on Walney on 18th April and numbers steadily increased until 81 were present on 30th April then 100 on 3rd May. There were also 11 at Mawbray in April.



Whimbrel, Bowness Viaduct, Roger Ridley

Recent reports

A **Green Sandpiper** was by the Esk in April. Numbers of **Turnstone** on Walney in April peaked at 340 on 18th. Up to four **Ruff** were on Walney from 14th to 21st April. Six **Greenshanks** were on Walney in March and singles were by the Esk and the Mite in March and there were two on Walney, one on Hodbarrow Lagoon and another by the Esk in April. Walney also held up to two on various dates in May.

Skuas to auks



Pomarine Skua, Bowness Viaduct, Roger Ridley

Skua passage got underway in April at Bowness-on-Solway but, by the month end, just meagre totals of two **Pomarine Skua**, five **Arctic Skua** and eight **Great Skua** had been reached. May passage turned out to be more impressive with peaks of 42 **Pomarine Skua**, 23 **Arctic Skua**, six **Great Skua** and 15 **Long-tailed Skua**. There was also a full-tailed pale phase **Pomarine Skua** on Walney on 6th May. A single **Arctic Skua** off Walney on 11th and 25th April. A **Great Skua** was first for the year off Walney on 17th May.

There were 105 **Kittiwakes** off Walney on 1st March and Bowness-on-Solway produced a maximum of up to 77 in March and 121 in April. A second-summer **Little Gull** was near Longtown on 3rd May and other dates with a peak of four birds on 25th May. An adult **Mediterranean Gull** was at Holme on 2nd March, two were at Allonby on 19th March a first-summer and a second-summer, while a single adult was at Workington. An adult **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen at Whitehaven Marina on 13th April and a juvenile was found at Silecroft. A juvenile **Iceland Gull** was found in a field at Micklethwaite near Wigton on 12th March, another was at Silecroft in April, and a first-winter was at St. Bees Head on 14th May. A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** appeared in Allonby Bay on 19th March.

A **Black Tern** was at Hodbarrow on 9th May and 13th May. Off Walney there were two **Sandwich Terns** on 21st March rising to good numbers and peaking at 600 on 26th April. In April **Sandwich Terns** (max. 250), **Common Terns** (from 21st) and **Little Terns** (from 23rd) all arrived on cue at Hodbarrow Lagoon but showed no signs of settling to breed by the month end. There were four **Arctic Terns** at Killington on 4th May. A **Black Guillemot** was off Walney on 31st May.

Owls to buntings

A **Short-eared Owl** was by the Esk in April. A **Hoopoe** graced a garden in Dent on 13th and 14th April. A new **Great Grey Shrike** appeared near Binsey north of Bassenthwaite from 22nd to 29th March. Meanwhile, the regular bird reappeared at Dalton Crag where it was joined by a second from 18th March lingering through to early April.

Walney's long-staying **Hooded Crow** put in several appearances in March, a single was at Eskmeals on 14th May and another near Flookburgh on 30th April.

Six **Grasshopper Warblers** were on Walney on 26th April.



Great Grey Shrike, Dalton, Roger Ridley



Ring Ouzel, Nick Franklin

A **Waxwing** put in a brief appearance at Arnside on 11th March and another also appeared briefly at Oxenholme station on 23rd March.

Two **Ring Ouzels** graced Walney on 10th April. The final few **Fieldfares** departed Walney on 6th April. Walney's first **Spotted Flycatcher** was on 11th May.

A male **Bluethroat** was photographed near Rogersceuch Farm, Campfield Marsh on April 8th. The male **Black Redstart** remained at Carlisle airport to 6th March and one visited a garden at Holme in April.

The small wintering flocks of **Tree Sparrows** on Walney peaked at 19 birds on 19th March and all had departed by 16th April. Walney's first **Yellow Wagtail** arrived on 9th May and 14 **White Wagtails** were recorded there on 16th April. A rather elusive **Richard's Pipit** was seen intermittently near Lowca Rugby Club from 8th March to 18th March. At least half a dozen **Rock Pipits**, considered littoralis, lingered at Roa Island in March.



Scandinavian Rock Pipit, Roa, Lou Cross

Walney's wintering **Twite** peaked at 100 on 18th March with the last ones leaving on 10th April. Up to four **Hawfinches** frequented Sizergh Castle in March and five in April there were also up to seven at Witherslack in April. March **Snow Buntings** included 35 on the Calf in the Howgill Fells and six on Blease Fell, Blencathra.

Ian Kinley

Migrant arrivals

Migrant arrivals March:

Sand Martin, Bowness-on-Solway (12th)

Wheatear, Halforth (13th)

Chiffchaff, Walney (13th)

Ring Ouzel, Kershope Forest (27th)

Migrant arrivals April:

Swallow, Kendal (2nd)

House Martin, Ulverston (7th)

Willow Warbler, Finglandrigg (7th)

Redstart, Penrith (10th)

Tree Pipit, Penrith (10th)

Common Sandpiper, Walney (13th)

Cuckoo, Melkinthorpe (16th)

Sedge Warbler, Walney (16th)

Swift, Kendal and Anthorn (17th)

Grasshopper Warbler, Brigsteer (17th)

Whitethroat, Church Moss (17th)

Yellow Wagtail, Longtown (21st)

Common Tern, Hodbarrow (21st)

Whinchat, Kirksanton (21st)

Lesser Whitethroat, Hodbarrow (21st)

Pied Flycatcher, Milton Rigg (21st)

Wood Warbler, Selside (22nd)

Little Tern Hodbarrow (23rd)

Arctic Tern, Walney (25th)

Ian Kinley



Pied Flycatcher, Watendlath Beck, Tony Marsh



Grasshopper Warbler, Pow Beck, Tony Marsh



Wood Warbler, Surprise View, Tony Marsh

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The deadline for copy for the next issue is September 1st 2015

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- on disk (your disk will be returned if requested); or
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Opinions expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of Cumbria Bird Club, its Editor, nor any of its Officers.

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Cumbria Bird Club Website

<http://www.cumbriabirdclub.org.uk>

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