

NEWS from the Northeast England Beached Bird Surveys (NEBBS) Group *November 2013*

Taxidermy specimens purchased with Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club grant (March 2011)

During the period 1 May 2012 to 10 Nov 2013 the four complete taxidermy specimens (funded with the NTBC grant) have been displayed as follows (possibly on more occasions in addition)

Ringed Plover	14 dates	NSFQ (9), BA (1), Tynemouth (2), Whitley Bay (1), Cullercoats (1)
Dunlin	10 dates	NSFQ (7), BA (1), Whitley Bay (1), Cullercoats (1)
Black-headed Gull	7 dates	NSFQ (4), BA (1), Tynemouth (1), Cullercoats (1)
Kestrel	7 dates	NSFQ (4), BA (1), Cullercoats (2)

Venues: NSFQ	North Shields Fish Quay: Seaview Fisheries, Union Quay; Fish Quay Market on Lifeboat Day
BA	British Airways offices, Craggside Court, Newcastle Business Park
Tynemouth	Photographic Society; Village Christmas Fayre (Metro Station)
Whitley Bay	Rotary Club (golf course club rooms)
Cullercoats	Fishermen's Mission Methodist church
Others	Gateshead - Baltic Arts Centre

Months (and number of occasions) when these four birds were displayed:

2012: May (1), July (1), Aug (2), Sept (4), Oct (2), Nov (3), Dec (3)

2013: May (2), July (2), Aug (2), Sept (2), Oct (2)

Total occasions of *all* bird displays at Seaview Fisheries in this period: 2012 (17), 2013 (12)

While the birds are on display Dan Turner is available to discuss them with the public along with the 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project. Other birds and skulls are also normally displayed.

The long-term hope is to also educate within local schools (when time and circumstances allow) using these and other specimens belonging to the NEBBS Group (and some of my own).

Other NEBBS Group News

- (a) From late March to end April 2013 we experienced a large seabird wreck on the east coasts of England and Scotland. This affected auks in particular and puffins in the main (see the two references listed below). Our northeast England surveyors recorded the following numbers of auk corpses: Puffin (1,553), Guillemot (467), Razorbill (276) and Little Auk (4).

Duff, J.P., Harris, M.P. & Turner, D.M. (2013) Mass mortality of puffins linked to starvation. *Veterinary Record* 173:224.

Harris, M.P. & Elkins, N. (2013) An unprecedented wreck of puffins in eastern Scotland in March and April 2013. *Scottish Birds* 33:157-159.

Some of our NEBBS wreck data have been included during 2013 conferences in the USA:

Knoxville (Tennessee - July), Bremen (Maine - Aug) and Portsmouth (New Hampshire - Oct)

- (b) On 10-11 June Dr Jan Andries van Franeker and Dan Turner analysed 22 fulmar corpses at the Dove Marine Laboratory (Newcastle University). Some of the proceedings were filmed for the BBC *Inside Out* series programme which aired in two regions on 9 September 2013.
- (c) 14 beached kittiwakes have been collected since June 2010 by surveyors: C Beneke, L K Charlton, P Collins, S T Holliday, E Stubbings, D M Turner and Druridge Bay Country Park staff. They are intended for future research and are to feature, along with other gulls and specimens (skulls, breast bones, wings and feathers), in a new independent film, directed by Iain Mitchell, *Kittiwakes*. Our NEBBS group is to receive a film credit and donation.