

To: NE England SNS Volunteers:

Martin Blick	County Cleveland	Daniel M Turner
Jonathan Everett	Marsden Bay	North Shields
Dan Turner	North Tyne & Wear, SE and Mid N/land	Saturday 10 March 2007
Steve Holliday & Maurice Hepple	Blyth south beach	
Ray Chilton	North Blyth / Wansbeck	
Phil Gilbert	Druridge Bay, Northumberland	
Phil Davey	Beal Station (Fenham Flats)	
George Moody	Lindisfarn	
Malcolm Hutcheson	Berwick area	
Hew Ellis, Michael Yianni & Malcolm Easdon	N/land and Tyne & Wear (occasional surveyors)	

To: North Norfolk SNS volunteer group: Steve Bexton and RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre

Copies to: Dr Jan van Franeker (IMARES, Wageningen University, Texel, The Netherlands)
Martin Heubeck (SOTEAG, Shetland)
Dr Jane Delany (Dove Marine Laboratory, University of Newcastle upon Tyne)
Jerome Fort (University of Strasbourg, France)
Eric Meek, Keith Fairclough (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Orkney)
Mark Grantham, Dr Stuart Newson (British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford, Norfolk).

Dear 'Save the North Sea' volunteers,

Here is the March 2007 newsletter to keep you updated with our Group's recent findings.

Thanks again for your continuing surveys and reports and please continue to return to me the results of your monthly surveys. If you have any outstanding reports for recent months which have not been sent to me please send them on.

Remember even if you find no corpses in a particular month please record the date of your survey and length of shore covered and return a report.

If you have any questions, requests, suggestions or notice any errors / omissions then please let me know.

Enclosed please find:

(a) Northeast England Summary Report for Sept 2006 to Feb 2007 (using data received so far).

Please continue to return your SNS Beached Bird Survey reports regularly – so that they may be included in our growing dataset. Please also record ringed birds – so they may be reported to the authorities and included in our reports. As always – please let me know when you find Fulmar or ringed auk corpses – which I shall come to collect from you for analysis.

Please collect any Little Auk corpses you find – let me know and I shall come to collect them from you. This is for a PhD study by Jerome Fort funded by Strasbourg University in France. The February 2007 Little Auk specimen is in my freezer. In addition, any corpses in good condition (other than Guillemots) suitable for the Hancock Museum at Newcastle should be collected please (let me know and I shall pick up from you).

I would like to welcome another of my work colleagues to the project – Gavin Dudley from Tyneside. Gavin will have a go at surveying a stretch of the mid Northumberland coastline on Druridge Bay. This is a long bay where Phil Gilbert and I already each survey other separate stretches of beach.

Best wishes, Dan Turner

Summary report for Newsletter (March 2007)**Northeast England, Beached Bird Survey summary report Sept 2006 to Feb 2007**

Key	Location	Data collected by:
NN:	North Northumberland	George Moody and Malcolm Hutcheson.
MN / SN:	Mid / South Northumberland	Dan Turner, Ray Chilton, Phil Gilbert, Steve Holliday and Maurice Hepple.
		Malcolm Easdon, Hew Ellis and Michael Yianni (occasional surveyors).
NT:	North Tyneside, Tyne and Wear	Dan Turner
ST:	South Tyneside, Tyne and Wear	Jonathan Everett
Cle:	Cleveland	Martin A. Blick

Month	Sept 2006						Oct 2006					
Location	NN	MN	SN	T&W	Cle	Total	NN	MN	SN	T&W	Cle	Total
Kilometres	17.5	3.2	4.3	1.8	3.0	29.8	17.5	3.2	7.8	2.4	7.5	38.4
Fulmar	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0
Gannet	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	1	2
Shag	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	-	-	-	-	2
Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1
Eider Duck	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	3
Waders	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	1	1
Gulls	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	2	-	3	5
Auks	12	9	13	-	11	45	11	7	11	1	6	36
Feral Pigeon	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2

Month	Nov 2006						Dec 2006					
Location	NN	MN	SN	T&W	Cle	Total	NN	MN	SN	T&W	Cle	Total
Kilometres	17.5	1.2	7.8	2.4	5.0	33.9	17.5	3.2	7.8	2.7	7.0	38.2
Red-throated Diver	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0
Diver sp. Red or Black-throat	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1
Fulmar	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1
Shag	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	1
Eider Duck	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	1	1
Gulls	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	2	-	-	1	3
Auks	2	-	-	1	2	5	4	-	-	-	-	4
Feral Pigeon	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0

Month	Jan 2007						Feb 2007					
	Location	NN	MN	SN	T&W	Cle	Total	NN	MN	SN	T&W	Cle
Kilometres	17.5	1.2	7.8	3.9	7.0	37.4	17.5	1.2	7.8	4.1	4.0	34.6
Red-throated Diver	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-	1
Fulmar	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Shag	-	-	-	-	-	0	6	-	1	-	-	7
Mute Swan	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0
Swan sp.	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1
Eider Duck	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	0
Gulls	1	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	2	-	6	10
Auks	2	-	-	-	-	2	7	2	1	1	2	13
Feral Pigeon	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	0

Fulmar corpse summary, 2006

Species	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Total
Fulmar	0	0	1	0	1	0	2

Species	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sept 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Total
Fulmar	0	1	1	0	0	0	2

Fulmars found in 2006 which are suitable for analysis

Ref	Date Found	Date placed in Freezer	From Where	Who	Comments
NEE-2006-001	26 Mar 2006	27 Mar 2006	Druridge Bay	Phil Gilbert	Thin, quite fresh. LL, small – probable female.
NEE-2006-002	17 Sept 2006	17 Sept 2006	Blyth South Beach	Steve Holliday and Maurice Hepple	Thin, quite fresh. LL, small: probable female. Initial obs and measurements taken.

Stomach analysis of the above two birds is yet to be carried out.

Other Fulmars found in 2006, but not complete enough for analysis

Ref	Date Found	Date placed in Freezer	From Where	Who	Comments
10	19 May 2006	N/A	Hartlepool North Sands	Martin Blick	Two weeks dead – too far gone. No oil or rings.
11	18 Aug 2006	N/A	Marsden, Tyne and Wear	Jon Everett	Chick. Dead one week.

Other interesting shore finds (dead unless specified) during the NE England Beached Bird Surveys

Eider	26.09.06	Holy Island	GDRM	One fresh dead young male and two more young males which were very sick.
Guillemot	27.09.06	Holy Island: Mainland shore	Via GDRM	Wildfowl warden reported several (8 - 12) dead Guillemots along the mainland shore.
Animal sp.	06.10.06	Wansbeck estuary to North Blyth	RC	Skin found at high tide mark. Good condition, looked like medium sized dog, large fox or deer.
Wigeon	10.10.06	Lindisfarne	GDRM	Possible victim of wildfowling.
Grey Seal	13.10.06	Holy Island	PRD / Natural England	Corpse of a pup.
Oystercatcher	20.10.06	Hartlepool North Sands	MAB	Dead for about one week.
Redwing	20.10.06	Hartlepool North Sands	MAB	Dead for about two days
Mink	07.11.06	Wansbeck Estuary to North Blyth	RC	Quite freshly dead at low tide line.
Eider, Red - throated Diver	10.11.06	Holy Island	GDRM	Suspected victims on fishing net. Fresh corpses.
True's Beaked Whale (or Sowerby's Whale)	12.11.06	Holy Island	GDRM	Found recently beached, probably on previous tide. Reported to English Nature. Skull gone to Hancock Museum. A first occurrence of this species for Northumberland.
Eider	18.11.06	Holy Island	GDRM	Well eaten by Fox
Red or Black - throated Diver	16.12.06	Holy Island	GDRM	Head missing – so unable to verify exact species.
Gull-Billed Tern	18.12.06	Holy Island	GDRM	Live bird, seen in harbour.
Kestrel	27.12.06	Saltburn	MAB	Female. Dead about five to seven days.
Harbour Porpoise	01.01.07	Druridge Bay	PG	Dead specimen being scavenged by a Great Black-backed Gull
Kestrel	23.01.07	Hartlepool North Sands	MAB	Adult male. Approx three weeks dead.
Slavonian Grebe	28.01.07	Lindisfarne	GDRM	Live bird entangled in fishing net. It was cut loose and showed no ill effects.
Pink-footed Goose	12.02.07	Lindisfarne	GDRM	Part eaten by fox

Gull Summary table Sept 2006 – Feb 2007 (data so far received)

Species	Sept 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Total
Black-headed	-	3	1	2	3	4	13
Common	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Herring	-	-	1	-	-	4	5
Great Black-backed	-	2	-	-	-	1	3
Lesser Black-backed	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Black-backed sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Kittiwake	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total	0	5	3	3	3	10	24

Auk Summary table Sept 2006 – Feb 2007 (data so far received)

Species	Sept 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Total
Guillemot	34 (10+Juv)	31 (2 x 1)	2	3	1	8	79
Razorbill	6 (1 Juv)	4	-	1	1	2	14
Puffin	2	-	-	-	-	2	4
Little Auk	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
Auk sp.	3	1	1	-	-	-	5
Total	45	36	5	4	2	13	105

Other comments

Sept 2006: (MHu) Local Auk population seem to be suffering from lack of food as many birds seen feeding close inshore. (Nine Guillemots and two Razorbills in Tweed estuary on 30 Sept, two weak birds were hauled out onto the lifeboat station ramp to rest).

11 December 2006: (MAB) Hartlepool North Sands (3 km) - no corpses, but high winds from SW drifted sand over all but very recent tide lines. Quite a lot of sea coal.

Feb 2007: Lindisfarne (GDRM) – Shags affected by days of heavy seas (6 corpses). High tides and heavy seas brought a fair amount of flotsam – mostly trees and plastic. English Nature in clear up.

Northeast England Summary Report prepared (on 10 March 2007) by:
Daniel M Turner, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, England

To: NE England volunteers
North Norfolk volunteers
SE Scotland volunteers

Daniel M Turner
North Shields
Tuesday 26 June 2007

Cc: Dr Jan van Franeker
Martin Heubeck
Dr Jane Delany

Dear All,

Please find enclosed our regional June 2007 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar Project and Beached Bird Survey news update.

I hope you will continue to return the results of your monthly surveys (including 'nil returns') and if you have any outstanding reports for recent months can you please forward them to me?

Please continue to let me know when you find intact Fulmar or ringed auk corpses – which I shall come to collect from you for analysis. In addition, any corpses in good condition (other than Guillemots) suitable for the Hancock Museum at Newcastle should be collected please. Also remember to record whether there is any oil on corpses (check them over – including upper- and under-wings) and if there is oil on the beach.

I would like to welcome another three new surveyors to the project in our area: Chris Beneke, George McVitie and Gordon Hyslop from Tyneside and County Durham. They have now started surveys on the Durham coastline and are very welcome additions to our team.

You will note we have had many Fulmar corpses this year so far (see tables on next page), five of which are suitable for full analysis. On the Normandy coast of France 72 dead fulmars were collected over a 12 day period, the majority of them were picked up between the 23rd and 27th March. Jan has been over there to analyse the corpses. There were no more wrecks reported at other North Sea locations during this time, but as we see, our NE England numbers certainly increased at this time.

The following reports of our work are with the Natural History Society of Northumbria awaiting publication (with photos) in The Transactions (I hope to get enough copies for everyone):

- (a) Beached Bird Survey results for North East England 2004 – 2005
- (b) 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project results for North East England 2003 - 2005

I hope you will all have a good summer and thanks again for your continuing survey work.

Best wishes,

Dan Turner

June 2007 news update**Northeast England, Beached Bird Survey summary report March to mid June 2007****NE England Surveyors**

Martin Blick
 Chris Beneke, George McVitie and Gordon Hyslop
 Jonathan Everett
 Dan Turner
 Steve Holliday and Maurice Hepple
 Ray Chilton
 Phil Gilbert
 Gavin Dudley
 Phil Davey
 George Moody
 Malcolm Hutcheson
 Hew Ellis, Michael Yianni and Malcolm Eason

Area

County Cleveland
 County Durham
 South Tyneside, Tyne and Wear
 North Tyneside, SE and Mid N/land
 Blyth south beach (South N/land)
 North Blyth / Wansbeck (South N/land)
 Druridge Bay (Mid Northumberland)
 Druridge Bay, (Mid N/land)
 Beal Station (Fenham Flats) (North N/land)
 Lindisfarne (North N/land)
 Berwick area (North N/land)
 N/land and Tyne & Wear (occasional surveyors)

Key

Cle
 Du
 T&W
 MN, SN, T&W
 SN
 SN
 MN
 MN
 NN
 NN
 NN
 MN, SN, T&W

Month	Mar 2007						Apr 2007					
	Location	NN	MN	SN	T&W	Cle	Total	NN	MN	SN	T&W	Cle
Kilometres	14.0	4.7	6.3	4.1	8.5	37.6	14.0	4.7	7.8	5.3	5.0	36.8
Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-	1
Fulmar	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	2	2	-	5	10
Gannet	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Shag	2	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	4	-	-	5
Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-	1
Eider Duck	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0
Waders	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Gulls	-	1	2	-	6	9	-	1	4	-	5	10
Terns	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Auks	1	2	2	-	-	5	1	1	2	-	-	4
Feral Pigeon	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	0
Wheatear	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1
Song Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1

Month	May 2007								June 2007							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	N	Mi	S	N	S				N	Mi	S	N	S			
Kilometres	14.0	2.7	7.8	3.0	0.6	2.4	0.0	30.5		2.0	4.3	3.0	0.8	4.5		
Fulmar	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2		1	1					
Storm Petrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			1					
Gannet	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1								
Cormorant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1								
Shag	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1								
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0								
Eider Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0								
Waders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0								
Gulls	-	-	7	-	2	1	-	10			5					
Terns	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2			1					
Auks	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3		14	9					
Feral Pigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			6					

Fulmar corpse summary 2004 - 2007, NE England 'Save the North Sea' beach surveys.

Year	Total corpses found	Suitable for stomach analysis
2004	9	5
2005	12	7
2006	4	2
2007	16	5 (so far)
Total	41	19

Fulmar corpse summary 2004 – 2007, NE England surveys

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Tot
2004	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	9
2005	1	1	4	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	12
2006	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
2007	0	0	2	10	2	2							16
Total	1	2	10	11	6	3	2	3	1	0	1	0	41



Martin Blick (left) with three Fulmar corpses which are suitable for full analysis. Collected by Martin from Hartlepool North Sands on 2nd April 2007.



Flying Fulmar (Above) at Old Hartley, southeast Northumberland, 6th June 2007. Photographed during breeding Fulmar survey.

Photos: D.M.Turner

Gull corpse summary, Jan – June 2007, NE England surveys

Species	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	June 07	Total
Black-headed	3	4	2	2	1	1	13
Common	-	1	-	-	-		1
Herring	-	4	4	3	2		13
Great Black-backed	-	1	1	1	2	2	7
Lesser Black-backed	-	-	-	-	-		0
Black-backed sp.	-	-	-	-	-		0
Kittiwake	-	-	2	4	3	2	11
Unknown	-	-	-	-	2		2
Total	3	10	9	10	10	5	47
Length of coast (km)	37.4	34.6	37.6	36.8	30.3		

Auk corpse summary, Jan – June 2007, NE England surveys

Species	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	Jun 07	Total
Guillemot	1	8	3	4	2	11	29
Razorbill	1	2	-	-	-		3
Puffin	-	2	-	-	1	12	15
Little Auk	-	1	1	-	-		2
Auk sp.	-	-	1	-	-		1
Total	2	13	5	4	3	23	50
Length (km)	37.4	34.6	37.6	36.8	30.3		

Other interesting shore finds (dead unless specified) during the NE England Beached Bird Surveys

Racing Pigeon	March 2007	Holy Island	Per GDRM	Light blue ring on a bare leg bone – handed to GRDM and passed to DMT on 03.04.07. SU06, NE2274. Reported to Scottish Homing Union 09.04.07 by letter. Awaiting reply
Shag	08.04.07	Blyth South Beach.	DMT	BTO ring (right leg): 1416094. Grid: NZ323804 Not from the Isle of May. Reported to the BTO on 14.04.07 Awaiting reply
Wheatear	19.04.07	Lindisfarne	GDRM	Adult, Fresh.
Song Thrush	20.04.07	Lindisfarne	GDRM	Adult, Fresh.
Sandwich Tern	16.06.07	Blyth South Beach	STH & MH	Adult. Body, tail and head. BTO ring: DB67380. Reported to BTO by STH & MH.
Storm Petrel	18.06.07	Seaton Sluice	MH	Skull saved for a collection.

Other comments

5th May 2007: One Sandwich Tern corpse (dead a few days) with slight oiling, Lindisfarne (GDRM).

Northeast England Summary Report prepared (on 26 June 2007) by:
Daniel M Turner, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, England

To: NE England volunteers
North Norfolk volunteers
SE Scotland volunteers

Daniel M Turner
North Shields
Tuesday 02 Oct 2007

Cc: Dr Jan van Franeker, Martin Heubeck, Eric Meek,
Dr Jane Delany, Keith Fairclough, and other interested parties

Dear All,

Please find enclosed our regional autumn 2007 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar Project and Beached Bird Survey news update.

Please continue to return the results of your monthly surveys (including 'nil returns') and if you have any outstanding reports for recent months can you please forward them to me?

Important: I have received communication (25 Sept) from Martin Heubeck that there is currently a large wreck of thousands of adult Razorbills on the west coast of Sweden and probably southern Norway also. Martin confirms that Razorbills had a very poor breeding season this year in Shetland. In this case if you record any Razorbill corpses, please be particularly careful to age the birds from bill grooves, to see if we also record adult birds (i.e. 'W+2' and 'W+3') here. Refer to the extract from Martin's document on ageing, printed on page 4 of this newsletter. **See pg 6 for more details** of the recent Razorbill problems.

We should welcome another of my work colleagues to our surveys: Graham Relf who will be recording at the northern end of Druridge Bay, Northumberland. This means we shall have four stretches of Druridge Bay surveyed regularly by four British Airways staff: Graham, Phil Gilbert, Gavin Dudley and myself. We also have another four keen BA staff in the southern half of our coastal stretch: Jon Everett, Chris Beneke, George McVitie and Gordon Hyslop (retired). In addition another of my colleagues accompanies me at times on additional beach surveys: Michael Yianni. We are all computer staff from the Newcastle offices and are also either birders, photographers, have an interest in conservation and the environment or have a combination of these interests. We should not forget, of course, about all our other volunteer surveyors who are mainly birding enthusiasts.

I had an excellent trip to Texel in early July, staying at Jan's home for a few nights. I took with me the two Fulmars we had collected during 2006. Jan and I had two sessions together in the IMARES laboratory where we analysed these two NE England corpses along with another twelve Fulmar corpses collected during 2007 from the Dutch coast. Jan provided me with training once again and the experience was very beneficial and interesting. I also had time to visit the Eco Mare visitor complex and seal / seabird rehabilitation centre. On 8th July Jan's brother Pieter came over from Amsterdam and we three had a great day together bird-watching on Texel.

On 13th August I spent several hours at the Dove Marine laboratory, Cullercoats, analysing the seven Fulmars collected for analysis in NE England during 2007. Four stomachs were extracted and are now frozen (ready for transportation to Texel in 2008), one bird had an empty abdomen and the other two Fulmars are kept intact for later further analysis.

I trust you all had a good summer and many thanks once again for your continuing survey work.

Best wishes,

Dan Turner

Sept 2007 news update

Northeast England, Beached Bird Survey summary report mid June to mid Sept 2007**NE England Surveyors**

Martin Blick
 Chris Beneke, George McVitie and Gordon Hyslop
 Peter Collins
 Jonathan Everett
 Daniel M Turner
 Steve Holliday and Maurice Hepple
 Ray Chilton
 Gavin Dudley
 Phil Gilbert
 Phil Davey
 George Moody
 Malcolm Hutcheson
 Hew Ellis, Michael Yianni and Malcolm Eason

Area

County Cleveland
 County Durham
 Tyne and Wear (south)
 South Tyneside, Tyne and Wear
 North Tyneside, SE and Mid N/land
 Blyth south beach (South N/land)
 North Blyth / Wansbeck (South N/land)
 Druridge Bay, (Mid N/land)
 Druridge Bay (Mid Northumberland)
 Beal Station (Fenham Flats) (North N/land)
 Lindisfarne (North N/land)
 Berwick area (North N/land)
 N/land and Tyne & Wear (occasional surveyors)

Key

Cle
 Du
 T&W
 T&W
 MN, SN, T&W
 SN
 SN
 MN
 MN
 NN
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 NN
 MN, SN, T&W

Month	May 2007								June 2007							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	N	Mi	S	N	S				N	Mi	S	N	S			
Kilometres	18.5	2.7	7.8	3.0	0.6	2.4	0.0	35.0	18.5	5.7	4.3	3.0	0.8	4.5	1.5	38.3
Fulmar		2						2		4	1					5
Storm Petrel								0			1					1
Gannet		1						1		2					1	3
Cormorant	1							1								0
Shag			1					1								0
Pink-footed Goose								0		1						1
Eider Duck								0	1							1
Waders								0								0
Gulls			7		2	1		10	1	7	5				3	16
Terns	2							2	2	1	1					4
Auks		1	2					3	1	26	9					36
Feral Pigeon								0		1	6					7
Total corpses	3	4	10	0	2	1	--	20	5	42	23	0	0	0	4	74

Month	July 2007								August 2007							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				N	Mi	S	N	S			
Kilometres	14.0	5.7	7.8	3.0	0.8	4.3	5.0	40.6	14.0	1.2	7.8	3.0	0.0	4.5	6.5	37.0
Fulmar							1	1								0
Gannet			1					1								0
Cormorant								0								0
Shag			1					1	1							1
Waders								0								0
Gulls		6	5	2	17		3	33		1	4	1			14	20
Terns	4	2	4					10								0
Auks	2	16	11	3				32	1	1	3				5	10
Feral Pigeon		1	5					6			1					1
Total corpses	6	25	27	5	17	0	4	84	2	2	8	1	--	0	19	32



1. Dan Turner in IMARES laboratory on Texel on 7th July 2007. With two 2006 Fulmars from N.E. England: NEE-2006-001 and NEE-2006-002.



3. Stomach contents of Fulmar NEE-2005-002. This bird was collected by Peter Collins on 23 Feb 2005 at Marsden Bay, South Tyneside. This was an adult female.



2. Martin Blick's three 2007 Fulmars for analysis, collected on 2nd April at Hartlepool. Photographed in Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats, 13th Aug 2007, during analysis.



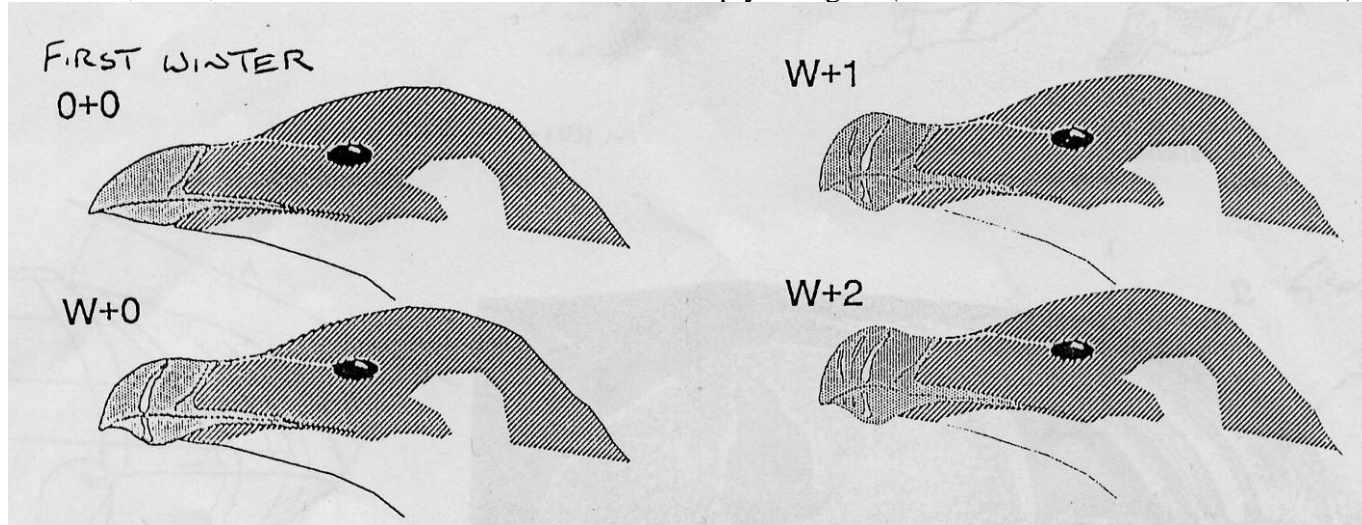
4. Dr Jan Andries van Franeker (organiser of the SNS Fulmar project) in his office at IMARES, Texel, The Netherlands, 9th July 2007.

Photos: 1 by Jan A. van Franeker; 2, 3 & 4 by D.M.Turner

Table A. Some details of the 2006 and 2007 Northeast England Fulmars that have been analysed.

Ref	Collector	Location	Find Date	Sex	Age	Head	Wing	Wt. gm	Comments
NEE-2006-001	P. Gilbert	Dr/idge Bay	26mar2006	M	Juv	100.2	335	n/a	Death cause: Starvation
NEE-2006-002	STH / MH	Blyth south	17Sep2006	F	Juv	91.2	307	n/a	16 tail feathers
NEE-2007-001	GDRMood y	Holy Island	01Apr2007	Unk	?	n/a	n/a	n/a	Abdomen scavenged. No head or tail, one leg. Death cause: Cement cloaca.
NEE-2007-003	M.A. Blick	Hartlepool	02Apr2007	M	Im?	99.3	330	640	Death cause: Starvation
NEE-2007-004	M.A. Blick	Hartlepool	02Apr2007	M	Ad	100.9	320	710	Death cause: Drowning?
NEE-2007-005	D.M.Turner	Seaton Sl/ce	06Apr2007	?	?	n/a	313	n/a	No head or tail.
NEE-2007-007	G. Dudley	Dr/idge Bay	30Jun2007	M	Ad	101	337	n/a	Death cause: Starvation

Razorbill: Birds are aged according to bill pattern. A bird with no white band and no grooves is first-winter; otherwise birds are scored according to the number of grooves on the upper mandible beyond the white band, viz. W+0, W+1, W+2 and W+3. Headless birds are simply un-aged. (Extract from Martin Heubeck info.).



Gull corpse summary, May – Aug 2007, NE England surveys

Species	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Total
Black-headed	1	4	3 (1 j)	3	11
Common	-	1	1	-	2
Herring	2	2	2	3	9
Great Black-backed	2	2	-	-	4
Lesser Black-backed	-	-	1	-	1
Kittiwake	3	7	26 (18 j)	14 (13j)	50
Gull species	2	-	-	-	2
Total	10	16	33	20	79
Length of coast (km)	35.0	38.3	40.6	37.0	150.9

j = juvenile i.e. bird of the year.

Auk corpse summary, May – Aug 2007, NE England surveys

Species	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Total
Guillemot	2	20	8	5	35
Razorbill	-	-	7	4	11
Puffin	1	15	12	1	29
Little Auk	-	-	-	-	0
Auk species	-	1	5	-	6
Total	3	36	32	10	81

Other interesting shore finds (dead unless specified) during the NE England Beached Bird Surveys

Shag, 08.04.07, Blyth South Beach, DMT:

BTO ring (right leg): 1416094.

Ringed: Inchkeith island, Fife Region, Scotland, as a nestling in a brood of two on 01-July-2006.

Ringed by Lothian Ringing Group.

Sandwich Tern, 16.06.07, Blyth South Beach, STH & MH:

BTO ring: DB67380. Coquet Island (Northumberland) nestling, ringed 20 June 2002.

(Continued over)

Pink-footed Goose, 30.06.07, Druridge Bay, DMT:

The body had rotted away, there was no head, legs or feet. Dead several weeks. A little maggoty. Some photos were taken and three feathers collected. Martin Heubeck and Mick Mellor from Shetland identified the species from the photographs and wing measurement.

Racing Pigeon, 01.07.07, Blyth South Beach, DMT:

White ring on left leg: GB07, Z03859.

On the white outer primaries of the right wing was printed: 'I am lost' with a telephone number.

The bird was reported to the Royal Pigeon Racing Association. It originated from Hull (near the

Humber

bridge), and was a 2007 bird so would not have been racing yet. It was lost from a training flight when

it

was released, 30 miles south from its home loft, at Market Rasen race course. The owner phoned DMT on 01 Aug 2007, he wanted to know if a hawk had killed it. I said this was unlikely since it was in pretty good condition on the beach. I took photos and a couple of measurements.

Fox	21.07.07	Blyth South Beach	STH & MH	Dead about one week.
Seal sp.	24.07.07	Druridge Bay	PG	Two seals found, both about 1.2 metres in length: one decomposed, one complete, but with a head injury.
Kittiwake	25.07.07	Marsden Bay	JE	17 dead juveniles / nestlings at the breeding colony.
Kittiwake	21.08.07	Saltburn	MAB	Juvenile, very fresh. BTO ring: EW43277. Reported to BTO: awaiting information

Other comments

13th July 2007: Lindisfarne (GDRM) – two Sandwich Terns and one Puffin a few yards apart with brownish / pinkish film on each bird (not oil). George would be interested in any similar reports. The birds were passed to English Nature.



5. Shag, BTO 1416094. Blyth South Beach, April 2007. (D.M.Turner)



6. Data Logger on the leg of a Puffin on a red ring. Photo from Francis Daunt (CEH, Edinburgh). Look out for these on Razorbills! (see next page)

News on the Razorbill wreck in eastern North Sea

Email from Tycho Anker-Nilssen, (Senior Research Ecologist, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research), 27 Sept: Razorbills, mainly adults, die in their thousands in the Oslo fjord area at the moment. Some guillemots too, but c.8 out of 10 are razorbills. We have organised collection and some 2-300 are now stored on freeze for later analysis (hope to do both biometrics, genetics and stomach samples). Time will show how it develops. Probably starvation.

Email from Kees Camphuysen (Holland), 28 Sept:

Just back from a survey in the Southern Bight, this news puts my sightings quite well in perspective, for we had 1.5x more razorbills than guillemots at sea, and there were many, which is unprecedented for this time of year. Small numbers washed ashore here so far, and these were juveniles (tiny still, very small beaks!!). Some guillemots washed ashore (not a real wreck), including moulting adults and not yet fully grown chicks. There are plenty moulting adults at sea still, which I find rather late.

The at-sea lot for as far as Razorbills are concerned seems mostly mature, or at least with deep bills and white vertical lines for as far as we could see from the ship. Juveniles were certainly a minority here. We didn't see them feeding, but the Razorbills were 'grouped' as usual (in contrast to the guillemots), meaning they were performing fish-drives in flocks and the associated Little Gulls suggested they did so towards the surface.

Email from John Pederson (Denmark), 28 Sept:

We have seen more than 1500 razorbills a day in Skagen, Denmark these last 14 days.

This is one month before usual. They migrate east. We have found several dead ones and they are all very "skinny", dead from starvation I think. A few of them are youngsters from 2007. There must have been a lack of feeding opportunities at their breeding grounds.

Email from Dr. Eric Stienen (Belgium), 28 Sept:

No alarming numbers of Razorbills (death or alive) here in Belgium. Last week fishermen reported white carcasses floating at the sea surface (most probably Fulmars), but inspection of the beaches and a survey at sea showed no abnormalities.

Email from Eric Meek, RSPB, Orkney, 28 Sept:

11 dead Razorbills found on two Orkney beaches on Wednesday including M55257.

(Mark Grantham, of the BTO ringing unit, confirms M55257 to have been ringed as an adult on the Treshnish Isles, west Scotland in 1989).

Email from Francis Daunt (CEH, Edinburgh), 28 Sept:

I wonder whether you could put the word out to your razorbill searchers to look out for data loggers that we put on Isle of May breeding adults this summer. These were placed on a black plastic ring on one leg, with a metal ring and green colour-ring on the other leg.

I've attached a photo - actually shows a logger on a red ring on a puffin leg, but otherwise identical to what went on razorbills.

If a razorbill is found with one, I would be extremely grateful if the logger could be posted to me, together with all the finding details. Also, if the person could collect a few feathers so that the bird can be sexed (using DNA).

Email from Prof. Mike P Harris (CEH, Banchory), 28 Sept:

In response to a report of a colour-ringed Razorbill beached in Norway. (Ringed on Isle of May).

M70213 was a male initially ringed as a breeding bird in 2000. It bred at the same site (with the same mate) each year 2000-2007. In 7 of these years it was successful in taking a chick to sea (although in one season it later returned, presumably after having lost the chick) - so can be considered a high-quality bird, In 2007 it and its chick left on the night 5th-6th July.

Some recent (mid to late September 2007) local seabird news from our surveyors

****Note:** Please remember to save any ringed auks, any Little Auks (whatever the condition and state of completeness) and Fulmars (with complete abdomens) for analysis.

In summary: No unusual numbers of Razorbill corpses reported at present in the majority of our recording area in NE England, although there is an accumulation of live birds at Holy Island with some associated mortality.

County Cleveland, Martin Blick, 28 Sept 2007:

Last survey at Redcar was 26 Sept with no corpses found. One Razorbill corpse at Hartlepool on 13th Sept plus nine Guillemots corpses. Some live auks on sea (not large numbers) and some blue-phase Fulmars have been reported flying N in the last week.

Tyne and Wear:

Peter Collins, 28 Sept 2007: Most recent survey north of Sunderland was 23 Sept – with no corpses.

Peter mentioned there were recent reports of some blue-phase Fulmars recorded moving offshore.

Jon Everett, 25 Sept 2007: Marsden Bay survey: one juvenile Kittiwake corpse.

Dan Turner / Michael Yianni, 29/30 Sept 2007: Tynemouth and Whitley Bay beaches: no corpses.

South-Northumberland:

Maurice Hepple & Steve Holliday, 15 Sept 2007, Blyth South Beach: three Guillemot corpses.

Dan Turner, 15 – 30 Sept 2007, Blyth South Beach and Seaton Sluice: one juvenile Guillemot.

Ray Chilton, 26 Sept, Blyth North to river Wansbeck: one Guillemot.

Mid-Northumberland:

Gavin Dudley, 23 Sept 2007, Druridge Bay: corpses: 1 – 2 Razorbill, 6 – 7 Guillemot, 2 auk species.

Dan Turner, 22 Sept 2007, Druridge Bay: one juvenile Guillemot corpse.

Graham Relf, 23 Sept 2007, Druridge Bay: four Guillemot corpses.

Holy Island, north Northumberland, George Moody, 28 Sept 2007:

George has never seen as many live Guillemots, Razorbills and Puffins in the harbour area (with 200 – 300 present currently). There have been at least 14 – 15 auk corpses, including Razorbills and Guillemots in the last ten days there, probably more. However both George and Holy Island fishermen report seeing bumper numbers of sandeels at this time. George has seen some of these Razorbills feeding as a group two to three metres out from the shoreline in the harbour at high tide, which he said is a new observation here.

Footnote from Texel, The Netherlands

When I was in Texel in July one of the IMARES staff, Norbert Dankers, asked if our surveyors would keep a lookout for the introduced Japanese / Portugese Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas / angulata*) growing on the shore. They are growing commonly on parts of Texel and it is only a relatively short hop across the North Sea. See the photo to the right (taken on Texel at the Ferry Terminal) for an example. They can grow to 15 cm in length and make for good eating. I have some examples of the shells, collected during my visit.



Northeast England Summary Report completed on 02 Oct 2007
