

To: Northeast England volunteers  
Southeast England volunteers  
Southeast Scotland volunteers

Daniel M Turner  
North Shields  
Tyne & Wear, England  
Thursday 2 June 2011

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

Dear All,

Welcome to our latest regional newsletter for the beached bird surveys (BBS) and the 'Save the North Sea' (SNS) Fulmar project.

Thank you once again for all your time and support. Here is a brief summary of contents:

**Newsletter 20** BBS and SNS Fulmar projects, Northeast England and  
Southeast Scotland

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If you think anything important is missing from this newsletter, notice any errors or have ideas for future content then please get in touch.

Overall in northeast England we collected four intact Fulmars during 2010 and have collected two so far (up to end of May) during 2011.

Please continue to return your monthly survey forms including 'nil returns' i.e. when no corpses are found during any monthly survey – so that we have a record of the exact length of shore that has been surveyed. If you have un-submitted reports for recent months please forward them for future inclusion in later more complete reports and papers.

Thanks again and sending good wishes to you all.

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## Regional Newsletter 20

BBS and SNS Fulmar projects, Northeast England and Southeast Scotland

Full contents of Sections 4 and 5 ...

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## Regional Newsletter 20

**for Northeast England and Southeast Scotland**  
 Monthly Beached Bird and 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project surveys

### Northeast England, BBS summary report Sept 2010 to March 2011

<u>Area</u>	<u>Key</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Key</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Key</u>
North Northumberland	NN	Tyne and Wear (North)	T&W (N)	County Durham	Du
Mid Northumberland	MN	Tyne and Wear (South)	T&W (S)	County Cleveland	Cle
South Northumberland	SN				

#### Northeast England Surveyors during this period

Chris Beneke (CB), Martin A Blick (MAB), Andrew Charlton (AC), Linda K Charlton (LKC), Ray Chilton (RC), Peter Collins (PC), Jonathan Everett (JE), Maurice Hepple (MHe), Steve Holliday (STH), Malcolm Hutcheson (MHu), Gordon Hyslop (GH), George McVitie (GMcV), George D R Moody (GDRM), Barry Robinson (BR), Daniel M Turner (DMT), J Andrew Turner (JAT), Michael Yianni (MY).

There will be more records to add for this period (especially during 2011) at a later stage. Full records will be included in the 2010 and 2011 papers when published.

<b>September 2010</b>	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	<b>Tot</b>
	NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	7.8	1.0	2.8	0	4.5	<b>36.3</b>
Canada Goose					1			<b>1</b>
Fulmar							2	<b>2</b>
Gannet					1			<b>1</b>
Shag	2							<b>2</b>
R-b Merganser	1							<b>1</b>
Black-headed Gull							3	<b>3</b>
Common Gull							1	<b>1</b>
Herring Gull							3	<b>3</b>
Great Black-backed G					1			<b>1</b>
Kittiwake		1			1		2	<b>4</b>
Common Tern							1	<b>1</b>
Guillemot		1					1	<b>2</b>
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>
Complete birds i.e. checked for oil	3	1	-	-	3	-	8	<b>15</b>
Oiled	0	0	-	-	0	-	0	<b>0</b>



Northeast England beached bird corpses

<b>October 2010</b>	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	<b>Tot</b>
	NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	7.8	3.6	2.8	2.5	2.0	<b>38.9</b>
Fulmar		1						<b>1</b>
Gannet		2	2	2			2	<b>8</b>
Cormorant	2							<b>2</b>
Shag	2		1					<b>3</b>
Eider Duck	1							<b>1</b>
Black-headed Gull		1						<b>1</b>
Common Gull		1						<b>1</b>
Great Black-backed G		1	1					<b>2</b>
Kittiwake			2				1	<b>3</b>
Razorbill			1					<b>1</b>
Feral Pigeon		2						<b>2</b>
Blackbird			1					<b>1</b>
Redwing			2					<b>2</b>
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>
Complete birds i.e. checked for oil	5	2	3	2	-	-	2	<b>14</b>
Oiled	0	0	1	0	-	-	0	<b>1</b>
Complete Feral Pigeon	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	<b>0</b>

22nd October 2010, **oiled bird**: Gannet immature (juvenile or one year old) with small amount of oil on right wing underside below the middle primaries. Seaton Sluice (DMT).

<b>November 2010</b>	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	<b>Tot</b>
	NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	7.8	2.6	2.0	0	5.0	<b>37.6</b>
Shag	1							<b>1</b>
Eider Duck	2							<b>2</b>
Black-headed Gull							1	<b>1</b>
Common Gull							1	<b>1</b>
Herring Gull					1		1	<b>2</b>
Great Black-backed G							1	<b>1</b>
Large gull species		1						<b>1</b>
Puffin							1	<b>1</b>
Little Auk	1							<b>1</b>
Feral Pigeon			1					<b>1</b>
Short-eared Owl				1				<b>1</b>
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>
Complete birds i.e. checked for oil	4	0	1	0	1	-	3	<b>9</b>
Oiled	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	<b>0</b>
Complete Feral Pigeon	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>

Northeast England beached bird corpses

December 2010	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	7.8	3.3	2.8	0	8.0	<b>42.1</b>
Mute Swan							1	<b>1</b>
Shag	1	1						<b>2</b>
Eider Duck	2		1					<b>3</b>
Red-legged Partridge			2					<b>2</b>
Pheasant		1						<b>1</b>
Oystercatcher		1						<b>1</b>
Ringed Plover					1			<b>1</b>
Golden Plover					9			<b>9</b>
Lapwing			2		6			<b>8</b>
Knot					1			<b>1</b>
Dunlin			1		9			<b>10</b>
Woodcock		1	4					<b>5</b>
Redshank		1	1		22			<b>24</b>
Wader species			1					<b>1</b>
Black-headed Gull			1	1	1		2	<b>5</b>
Common Gull		1			1		2	<b>4</b>
Herring Gull		1	1				1	<b>3</b>
Great Black-backed G			2				3	<b>5</b>
Kittiwake					1		1	<b>2</b>
Medium gull species				1				<b>1</b>
Large gull species		1	1	2				<b>4</b>
Guillemot	1							<b>1</b>
Puffin							1	<b>1</b>
Little Auk					1			<b>1</b>
Feral Pigeon			2					<b>2</b>
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>52</b>	-	<b>11</b>	<b>98</b>
Complete birds i.e. checked for oil	4	3	6	1	49	-	4	<b>67</b>
Oiled	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	<b>1</b>
Complete Feral Pigeon	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	<b>0</b>

21st December 2010, **oiled bird**: Great Black-backed Gull, adult, North Gare Sands, Cleveland (MAB). Not black crude, but dirty orange industrial type. Heavily stained orangey-brown on its entire under-parts, including under-wing and around head and neck. Overall, about 70% of bird oiled.



Northeast England beached bird corpses

January 2011	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	8.2	3.3	0.8	2.5	7.0	<b>42.0</b>
Fulmar			1					<b>1</b>
Shag	4							<b>4</b>
Cormorant	2							<b>2</b>
Eider Duck	2						1	<b>3</b>
Moorhen							1	<b>1</b>
Pheasant							1	<b>1</b>
Oystercatcher	2		1				7	<b>10</b>
Golden Plover			1				1	<b>2</b>
Lapwing			2					<b>2</b>
Woodcock		1	3				1	<b>5</b>
Redshank			2				1	<b>3</b>
Black-headed Gull		1	2				8	<b>11</b>
Common Gull							3	<b>3</b>
Herring Gull	1		3	1	1		3	<b>9</b>
Great Black-backed G			1				3	<b>4</b>
Guillemot	5							<b>5</b>
Little Auk	1						1	<b>2</b>
Feral Pigeon			1		1			<b>2</b>
Unknown			2					<b>2</b>
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>72</b>
Complete birds i.e. checked for oil	15	0	10	1	0	0	18	<b>44</b>
Oiled	0	-	0	0	-	-	0	<b>0</b>
Complete Feral Pigeon	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Oiled Feral Pigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>



Ringed Plover, found by Peter Collins, 09 Dec 2010, Whitburn Steel. Carrying leg ring BTO NV96361. Ringed 19 July 2008 near Hartlepool. Photo: D M Turner

Northeast England beached bird corpses

February 2011	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	7.8	3.3	0	2.5	7.0	<b>40.8</b>
Mute Swan	1							<b>1</b>
Slavonian Grebe	1							<b>1</b>
Shag	2						1	<b>3</b>
Cormorant	1							<b>1</b>
Eider Duck	4							<b>4</b>
Pheasant		1						<b>1</b>
Oystercatcher							6	<b>6</b>
Lapwing							1	<b>1</b>
Curlew	1							<b>1</b>
Redshank							4	<b>4</b>
Black-headed Gull				1			5	<b>6</b>
Common Gull							4	<b>4</b>
Herring Gull	1						3	<b>4</b>
Great Black-backed G	1						2	<b>3</b>
Kittiwake		1					1	<b>2</b>
Large gull species				1				<b>1</b>
Guillemot	1						1	<b>2</b>
Razorbill		1					1	<b>2</b>
Little Auk	1							<b>1</b>
Auk sp.				1				<b>1</b>
Unknown			1					<b>1</b>
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>50</b>
Complete birds i.e. checked for oil	10	2	0	0	-	-	19	<b>31</b>
Oiled	1	0	-	-	-	-	0	<b>1</b>

26th February 2011, **oiled bird**: Guillemot, Holy Island, fresh, light oiling (GDRM).



Razorbill, 22 Feb 2011,  
Druridge Bay. Age W+2.  
Found by Dan Turner.  
A particularly small individual,  
kept for later preservation.  
Weight 410 grams,  
Right wing 177mm  
Left wing 181 mm  
Head and bill length 86.7 mm

Photo: D M Turner

Northeast England beached bird corpses

<b>March 2011</b>	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	<b>Tot</b>
	NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	4.3	3.3	0.8		3.5	<b>32.1</b>
Fulmar		1						<b>1</b>
Shag	1						1	<b>2</b>
Cormorant			1					<b>1</b>
Oystercatcher							1	<b>1</b>
Black-headed Gull							3	<b>3</b>
Herring Gull			2					<b>2</b>
Great Black-backed G			2					<b>2</b>
Guillemot		1						<b>1</b>
Little Auk							1	<b>1</b>
Carrion Crow			1					<b>1</b>
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>
Complete birds i.e. checked for oil	1	2	3	-	-		6	<b>12</b>
Oiled	0	0	0	-	-		0	<b>0</b>



Linda Charlton in Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats, 26 April 2011, recording dissection data on forms. The Fulmar on the table is NEE-2011-001, found by Steve Holliday at Newbiggin, Northumberland on 20 March 2011. Lab analysis showed this was an adult female bird. Photo: D M Turner



Other interesting shore finds (dead unless specified) and further detail during the northeast England Beached Bird Surveys: September 2010 to March 2011

Species	Date	Where found	Finder	Comments
Common Starfish	08.09.10	North Blyth	RC	Lots in weed at north end of beach.
Red-breasted Merganser	20.09.10	Lindisfarne	GDRM	Female, dead several days.
Plastic beads	28.09.10	Roker to Whitburn	PC	Loads of plastic beads of various colours washed up along strand line.
Plastic pellets and strips	29.09.10	Roker to Whitburn	PC	In the last few days about 5,000 strips of plastic (from plastic bags) have been reported from Roker beach. Peter also found thousands of plastic pellets along the high tide line. He collected a sample of the pellets (including black ones) on 03 Oct – stored in aluminium foil.
Blackbird	18.10.10	Blyth South Beach	STH	Male, wings - primaries only.
Plastics	19 to 21.10.10	Roker to Seaburn	PC	Loads of small sharp rigid white pieces of plastic washed up. <b>Photo</b> . Plastic pellets still getting washed up (21 Oct).
Plastic granules	23.10.10	Whitburn – Roker	PC	Coloured granules found on northern stretch of beach – sample collected. Local Authority investigations are underway involving various agencies.
Plastic granules / pellets	25.10.10	Between Whitburn Steel and Roker Pier	PC	Whole length of the beach covered in pellets mainly along the strand line. Some different colours when compared with earlier including two clumps of grey indicating recent origin? <b>Photo received</b> .
Plastic litter	27.10.10	Roker, Tyne and Wear (South)	PC	Resorts officer (Roker) has been in contact with various agencies regarding large quantities of stripes of plastic litter washed up.
Ray's Bream	27.10.10	Whitley Bay beach	LKC	Tail and part of head missing. Length 35 cm.
Ray's Bream	27.10.10	Whitley Bay	LKC	Missing tail and part of head. Length 38 cm.
Ray's Bream	27.10.10	Whitley Bay beach	LKC / DMT	Very fresh and complete. Length 57 cm. Collected, filleted and frozen to eat later.
Cod	27.10.10	Whitley Bay beach	DMT / LKC	Large head only.
Fish sp.	27.10.10	Whitley Bay beach	LKC	Large unidentified remains – possibly Cod.
Common Seal	02.11.10	Cheswick Black Rocks, N/land (NU04I)	MHu	Adult. Newly washed up on tideline, dead approx five days. The animal is not often seen in these parts. No skin damage and no tag markers. It had disappeared from the shore within three days.

Other interesting shore finds ... continued

Species	Date	Where found	Finder	Comments
Common Eel	14.11.10	Blyth South beach	LKC / DMT	58 cm, photos, size indicates female.
Haddock <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	14.11.10	Blyth South beach	DMT / LKC	32 cm, photos. Poor condition. Dr Jane Delany and her colleagues confirmed identification from a photograph.
Brown Rat	20.11.10	Druridge Bay	DMT	Photos.
Ling	20.11.10	Druridge Bay	MY	Complete. <a href="#">Photos</a>
Ray's Bream	21.11.10	Roker	PC	Dead – reported at 10:30 a.m.
Ray's Bream	24.11.10	North Blyth	RC	35 cm, fresh.
Codling	24.11.10	North Blyth	RC	Poor condition. Head, skin and bones.
Grey Seal	Nov '10	Lindisfarne	GDRM	Several young seals ashore during the month, mostly gone after a few days - one dead. Two adults dead.
Coalfish	03.12.10	Blyth South beach	MHe	Ten inches long.
Ringed Plover	09.12.10	Whitburn Steel	PC	Ringed (BTO NV96361). This bird was ringed by Tees Ringing Group as age 1 year, female on 19-Jul-2008 at Crimdon Park, near Hartlepool, Durham. It was found 873 days after it was ringed, 28 km from the ringing site, direction NNW.
Redshank	10.12.10	Roker beach	PC	Ringed (BTO DD46950). This bird was ringed by Tees Ringing Group as age 2 years, sex unknown, on 23-Jul-2009 at Seal Sands, Teesmouth, Stockton-on-Tees. It was found 505 days after it was ringed, 36 km from the ringing site, direction NNW.
Mute Swan	21.12.10	North Gare Sands, Cleveland	MAB	Headless, one week dead. Metal ring ZZ6880 – MAB reported to BTO. <b>Awaiting details</b>
Roe Deer	24.12.10	Blyth South beach	STH	Female, full body, some predation on back and hind quarters. Two photos received from Steve. Maurice reported it a few days later as 'virtually skeletal'. Backbone and skull still present on 15 Jan
Grey Seal	25.12.10	Lindisfarne	GDRM	Baby seal had crawled up beach and died in the snow.
Dunlin	28.12.10	Whitburn Steel	PC	Several dead birds again including a ringed Dunlin. London Ring BT05675 <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i> . Ringed by Wash Wader RG as age 2+ years, sex unknown, on 28 Feb 2009 at Admiral's Farm, Terrington Marsh, Norfolk. Found 668 days after ringing, 262 km distance in NNW direction.

Other interesting shore finds ... continued

Species	Date	Where found	Finder	Comments
Humpback Whale	01.01.11	N off Whitburn	PC	Reported to DMT by text message at 13:17 GMT.
Herring Gull	09.01.11	Blyth South beach	DMT	Northern subspecies <i>L. a. argentatus</i> . Some measurements taken, headless.
Shag	13.01.11	Holy Island	GDRM	Old specimen. Ringed BTO 1430857. Ringed: Isle of May, nestling, 09.06.10 Found after 218 days and 74 km from ringing site in SE direction.
Ray's Bream	15.01.11	Blyth South	LKC	The rear half only
Black-headed Gull	18.01.11	Redcar	MAB	Dead 2-3 days, Denmark ring: 6H-8330, reported to BTO by MAB. <b>Awaiting</b>
Grey Seal, young, probably born autumn 2010	25.01.11	Blyth South Harbour	DMT / LKC	Young, head mostly missing. Length 109 cm. Had been present for previous four days and still present on 14 February. Callan Duck (SMRU) identified this for us and comments 'looks as though it may have been through a propeller'
Grey Seal (3)	29.01.11	Holy Island	GDRM	Two young corpses and one old.
Shag	02.02.11	Holy Island	GDRM	Metal BTO ring: 1452476. Blue plastic ring: ZJD. Ringed as nestling, 02 July 2010, Isle of May, Firth of Forth.
Otter (alive)	17.02.11	Cheswick Black Rocks	MHu	Also later the same day in Cocklawburn Pond.
Grey Seal	20.02.11	Easington Colliery to Hawthorn Dene, Durham coast	CB	Identification confirmed by Callan Duck of the Sea Mammal Research Unit. Measurements and photos taken, head damage and some rear body wounds. <b>Corkscrew injuries</b> to this specimen (recorded in photo) of interest to Callan Duck of Sea Mammal Research Unit.
Razorbill	22.02.11	Druridge Bay	DMT	W+2, very small, photos and collected. To analyse / preserve. Adult
Kittiwake	22.02.11	Druridge Bay	DMT	First-winter. Long measures for wings and tarsi. Left wing and head collected. Comments from Dr. John C Coulson on 30.03.11: 'The first year kittiwake has a long wing and is probably, but not certainly, an individual reared within the Arctic circle. No races in the Atlantic, just a gradual increase in size further north. the outer primary is the longest, as usual'.
Curlew	25.02.11	Cheswick Black Rocks	MHu	Long dead, approx 3 weeks with skeleton, head, wings and legs
Harbour Porpoise	27.03.11	Druridge Bay	LKC / DMT	98 cm long. Photos taken. Dead 1 – 3 weeks. Small cuts around head, flipper and body. Down to skull on left and right sides of head.

Specific / scientific names of species mentioned in the previous table (Other interesting finds):

Common Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Cod / Codling	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
Coalfish / Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Ling	<i>Molva molva</i>	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Ray's Bream	<i>Brama brama</i>	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocaena phocaena</i>	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		
Common Starfish	<i>Asterias rubens</i>		

### **Further News (FN) from the Northeast England coastline**

**(FN01 – FN13)**

#### **FN01. Pheasants and Red-legged Partridges on beaches**

Pheasant and red-legged partridge are unusual and interesting species to find on beach surveys. This point was raised by Pieter van Franeker following reports in Newsletter 19 i.e. two pheasants in January 2010 and one red-legged partridge in February 2010 – all in county Cleveland. As you may see in Newsletter 20 we have additional corpses of these species reported in December 2010, January and February 2011.

With regards to the January 2010 birds: both pheasants were noted as 'wings and skeleton' including one female - presumably they had wandered to the coast from nearby countryside or woodland. Pheasants can turn up in quite small 'natural' vegetated areas. The red-legged partridge was quite fresh on 22 February 2010 and probably from nearby farmland. In "Birds of Cleveland" (by Martin Blick, 2009) around 90 - 120 pairs of red-legged partridge are recorded as nesting in the county with further artificial introductions for shooting - some birds frequenting the coast at times. The natural breeding pheasant population in this county is estimated at 500 - 1,500 pairs with many more continuously re-introduced for shooting. Live pheasants are occasionally reported at the coast.

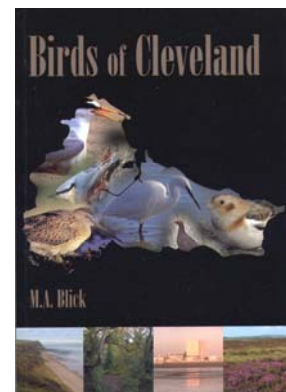
#### **FN02. "Birds of Cleveland" by Martin A Blick**

Martin is our surveyor in county Cleveland and his excellent book was recently published by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. Reviews include IBIS (Oct 2010, Vol 152, No 4, p 863) and the on the BTO website ... <http://www.bto.org/node/1404>

The book contains 352 pages, has a soft back and is available from the publishers at: Margrove Heritage Centre, Boosbeck, Saltburn-by-the-sea, TS12 3BZ,

ISBN 978-0-9563283-0-4. Contact email: [info@teeswildlife.org](mailto:info@teeswildlife.org)

It is also on sale at the RSPB Reserve shop at Saltholme, Teeside.



**FN03. Northeast England Fulmar corpses 2010 - 2011**

Species	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	June 10	Total
Complete	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
Partial	8	0	0	0	0	1	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>

Species	Jul 10	Aug 10	Sept 10	Oct 10	Nov 10	Dec 10	Total
Complete	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partial	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

Species	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11	Total
Complete	0	0	1	0	1		
Partial	1	0	0	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			

Complete 2010 NEE Fulmar corpses and a few details from lab analysis:

NEE-2010-001        24 Jan, DMT / LKC, Druridge Bay, ... ..  
                           D colour phase, juvenile female, condition index 1, organ health score 12

NEE-2010-002        25 Feb, GDRM, Holy Island, ... ..  
                           LL colour phase, adult male, condition index 2, organ health score 12

NEE-2010-003        27 Feb, STH / MHe, Cresswell Pond, ... ..  
                           D colour phase, juvenile female, condition index 0, organ health score 10

NEE-2010-004        27 Feb, GDRM, Holy Island, ... ..  
                           LL colour phase, adult female, condition index 0, organ health score 9

Complete 2011 NEE Fulmar corpses:

NEE-2011-001        20 Mar, STH, Newbiggin, ... ..  
                           LL colour phase, adult female, condition index 4, organ health score 11

NEE-2011-002        03 May, PC, Roker, ringed as a nestling on Orkney ....  
                           To be analyzed on Texel. See **FN12**.

**Notes.**

1. Condition index is based on: breast muscle, subcutaneous fat and intestinal fat.
2. Organ health score is based on: stomach, liver, gut, kidney and lung.
3. There are four colour phases in this analysis LL (double light i.e. typical British breeding birds = White), L (single light), D (single dark) and DD (double dark). Each of phases L, D and DD are dark colour phase birds to varying degrees.
4. The stomach has been collected (for contents analysis) from each of the 2010 birds and from the first 2011 bird.

#### **FN04. Award from Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club**

In February 2011 the Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club (NTBC) generously awarded NEBBS (Northeast England Beached Bird Surveys group) a grant of £250 towards preservation of some of our bird finds.

An associated press statement was released by NTBC resulting in a few press articles including ...

- (a) The Berwick Advertiser, 14 March 2011, by Adam Drummond:  
'Local bird club backs North Sea beach project':

[http://www.berwick-advertiser.co.uk/news/local-headlines/local\\_bird\\_club\\_backs\\_north\\_sea\\_beach\\_project\\_1\\_1504446](http://www.berwick-advertiser.co.uk/news/local-headlines/local_bird_club_backs_north_sea_beach_project_1_1504446)

- (b) Newcastle Evening Chronicle, 10 March 2011, page 16:  
'Cash helps project take flight'.

As a consequence Red Grouse Gallery (Rothbury) has preserved for us the following whole specimens in standing poses:

<b>Specimen</b>	<b>Collection details</b>
Ringed Plover	09.12.10, Whitburn Steel, Tyne and Wear (South), Peter Collins. Ringed, see 'Interesting shore finds.'
Dunlin	12.09.10, South Gare, Teesmouth, Martin A Blick. Flew into wires, juvenile.
Black-headed Gull	23.03.10, Seaham, County Durham. George McVitie and Gordon Hyslop
Kestrel	Mid-Sept 2009, Boulby area, Cleveland, about one mile inland. Specimen was received by Martin Blick who donated it to our Group.

In addition a selection of wings has been preserved for our group - see **FN05** over page.

We have £20 left from the award which, along with our other savings, may be used for preservation of another complete specimen. The above specimens, along with others preserved in 2008 using an award from British Airways, are available for use in presentations about our work.

Photo to right: Ringed Plover preserved by Red Grouse Gallery. Found Tyne & Wear (South), 09 December 2010 by Peter Collins.

Photo: D M Turner



### **FN05. Red Grouse Gallery and bird specimen preservation**

Ralph Robson of Red Grouse Gallery, Rothbury, has been preserving some bird specimens for our group since January 2011 (see **FN04**). He has also preserved a range of beached wings for us to use for educational purposes, including: Great Northern Diver, Eider (male and female), Golden Plover, Redshank, Woodcock, Common Gull (first-summer), Black-headed Gull, Redwing, Kittiwake (first-winter) and Great Black-backed Gull (first-winter). Ralph has also kindly donated Tawny and Barn Owl wings to our group collection.

Because we had spare wings – some have been donated to Graeme Bowman for display at Newcastle upon Tyne Royal Grammar School, including: Mallard, Woodcock, Redwing, Golden Plover and Barn Owl.

Ralph also preserved two specimens for use and display at the Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick:

Herring Gull, adult, female, found 22 Aug 2010, Whitley Bay beach, DMT/LKC  
Sandwich Tern, juvenile, found East Lothian in summer 2009

Ralph is also working on the following additional specimens for the Scottish Seabird Centre: Little Auk, Herring Gull chick, juvenile Razorbill and a Gannet chick.



Ralph Robson of Red Grouse Gallery with Black-headed Gull adult for NEBBS collections and Herring Gull adult (on shelf behind) for the Scottish Seabird Centre.

Photo: D M Turner, 07 March

### **FN06. Recent presentations**

Dan Turner has given presentations about the NEBBS group work i.e. beached bird surveys and our involvement in the 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project to the following groups in the period Sept 2010 – May 2011:

Sept 30th British Airways IT department, Photographic Club, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Jan 6th Tynemouth Photographic Society

Feb 9th Broompark and District Women's Institute (WI), Broompark, Durham

Apr 14th Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

**FN07. Recent donations to the Hancock Museum collections**

On 11 May 2011 our group donated the following specimens to the Hancock Museum:

Donated bird specimens (and collection / finder details) were as follows ... ..

Little Grebe, 31.12.10, Wansbeck Estuary, Steve T Holliday

Duncock juvenile, 22.06.10, Newcastle Business Park, Daniel M Turner

Bullfinch juvenile, 01.07.10, Newcastle Business Park, Daniel M Turner

Blackbird, 04.01.10, North Shields, Daniel M Turner

Black-headed Gull, adult, 03.12.10, North Blyth, Ray Chilton

Herring Gull, juvenile, 30.08.10, North Shields, Linda K Charlton

Red-legged Partridge, 11.12.10, Seaton Sluice, Daniel M Turner

Woodpigeon, two juveniles, Oct 2009, Newcastle Business Park, D M Turner

Kittiwake, small nestling, 08.06.10, Newcastle Quayside (under north tower of Tyne Bridge), Daniel M Turner

Other specimens:

Squid, 09.05.09, North Blyth beach, Ray Chilton

Young Rabbit, 23.04.11, Druridge Bay, Linda K Charlton

Shrew sp., 23.08.09, Jarrow, Linda K Charlton

These specimens were all collected freshly dead in very good condition.

**FN08. NEBBS web page**

We now have a group web page (available on the internet from May 10th) on the web site of the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) ... thanks to the new director of the NHSN, James Littlewood. James voluntarily spent time preparing the web page for us with information and photos provided and including all the group newsletters. There is background information on how to participate in our projects, example completed survey forms, a blank template form as well as two papers with complete NEBBS data for the period 2004 – 2005 and various useful web links.

A contact email address has been created for use on the web page ...

[nebbs\\_group@btinternet.com](mailto:nebbs_group@btinternet.com)

Here is the link to our web page

<http://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/news/cms/beached-bird-surveys/>



### **FN09. NEBBS surveyor Steve Holliday and bird skulls**

NEBBS surveyor Steve Holliday prepared a display case with some of his skull specimens (Photo: right, DMT, 29 Jan) to show at the WI and NTBC presentations (see **FN06**). These were a great asset and very popular – the case held such northeast England beach corpses as: Red-throated Diver, Fulmar, Storm Petrel, Arctic Skua, Puffin (adult & first-winter), Razorbill, Guillemot, Little Auk, Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Sandwich Tern, Sparrowhawk and Fieldfare. Steve has kindly offered to preserve some new beached bird skulls for our own group display case and is therefore currently working on the following specimens for us:



Black-headed Gull, 26.09.09, finders DMT / LKC, Blyth South beach  
Woodcock, 16.01.11, finder LKC, Seaton Sluice  
Kittiwake (first-winter), 22.02.11, finder DMT, Druridge Bay  
Great Black-backed Gull, 12.03.11, finder LKC, Blyth South beach  
Fulmar, 27.02.10, finder GDRM, Holy Island  
Magpie, 08.05.11, finder LKC, Blyth South Harbour beach

### **FN10. New surveyor – Barry Robinson**



Barry and I met one day in late January at Druridge Bay, Northumberland and we got talking – he was interested in our beach work and I sent him information about the projects. In March (Photo: left) we arranged a survey together at Seaton Sluice and in early April we carried out another introductory survey, this time at Druridge Bay. Barry is now carrying out beach surveys in Tyne & Wear (South of the river Tyne) and county Durham.

Barry is retired. He has worked as a teacher abroad and for the Connexions Service in County Durham. He studied at Durham University (Bede College) and has an M.A. (in Education) from the Open

University and an Institute of Biology qualification from Sunderland Polytechnic (as it then was) in Ecology and Animal Behaviour. A keen naturalist from an early age he shares with his wife a particular interest in birds, butterflies and plants - visiting Scotland regularly, especially the western islands. Barry wishes to contribute to the beached bird project and hopes to learn more about gull plumages and identification through his involvement. He has been surveying thirteen tetrads for the BTO Atlas (2007 - 2011) and two sites for the BTO/JNCC/ RSPB Breeding Bird Survey. He is a member of the Natural History Society of Northumbria as well as Durham Wildlife Trust, WWT, Butterfly Conservation and the RSPB.

### **FN11. Dove Marine Laboratory session, April 2011**

Thanks to Dr Jane Delany, Deputy Director of the Dove Marine Laboratory, Newcastle University, we held a lab session at the Dove Marine Lab on 26 April with NEBBS surveyors Linda K Charlton and Barry Robinson in attendance. Linda acted as recorder and Barry as observer while Dan dissected.

We analysed two Fulmars ... NEE-2010-004 and NEE-2011-001 (see [FN03](#)), removing their stomachs for transportation to The Netherlands. In addition we carried out a preliminary analysis (including measurements) of a selection of waders collected by Peter Collins during December 2010. These consisted of twelve redshanks, a knot, a dunlin, two golden plovers and a lapwing. Two or three of the redshanks were in particularly good condition – suitable for preservation perhaps, and one wore a leg ring. Wing measurements on the redshanks ranged from 161 to 174 mm – one or two of the larger specimens may be from the Icelandic population. The dunlin was headless and required a deal of time in order to rule out a range of possible rarities, but appeared to be a bird in first-winter plumage – the primaries were in particularly good condition and still quite fresh and unworn, this would make a good museum skin for study purposes.



The photo shows twelve of the redshanks found by Peter Collins in December 2010 on the beach between Whitburn and Roker, Tyne & Wear (South). These were measured during the Dove Marine Lab session and bagged individually before re-freezing.

Photo: D M Turner

The following questions arose during this lab session:

- (a) What is the origin of the word gonyts?

Answers:

From the following website:

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/gonys>

Origin: 1830–40; < Neo-Latin, probably erroneously for Greek génys jaw

From the following website:

<http://www.biology-online.org/dictionary/Genys>

Genys (Science: zoology) see Conys. Origin: NL, fr. Gr. The under jaw.

(b) What is the origin of culmen?

Answer: From the following website: <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/culmen>

Culmen is Latin for: stalk, top, roof, summit (figuratively), height, acme.

## FN12. Ringed Fulmars

On 03 May 2011 Peter Collins found a ringed fulmar corpse at Roker, Tyne and Wear (South). Photo (by D M Turner) is to the right. Our project reference number for this specimen is NEE-2011-002. It was ringed in Swona, Orkney (ND3884) as a pullus on 28 July 2011. This bird is to be transported complete to The Netherlands for Dr Jan van Franeker to analyze (autumn 2011) in order to ensure the fulmar dissection manual text correlates with the actual age of this bird. This is a rare find – the only ringed Northeast England fulmar found during the monthly beached bird surveys since our group started in 2003. The bird is complete.

On 12 June 2009 a ringed Fulmar corpse (not fresh) was found at West-Terschelling, Friesland, The Netherlands. It had been ringed as a chick on Bride's Ness, North Ronaldsay, Orkney on 16 August 2005. The reference of this bird in the fulmar litter monitoring project is NET-2009-078 and was found by Coby Kuiken. Lab analysis by Dr Franeker found this to be an immature male specimen. Unfortunately, the corpse was old with many internal organs, including stomach, missing, so there are no details on amount of litter in the stomach.



### **FN13. Interesting bird findings - A request**

Dan has mentioned in previous Newsletters that he is keen for a range of specimens to be collected for either analysis (Fulmars, Little Auks etc) or as good museum material (any species in really good condition). My request falls outside these two areas. I possess an extensive collection of bird skulls (currently 157 species) which is used for reference and education purposes e.g. the Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Durham County Council have both borrowed material for education or exhibitions over the years. If you come across any tide line corpses of scarce or species of interest, which don't fall within Dan's requirements, I'd be delighted to hear from you. Don't worry about condition.

On Blyth beach alone, which Maurice Hepple and I monitor, I have collected a whole host of interesting species down the years e.g. Red-throated Diver, Bean Goose, Common Buzzard, Storm Petrel, Arctic Skua, etc. If you do come across something unusual I'd be delighted to hear from you, thank you. In the first instance just pop the find in a plastic carrier bag and keep anywhere but the freezer!

**Steve Holliday**, Cramlington Tel 01670 731963 or 07786 213699.

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### **International News (IN) (IN01 – IN02)**

#### **IN01. International News from Dr J. A. van Franeker**

The following news was provided by Dr Jan Andries van Franeker:

A. (24th Dec 2010)

As a part of DEFRA's work in the UK for the European Marine Strategy Directive, they are now paying IMARES to analyse the fulmar stomachs from Shetland, Orkney and East England for period 2008-2010.

But as DEFRA's interest relates to EU obligations, not just the North Sea, they would like to see Fulmar monitoring grow to an "all around" the UK effort. In our current contract with DEFRA, we have incorporated the possibility to analyse a 'modest' number of stomachs from elsewhere in UK. Therefore DEFRA has approached the BTO to start something. If they do get birds, in principle, those will be forwarded to me at IMARES.

See this Link to information on the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) website: <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/more-surveys/fulmar-study>

B. (25th January 2011)

Please have a look at the plastic dossier on the IMARES website. We've just added an item about a DVD documentary distributed by the Rotterdam Port Authority. Their film (22 mins) aims to stimulate ships to use the available Port Reception Facilities. Most litter in the North Sea has its origin in shipping and fisheries, and therefore I'm especially pleased that Rotterdam Harbour uses our fulmar studies in this film to tackle the problem. The DVD will be distributed on

thousands of ships and is available on the internet. Many addressees of this message contribute to the fulmar research, and thus also to this type of positive spin-off. So please continue your valuable support to our ongoing fulmar project.

The English subtitled version of the film can be seen on:

<http://www.imares.wur.nl/UK/research/dossiers/plastic/>

The original DVD has a choice of language subtitles.

C. (22nd Feb 2011)

The attention to plastic debris in our seas continues to increase and has reached the global level. The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) has dedicated a chapter of its Yearbook 2011 to the issue, which includes information on the fulmar research in the North Sea. Thanking all of you that contribute, please have a look at:

[www.imares.wur.nl/UK/research/dossiers/plastic/](http://www.imares.wur.nl/UK/research/dossiers/plastic/)

**IN02. OURCOAST – Newsletter 7, May 2011**

OURCOAST deals with ICZM i.e. integrated coastal zone management.

OURCOAST NEWS is a newsletter produced by the OURCOAST consortium for coastal authorities, managers, decision-makers and other coastal stakeholders. It will be published every three months during the project duration.

See here for OURCOAST Newsletter 7:

<http://ec.europa.eu/ourcoast/download.cfm?fileID=1689>

OURCOAST Stakeholders Conference, 27th-28th October 2011, Riga, Latvia

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Some surveyors' live bird sightings, September 2010 – March 2011

Sept 22, (DMT), Seaton Sluice, one Sandwich Tern heard, female Stonechat in dunes

Sept 22, (DMT), Tynemouth Long Sands, four Swallows

Oct 27, (DMT), Whitley Bay beach, 3 – 4 Rock Pipits, 4 – 5 Pied Wagtails

Oct 30, (DMT/LKC), Blyth South beach, three Snow Buntings

Nov 01 (STH), Blyth South beach, eleven Sanderling

Nov 14, (DMT/LKC), Blyth South beach, six Snow Buntings

Nov 20, (PC), Whitburn Steel, one-legged Guillemot – passed to RSPCA

Nov 27, (DMT/LKC), Whitley Bay beach, three flocks of Skylarks flying south

Nov 27, (PC), one Water Pipit, 7 Snow Buntings, second-winter Mediterranean Gull

Dec 03, (MHe), Blyth South beach, one Redwing, one Snow Bunting

Dec 08, (PC), Whitburn Steel, Snow Bunting, Water Pipit, Stonechat, flocks of Pink-footed Geese moving S (ca. 70, 250 and 200)

Dec 19, (DMT/LKC), 2 – 3 Skylarks heard, eight Rock Pipits, flock of about 120 thrushes flying south

Dec 24, (STH), Blyth South beach, adult Mediterranean Gull,

Dec 30, (JE), Marsden Bay, about 25 Fulmars on cliffs – some paired up.

Jan 30, (JE), Marsden Bay, about 100 Fulmars on cliffs

Feb 27, (DMT/LKC), Whitley Bay beach, one adult Mediterranean Gull, 60+ Sanderling

Mar 23, (DMT), Seaton Sluice, one Skylark singing over north section of dunes

Mar 27, (DMT), Druridge Bay, one adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, two Sanderling

Mar 31, (DMT), Whitley Bay beach, one Skylark singing at north end, one Rock Pipit

**Southeast Scotland, BBS report for Sept 2010 to March 2011**

Surveyors: Linda K Charlton, Maggie Sheddan, Daniel M Turner

Summary of beach-washed corpses found during the surveys Sept 2010 to March 2011.

<b>Month, 2011</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Kilometres	1.1	2.9	<b>4.0</b>
Fulmar			<b>0</b>
Eider		1	<b>1</b>
Redshank		1	<b>1</b>
Black-headed Gull	1		<b>1</b>
Herring Gull		2	<b>2</b>
Great BB Gull		1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

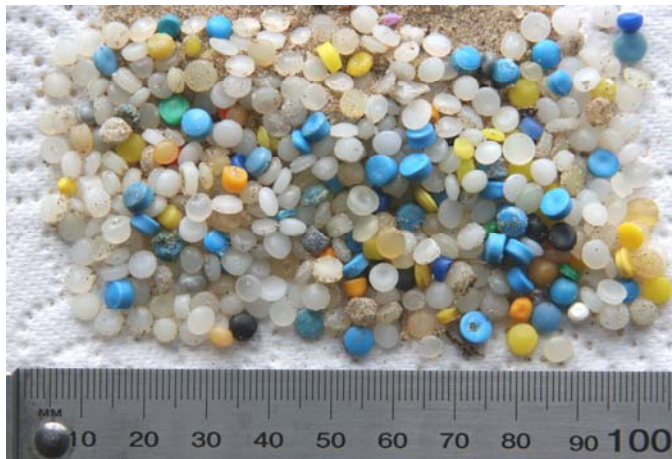


Some Photos from NE England



Harbour Porpoise,  
Druridge Bay,  
Northumberland,  
27 March 2011,  
finders LKC / DMT.  
Length 98 cm

Photo: D M Turner



Plastic granules  
collected by Peter  
Collins from Roker  
beach, Tyne & Wear  
(South), 03 Oct 2010.  
Some have been sent  
to Dr Franeker and  
Japan for analysis.

Photo: D M Turner



Blyth South beach,  
Northumberland,  
Sept 2010. This  
normal sandy beach  
was reduced to a  
stony surface for a  
while due to heavy  
seas.

Photo:  
Maurice Hepple



Small sharp plastic shards on the beach at Roker – Seaburn, Oct 2010.  
Photo: Peter Collins



Michael Yianni with a Ling, Druridge Bay, Northumberland, 20 Nov 2010.  
Photo: D M Turner

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### **Final Notes**

1. Please remember to collect any ringed auks (Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin), any other ringed seabirds, all Little Auks (whatever the condition and state of completeness) and please continue to collect all Fulmars with complete abdomens for the litter monitoring project. Also collect any interesting specimens that are in good condition – for the Hancock Museum or our own collection. Also please collect all complete Kittiwakes, Puffins and waders and let Dan Turner know when you have specimens to be taken away.
2. Many thanks to Dr Jan Andries van Franeker for checking the draft of this newsletter
3. Thanks also to James Littlewood of the Nat. Hist. Soc. of Northumbria for converting this newsletter into Adobe .pdf format for placement on our web page.

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Beached bird and ‘Save the North Sea’ Fulmar project *Newsletter* (for northeast and southeast England and southeast Scotland) **Newsletter 20** completed: June 02, 2011.  
Compiled by D.M.Turner (northeast England co-ordinator).

Project supporters ... ..

