

Daniel M Turner
North Shields

To: Northeast England volunteers
Southeast England volunteers
Southeast Scotland volunteers

Sunday 22 Nov 2009

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

Dear All,

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

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

Newsletter 18 BBS and SNS Fulmar projects – in northeast England (this issue)

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If you think I have missed anything important from this newsletter or if you notice any errors then please let me know.

We have seven intact frozen Fulmars in storage which have been collected this year in our region.

Please continue to return your monthly survey forms (including 'nil returns' i.e. complete a survey form even when no corpses are found during any monthly survey) and if you have any unsubmitted reports for recent months please forward them to me. Many thanks.

I hope you enjoy the winter months and continue to support our projects.

Best wishes,

email: dan.m.turner@btopenworld.com

Newsletter 18

Northeast and southeast England and southeast Scotland Beached bird and 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project surveys

Northeast England, Beached Bird Survey summary report January to October 2009

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

Northeast England Surveyors during this period

Chris Beneke (CB), Martin A Blick (MAB), Linda Charlton (LC), Ray Chilton (RC), Peter Collins (PC), Phil Davey (PD), Gavin Dudley (GRD), Jonathan Everett (JE), Phil Gilbert (PG), Alan Gilbertson (AG), Maurice Hepple (MHe), Steve Holliday (STH), Malcolm Hutcheson (MHu), Gordon Hyslop (GH), George McVitie (GMcV), George D R Moody (GDRM), Daniel M Turner (DMT), Emma L Turner (ELT), J. Andrew Turner (JAT), Simon J Turner (SJT), Michael Yianni (MY).

There will be a few more records to add to the data for this period at a later stage – which will be included in the full 2009 paper when published (for example additional Puffin corpses: one in April and six in July).

Month	Jan 2009								Feb 2009							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	3.6	7.8	2.7	0.8	1.8	5.0	40.7	19.0	3.6	7.8	2.6	0.8	4.3	9.0	47.1
Fulmar							1	1		1						1
Gannet	1							1			1					1
Cormorant								0	2							2
Eider Duck	3		1					4	5			1				6
Wigeon								0				1				1
Gulls		3		1			2	6	3	1					2	6
Auks							1	1								0
Feral Pigeon			1					1								0
Long-Eared Owl								0	1							1
Starling		1						1								0
Total corpses	4	4	2	1	0	0	4	15	11	2	1	2	0	0	2	18

Month	Mar 2009								Apr 2009							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	7.8	3.3	0.8	4.5	0.0	36.6	19.0	1.2	7.8	3.3	0.0	2.0	5.0	38.3
Fulmar								0								0
Shag								0	1							1
Mute Swan								0	1							1
Eider Duck								0	2							2
Waders				1				1								0
Gulls		1	2					3		1						1
Total corpses	0	1	2	1	0	0	-	4	4	1	0	0	-	0	0	5

Month	May 2009								June 2009							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	5.6	7.8	3.3	0.8	4.5	3.5	44.5	19.0	4.0	7.8	3.3	0	2.0	6.5	42.6
Fulmar								0	1	1	1				1	4
Gannet						1		1			1					1
Eider Duck								0	1							1
Gulls	1	3						4		11				1	3	15
Terns								0	1		1					2
Auks								0		2					3	5
Feral Pigeon		1				1		2				1				1
Total corpses	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	7	3	14	3	1	-	1	7	29

Month	July 2009								August 2009							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	0.0	2.0	0.0	35.7	19.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	0.8	4.5	4.5	43.5
Fulmar	2		1					3								0
Gannet	1		1					2								0
Waders			1					1								0
Gulls		7	5					12		2	1		1			4
Terns	2		1					3								0
Auks	2	3	2					7		1						1
Feral Pigeon		1	2					3								0
House Sparrow			1					1								0
Total corpses	7	11	14	0	-	0	-	32	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	5

Month	Sept 2009								Oct 2009							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	0.9	2.0	9.0	45.6	5.0	3.6	7.8	3.0	0.8	4.5	4.5	29.2
Fulmar							2	2								0
Manx Shear.							1	1								0
Gannet							3	3						1		1
Eider Duck	2							2								0
Waders							1	1								0
Gulls		1	2				7	10		3	1			3		7
Auks	1	1		1			4	7		2						2
Feral Pigeon			3					3				1				1
Unknown								0		1						1
Total corpses	3	2	5	1	0	0	18	29	0	6	1	1	0	0	4	12

Gull corpse summary, January to October 2009, northeast England beach surveys

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Black-headed	1	2	1		1	4	4	1	3	3	20
Common	1	2			1		2			1	7
Herring	2	1	2	1	1	4	2	1	5	1	20
Great Black-backed						2	1			1	4
Lesser Black-backed							1				1
Black-backed sp.		1									1
Kittiwake						4	1	1	2	1	9
Iceland Gull	1										1
Large gull sp.	1				1	1	1	1			5
Total	6	6	3	1	4	15	12	4	10	7	68

Tern corpse summary, January to October 2009, northeast England beach surveys

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Sandwich							3				3
Common						1					1
Arctic						1					1
Total	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	5

Auk corpse summary, January to October 2009, northeast England beach surveys

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Guillemot	1					4	5	1	7	2	20
Razorbill						1	1				2
Puffin							1				1
Little Auk											0
Total	1	0	0	0	0	5	7	1	7	2	23

Other interesting shore finds (dead unless specified) during the northeast England Beached Bird Surveys: January to early November 2009

Ray's Bream	Approx 07.01.09	Cullercoats Bay Tyne and Wear	Reindert Nijland	Smaller and not as fresh as the one found here on 21 January 2009.
Bottle-nosed Dolphins (live sighting).	12.01.09	Cheswick Bay	MHu	Eight were observed fairly close inshore on the low tide at 09.45 a.m., swimming south towards Lindisfarne. Of the eight at least one was a juvenile.
Ray's Bream	21.01.09	Cullercoats Bay Tyne and Wear	Reindert Nijland	Very fresh. Cooked and eaten by Reindert: '... the taste was very nice but quite subtle'.
Compass Jellyfish	28.01.09	Cheswick beach	MHu	Malcolm's notes recall that he has never before seen a jellyfish in January
Ray's Bream	29.01.09	Cambois Beach, SE North/land	RC	Fresh, gills red. Flesh eaten from hole on one side. Skin whole.
Ray's Bream	06.02.09	Seaburn Beach, Sunderland	PC	
Common Sea Urchin	07.02.09	Blyth South Beach	STH	Many plus a few crabs washed up in the seaweed.
Oar-fish	23 / 24.02.09	Amble area	Michael Bould	
Oar-fish	24.02.09	Tynemouth	?	
Bottle-nosed Dolphins (live sighting).	11.03.09	East Chevington, Druridge Bay	Alan Gilbertson	13:00 GMT. The group was travelling north, surfacing regularly in a calm sea about three-quarters of a mile to a mile offshore. Alan counted at least seven individual animals including one, possibly two juveniles. The younger animals were about half the length of the adults and noticeably paler in colour.
Common European Squid	13.03.09	Seaham to Ryhope	GMcV and GH	Photo enclosed by the recorders.
Green Shore Crab <i>Carcinus maenas</i>	13.03.09	Seaham to Ryhope	GMcV and GH	Photo enclosed by the recorders.
Turnstone	29.03.09	Long Sands, Tynemouth	DMT	Headless, body featherless, wings present. Collected.
Grey Seal	08.04.09	Holy Island	GDRM	Young. Tagged. Tag passed to English Nature.
Probable Harbour Porpoise	09.04.09	Near East Chevington on Druridge Bay	Phil Allott	Body remains – head and tail well scavenged, dorsal fin missing. Size and markings indicate Harbour Porpoise. Colour photos present on http://crammybirding.blogspot.com/
Lumpsucker	10.04.09	North Blyth	RC	Quite fresh, unmarked.
Small crustaceans	18.04.09	Tynemouth Long Sands	DMT	Spread all along the strand line – thousands. Some collected to identify.
Small crustaceans	19.04.09	Seaton Sluice	DMT	Spread all along the strand line in abundance. Like on Long Sands beach (Tynemouth) on 18 April.
Small crustaceans	19.04.09	Seaburn beach, Sunderland	PC	Lots of sewage-related litter and dead crustaceans on beach. Also one dead Puffin.
Seal sp.	27.04.09	Holy Island	GDRM	Adult
Small crustaceans	06.05.09	Wansbeck Estuary to North Blyth: at The Rockers.	RC	Thousands of live, tiny shrimp-like crustaceans (newly hatched?) washed onto beach for some distance, some were collected. Being fed upon by two mixed flocks of about 100 gulls (Common and Herring) 20 – 30 metres from the shore. In places they were washed up in lines half an inch deep and two to three inches wide.
Octopus	06.05.09	Cambois / North Blyth	RC	Well dried out. At high tide mark, middle section of the beach stretch. Fifteen inches long.
	09.05.09	Cambois to North Blyth	RC	No sign of any of the small crustaceans which had been present on 6 May. Some Herring, Common and Black-headed Gulls and various waders feeding on the sand.

Squid	09.05.09	Cambois to North Blyth	RC	70 cm in length. Good condition. Collected. Found just above tide line.
Rabbit	10.05.09	Druridge Bay	LC / DMT	Young, fresh, body scavenged.
Dog	16.05.09	Easington Colliery to Hawthorn Dene	CB	Possible cross breed terrier. All black, approx 3 feet in length, yellow collar, fully intact, very fresh.
Foam i.e. algal bloom	16.05.09	Easington Colliery to Hawthorn Dene	CB	Brown Oily foam observed at low shore level all along surveyed shore. Light amount of oil observed at high shore level all along surveyed shore.
Foam i.e. algal bloom	16.05.09	Blyth South Beach	DMT / LC	Brownish foam at low tide mark and at the edge of the sea.
Grey Seal	24.05.09	Seaham to Ryhope	GMcV / GH	Probably this year's young. Identified by Callan Duck, Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St Andrews.
Eider	23.06.09	Holy Island	GDRM	Young bird 2 – 3 weeks of age.
House Sparrow	01.07.09	Blyth South Beach	MHe	Fledgling.
Knot	09.07.09	Cambois to North Blyth	RC	Adult, quite good condition.
Grey Seal	12.07.09	Blyth South Beach	DMT	Six feet in length. Dead several weeks. Remains, headless, flippers missing. Grey upperside and some cream colouration.
Racing Pigeon	25.07.09	Druridge Bay	DMT / LC	Green ring (right leg): GB 08 H46567. Left leg dark green electronic plastic ring. Dead several weeks. On two of the outer primaries of the left wing was printed the owner's name and number. The bird had been lost during a race from Portsmouth in mid June.
Rabbit	22.08.09	Druridge Bay	DMT	Dead 2+ weeks, 9 cm hind foot, 42 cm nose to tip of tail.
Manx Shearwater	17.09.09	Redcar	MAB	Webbing on feet still soft and supple. Wings and skeleton, dead 1-2 days, probably eaten by a Great Black-backed Gull, Great Skua or similar.
Oystercatcher	18.09.09	Hartlepool N Sands	MAB	Dead about 3-4 weeks
Wood Mouse (alive)	08.11.09	Blyth South Beach	STH & MHe	On the edge of the Marram grass near Meggie's Burn.
Ray's Bream	10.11.09	North Blyth	RC	Approx 18 inches long. Fresh, eyes missing, gills still bright red.
Codling	10.11.09	Cambois beach to North Blyth	RC	Approx 15 inches long. Found in seaweed, middle section of beach. Poor condition. Whole but pieces missing.

Specific / scientific names of species mentioned in the table above:

Ray's Bream	<i>Brama brama</i>	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
Oar-fish	<i>Regalecus glesne</i>	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Lumpsucker	<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	Dog	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>
Codling	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Wood Mouse	<i>Sylviaemus sylvaticus</i>
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops tursiops</i>	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocaena phocaena</i>	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
Compass Jellyfish	<i>Chrysaora hysoscella</i>	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Common European Squid	<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
Common Octopus	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Common Sea Urchin	<i>Echinus esculentus</i>	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Green Shore Crab	<i>Carcinus maenas</i>		

Other northeast England notes

May 2009. Ray Chilton: 12 May, Cambois beach pipes to North Blyth: No oil, but middle section of beach polluted with pieces of greasy substance same as August 2008. 20-25 May: Tankers working on pipeline in field above warning notices about pollution (put up in car parks on beach).

June 2009. Ray Chilton: 16 June, Wansbeck Estuary to North Blyth: The warning notices that were put up in May said the pollution would be cleaned up, but pollution still present on beach.

July 2009. Around 15 July there was an item on BBC Look North (local news television program) about half a dozen Puffins washed ashore at Druridge Bay, Northumberland. The friends who told me about this news item mentioned that the Puffins were laid on the beach together and it was thought they may be young birds and had perhaps become entangled in fishing net offshore. Gavin Dudley carried out a Druridge Bay beach survey on 19 July and found one headless Puffin.

Oiling 2009

16 May 2009: Easington Colliery to Hawthorn Dene (CB) - Light amount of oil observed at high shore level all along surveyed shore. Brown oily foam observed at low shore level all along surveyed shore. Quite strong, oily, unpleasant smell noted throughout the survey.

13 June 2009: Druridge Bay, one possibly oiled Guillemot (GRD).

Nov 2009: Druridge Bay – three oiled dead Guillemots on the beach and others on the sea close by which were also thought to be oiled (09 Nov, per PC). By the concrete culvert draining from East Chevington lakes.
Alnmouth – one oiled dead Guillemot on shore (approx 14 Nov, MHe).

Useful internet links to further shore records, litter and other information

Following the Oar-fish reported in the last newsletter (No. 17, page 7), the following link refers to the specimen at Tynemouth:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tyne/7908284.stm>

Item from Hans Verdaat (email 2 June 2009) from Texel

‘Really interesting that some Oar-fish were found in England as well. There were two Oar-fish found on the Dutch coast, these were the first Oar-fish recorded in The Netherlands’.

For example, see: http://visserijnieuws.punt.nl/?id=430415&r=1&tbl_archief=

And a further link:

<http://ecomaren.websites.xs4all.nl/flashplayer/flvplayer.html?myVideo=riemvis.flv>

Item from Jan Andries van Franeker (international co-ordinator of the SNS Fulmar project):

link to a recent photo-series of albatross chicks (and stomach plastics) on Midway Atoll.

http://www.chrisjordan.com/current_set2.php?id=11

Also pointed out by Jan:

Laysan Albatross necropsy: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FinDNPopXQY>

Some surveyors' live bird sightings, January – October 2009

Jan 25, 2009. About 30 pairs of Fulmars at nest sites, Marsden (JE).

Feb 07, 2009. Two pairs of Stonechats in dunes, Blyth South beach (STH).

Feb 14, 2009. Approx. 500 Golden Plover in field and two pairs of Stonechats, Seaton Sluice on the return stretch along the path beside the dunes (DMT).

Feb 15, 2009. A flock of 1500 Greylag Geese in fields behind dunes and flying around, Druridge Bay (South end) (GRD).

Feb 28, 2009. About 40 pairs of Fulmars on the cliffs, Marsden (JE).

March 29, 2009. Around 200 pairs of Kittiwakes on the Marsden Bay cliffs (JE).

Apr 10, 2009. Two Sandwich Terns, Druridge Bay (north of CP) (DMT & LC).

April 10, 2009. Two Stonechats in dunes, North Blyth (RC).

Apr 19, 2009. One Swallow and one pair of Stonechats, Seaton Sluice stretch (DMT & LC).

Apr 25, 2009. Two Swallows on seafront at Cullercoats and three more flying along Whitley Bay beach. One Sandwich Tern heard (DMT).

May 10, 2009. One Roseate Tern, Druridge Bay (north of DB Country Park) (DMT & LC).

May 18, 2009. Two Little Terns moved south off Blyth South Beach (STH).

May 20, 2009. One male Wheatear, Whitley Bay beach (DMT & LC).

May 25, 2009. Ringed Plover nest with four eggs (RC).

May 31, 2009. Sand Martins nesting at the North End of Marsden Bay, around 30 pairs (JE).

June 2009. Three Oystercatcher nests and four Little Tern nests at Lindisfarne (GDRM).

June 28, 2009. 37+ Painted Lady butterflies flying along the shore and feeding at the lilac-coloured flowers at the edge of the dunes, Blyth South beach (DMT & LC).

July 18, 2009. Twelve Sanderlings, Blyth South beach (STH).

Aug 29, 2009. Two or three Wheatears, Whitley Bay beach (DMT & LC).

Oct 18, 2009. Six Stonechats (two pairs and two singles), Seaton Sluice stretch (DMT & LC).

Oct 28, 2009. Two Snow Buntings, Whitley Bay beach at the Brierdene Burn mouth (DMT).

Oct 28, 2009. Two Sandwich Terns, calling and feeding just offshore, Druridge Bay (DMT).

Some recent illustrated finds in northeast England



Photo 1 by Gavin R Dudley, 13 June 2009.



Photo 2 by Dan Turner, 9 July 2009.

1. Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Druridge Bay. Specimen NEE-2009-002. Collected by Gavin Dudley.

2. George Moody (our Holy Island surveyor) at his upturned boat-house shed on Lindisfarne. George had just handed over Fulmar NEE-2009-005.



Photo 3. Wood Mouse (*Sylviaemus sylvaticus*), Blyth South Beach, 8 November 2009. On the edge of the Marram grass near Meggie's Burn. Survey by Steve and Maurice Hepple. Photo by Steve Holliday.



Photo 4. Common European Squid (*Loligo vulgaris*), Seaham to Ryhope beach, Durham coast, 13 March 2009. Photo by George McVitie.



Photo 5. Ray Chilton with Fulmar NEE-2009-001. Collected by Ray from North Blyth beach on 5 June 2009. Photo by Dan Turner



Photo 6. Linda Charlton with a dark phase immature Fulmar wing, Druridge Bay, 16 Feb 2009. The bird was fresh, but scavenged and pieces were scattered. Photo by Dan Turner.

Other news

A paper is in preparation for 'Seabird', the journal of the Seabird Group, entitled: 'Numbers of Atlantic Puffins *Fratercula arctica* found on beached bird surveys in Orkney and Shetland over a 30-year period'. The authors are: Heubeck, M., Meek, E. R., Mellor, R. M & Wilson, M. A couple of notes are included referring to some of our comparative northeast England auk data for the period 2004 – 2007.

Notes

1. Please remember to collect any ringed auks (Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin), any other ringed seabirds, including 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.

2. Many thanks to Dr Jan Andries van Franeker for checking the draft newsletter and converting the final version into Adobe .pdf format – so that it may be reduced in size for email purposes.

Beached bird and 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project *Newsletter* (for northeast and southeast England and southeast Scotland) **Newsletter 18** completed: November 22, 2009.
Compiled by D.M.Turner (northeast England co-ordinator).