

Freezers

1. New medium chest freezer,

We have a new medium-sized chest freezer (249 litre capacity), now housed at Morpeth. It was received on Sunday 12 September 2021 and put in place. First it was cleaned inside and allowed to settle for a few hours before being switched on. Is now well stocked after transfer of contents from another freezer (of 210 litre capacity) which is to be re-homed. The new freezer is kindly housed with Marian Martin, the sister of one of our beached bird surveyors (Pauline Gilbertson). Many thanks to Marian and Pauline!



I enquired about funding for this new Kenwood freezer with the **Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club** and the committee **decided unanimously in favour of a grant**. Thank you so much!

2. Re-housing of two freezers,

Two well established bird freezers (a medium chest and an under-counter) need to be re-homed and are to be transferred during the week commencing 27 September from Preston Village to Gosforth. Once they are settled and switched back on this will allow the additional space provided by the new Kenwood freezer to come into play. With many thanks to Helen Wilson for giving the freezers a new home and to Linda Charlton for housing them both for many years!

Without such supporters our research and investigations would not be possible.

Beaching of Guillemots and Razorbills, September 2021

Many guillemots and razorbills have come close inshore during the past three weeks. This event stretches along the eastern UK coast from Orkney to Norfolk. Many of these auks have died and been washed onto our beaches. The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) has tested some individuals for avian influenza – and it was not found. The small number of birds I have examined were emaciated. Thanks to our new freezer we have been able to store 4 guillemots and 5 razorbills, in this period, from corpses collected in our region. Once all the freezers are online, I may ask our volunteers to collect a few more of these unfortunate auks for storage and potential future study.



Beached Razorbill at Whitley Bay (24 Sept)

Please continue to monitor your beaches, and more frequently at this time of the auk incident. Be cautious in handling the birds and consider wearing protective gloves. Please keep me informed of your findings. Age the auks if possible – please ask for details if needed.

We welcomed 2 new surveyors (Zara and Tara) to our ranks during weekend of 25-26 September.

In conclusion Please continue to return your regular survey reports. Sending thanks to everybody for your continuing involvement and my best wishes as we progress through Covid-19.

Kind regards, Dan Turner (Group coordinator). Email dan.m.turner@btinternet.com