

NEBBS News Note No. 17 (v1)

8 March 2024

Compiled by NEBBS
Group coordinator

Sending late Winter Greetings and many thanks for your continuing involvement!

The winter period has been fairly quiet for beached birds in our region with no enhanced numbers.

Note. At this time – we should not touch, with bare hands or footwear, the plumage of any beached birds due to potential concerns over avian influenza (HPAI). You can turn a bag inside out and use it as a glove, however, or use gloves to handle birds. Please only collect fulmars at this time – they should be double-bagged and are intended for bird flu testing.

- a) For guillemots, please try to photograph head and bill and outstretched underwing;
- b) For razorbills and puffins, please try to photograph head and bill.

Such photographs would enable ageing of the birds. Please include a cm / mm scale in your photographs if you can. You may perhaps touch a corpse with a stick from the beach – to turn it over and leave the stick on the beach. If you cut off wing tips as a sign that a bird has been recorded, please ensure you clean the scissors later.

Contents of this News Note

- Pages 2 – 6:
 - NEE (Northeast England) birds collected during 2022-2023 for bird flu testing. These birds were sent to APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency, Shrewsbury) on 27 Feb 2024 and will be tested in batches over the coming weeks.

Event: ‘Plastic Warriors’ at the Tyneside Cinema, Sunday, 21 April 2024, 2:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Ask for further details; also see here... <https://www.whitewingspublishing.co.uk/plastic-warriors/>

Note. ‘Plastic Warriors’ at the Jam Jar Cinema (Whitley Bay, 15 Oct 2023) – this event was well attended by 40 people. There were two Special Guests: Sir Alan Campbell (MP for Tynemouth) and Matt Wilson (a local councillor). Everyone who attended and helped was very special! Thank you!



The photograph shows speakers and special guests at ‘Plastic Warriors’ event, 15 Oct 2023, Jam Jar Cinema, Whitley Bay.

From left: Matt Wilson (North Tyneside Councillor), Jill Cowans (Dove Marine Laboratory, secretary), Hannah Lloyd-Hartley (Researcher, speaker), Sir Alan Campbell (MP for Tynemouth), Lutz Lemmer (Greenpeace volunteer, speaker) & Dan Turner (NEBBS, event organiser and speaker).

- We had a well-attended display table at the ‘**No Time for Waste**’ event (Linskill Centre, North Shields, 25 Feb 2024, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) where I also gave a talk at 12:00 p.m.

Please continue to survey and record your finds regularly (monthly if at all possible), returning your completed forms and reports to me.

Kind regards, Dan Turner (NEBBS Group Coordinator).

Email dan.m.turner@btinternet.com

NEBBS Group web page: <https://www.nhsn.org.uk/north-east-beached-bird-surveys/>

Birds stored by Daniel M Turner (North Tyneside) for HPAI (bird flu) testing (by APHA)

These birds were transferred to APHA during 27-28 Feb 2024.

Key. GR: Grid Reference HPAI: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
 APHA: Animal and Plant Health Agency

Table 1. Northern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Ref	Date Found	Date placed in Freezer	From Where	Who found	Comments
NEE-2022-001 Box 1	25 April 2022	25 April 2022	Seaton Sluice to Blyth, Northumberland GR: NZ325785	Maurice Hepple	For HPAI testing.
NEE-2022-002 Box 1	29 April 2022	29 April 2022	Druridge Bay, 1.2 km stretch, Northumberland GR: NU277007	Jane Hardy [& D M Turner]	Head was detached but collected, legs mostly missing. LL phase, No oil, emaciated, abdomen seemed intact. For HPAI testing.
NEE-2022-003 Box 1	04 June 2022	04 June 2022	Roker/Seaburn, north from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear GR: NZ407595	Found by Adam Williams (twitter report) Collected by Peter Collins	Brief external examination by DMT: looks like first-year female, LL, no oil or rings, emaciated. For HPAI testing.
NEE-2023-001 Box 1	10 Mar 2023	10 Mar 2023	Druridge Bay, Northumberland GR: NU280010	Alan Thompson	For HPAI testing.
NEE-2023-002 Box 2	10 Mar 2023	10 Mar 2023	Druridge Bay, Northumberland GR: NU280010	Alan Thompson	For HPAI testing.
NEE-2023-003 Box 1	06 June 2023 evening	08 June 2023 evening	Seaton Sluice, Northumberland GR: NZ333774	Reported by Hannah Lloyd-Hartley, coll. by D M Turner	LL. For HPAI testing.
NEE-2023-004 Box 2	06 June 2023 evening	08 June 2023 evening	Seaton Sluice, Northumberland GR: NZ333774	Reported by Hannah Lloyd-Hartley, coll. by D M Turner	LL. For HPAI testing.
NEE-2023-005 Box 1	22 Oct 2023 afternoon	22 Oct 2023 evening	Tynemouth Longsands, north end, Tyne and Wear GR: NZ364708	D M Turner	LL, emaciated, complete, intact, quite small bill, showing much wear in secondaries at least. For HPAI testing.

SEE-2022-002 Box 2	08.05.22	08.05.22	Blakeney Point, Norfolk Approximate GR: TF9946	Duncan Halpin, Ranger with National Trust	Found dead on tideline. For HPAI testing.
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Table 2a. Black-legged Kittiwake – non-nestlings; *Rissa tridactyla*.

Age	Date found	Where found	Finder	Comments
1 st -yr Box 4	23.04.22	Tynemouth Longsands GR: NZ367704 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2022-001	D M Turner and Andrew Turner	Complete, emaciated, scavenged a little.
Adult Box 4	20.05.22	Saltmeadows kittiwake tower, Gateshead. GR: NZ267636 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2022-002	Coll. by D M Turner	Ring: EX74771. Entangled in angler's line.

Table 2b. Black-legged Kittiwake – nestlings from River Tyne; *Rissa tridactyla*.

Age	Date found	Where found	Finder / collector	Comments
Nestling Box 4	11.07.22	Newcastle Quayside, near base of N abutment of Tyne Bridge, SW area. GR: NZ253639 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2022-003	D M Turner	Complete, Perhaps 3 weeks of age.
Nestling Box 4	14.07.22	Newcastle Quayside, near base of N abutment of Tyne Bridge, NE corner area. GR: NZ253639 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2022-004	D M Turner	Perhaps 2-3 weeks of age. Looks like stomach scavenged – may be a bluebottle inside abdomen.
Nestling Box 4	19.07.22	Newcastle Quayside, pavement just to N of Guildhall, at pedestrian crossing GR: NZ252639. Ref: RTRA-NEE-2022-005	D M Turner (and Phill Catton of DWT)	Perhaps 2-3 weeks of age.
Nestling Box 4	23.07.22 ca. 10 a.m.	Newcastle Quayside, base of north abutment of Tyne Bridge, N face, western end GR: NZ253639 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2022-006	D M Turner	Perhaps 3 weeks of age. Did not seem emaciated. Head trauma and bleeding from fall.
Nestling Box 4	24.08.22	Tyne Bridge, Newcastle, under N abutment S face. Ref: RTRA-NEE-2022-007	D M Turner	Desiccated
Nestling Box 3	13.06.23	Gateshead, at the base of the South abutment of Tyne Bridge. GR: NZ254637 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2023-001	D M Turner	Small; just a few days old.
Nestling Box 3	09.07.23	Gateshead, Baltic Art Centre, base of north face. GR: NZ259639 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2023-002	D M Turner	Perhaps 3 weeks of age. A little maggotty.

Nestling Box 3	11.07.23	Gateshead, Baltic Art Centre, base of north face. 3 weeks of age? GR: NZ259639 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2023-003	D M Turner	
Nestling Box 3	15.07.23	Newcastle Quayside, SW base of North abutment of Tyne Bridge. 4 weeks of age? GR: NZ253639 Ref: RTRA-NEE-2023-004	D M Turner	

Table 3. Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*.

Age	Date found	Where found	Finder / collector	Comments
Adult Box 2	06.06.23	Seaton Sluice, Northumberland GR: NZ333774 Ref: FRAA-NEE-2023-001	D M Turner	

Table 4. Sandwich Tern, *Sterna sandvicensis*.

Age	Date found	Where found	Finder / collector	Comments
Likely adult Box 2	24.06.22	Druridge Bay, Northumberland GR: NU277006 Ref: SSAN-NEE-2022-001	D M Turner	Was at edge of incoming tide. A Carrion Crow had started to scavenge breast muscle (stomach may be missing).

Table 5. Common Guillemot, *Uria aalge*. **Specimens may need to be labelled with Ref numbers**

Age	Date found	Where found	Finder / collector	Comments
Unk. Box 5	01.04.22	Embleton Bay, Northumberland Ref: URIA-NEE-2022-001 GR: NU244235	Rose Di Mascio	Complete
Adult, spectacled Box 5	24.06.22	Druridge Bay, Northumberland Ref: URIA-NEE-2022-002 GR: NU277007	D M Turner	Complete. On incoming tide. Green fluid came from bill. Not emaciated
Adult Box 5	24.06.22	Druridge Bay, Northumberland Ref: URIA-NEE-2022-003 GR: NU277007	D M Turner	Complete, emaciated.
Juvenile Box 5	21.07.22 evening	Tynemouth Longsands, Tyne and Wear Ref: URIA-NEE-2022-004 GR: NZ366705	D M Turner	Complete

pale fringes to u/w coverts Box 5	26.07.22	Whitley Bay beach (S), Tyne and Wear Ref: URIA-NEE-2022-005 GR: NZ356727	D M Turner	(bird possibly two years old)
Unk. Box 5	27.07.22	Druridge Bay, Northumberland Ref: URIA-NEE-2022-006 GR: NU277007	D M Turner	
WTips+ Box 5	17.09.23	Blyth South Beach, Northumberland Ref: URIA-NEE-2023-001 GR: NZ322795	D M Turner	
Adult Box 5	17.09.23	Blyth South Beach, Northumberland Ref: URIA-NEE-2023-002 GR: NZ322795	D M Turner	

Table 6. Razorbill, *Alca torda*.

Age	Date found	Where found	Finder / collector	Comments
0+0 Box 3	17.09.23	Blyth South Beach Ref: ALCA-NEE-2023-001 GR: NZ322795	D M Turner	Complete, fresh, emaciated; coll. for HPAI testing;
W+2 Box 3	17.09.23	Blyth South Beach Ref: ALCA-NEE-2023-002 GR: NZ322795	D M Turner	Complete, q fresh, q thin; coll. for HPAI testing;
1W1+ Box 3	29.09.23	Druridge Bay Ref: ALCA-NEE-2023-003 Ringed as nestling 19.06.13 Castle Craig, North Sutor, Highland, UK GR: NU277006	D M Turner	Four photos on shore (1427 - 1430), complete, body rotting, emaciated, No oil, metal ring right leg: K12921. Body coll. for HPAI testing.
1W2 Box 3	22.10.23	Tynemouth Longsands Ref: ALCA-NEE-2023-004 Beside wooden path area which comes down near Plaza. GR: NZ368702	D M Turner	Complete, emaciated; coll. for HPAI testing;

Table 7. Common Gull, *Larus canus*.

Age	Date found	Where found	Finder / collector	Comments
Juvenile	27.08.22	Druridge Bay, Northumberland GR: NZ274998 Ref: LCAN-NEE-2022-001	D M Turner	Quite fresh, complete, head slightly damaged, 2-3 days dead, fly eggs on head.
Box 2				

Table 8. Summary. I have carefully collected & stored specimens for **bird flu testing** as follows:

Species	2022	2023	Notes
Guillemot	6	2	Incl. 3 adult, 2 first-year, one immature and 2 current unk. age.
Razorbill	--	4	3 adult; one juvenile (age 0+0), 17.09.23, Blyth South Beach. Adult, 17.09.23, Blyth South Beach. Adult, 29.09.23, Druridge Bay (a ringed bird). Adult, 22.10.23, Tynemouth Longsands.
Puffin	--	1	Adult, 06.06.23, Seaton Sluice.
Fulmar (NEE birds)	3	5	Finders: M Hepple, Jane Hardy, D M Turner, Adam Williams, Peter Collins, Alan Thompson and Hannah Lloyd-Hartley. Also 1 SEE (Norfolk, SE England) 2022 bird (Duncan Halpin).
Kittiwake	7	4	Mostly nestlings collected Newcastle & Gateshead riverside; 1 adult (Gateshead); 1 first-summer (Tynemouth Longsands).
Sandwich tern	1	0	24.06.22, Druridge Bay.
Common Gull	1	0	27.08.22, Druridge Bay, juvenile.
Total	18	16	34 (from NEE) plus 1 SEE fulmar: Overall Total 35 birds

Key: SEE Southeast England
NEE Northeast England

Boxes Summary: (five boxes were sent to Paul Holmes, APHA at Shrewsbury Veterinary Investigation Centre, with topspeed couriers on 27 Feb 2024 at 4 p.m. for delivery on 28 Feb 2024):

- Box 1: 6 fulmars.
- Box 2: 3 fulmars; 1 puffin; 1 sandwich tern; 1 common gull.
- Box 3: 4 razorbill; 4 kittiwake (from 2023).
- Box 4: 7 kittiwake (from 2022).
- Box 5: 8 guillemot.



Five boxes of 34 frozen birds from NEE and one from SEE... ready for pickup at 4 p.m. on 27 Feb 2024 for transportation to Shrewsbury.



Our display table at Linskill Centre, North Shields, during 'No Time for Waste' event organized by Buy the Kilo (Tynemouth company), 25 Feb 2024.