



Common Scoter (Mel Hughes)

**Flints.** There was a large increase in numbers at sites along the open coast in Mar. The maximum count of the year occurred to the E of the Point of Ayr with an impressive 20,000 on 12/03 (GR). There were other counts from here but only up to 250 birds earlier in the winter. Elsewhere records included: 3,000 off Rhyl on 25/03, falling to 250 by 8/04 (AHJ) and 70 at Gronant on 12/03 (PMi). A record of 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5/10 (PSH) was a particularly high count this far up the Dee estuary with a single further upstream at Connah's Quay Bridge on 8/03 (GRMP) and Connah's Quay NR on 4/11 (PDS).

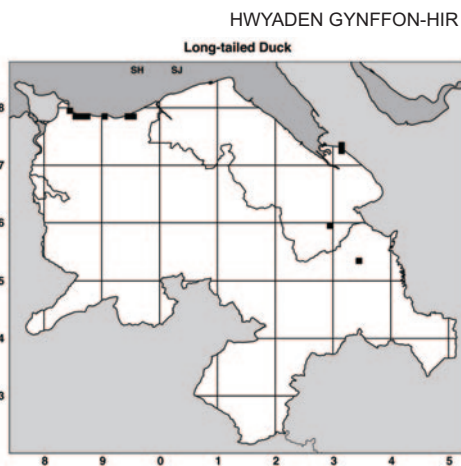
**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

(LN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	9	3
Maximum count	4	1
Number of records	18	15
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.4
Density	0.02	0.01

Seen in these months	
D	J F M A M J J A S O N D
F	J F M A M J J A S O N D

**Denbs.** Offshore, sightings stretched from Rhos-on-Sea on 12/03 (HC) to Pensarn on 20/01 (GNR). The mobile nature of the sea-duck flocks, however, means many records likely related to the same individual. Old Colwyn was the most reliable site to encounter the species accounting for 58% of the records, from 7/02 to 6/03 (RTe, PEM) and included a record of 2 on 15/02. A flock of 4 at Gresford Flash on 14/11 (NHu) was the highest count



for years in the recording area.

**Flints.** Individuals were recorded in both the early and late winter periods. The first was at Shotwick Fields from 4/01 to 13/02 (SAH, IMS, AGJ) and accounted for 73% of all records. A single at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 1/01 (MREP) was the only other sighting in the early winter period. In the late winter period there was a single at Fagl Lane GP from 29/10 to 5/11 (NHu, KS, TBT).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

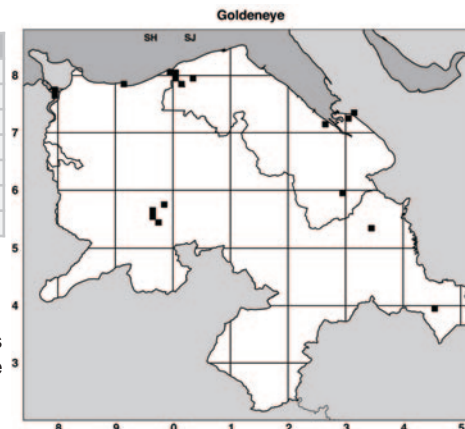
HWYADEN LYGAD AUR

Winter visitor. RBBP.

(GN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	10	8
Maximum count	6	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	9
Number of records	91	45
% of BirdTrack lists	4.5	3.1
Density	0.03	0.05

Seen in these months	
D	J F M A M J J A S O N D
F	J F M A M J J A S O N D

Recorded in small numbers on lakes, reservoirs and occasionally on coastal waters during the winter months.



**Denbs.** RSPB Conwy produced 92% of all records with a peak count of 6 on 30/01 (JHg). The only other regular site was Llyn Brenig with 3 on 19/03 (KS, NHu). Elsewhere there were singles at: Kinmel Bay on 7/01 (AHJ), Llanddulas on 19/02 (GrJ), Hanmer on 17/12 (TBT) and Gresford Flash from 2/12 to 19/12 (KS, HL).

**Flints.** Some 91% of all records came from the Clwyd Estuary between Rhyl and Rhuddlan where numbers peaked at 4 on several dates in Jan and Dec (WRM, JPH). Singles were recorded at four other sites: near Rhuddlan on 2/01, Connah's Quay NR on 4/11, Fagl Lane GP on 13/11 and Shotwick on 19/11.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(GD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	42	24
Maximum count	28	28
Av max count prev 10 yrs	24	22
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	1/19
Number of records	135	241
% of BirdTrack lists	5.4	17.3
Density	0.60	1.14
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

Recorded in each month in both counties. This species favours freshwater habitats and is usually found breeding on fast flowing rivers where there are plentiful prey fish and trees with suitable cavities for nesting sites. In winter they tend to congregate on lakes and meres.

**Denbs.** The drop in records from RSPB Conwy continues with just 9% of records coming from this location in the winter months, with a maximum of 2 from 19/11 to 21/11 (WRM, JHg). The Wrexham

area accounted for many records (40%); at Erddig Pool the species was present for nine months of