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Scottish Birds

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Editor: Valerie M. Thom.

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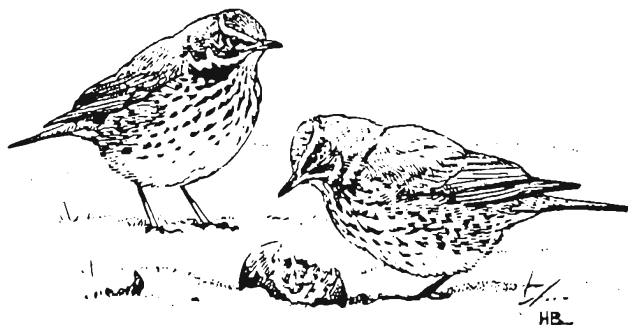
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T & A D POYSER

Population size, distribution and habitat use of the Corn Bunting in the Uists and Benbecula

T. D. WILLIAMS, T. M. REED and A. WEBB

The Outer Hebrides hold an estimated 275-365 Corn Bunting (singing males). Distribution is restricted largely to the narrow coastal strip of dune and cultivable machair on the Uists and Benbecula, with North Uist particularly important. Recorded densities were generally high compared to other parts of Britain. Corn Bunting numbers appear to be decreasing and it is suggested that future agricultural changes may continue this decrease.

Introduction

In 1983 the Nature Conservancy Council and Wader Study Group carried out a survey of the breeding birds of the machair and blackland of the Uists and Benbecula, part of the Outer Hebrides. The aim of the survey was to form a basis for assessment of the possible effects of agricultural changes that may have arisen from the EEC-funded Integrated Development Programme (IDP). The IDP ear-marked £20 millions of grant aid towards improvements in agriculture and fisheries to be spent over five years from 1982. The NCC/WSG survey concentrated on wader species and these results have been reported elsewhere (Green, 1984). Here we present results obtained for a passerine species, the Corn Bunting, *Miliaria calandra*. The Corn Bunting is associated with farmland throughout its range, and its distribution throughout Europe has declined markedly this century (Parslow, 1968). This decline has been attributed to agricultural change, perhaps affecting food supply, and possibly higher rainfall, (Evans & Flower, 1967; Møller, 1983a; Brown *et al*, 1984).

Methods

A total of 6054 ha of machair and blackland were surveyed for Corn Bunting (14 sites, Fig. 1). Each site was visited 3-4 times at three weekly intervals between April and July 1983. Two observers

walked parallel transect lines 100-150 m apart recording the position and behaviour of each bird encountered on 1:10,000 maps. Habitats were mapped by B. Philp of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Habitat data were obtained for 3501 ha of machair/blackland which was not surveyed for birds.

Population size was estimated as follows. Firstly, for each site there was a peak count: the highest number of singing males recorded on any one visit. These were summed to give a 'total peak count'. This would underestimate the true population because not all birds present would have been detected on any one visit. Secondly, therefore, records from all visits were used to calculate the 'maximum number' of singing males. Records from April were excluded because most territories are not established until May (Macdonald, 1965; Møller, 1983b). Records from subsequent visits closer than 250 m were counted as one bird, in accordance with nearest neighbour distances given by Møller (1983b) and P. K. McGregor (pers. comm.). The 'total peak count' and 'maximum number' of singing males were multiplied up to account for the 3501 ha not surveyed for birds. This was done using habitat densities calculated from peak counts for surveyed areas. We consider these two figures provide a reasonable estimate for the population of Corn Bunting on the Uists and Benbecula.

Results

The 'total peak count' was 156 singing males, and the 'maximum number' 208 singing males. These

were multiplied up to give a population estimate for the Uists and Benbecula of 260-350 singing males (Table 1).

Table 1. Numbers of singing Corn Bunting recorded for the Uists and Benbecula, 1983.

Island	Peak count*	Maximum No.*	Area surveyed (ha.)
North Uist	117	149	2106
Benbecula	17	24	940
South Uist	22	35	3008
Total	156	208	6054

* see text for definition of terms

Comparing the number of birds recorded with the area surveyed on each island a disproportionate number (71.6%) of birds were on North Uist ($X^2 = 128.7$, $p < 0.001$). Corn Buntings did not use the various habitats in proportion to their availability ($X^2 = 227.7$, $p < 0.001$). Three habitats were preferred: dry uncultivated machair, sand dune and dry, cultivated machair, holding 47%, 25% and 19% of singing males respectively. Densities of singing males were highest in these habitats: dry, uncultivated machair, 5.2 males/km², sand dune, 5.4 males/km²; and dry, cultivated machair, 5.0 males/km² (Table 2).

Table 2. Numbers of singing Corn Bunting with density, and area surveyed for each habitat type, Uists and Benbecula, 1983.

Habitat type	Nos. singing birds (%)	Density (birds/km ²)	Area surveyed (ha)
Dry Machair (uncultivated)	72.5 (46.5)	5.2	1383
Sand dune	39.5 (25.3)	5.4	730
Dry machair (cultivated)	29.0 (18.6)	5.0	581
Wet machair (uncultivated)	8.0 (5.1)	0.7	1122
Wet machair (cultivated)	0.5 (0.3)	0.4	129
Dune slack	0.5 (0.3)	0.6	90
Maritime	0.5 (0.3)	0.5	105
Blackland	5.5 (3.5)	0.3	1671
Fen	0	—	243

Within these habitat types densities were higher on North Uist than on the other two islands (Table 3). The highest densities recorded for any site were also on North Uist: 17.2 males/km² for sand dune, 8.6 males/km² for dry, cultivated machair (both site 16) and 9.3 males/km² for dry, uncultivated machair (site 17). Of 63 singing males recorded in dry, cultivated machair, 62 (98%) were in cropped areas and only one in recent, ungrazed fallow. No Corn Buntings were recorded in fen habitat, and densities were very low (less than 1 male /km²) in dune slack, wet machair and blackland.

Table 3. Densities of singing Corn Bunting (birds/km²) recorded in the three preferred habitats, in each island.

Habitat type	South Uist	Benbecula	North Uist
Sand dune	1.4	6.7	9.9
Dry machair (uncultivated)	1.7	4.8	8.0
Dry machair (cultivated)	2.0	5.0	6.4



Singing Corn Bunting. W. Neill

Discussion

Sharrock (1976) estimated the British Corn Bunting population at less than 30,000 "pairs", although Hudson and Marchant (1984) suggest that this estimate was probably too low perhaps by a factor of four, which would give a population of 120,000 "pairs". The other islands of the Outer Hebrides hold perhaps 15 additional pairs of Corn Bunting (Cunningham, 1979 and pers. comm.). A population estimate of 275-365 singing males for the whole Outer Hebrides represents about 1% of the British population.

Densities of birds within preferred habitats (mean, 5.3 males/km²) exceed those given by Møller (1983a) for corn and grass dominated farmland in Denmark (2.2-3.8 singing males/km²) and are more than twice that of the B.T.O's Common Bird Census figure for farmland of 2.4 "pairs"/km² (Sharrock, 1976). Course (1941) recorded densities of 6.3/km² for arable land in Cambridgeshire and Brown *et al* (1984) reported very low densities of 1 male/11.9km² in the Lothians, where the Corn Bunting population is declining.

Within Britain the Corn Bunting shows a close association with drier, arable areas with hedges, fences and pylons which can be used as song posts (Sharrock, 1976). In Denmark similar areas are favoured, birds showing a preference for 'linear' habitats eg, roadsides, field boundaries and windbreaks, both as song posts and nest sites (Møller, 1983b). Interestingly in southern Germany, Corn Buntings appear to avoid cultivated land preferring marsh and wet grassland (Hegelback and Zuswiler, 1979). The other main habitat occupied in southern England is the coastal fringe, especially belts of gorse and bramble adjacent to arable land, nests being built at ground level amongst gorse, with crops being the least favoured site (Walpole-Bond, 1938; Ryves and Ryves, 1934). In Scotland, Corn Bunting distribution formerly followed arable land and birds nested commonly within crops (Goodbody, 1955; Macdonald, 1965).

In the Outer Hebrides the distribution

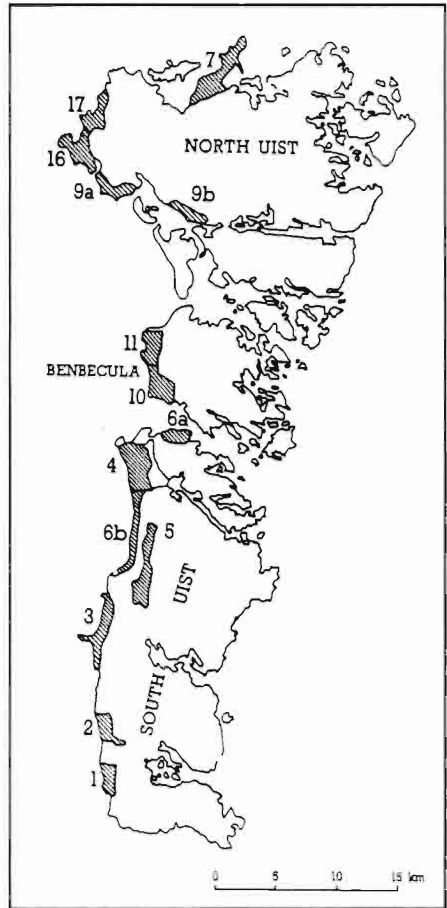


Fig.1. The locations of sites censused for Corn Bunting on South Uist, Benbecula and North Uist, Western Isles, Scotland. 1983.

of Corn Bunting is similar to that in the rest of Britain with the exception that the islands lack hedges and scrub and the birds are restricted to the narrow coastal strip of dune and cultivable machair. The absence of scrub means that nests have either to be made within crops, in grass on cultivated areas or in tall, ungrazed marram *Ammophila arenaria* on dunes. Dunes have not been recorded as a common nesting habitat elsewhere in Britain. However, in the Uists marram-dominated dunes flank a large

proportion of the narrow machair plain providing both nest sites and song posts. Another important nesting site is in rank grass around piles of old machinery and fencing.

The Corn Bunting is continuing to decline in parts of Scotland (Brown *et al* 1984; Macdonald, 1985) and throughout Britain (Marchant, 1984), and there is evidence that this decline is also occurring in the Outer Hebrides. On the Balranald reserve, North Uist (site 16) there were 63-66 singing birds in 1977 and only 56 in 1983, a decrease of 14% (C. Pickup pers. comm.). This decrease occurred at the same time as crop area declined. The IDP is likely to continue the trend of arable decline by replacing arable areas with improved pasture and silage fields and may therefore cause a continued decrease in the Corn Bunting population on the Outer Hebrides.

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to North Uist and South Uist estates, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, and the township clerks for access onto land, to Bruce Philp for habitat maps and to C. Morris and C. Pickup and the RSPB for data from Balranald reserve. Drs I. Newton and P. K. McGregor made helpful comments on a first draft of this paper.

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Williams, T. D., T. M. Reed and A. Webb, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 1UA.

(Revised ms. received 20 November 1985)

The distribution and abundance of some coastal birds on the west and north-west coasts of Scotland in winter

M. E. MOSER, R. A. BROAD,
R. H. DENNIS and M. MADDERS

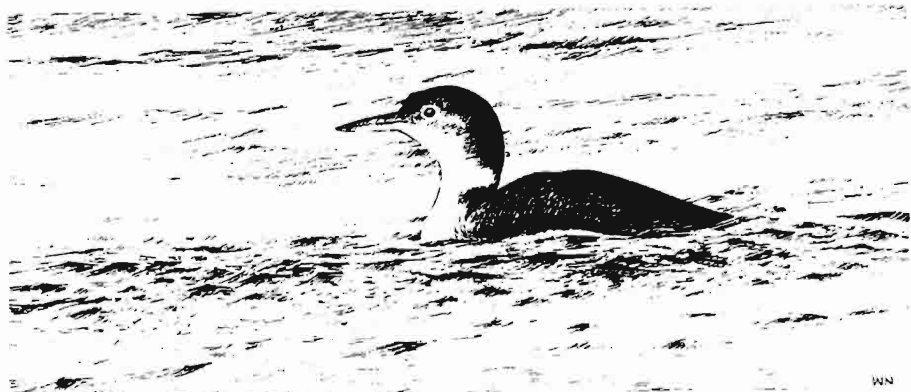
The results of a 1984-85 winter survey of coastal birds (excluding waders) on the west and north-west coasts of Scotland are presented. Count totals of national conservation interest were recorded for Great Northern Diver (464), Black-throated Diver (105), Heron (1,966), Goldeneye (1,311), Red-breasted Merganser (2,374) and Eider (9,270). Densities of almost all species declined to the north and were highest in the southern sealochs and sounds.

Introduction

During December 1984 and January 1985, the west and north-west coasts of Scotland were surveyed for the British Trust for Ornithology/Wader Study Group Winter Shorebird Count. Although the principal aim of this project was to census waders, the extensive coverage of this long and relatively inaccessible coastline offered a unique opportunity to census several other species of coastal birds which could be counted from the shore. This paper aims to make some first estimates of the population sizes of wintering coastal birds, other than

waders, in this area; the results for the waders will be published separately. The species examined here include Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, divers, grebes and wildfowl (not geese) but exclude the true seabirds.

There has been no previous major ornithological survey of the west and north-west coasts of Scotland in midwinter. An historical description of the avifauna of the area is given by Baxter & Rintoul (1953), while Reed *et al.* (1983) have recently reviewed the information available for the Inner Hebrides and the Small Isles.



Winter Great Northern Diver. W. Neill

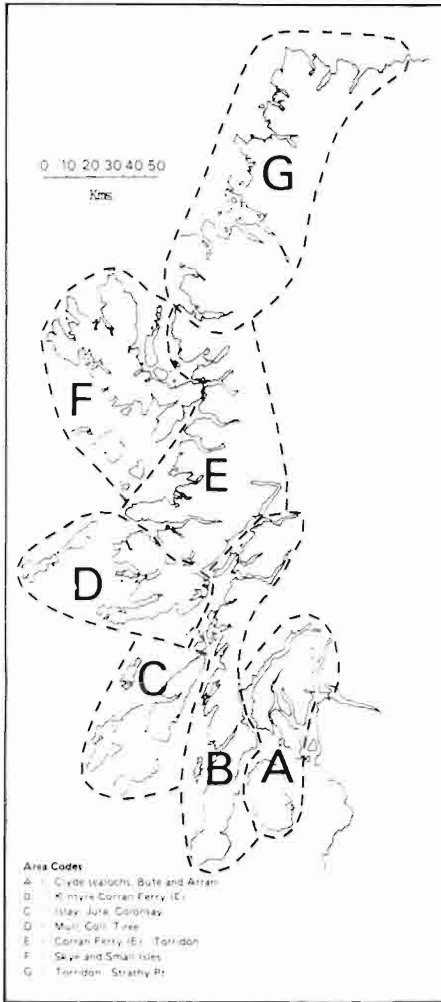


Fig. 1. Map of the study area, showing divisions used in the analyses.

Study area and Methods

The geographical scope of this paper includes the entire mainland coasts of west and north-west Scotland from the Inner Clyde ($56^{\circ} 01'N$, $4^{\circ} 47'W$) to Strathly Point ($58^{\circ} 36'N$, $4^{\circ} 01'W$), plus the Inner Hebrides, Skye and Small Isles (Rhum, Eigg, Muck and Canna) (Figure 1). The survey

was carried out between 8 December 1984 and 31 January 1985, by about 100 field workers. Most areas were visited by expeditionary teams; long, continuous sections of coast (ca 50-80 km) were surveyed each day by several coordinated pairs of observers. It was thus possible to survey logical units such as Skye, Mull or Kintyre in less than one week each, thereby minimising errors which might result from the double-counting of birds making short distance movements. The results include only birds counted in coastal habitats.

Although detailed observations on habitat distribution were collected for the waders, observers were asked simply to keep counts of other species seen during each day of fieldwork. These observations form the basic data from most areas summarised in this paper. Detailed counts of the non-waders were not made for parts of Arran, Canna, Eigg and Knoydart (Lochs Nevis and Houran). For these areas, population estimates have been made from the results of BTO/IWC Winter Atlas counts; the peak counts in each relevant 10km square for each species were summed to give an estimate. These estimates are not strictly comparable with the main survey data and, although they can probably be safely used to fill these small gaps in coverage, they are not absolute measures of abundance.

The lengths of shoreline surveyed and total lengths of shoreline within the study area were measured from 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey maps. All offshore islands with a shoreline of more than 2km, were included. The study area was divided into the seven sections shown in Figure 1.

The total length of coastline within the area under consideration is just over 5,000km; this

Table 1. Total lengths of shoreline, and the lengths and percentage of shoreline surveyed, in each of the seven regions shown in Figure 1.

Section	Total length km	Total surveyed km	%
Clyde sealochs, Bute & Arran	510.4	457.3	89.6
Kintyre-Corran Ferry (E)	886.0	761.9	86.0
Islay, Jura, Colonsay	448.8	342.5	76.3
Mull, Coll, Tiree	587.0	502.7	85.6
Corran Ferry (E)- Torridon	884.4	685.1	77.5
Skye and Small Isles	859.2	495.9	57.7
Torridon-Strathly Point	827.6	731.3	88.4
Total	5003.4	3976.7	79.5

represents just less than one-third of the length of the entire coastline of Britain (Moser and Summers in prep.). Almost 4,000km of this total was surveyed, the remainder being accounted for largely by inaccessible islands and extensive cliffs which were not covered by the survey. A regional breakdown of coverage is given in Table 1. Tables 2 and 3 present the counts and a calculated overall density (per 10km of shore) for each species.

Results

Divers, Grebes and Heron (Table 2)

Three species of diver (Great Northern *Gavia immer*, Red-throated *G. stellata* and Black-throated *G. arctica*) commonly winter in Britain and were recorded in all sections. A total of 800 birds was counted, of which 98% were identified to species level. A single White-billed Diver *G. adamsii* was observed from Tiree. Great Northern Divers were the most abundant species, (464 counted) representing 59% of the divers identified and were well dispersed around all coastal areas except the Inner Clyde. Red-throated Divers (216 counted) were scattered throughout all sections with by far the largest concentration in Gott Bay on Tiree (100 birds). Black-throated Divers were most numerous north of Ardnamurchan, with a total of 105 recorded.

Three species of grebe, Little *Tachybaptus*

ruficollis; Great Crested *Podiceps cristatus* and Slavonian *P. auritus*, were recorded during the survey. Little Grebes were the most abundant (135 counted) and were found almost exclusively in the sheltered sealochs. Their abundance decreased northwards and 75% of those recorded were around south Argyll and the Firth of Clyde. Only 13 Slavonian and 3 Great Crested Grebes were observed. The latter were all found in the south of the study area, while Slavonians were more widespread. Small numbers of Slavonian Grebes may have been missed during the survey, since Ellis (1979) recorded rather larger numbers around Skye (max. 15 in midwinter) during a more intensive survey; however, it seems unlikely that any large concentrations of wintering grebes were overlooked.

Nearly 2,000 Herons were recorded during the survey; the distribution of these birds is mapped in Figure 2, from which the importance of sheltered shores for this species is immediately apparent. Very low densities were recorded on the exposed coasts of the mainland north of Skye and on Islay and the Kintyre peninsula, while extremely high densities were found along all sheltered shores, particularly of the sealochs; along many of these latter shores, densities exceeded one Heron per kilometre. Birds fed singly and showed a very regular pattern of dispersion, suggesting territorial behaviour as recorded on the Ythan by Cook (1978).

Table 2. The distribution, abundance and density (numbers per 10km of shore) of divers, grebes and Heron on the west and north-west coasts of Scotland, in midwinter. See Figure 1 for key to sections.

Species		Section							Total
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Gt. Northern Diver	No.	6	61	67	58	93	63	116	464
	No./10km	0.12	0.69	1.49	0.99	1.05	0.73	1.40	
Red-throated Diver	No.	8	21	34	112	6	11	24	216
	No./10km	0.16	0.24	0.76	1.91	0.07	0.13	0.29	
Black-throated Diver	No.	5	7	3	8	20	26	36	105
	No./10km	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.14	0.23	0.30	0.44	
Diver spp.	No.	0	2	0	0	0	6	7	15
	No./10km	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.09	
Little Grebe	No.	35	66	0	17	7	4	6	135
	No./10km	0.69	0.75	0.00	0.29	0.08	0.05	0.07	
Slavonian Grebe	No.	0	1	1	1	2	1	7	13
	No./10km	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.09	
Gt. Crested Grebe	No.	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	No./10km	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grey Heron	No.	332	365	75	270	486	278	160	1966
	No./10km	6.50	4.12	1.67	4.60	5.50	3.24	1.93	



Fig. 2: Distribution of Herons on coastal habitats in midwinter. The coastline is divided into approximately 20km sections and the size of dot refers to the number of Herons recorded on that section.

Wildfowl (Table 3)

Surface-feeding wildfowl were restricted largely to the more sheltered sealochs and sounds; the abundance of all species declined markedly to the north of Skye. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*,

Wigeon *A. penelope* and Teal *A. crecca* were the three most abundant species, and were normally found at the heads of the larger sealochs. Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* were relatively scarce, with fewer than 500 recorded overall, and generally occurred in small numbers in muddy bays, with the largest concentration (217) on Islay. Mute *Cygnus olor* and Whooper *C. cygnus* Swans were found in the southern sealochs, with very few of either species recorded to the north of Mull. Some individuals were also seen on ice-free inland lochs, but this habitat was not included in the survey and totals are therefore incomplete.

Diving Ducks Three species of diving duck, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* and Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, were common throughout the study area. All three were most abundant in south Argyll and the Firth of Clyde. Eider was the most abundant of the three species. Two-thirds of the 9,270 Eiders counted were found around the Inner Clyde sealochs, Kintyre and Loch Linnhe sections; Most of the others recorded were in sheltered rather than in open coastal areas. Red-breasted Mergansers were the second most abundant diving duck recorded and were common in all areas. Nevertheless, half of the 2,374 recorded were found around south Argyll and the Firth of Clyde. Goldeneye were the only other common diving duck, with a total of 1,311 found.

Five other species were recorded in small numbers, although no one species was recorded in all areas. Goosanders *Mergus merganser* were scarce on coastal waters throughout, with only 22 birds counted, mainly in the freshwater inflows at the heads of the sealochs. Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* were extremely scarce in the south of the count area; of the 144 counted, 127 were to the north of Skye. Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* were rare, with the only concentration being 46 on the west side of Kintyre. By far the largest concentrations of Scaup *Aythya marila* were 427 birds on Islay and a further 21 birds around Arran and Bute. Small numbers of Tufted Duck *A. fuligula* and Pochard *A. ferina* were recorded, having presumably moved from inland lochs which were frozen during much of the survey period.

Discussion

Many of the species examined in this paper are truly 'coastal birds' in this area, rarely being seen more than a few hundred metres

Table 3. The distribution, abundance and density (numbers per 10km of shore) of wildfowl, excluding geese, on the west and north-west coasts of Scotland, in midwinter. See Figure 1 for key to sections.

Species		Section							Total
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Mute Swan	No.	28	142	13	32	21	1	0	237
	No./10km	0.55	1.60	0.29	0.55	0.24	0.01	0.00	
Whooper Swan	No.	8	22	0	180	10	0	0	220
	No./10km	0.16	0.25	0.00	3.07	0.11	0.00	0.00	
Shelduck	No.	35	93	250	8	19	17	4	426
	No./10km	0.69	1.05	5.57	0.14	0.22	0.20	0.05	
Mallard	No.	1426	1416	1084	290	369	302	319	5206
	No./10km	27.94	15.98	24.15	4.94	4.17	3.52	3.86	
Wigeon	No.	1057	1965	554	305	159	195	96	4331
	No./10km	20.71	22.18	12.34	5.20	1.80	2.27	1.16	
Teal	No.	479	640	575	300	71	68	11	2144
	No./10km	9.39	7.22	12.81	5.11	0.80	0.79	0.13	
Goldeneye	No.	330	643	81	18	60	24	155	1311
	No./10km	6.47	7.26	1.80	0.31	0.68	0.28	1.87	
Red-br. Merganser	No.	616	560	311	115	380	159	233	2374
	No./10km	12.07	6.32	6.93	1.96	4.30	1.85	2.82	
Eider	No.	4394	1623	621	165	1001	506	960	9270
	No./10km	86.09	18.32	13.84	2.81	11.32	5.89	11.60	

offshore. These species include Grey Heron, the swans, Shelduck, Mallard, Wigeon, Teal, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Goosander (also observed on rivers) and Eider; all are large and conspicuous and occur only in small groups and it is unlikely that many were overlooked. The remaining species (divers, grebes, Long-tailed Duck and Common Scoter), although definitely 'coastal' rather than 'marine' birds, may occur at considerable distance offshore and the results of shore-based counts must be interpreted with caution (Barrett & Barrett 1985). Casual observations, over a number of years, from land and from ferry crossings, suggest that there are no large concentrations of seaducks, excluding Eider and Red-breasted Merganser, in these waters. Additionally, the great depth of water close to the shore in most areas appeared to concentrate the majority of birds within 500m of the shore.

The counts were aided greatly by the unique weather conditions which prevailed during the survey period: with the exception of 3-4 days, clear blue skies predominated, with little wind, giving calm seas and excellent viewing conditions. Although the

results for all species (particularly the divers) must be taken as minima, it was generally considered by the more experienced participants that the results must be a reasonable reflection of the populations wintering in this area.

The western Scottish seaboard is of limited importance for wintering populations of surface-feeding wildfowl, with the counts of Mute Swan, Mallard, Wigeon and Teal representing only 1.3%, 1.3%, 2.2% and 2.2% of their estimated British wintering populations, respectively (Salmon & Moser 1984). Flocks of Whooper Swans do winter on the freshwater lochs of the Inner Hebridean islands, but these habitats were not censused for this survey. In striking contrast, the populations of diving duck are of much greater significance, representing 8.8%, 18.6% and 23.8% of the estimated national populations of Goldeneye, Eider and Red-breasted Merganser, respectively.

The total wintering population of Grey Herons in Britain and Ireland may exceed 30,000 individuals in mild winters, but could fall below 20,000 birds in severe winters (M. Marquiss pers. comm.). The population of Herons on the western Scottish seaboard is

important as it constitutes 7-10% of the overall population of the British Isles. Moreover, these birds obtain most of their food from the shore, a habitat that remains free of ice in the most severe of winters when Heron numbers are decimated elsewhere in Britain.

National population estimates for wintering divers and grebes are, as yet, unavailable. However, it is clear from the counts that the small numbers of grebes recorded in midwinter are not of major significance. In contrast, the total of almost 500 Great Northern Divers ranks the area, along with Shetland and the Outer Hebrides, among the most important wintering areas for this species in the UK. The count of over 100 Black-throated Divers is also high when compared with the small and declining Scottish breeding population, although it is not known whether the birds recorded during the survey were of local origin. The count of Red-throated Divers is of lesser significance.

The area under investigation includes much of the most remote and unspoiled coastline considered, unlike the summer situation when vast colonies of seabirds form at traditional sites. It is therefore unlikely that these winter populations would be seriously threatened by individual local developments or by small-scale pollution incidents. The impact that large-scale oil spills may have on coastal bird populations in winter was demonstrated by the mortality following the 'Esso Bernicia' spill in Sullom Voe, Shetland (Heubeck & Richardson 1980). Diving species (seaduck, divers and grebe) suffered the greatest mortality in this incident. There is thus some risk from the increasing use of the Minch by oil-tankers in recent years.

More serious threats are presented by changes in economic exploitation of coastal habitats. Of particular note is the dramatic increase in fish-farming for salmon and shellfish throughout the region. These and other commercial enterprises e.g. development of marinas, are concentrated in the more sheltered waters particularly sealochs, which have been shown to be important for

the species considered in this paper. Careful monitoring of disturbance and pollution levels are required in order to assess their impact on bird populations.

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M. E. Moser, British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts. HP23 5NR.

R. A. Broad & M. Madders, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 6 Birch Rd., Killearn, Glasgow G63 9SQ.

R. H. Dennis, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Highland Office, Munloch, Ross & Cromarty IV8 8ND.

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Short Note

Moulting Eiders on the west coast of Scotland

In view of the paucity of records of moulting Eiders *Somateria mollissima* on the west coast of Scotland, the following may be of interest. Since 1966 I have systematically counted a flock of moulting Eiders at Loch Ryan, Galloway in July/August (Table 1). The highest count was 1300 in July 1982 and the lowest 150 in 1975, but the latter was probably not a full count.

(Higher numbers were present in July/August 1986, when 2000+ were counted.)

Apart from Loch Ryan there are several other scattered localities where I have sporadically counted small flocks of moulting Eiders on the west coast (Table 2). The sizeable flock of 500+ recorded in August 1983 in the Sound of Jura may be an important moulting flock, considering an earlier count of 200+ in Loch Sween in 1974. Loch Creran seems to be the most regular haunt but here the numbers appear to be small.

Thom (*Birds in Scotland*, 1986,) considered that the only other large known moulting flock on the west coast occurred at Ayr, with recent counts also being made off Gairloch (2000) and in the Sound of

Table 1. Peak counts of moulting Eiders at Loch Ryan, Galloway, 1966-85 (in 5 yearly periods)

Year	Average	Range
1966-1970	500	300-700
1971-1976	396	150-680
1976-1980	376	300-500+
*1981-1985	767	500-1300

*no count made in 1983

Table 2. Counts of moulting Eiders at localities on the west coast of Scotland 1974-83.

Locality	Month/Year	Total counted
Loch Sween	July 1974	200+
Off Kilberry Head,		
Sound of Jura	Aug. 1983	500+
Loch Creran	July 1979	135
	July 1981	160
	July 1982	52
Skye	July 1980	236
Loch Leven	July 1981	40+

Taransay (450). It may be that other moulting flocks are overlooked on the west coast but it probably needs a more comprehensive survey to locate them.

R. C. Dickson, Seabag, Stoneykirk, Stranraer DG9 9DH

The distribution of Hardangervidda Purple Sandpipers outwith the breeding season

R. RAE, M. NICOLL and R. W. SUMMERS

A total of 200 Purple Sandpipers were colour-ringed as breeding adults or chicks on Hardangervidda, southern Norway, between 1978 and 1984, and 15 or 16 were sighted on the coast of eastern Britain, from Aberdeenshire to Yorkshire, and in the Netherlands, in all months of the non-breeding period (July to May). Both sexes and age-classes were represented in these resightings. Several birds were resighted in successive seasons at the same locality. One colour-ringed pair spent the non-breeding season apart but reunited for breeding. Also, two siblings were found in different locations outwith the breeding season. We suggest that in Britain the non-breeding range of the bulk of the Hardangervidda population lies between Aberdeenshire and Yorkshire. The range of this population of Purple Sandpipers on continental coasts has yet to be established.

Introduction

Until 1970 virtually nothing was known about the origin of Purple Sandpipers *Calidris maritima* which spend the non-breeding season (July to May) in Scotland. There had been only one ringing recovery: a chick ringed in northern Norway on 5 July 1948 and recovered in Aberdeenshire in February 1950 (Holgerson 1953). Then, in the early 1970's two birds ringed on the Isle of May, Fife, in September 1969 were recovered in the breeding season on the Hardangervidda plateau in southern Norway (Atkinson, Summers, Nicoll & Greenwood 1981, Summers 1985). On the basis of these two recoveries and local knowledge, Cambridge University and the Tay Ringing Group took an expedition to Hardangervidda in 1978 to study breeding Purple Sandpipers (Innes 1980). Further trips were made by the Grampian and Tay Ringing Groups each year from 1980 to 1984.

One of the aims of these expeditions was to colour-ring as many breeding Purple

Sandpipers and their chicks as possible, in order to obtain sightings of individuals outwith the breeding season. This approach is much more likely to bring results than waiting for recoveries on the breeding grounds of Purple Sandpipers ringed elsewhere; the breeding grounds are vast, the birds nest at a low density, and birdwatchers rarely visit these areas, so the chance of recoveries is very small. On the other hand, the non-breeding range of these waders is restricted to the coast and includes well populated areas regularly visited by birdwatchers, and, as the birds are often in flocks, large numbers can be checked for colour-rings relatively quickly.

Study area and methods

Hardangervidda is a mountain plateau in southern Norway, 150km east of Bergen at a latitude of approximately 60°N. The habitat comprises arctic/alpine vegetation strewn with boulders. There are also many bogs near lakes and streams.

The study area is at an altitude of 1200m near Dyranut at the northern end of the plateau. Access is by the Bergen/Oslo road. The plateau does not begin to lose its snow covering until the end of May and it is quite normal to see 80% snow cover in mid June.

Adult Purple Sandpipers were captured when incubating or attending chicks. Searching for nests was extremely difficult because the incubating adult is well camouflaged and sits very tightly on the nest (Plates 1 and 2). Also, the off-duty bird stays well away from the nest and the change-over takes place quietly and at unpredictable times. We tried many methods to locate nests, including dragging ropes and wires to disturb incubating birds. We once dragged a wire for three days over an area of some 12m by 120km and found no Purple Sandpiper nests. We suspect that the birds sat still and allowed the wire to pass over them, as we later tried this method on known nests and the birds did not flush.

The only method found to be 'successful' involved searching likely areas while sweeping with a 1-4m pole to disturb incubating birds. Between 1978 and 1984 we found only 19 Purple Sandpiper nests and in 1981 each nest required an average of 164 man-hours to locate. In the same period (1978-1984) we found 169 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 117 Dunlin *Calidris alpina* and 61 Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* nests.

Once a nest was found the sitting bird was trapped by clap-netting or by laying a mist-net

over it. Since both sexes incubate, both male and female were captured. The brood was ringed on hatching.

Broods of Purple Sandpipers were easier to find than nests. However, since the female generally deserts the nest late in incubation or at hatching (Swanberg 1945, Bengtson 1975), we usually only caught males with broods. Generally, the male would fly at intruders while they were still some distance from his brood and perform distraction displays (e.g. the 'rodent run', Cramp & Simmons 1983). In order to find the chicks we sat quietly and waited for the male to return and call the chicks from their hiding places, often in crevices between boulders. Once the chicks were caught the male could also be caught by 'flicking' with a single-panel mist-net.

All adults and chicks were given a metal numbered ring and a unique combination of three colour-rings, made from celluloid (used in 1978, 1980 and 1981) or Darvic plastic (1978, 1982, 1983 and 1984). (Plate 3). The bill lengths of adults were measured in order to determine sex as females have larger bills than males (Cramp & Simmons 1983). In the southern Norwegian population males have bill lengths of $25.1 \pm 1.2\text{mm}$ ($n = 6$) and females $28.4 \pm 1.7\text{mm}$ ($n = 4$) (Bergen University specimens).

Throughout the non-breeding season, and particularly in winter, searches were made on the coasts of Britain for colour-ringed Purple Sandpipers. Most searching was carried out in



Plates 1 & 2. An incubating Purple Sandpiper and a clutch. R. W. Summers

eastern and northern Scotland, and latterly in N.E. England. The areas searched were: Aberdeenshire, Kincardine, Fife (1978/79 - 1984/85), Angus (1980/81 - 1984/85), Ross-shire, Sutherland, Caithness (1981/82), Orkney (1982/83 - 1983/84), Shetland (1984/85), Outer Hebrides (1978/79 - 1981/82), Northumberland (1984/85) and Yorkshire (1983/84 - 1984/85). Appeals were also made to casual birdwatchers to look out for colour ringed birds, especially during the Winter Shorebird Count which took place in December 1984 and January 1985, when almost the whole shoreline of Britain was surveyed. Birdwatchers in France were also notified of the study. Purple Sandpipers with colour rings are not particularly easy to locate because the birds have the habit of standing behind rocks when intruders approach. Also, not all birds were checked in the counties surveyed. Thus, the searches are not regarded as thorough.

There are two other colour-ringing schemes for Purple Sandpipers in operation at present and three discontinued schemes (Townshend 1984). However, our scheme is the only one where three colour-rings are used per bird. Also, we used some colours not used by other schemes. Most sightings were made by ourselves, or by people known to be reliable observers. Two birds were retrapped in Fife and identities confirmed from their ring numbers.

Results

Between 1978 and 1984 we colour-ringed 200 Purple Sandpipers (Table 1). The visit in 1978 spanned most of the breeding season, but those in 1980, 1983 and 1984 were timed to coincide with the hatching period when the maximum number of birds could be ringed. Hatching was later than expected in 1983, due to late snow melt (there was still 95% snow cover on 1 July), and few birds were ringed. In 1982 the emphasis was on nest finding, though this was relatively unsuccessful.

Fifteen or sixteen (one partial sighting may have referred to a bird already seen) of the colour-ringed birds were resighted and/or trapped outwith the breeding season on the east coast of Britain and the Netherlands (Table 2, Figure 1). The most northerly sighting was at Aberdeen, and the most southerly within Britain was at Filey Brigg in Yorkshire.

Most of our own searches for colour-ringed birds have been in eastern and northern Scotland. South of the Firth of Forth we relied largely on reports from birdwatchers. Despite the less intensive searching efforts in the south there were more colour-ring sightings in this area (Figure 1).

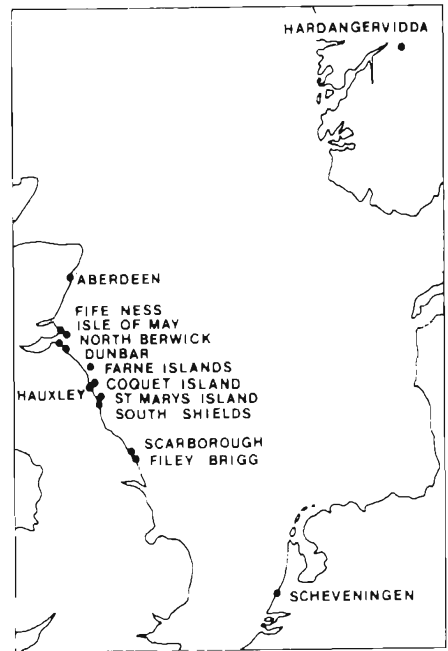


Fig.1. Places where Hardangervidda colour-ringed Purple Sandpipers have been seen.

The earliest sighting was 10 July and the latest 12 May. These dates correspond closely to what is known about the times of arrival and departure of Purple Sandpipers in eastern Scotland. They arrive in mid July, stay throughout the winter and depart during April and May; June is the only month when they are virtually absent (Atkinson *et al.* 1981). The sightings of six birds in Northumberland were made in autumn and spring, which could indicate migration along the

Table 1. Numbers of Purple Sandpiper adults and chicks ringed at Hardangervidda, southern Norway. (In 1981 10 chicks were not colour-ringed).

Season	Dates of Visit	Adult		Chicks	Total
		Males	Females		
1978	7.6-26.7	12	4	37	53
1980	29.6-10.7	10	2	42	54
1981	13.6-24.6	6	4	7	17
				(+10)	(+10)
1982	26.5- 1.7	1	0	0	1
1983	1.7-17.7	3	2	9	14
1984	14.6- 9.7	13	2	46	61
Total		45	14	141	200
				(+10)	(+10)

Table 2. Ringing and sighting details of Purple Sandpipers marked at Hardangervidda, southern Norway and seen in Britain and the Netherlands. Ring numbers refer to the Stavanger scheme.

Ringing Details				Sighting Details			
Ring Number	Date	Age/Sex	Bill Length (mm)	Date	Place	Date	Place
8132903	15.6.78	Adult <i>f</i>	30	14.1.79	Girdle Ness	30.11.83	Girdle Ness
				Winter 79/80	" "	" "	" "
				Winter 80/81	" "	10.2.84	" "
				25.9.81	" "	13.4.84	" "
				19.4.82	" "	3.10.84	" "
				12.2.83	" "	10.11.84	" "
8183227	6.7.80	Adult <i>m</i> (Found with large chicks)	24.2	7.10.83	" "	21.12.84	" "
				22.9.81	Isle of May		
				5.10.81	" "		
8201110	21.6.81	Chick <i>m</i>	24.2	5.10.81	" "	16.8.82	Isle of May
				25.2.82	Fife Ness (recaptured)	24.7.83	" "
8201105	18.6.81	Adult <i>f</i>	28	25.2.82	" "	15.4.84	Fife Ness
				17.8.82	Isle of May	18.8.83	Isle of May
				27.9.82	" "	" "	(recaptured)
				6.11.82	" "	16.4.84	" "
				2.1.82	" "	23.7.84	" "
8132929	12.7.78	Chick	28	2.8.83	" "	6.8.84	" "
				3.2.79	North Berwick	13.2.82	North Berwick
				17.4.79	" "	7.3.82	" "
				7.4.80	" "	12.5.82	" "
				10.4.81	" "	20.10.82	" "
				10.7.81	" "	1.1.83	" "
				15.8.81	" "	18.4.83	" "
30.9.81	" "	14.3.84	" "				
8.11.81	" "						
8183265	5.7.80	Chick		North Berwick			
8183265	5.7.80	Chick					
or							
8183263	5.7.80	Adult <i>f</i>	30	7.3.83	Dunbar		
8156408	12.6.80	Adult <i>f</i>	28.4	6.8.80	Inner Farne	1.8.84	Inner Farne
8132935	20.6.78	Adult <i>f</i>	30	14.7.82	" "	9.4.85	" "
				18.9.82	" "	" "	" "
				6.8.80	Inner Farne	11.7.82	Inner Farne
8201104	18.6.81	Adult <i>m</i>	25	18.9.81	" "		
				9.4.85	Inner Farne		
8132918	29.6.78	Chick <i>m</i>	24	29.4.82	Coquet Island		
				9.5.82	" "		
8201265	7.7.84	Adult <i>m</i>	24.6	4.5.85	Hauxley		
8183219	2.7.80	Chick	24.6	5.3.81	St. Mary's Is.	24.3.82	St. Mary's Is.
				2.4.81	" "	30.3.84	" "
				21.10.81	" "	" "	" "
8201108	21.6.81	Chick		8.5.82	South Shields		
8204615	6.7.83	Adult <i>m</i>	24.9	25.2.84	Filey Brigg	25.12.84	Cornelian Bay
				27.10.84	Cornelian Bay	6.3.85	Filey Brigg
				23.11.84	Filey Brigg		
8201215	30.6.84	Chick		26.9.84	Scheveningen		

Notes: (1) Two birds, ringed as chicks, were sexed on recapture.

(2) Girdle Ness is at Aberdeen; Isle of May and Fife Ness in Fife; North Berwick and Dunbar in Lothian; Inner Farne; Coquet Island, Hauxley and St. Mary's Island in Northumberland; South Shields in Durham; Filey Brigg and Cornelian Bay (Scarborough) in Yorkshire; and Scheveningen in the Netherlands.

coast. However, it is more likely that the Northumberland islands were not adequately searched in winter. Birds 8132902 and 8132929 are more likely to be typical, having been sighted in most months of autumn, winter and spring (Table 2). The retrap data from our ringing in eastern Scotland also suggest that birds which arrive in autumn stay until spring (Atkinson *et al.* 1981).

Several individuals have been seen in more than one non-breeding season, usually in the same locality, e.g. the bird at Aberdeen sighted each year since 1979 (Table 2). This supports our earlier findings that Purple Sandpipers show site fidelity outwith the breeding season (Atkinson *et al.* 1981).

The results show that both sexes and age groups (first-year and adult birds) occur in eastern Britain (Table 2). There were as many sightings of adult females as of adult males, although more adult males were ringed (Table 1).

Bird 8201105, a female, was resighted each season on the breeding grounds at Hardangervidda as well as on its non-breeding area (the Isle of May) (Table 2). It nested each year from 1981 to 1983 in the same territory, and with the same mate who was also colour-ringed. However, he has never been seen on the Isle of May, where careful searches have been made, so at least in this pair the birds spent the non-breeding season apart but reunited for breeding.

Birds 8201110 and 8201108, chicks from the same brood, were found in different localities outwith the breeding season, suggesting that any bonds between siblings are not maintained after fledging (Table 2).



Plate 3. A Purple Sandpiper with a combination of colour rings and metal ring. R. W. Summers

Discussion

The colour-ringing of Purple Sandpipers at Hardangervidda and their subsequent sighting on the British and the Netherlands coastlines has shown the value of this approach in studying the migrations of waders. Although involving only a few birds, we were able to connect a breeding population to part of its non-breeding area, identify the time of arrival and departure of these birds, and establish that different age classes and both sexes use the same non-breeding area. Many other studies of wader migration involve mass ringing of migrating birds whose origins are unknown. This leads to difficulty in interpreting the results from ringing recoveries, a problem encountered in other studies on Purple Sandpipers (Boere, Roselaar & Englemoer 1984).

The most northerly sighting was at Aberdeen and there is evidence to suggest that this is perhaps the northern limit for southern Norwegian Purple Sandpipers. Firstly, no colour-ringed birds were seen during comprehensive surveys of Ross-shire, Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides (Summers & Buxton 1983, Buxton 1982, Tay & Orkney Ringing Groups 1984). Secondly, Atkinson *et al.* (1981) showed that the bill lengths of the southern Norwegian population were small and that small-billed birds comprised the bulk (86%) of the population in Kincardine, Angus and Fife, whereas the populations to the north of Kincardine tend to be composed largely of long-billed birds, whose origins are as yet unknown (Tay and Grampian Ringing Group data, unpublished).

The most southerly sighting was in Yorkshire. Although Purple Sandpipers are rare in England south of Yorkshire, small numbers do occur in Kent, Devon and Cornwall (Atkinson, Davies & Prater 1978). However, there are indications from bill measurements that few of the birds in southern England are Norwegian (R. Smith pers. comm.). Therefore, Yorkshire may be the southern limit of the non-breeding range of southern Norwegian Purple Sandpipers in Britain.

So far, only 15 or possibly 16 birds have been seen out of a ringed population of 200 birds. Although some of the ringed birds must now be dead, there are quite a few birds alive which have not been seen outwith the breeding season although seen again in summer on Hardangervidda. Given the intensive searching carried out in Britain, it seems likely that many spend the non-breeding season elsewhere in Europe — perhaps on the coast of Norway, where large numbers are known to winter (Cramp & Simmons 1983). Further searching should include the latter area and other North Sea coasts.

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R. Rae, 13 Red Inch Circle, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire AB4 0AW
M. Nicoll, Dundee Museum, Dundee, Angus DD1 1DA
R. W. Summers, 353 Arbroath Road, Dundee, Angus DD4 7SQ

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The status of the Gannet in Scotland 1984-85

S. MURRAY and S. WANLESS

A census of all North Atlantic gannetries was organised in 1984-85 and this paper summarises the results from the Scottish colonies. A field or photographic count was made of each colony during June or July, using occupied sites and/or nests as the counting unit. These counts showed that Scotland remains the stronghold of the Gannet, with twelve of the 39 extant colonies, and 132,100 occupied sites, i.e. c50% of the total population (254,600) and almost 60% of the east Atlantic total (223,400). The total Scottish population increased at an average rate of 2.0% p.a. 1969-1985 but trends for individual colonies varied considerably. In general, numbers at long established gannetries were increasing slowly or were stable, whilst at recently founded colonies numbers were increasingly rapidly.

Introduction

Scotland is the Gannet's *Sula bassana* stronghold in the Atlantic. It has, in St Kilda, Ailsa Craig and the Bass Rock, three of the five largest colonies and there has been a proliferation of new colonies in recent years (Buxton 1985, Furness 1981).

There is a long tradition of counting Gannets amongst British ornithologists. The first world estimate was made in c. 1909 by Gurney (1913), and Wynne-Edwards *et al* (1936), Fisher and Vevers (1943, 1944, 1951), Cramp *et al* (1974) and Nelson (1978) made subsequent surveys. We organised another complete census in 1984-85, and this paper summarises the results from Scottish colonies.

Methods

The position of the colonies is shown in Figure 1. We counted St Kilda, Sula Sgeir, Sule Stack, the Flannan Isles and the Bass Rock (1985) ourselves, but the other colonies were covered by other observers who are acknowledged at the appropriate place. Gannetries tend to be on inaccessible islands and/or the highest cliffs. These

factors make a rigid standardisation of census techniques almost impossible. Following the guidelines in Nelson (1978), we recommended that counts were made in June or July (i.e. the late incubation/early chick stage) and avoided the early morning and evening. There were two possible ways of counting Gannets:-

- (a) field counts made from the land or sea
- (b) counts from photographs taken from the land, sea or air. The images of the birds were either blocked out with a felt tip pen on a transparent overlay or the slide was projected onto white paper and the images similarly blocked out.

In counts made from photographs, the only practical unit was the occupied site (a site occupied by one or two Gannets, irrespective of whether nest material was visible). Sites which were clearly occupied by nonbreeders were excluded whenever possible. Since it was impossible to see if any nest material was present, counts of occupied sites included all the nests in a colony plus an unknown proportion of sites where birds were present but there was no nest material. We requested that observers making field counts also used occupied site as their counting unit, so that, as far as possible, counts made using the two methods were directly comparable. In addition, in the field, it

was also possible to count nests (one or two birds at a site with some nest material present). This unit has been used at gannetries with a long history of field counts e.g. Scar Rocks, Ailsa Craig, and counts returned from these colonies were in terms of nests only. At other colonies e.g. Hermaness, Noss, the colony total was given as both occupied sites and nests. It was, therefore, impossible to express the individual colony totals in a common unit. To calculate a grand total for Scotland, we used totals of occupied sites, if only a total for nests was available we used this (unaltered). Neither nest nor occupied site is synonymous with a breeding pair, nor is it strictly

correct to equate occupied site with pair, as some sites may be held by a single bird for at least a year (Nelson 1978).

Unless otherwise stated, the standard of counting was high in that the observer(s) was "happy" with the count. Bad weather and/or a difficult counting position e.g. Foula, Noss, or problems distinguishing Gannets from their background on a colour slide e.g. Sule Stack, all reduced count standard. For some colonies, e.g. St Kilda, the final total was derived from a combination of methods.

Average rates of change for each colony were calculated for the period 1969-1984/85 using the

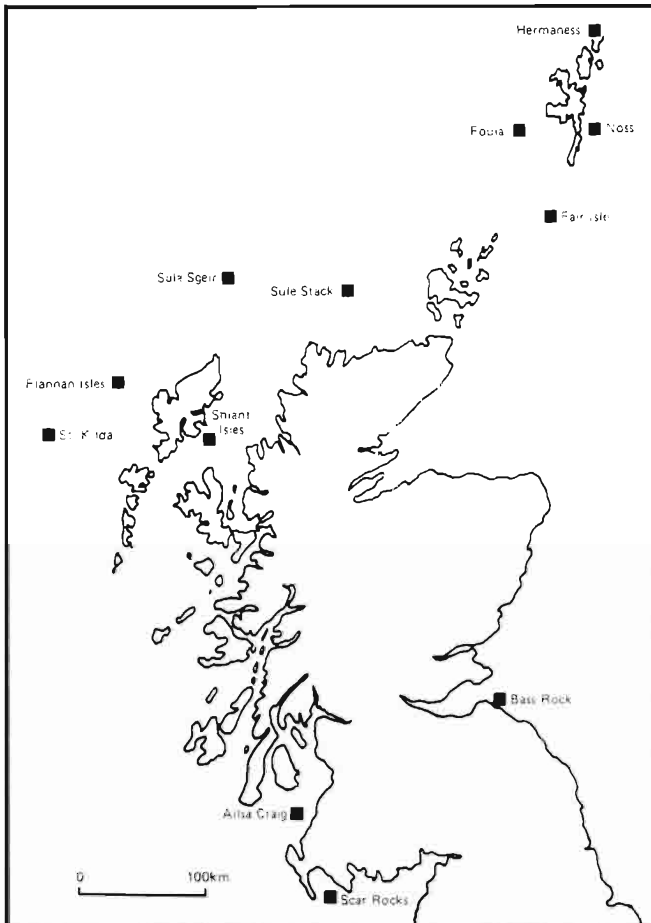


Fig 1: The distribution of gannetries in Scotland 1984-5.

Operation Seafarer counts (Cramp *et al* 1974) as a baseline. The units then were pairs occupying nests so, when available, we used counts of nests in 1984/85 for the calculation. St Kilda, Sula Sgeir and Sule Stack were also counted from photographs in 1969, so the totals of occupied sites in 1985 were, presumably, broadly comparable to the Seafarer counts of these colonies. For new colonies, an average rate of change was calculated from the time of colonisation.

Counts made up to the early 1970s are summarised in Fisher & Vevers (1943, 1944), Cramp *et al* (1974) and Nelson (1978). Only references to subsequent counts are given in the text. Full details of how each colony was counted are given in Wanless (1986), a copy of which is deposited in the SOC library.

Results

The 1984/85 count and the population trend since 1969 are given for each of the twelve Scottish gannetries.

Scar Rocks

A count was made initially from the sea on 16 June 1984, with some additional checks of problem areas made by the North Solway Ringing Group when they were ashore.

The colony was founded in 1939, although colonisation was attempted in 1883, and has been counted regularly by the North Solway Ringing Group (1973, pers. comm.).

1969 450 nests	1976 432 nests
1970 500 "	1979 1700 birds
1971 480 "	1981 1975 "
1972 430 "	1982 1900 "
1973 471 "	1983 700 nests
1974 482 "	1984 770 "
1975 410 "	

The number of nests remained fairly constant 1969-76 and then increased. Between 1969 and 1984 the increase averaged 3.6% p.a.

Ailsa Craig

The count was made by J. A. Gibson on 4 May 1985 in the same way as previous years, i.e. a field count of nests made from the sea in early May with subsequent checks of selected areas during the season. An additional count made from photographs taken on 15 July by B. Zonfrillo gave a much lower total. This was thought to be because on that date many birds had left the cliffs

to feed on discarded fish. In recent years there had always been close agreement between field and photographic counts (see below).

The colony was well established by 1526. It is the only large gannetry to have been counted annually over a long period and the series extends back to 1936. All of the counts since the mid 1940s have been made by J. A. Gibson (Gibson 1983), with additional counts from photographs by Wanless (1979, pers. obs.) and Murray & Wanless (1982). The series detailed below is from Gibson; totals for photographic counts (occupied sites) are given in brackets.

1969 13054 nests	1978 16087 nests
1970 12729 "	1979 16989 "
1971 14347 "	1980 17976 "
1972 15219 "	1981 18983 "
1973 15892 "	1982 20161 "
1974 17367 "	(20843 occupied sites, Murray & Wanless 1982)
1975 12246 "	1983 21072 nests
c14300 occupied sites (Wanless 1979)	(21397 occupied sites, pers. obs.)
1976 14051 nests	1984 21997 nests
c15800 occupied sites (Wanless 1979)	1985 22811 "
1977 15248 nests	(c16000 occupied sites)

These counts indicate a rapid increase 1969-74, a major crash in 1975 and a subsequent steady increase up to the present. The mean rate of increase 1969-85 was 3.5% p.a.

St Kilda

The count for Boreray was a composite from slides and prints taken from land, sea and air, with some visual checks, on 18-19 June 1985. Counts of Stac Lee and Stac an Armin were from aerial photographs. These counts are given in Tables I and II.

The gannetry has been present since the ninth century. It poses formidable counting problems. Boyd (1961), using land, sea and aerial photographs, divided Boreray and the Stacs into 116 sections and these have been used as a framework for all subsequent counts. The 1959 count is used here as the baseline for comparisons because coverage in 1969 was not complete and separate totals for Boreray and the Stacs are not available. Recent counts are summarised in Table III.

A comparison of the 1959 and 1985 counts of Boreray indicates little change over the last 26 years. A detailed, ledge by ledge comparison of Boyd's original photographs with the 1985 series

shows a few definite changes in the colony distribution but, except for an increase of c650 sites on Geo Sunadal, these were numerically trivial.

Counts of Stac Lee suggest a small increase 1959-85, averaging 0.8% p.a. However, the ledge by ledge comparison indicates that this is probably a counting artefact rather than a genuine increase and the colony extent was identical in the two years. The numbers of sites on Stac an Armin also increased at 0.8% p.a. 1959-85, but in this case

some definite expansions were identified. The centre group on the south face held an extra 200 sites, while on the east face there were c920 additional sites. Full details of these changes are given in Wanless (1986).

Thus, the total colony has shown a very slight increase over the last 26 years, most of which has occurred on Stac an Armin. Total counts for the colony in 1969 and 1973 suggest that numbers at these times were higher. However, they were based on partial surveys and difficulties in

Table I Details of the count of Boreray made from photographs taken on 18-19 June 1985. Sections correspond to those delineated in Boyd (1961).

Area	Section	Occupied sites	Photos
			taken from
Cregan Fharspeig	1-2	106	Sea
Creagan na Rubhaig Bana	3-12	1603	Sea/land
Mullach an Tuamail	13-15	984	Sea
Mullach an Tuamail	16-41	3922	Sea/land
Geo Sunadal	42	173	Air
" "	43	897	Sea/air
" "	44	57	Sea
" "	45	522	"
" "	46	522	Sea/land
" "	47	521	Sea
Udraclete	48	468	"
"	49	528	"
"	50	49	"
Gearrgeo	51-57	2974	Air/sea
An t Sàil	58-63	1865	Air
Mullach an Eilean (lower)	64	411	"
" " "	65	308	"
" " "	66	435	"
Mullach an Eilean (upper)	67-72	1402	Land
Na Roachan (lower)	73	326	Air
" "	74-78	1772	"
Na Roachan (upper)	79	413	"
" "	80-82	1385	Air/sea/land
Clagan na Ruskochan (west)	83-85	1571	Air
Clesgor	86-88	1183	"
Clagan na Ruskochan (east)	89	279	Land/sea
<i>Total</i>		24676	

Table II Details of three independent counts of Stac Lee and Stac an Armin made from aerial photographs taken on 19 June 1985.

	Occupied Sites		
	1	2	3
Stac Lee:			
Top Table	7207	7200	6886
Casting Point	2243	2156	2045
Bothy Face	1100	1150	938
North Face	3252	3208	3177
Total	13802	13714	13046
<i>Mean count</i>	13521		
Stac an Armin:			
East Face	7250	7530	7120
Lower East Face	1600	1553	1509
South Summit	965	953	906
South Centre and Lower	1029	1077	1024
West Face	1036	990	1018
Total	11880	12103	11577
<i>Mean count</i>	11853		

Table III. Counts of the Gannetry on St Kilda 1959-85. Sources are 1959 (Boyd 1961), 1969 (Cramp *et al* 1974), 1973 (Dixon 1973) and 1979 (Murray 1981).

Year	Boreray	Stac Lee	Stac an Armin	
			occupied sites	occupied sites
1959	24133 pairs	10775 pairs	9618 pairs	44526 pairs
1969				52000 pairs occupying nests
1973				59258 pairs occupying sites
1979	19010 nests/pairs	13521 occupied sites	11853 occupied sites	c40000 nests/pairs
1985	24676 occupied sites	13521 occupied sites	11853 occupied sites	50050 occupied sites

interpreting some of Boyd's boundaries on the photographs of 1969/73, variations in the dates of counts and the use of varying correction factors must have contributed to a very wide margin of error on these counts.

Shiant Isles

A single bird was seen sitting on a nest on Eilean Mhuire on 9 May 1985. Another site was also occupied that year on Garbh Eilean (Island Bothy Log). The Garbh Eilean site has apparently been occupied annually 1975-86 (Bothy Log), whilst the Eilean Mhuire site was occupied 23 June-7 July 1979 and 1982 (Buxton 1985, Bothy Log) but was definitely not occupied in mid August 1985 (N. E. Buxton pers. comm.) or June 1986 (pers. obs.).

Flannan Isles

Counts made from photographs taken on Roareim and the largest skerry off the southern tip on 16 June 1985 and a direct field count gave identical totals — 71 occupied sites in a western group and 152 in the eastern group, including 16 sites scattered amongst the Guillemots which breed between the two. All sites had nest material. There were c60 nonbreeders on a stack off the south west corner of Roareim (Figure 2).

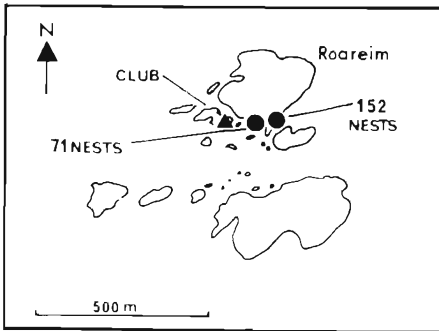


Fig. 2: Location of the gannetry on Roareim, Flannan Isles in 1985.

Gannets were first recorded nesting on Roareim in 1969. The 1969 and subsequent counts have been:-

1969	c16 pairs and 35 birds
1975	29 birds on 17 nests
1977	23 chicks and 1 nest with egg
21 Aug 1985	(pers. obs.)
1979	28 chicks

21 Aug	(J. McLean pers. comm.)
1980	over 100 birds (Buxton 1985)
1983	c40 pairs
Oct/Nov 1985	(D. Emerson, pers. comm.)
1985	223 sites (all with nest material)

Numbers increased slowly during the 1970s but the colony is now expanding rapidly. The average rate of increase has been 17.9% p.a. 1969-85.

Sula Sgeir

The count was from aerial photographs taken on 15 July 1985. Some areas were difficult to count and the overall standard was considered to be moderate. The colony was divided into eight sections (Figure 3) and two independent counts of occupied sites in each were:

1	797/919	5	149/123
2	587/581	6	1502/1561
3	2309/2480	7	1552/1530
4	1979/2083		helipad 68/67
Total	8943/9344		mean count 9140 occupied sites

The colony was well established by 1549. There have been few recent counts:-
1969 8964 pairs occupying nests
1972 9000 apparently occupied nests (Evans 1978)

1985 9140 occupied sites

The 1972 total was obtained from counts of photographs taken from the sea and land, together with some land based counts, whereas the 1969 and 1985 counts were from aerial photographs. Despite these differences in methodology, the totals indicate that numbers have been stable 1969-85. The lack of any marked population change is borne out by a comparison of aerial photographs taken in 1969, 1980, 1985 and Evans's 1972 map; this shows that the distribution of the colony was unchanged except for a small increase around Sgeir a Teampull since 1969, possibly by 1972 and certainly by 1980. The area now occupied by the helipad was not occupied in 1980 (before construction of the lighthouse began). On 16 June 1986 no birds were breeding either in Area 5 or on the helipad.

Sula Sgeir is the only Scottish colony where young Gannets are still taken for food. The size of this annual harvest is poorly documented. McGeoch (in Nelson 1978) gave an average of 2360 young Gannets taken per year 1919-58, while Evans (1978) was told by the guga hunters that the annual figure was currently 4500 young. However, NCC Licencing Section considers that c3000 birds per year were taken 1969-81. Figures

are vague because prior to the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) there was no provision for licences to take or kill Gannets, and consequently there was no requirement for returns indicating the number of birds actually taken. Before 1983 there was apparently no separation of the total into young, subadults and adults. The current licence is only for birds of the year and totals to date have been 2750 (1983), 2000 (1984) and 2000 (1985).

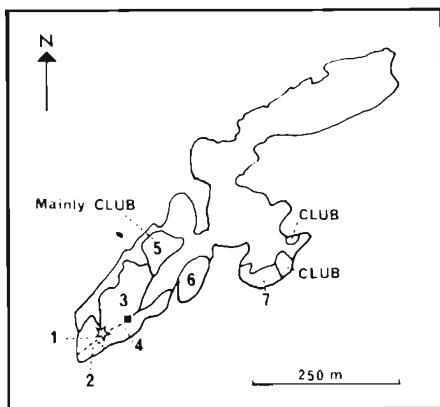


Fig. 3: Counting divisions and positions of club areas on *Sula Sgeir* in 1985. The position of the lighthouse is indicated by a star and the helipad by a solid square.

Sule Stack

The count was made from aerial photographs taken on 15 July 1985. Areas on the top plateau were difficult to count and the overall standard was considered to be moderate. The north and south rocks have traditionally been occupied by nonbreeders, except for a small breeding group on the north end of the south rock. This was still the case in 1977, 1978 and 1984 (N. Picozzi, P. Reynolds and E. Meek, pers. comm.). In 1985 there were apparently c2000 occupied sites on the north and south rocks. We assumed that only 50 of these were true site holders, the rest being nonbreeders (Figure 4). On 21 June 1986 E. Meek found c25 nests on the south rock and none on the small northern rock.

The gannetry was established by 1710. Recent counts have been:-

1969 4018 pairs occupying nests

March 1984 c2400 occupied sites
(Photographs from E. Meek, counted by M. P. Harris and S. Wanless)

1985 c5900 occupied sites

These indicate an average increase of 2.4% p.a. 1969-85.

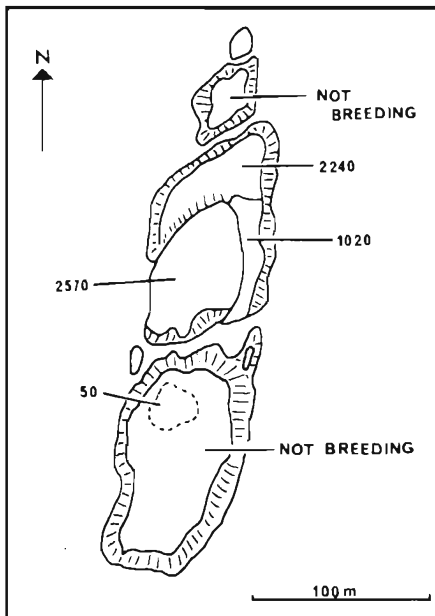


Fig. 4: Sule Stack showing count divisions and totals. Map after Fisher & Vevers (1943).

Foula

A field count was made by R. W. Furness on 2 July 1984. It was made in bad weather from a difficult counting position and was of moderate standard.

Gannets were first recorded landing on the island in 1970, nest building in 1975 and breeding in 1980 (Furness 1981). Recent counts were:-

1976 3 completed nests
1977 0 completed nests
1978 2 completed nests
1979 0 completed nests
1980 15 nests (13 complete)
1984 210 occupied sites (c140 nests)

There was little change 1976-79, but numbers are now increasing rapidly. The average rate of increase was 61.7% p.a. 1976-84.

Hermaness

In 1984 a count was made from the land by I. S. Robertson (SOTEAG) during the two periods 28 June-2 July and 15-22 July. Hidden areas were counted from the sea on 2 August.

The colony was established on Vesta Skerry

Table IV. Counts of the Gannetry on Hermaness 1969-84.

Year	Count	Source
1969	5894 pairs occupying nests	C ramp <i>et al</i> (1974)
1974	5825 nests ^{1,2}	Harris (1976)
1975	5355 nests ¹	Sage (1976a)
1976	6012 nests ¹	Sage (1976b)
1977	7784 nests ¹	Sage (1977)
1978	9234 nests ³	Edwards (1978)
1979	6217 occupied nests ⁴	Heubeck (1979)
1980	6828 occupied nests ^{4,5}	Heubeck (1981)
1982	8794 nests ³	Shetland Bird Report
1984	14360 occupied sites including 8063 nests ⁶	

NOTES

- In these years nests were defined as "actual nests, including an unknown proportion built by adult-plumaged nonbreeders".
- The field count of 5225 nests did not include Vesta Skerry and the Rumbings. These had 600 pairs on the part visible from the mainland, hence the Hermaness total is put at 5825 nests.
- Edwards (1978) gives a definition of "actual nests containing eggs or young" i.e. nests occupied by nonbreeders were *not* included. Edwards assisted with the 1975-7 counts and notes that his 1978 definition "was the same as in previous years". Therefore, it is not clear exactly what was counted 1975-7.
- In these years the counting unit was "nests which either contained young or on which an adult appeared to be brooding young". In 1980, an additional count was made of "one or two adult-plumaged birds at a spot where there was at least some nest material". A figure of 10986 nests was obtained which should have been comparable to the 1974 count.
- Count from the mainland only. In 1980, the total was corrected assuming the invisible area made up the same proportion of the colony as in previous years. The 1982 count was not adjusted.
- 400 nests were added since the field count did not cover Neap north face.

by 1917 and subsequently spread to the other stacks and 'mainland' cliffs. Recent counts are summarised in Table IV. Comparison of the 1969 and 1984 nest counts indicates an increase averaging 2.1% p.a. Some consecutive counts, if taken at face value, suggest periods of rapid increase, eg. 12.2% p.a. 1975-76, and some within-colony movement (Sage 1976b, Nelson 1978). However, Hermaness is a difficult colony to count and a variety of count units have been used, which confuses the issue (Table IV). It also has a very large nonbreeding component which makes standardising counts extremely difficult. Indeed, counts in 1974 showed that there were approximately as many nonbreeders, many in adult plumage, as breeders (2029:2190, M.P. Harris pers. comm.). The situation was similar in 1980 (Heubeck 1981), while in 1984 there were 2171 club birds, 6697 occupied sites with no nest material and 8063 nests.

Noss

A field count was made by J. M. Dickson and G. A. Tyler (NCC) on 18-21 July 1984. Most of the colony was counted from the land, but the face of the Noup was counted from the sea. The count standard for the latter was only moderate. Full details of the 1984 (and 1982) counts are lodged with NCC in Shetland.

The first birds were seen prospecting the cliffs in 1911-12 and breeding was recorded in 1914. Recent counts are:-

1969	4300 pairs occupying nests
1970	8181 adults (Shetland Bird Report)
1974	8093 adults " " "
1977	5498 adults " " "
1982	minimum of 4913 nests (Shetland Bird Report)
1984	6905 occupied sites, including 5231 nests.

There has been a small increase 1969-84, averaging 1.3% p.a.

Fair Isle

Counts were made by Fair Isle Bird Observatory (FIBO) on 12 July 1984 from the cliff top. A very small, hidden area on the Inner Stack of Skroo could have had 1-3 occupied sites. The largest concentration of nests was on Dronger, the original site of colonisation, but most of the other groups had c5-20 nests. Several offshore stacks, apparently well suited for a large dense colony, have not been used.

Table V. Summary of the colonisation by Gannets of cliffs and stacks on Fair Isle. The count unit is nests. Data are from N. Riddiford and FIBO Reports.

Year	Dronger	Yellow Head	Inner Stack of Skroo	Kirki Stack	Matchi Stack	Toor O Ward Hill	North Felsigeo	Sheep Rock	Kame O Guidicum	Total
1974	3									3
1975	17									17
1976	27									27
1977	34									34
1978	36	1								37
1979	38	2								40
1980	c50	6	2							c58
1981	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	3	27				100+
1982	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	2	1		172
1983	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	0	0		c200
1984	41	13	14	4	6	40	0	0	3	121 (130 occupied sites)
1985	49	16	5	12	9	40	2	0	5	138

NOTE: n.c. = present but no count of separate areas available.

Details of the colony's development are given in full since they are scattered in FIBO reports and there are some inconsistencies. The nomenclature and chronology given here differ somewhat from that in the original reports but have been verified by Nick Riddiford (FIBO warden).

During 1972-73 birds, many of which were in immature plumage, regularly came ashore on Da Fless and on the lower slopes of the south east corner of Sheep Rock. In 1974, three pairs built nests but did not lay eggs. Breeding was first recorded in 1975. The colony has since been counted annually (Table V). Between 1974 and 1985 the number of nests showed an average rate of increase of 41.6% p.a. After reaching a peak in 1982-83, numbers subsequently decreased and the colony is currently increasing more slowly.

Bass Rock

The 1984 count was made by Bryan Nelson, mainly from photographs taken from the sea and land on 6 July. Some areas were inadequately covered and were estimated by eye, using either a comparable area of counted birds or by previous knowledge of the area. The grand total of 20,886 (14,456 counted, 6430 estimated) was corrected to 18,162 occupied sites by assuming that 15% of sites were occupied by pairs.

The 1985 count was from aerial photographs taken in the early morning (before 0700 GMT) on 1 and 11 June. Two independent counts were 21,725 and 21,457 occupied sites respectively, i.e. an average of 21,600 occupied sites (Figure 5).

The colony was probably established by the sixth century and was definitely present in the fifteenth century. Operation Seafarer and subsequent counts have been:-

- 1968 8977 pairs occupying nests
- 1974 9500-11,500 site holding pairs
- 1977 c13,500 occupied sites
- 1984 18,162 occupied sites
- 1985 21,600 occupied sites

Colonisation of the slopes above the cliffs continues and the population has shown a steady increase averaging 5.3% p.a. 1969-85.

Total numbers in Scotland

The counts documented above give a grand total of 132,100 occupied sites in Scotland in 1984/85. Numbers were divided very unequally between the twelve colonies, proportions in each being:- St Kilda (38%), Ailsa Craig (17%), Bass Rock (16%), Hermaness (11%), but including many nonbreeding birds), Sula Sgeir (7%), Noss (5%), Sule Stack (4%), Scar Rocks (0.6%), Flannan Isles (0.2%), Foula (0.2%), Fair Isle (0.1%) and Shiant Isles (1-2 nests).

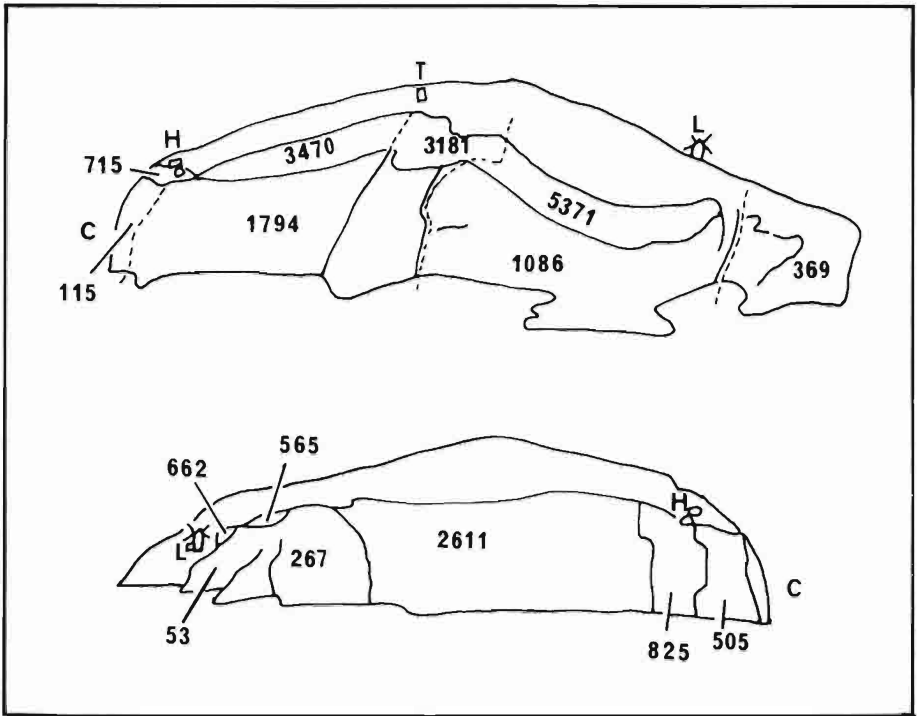


Fig. 5: The distribution of occupied sites in different sections of the Bass Rock in 1985. The position of the lighthouse is indicated by L, tower T, foghorn H and prominent cliff face C. Most counting divisions were based on natural features, the dotted lines show the position of artificial boundaries.

Discussion

Scotland remains the stronghold of the North Atlantic Gannet, with twelve of the 39 extant colonies (the Westmann Islands are counted as one colony) and 132,100 occupied sites, c50% of the world population (254,600) and almost 60% of the east Atlantic total (223,400) (Wanless 1986).

The increase in Gannet numbers this century has been well documented by Fisher and Vevers (1943, 1944), Cramp *et al.* (1974) and Nelson (1978) who attributed the Gannet's increase to the reduction in human persecution and favourable feeding conditions. Our results indicate that conditions were still favourable for Gannets at Scottish colonies in the mid-1980s. During

the period 1969-85 new gannetries were established on Fair Isle and Foula and two pairs had nests on the Shiant Isles in 1984 (Furness 1981, Buxton 1985, FIBO reports, Shiant Isles Bothy Log), and the total Scottish population increased at an average rate of 2.0% p.a. (This estimate assumes that the 1969 count for St Kilda was 45,000, ie. unchanged since 1959, and uses counts of nests for Scar Rocks, Ailsa Craig, Flannan Isles, Noss, Hermaness, Foula and Fair Isle in 1984/85 to be more comparable with the 1969 counts). Although this suggests a slowing down in the rate of increase from 3.9% p.a. for 1949-69 (Fisher and Vevers 1951, Cramp *et al.* 1974), the 1949 St Kilda count was probably too low (Boyd 1961, Wanless 1986) and this has a

large effect on the overall change. The 1949 St Kilda total was 17,035 pairs (Fisher and Vevers 1951) but 10 years later Boyd counted 44,526 pairs (Boyd 1961), ie. an average rate of increase of 10% p.a. On face value, this indicates massive immigration but two factors argue against this. First, at least 55,000 immigrants would have been needed, but since all the major gannetries, except Little Skellig, also increased 1949-59, there were just not enough spare birds to produce such an increase on St Kilda. Second, the distribution and density of Gannets in Fisher and Vevers' photographs of St Kilda are apparently identical with those for 1959.

Population trends for the individual colonies varied considerably for the 1969-1984/85 period (Figure 6). There was a marked difference between the rates of change in the long established colonies,

where numbers have increased relatively slowly (maximum of 5.3% p.a. for the Bass Rock) or else are stable, eg. St Kilda, and the recently founded gannetries where numbers are increasing rapidly, eg. Flannan Isles (18% p.a.), Fair Isle (42% p.a.), Foula (62% p.a.). These new colonies must be attracting recruits produced at other gannetries, although the numbers involved are small. Numbers on Sula Sgeir remain stable despite approximately one third of the chicks being taken each year.

It seems likely that more gannetries will be established in future years and we have reports of birds ashore on Am Balg, Sumburgh Head and Fowlsheugh, and, earlier, on Copinsay and Bearasay (Nelson 1978). The latest record is of a single, adult plumaged, bird ashore on Am Balg on 24 June 1986 (pers. obs.). It is important to document fully records of healthy Gannets

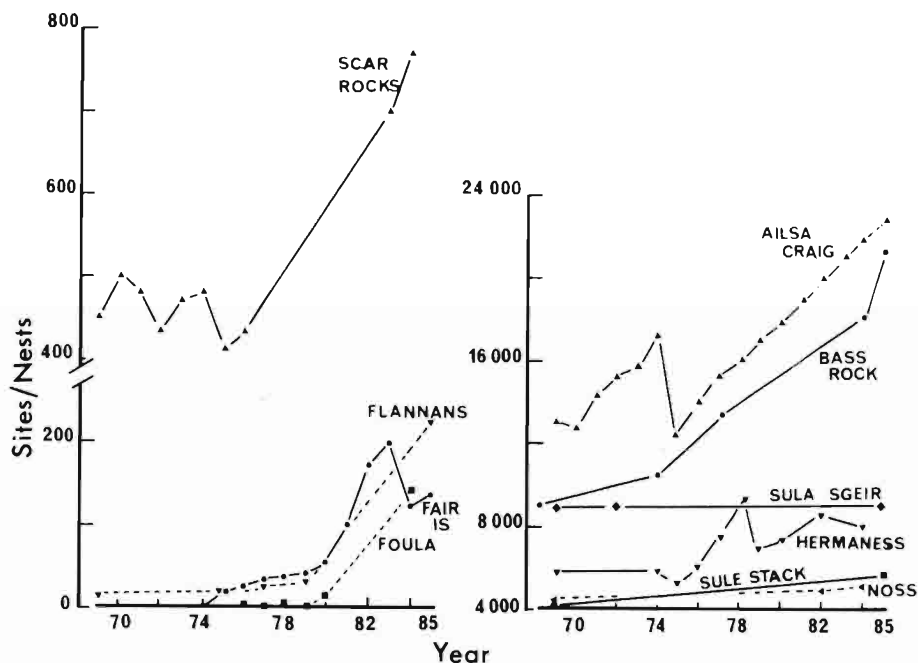


Fig. 6: Changes in the numbers of Gannets in all the Scottish gannetries, except St Kilda and the Shiant Isles, 1969-85. The counting unit used varied between both colonies and years, but most counts were of nests or occupied sites. Details are given in the text for each colony.

ashore at likely breeding places and ensure that the history of the Gannet in Scotland continues to be documented thoroughly.

Acknowledgements

We hope all the people who provided counts or information have been acknowledged at the appropriate place in the text. We are very grateful for funding from SAVE, RSPB, SOC and the Seabird Group, and for aerial photographs of Sula Sgeir and Sule Stack from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. Dr J. M. Boyd kindly allowed us to use his original photographs of St Kilda and commented on the St Kilda section. Dr M. P. Harris and P. Moore helped count "white dots". Dr N. E. Buxton, Dr P. G. H. Evans, P. J. Ewins, Dr R. W. Furness, Dr J. A. Gibson, M. Heubeck, Dr J. B. Nelson, Dr M. G. Richardson, N. Riddiford and J.

Skelling criticised relevant sections of the manuscript. To all those who participated in this survey we offer our sincere thanks.

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Plate 4: Sule Stack, one of the least visited gannetries, on 20 June 1985. Virtually all the birds on the nearest (south) rock are nonbreeders; the rock behind holds the main colony. Dept. of Agriculture & Fisheries for Scotland

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*S. Murray, Easter Craigie Dhu,
Cardney, Dunkeld, Perthshire.*

*Dr. S. Wanless, Nature Conservancy Council,
Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA.*

(Revised ms. received 24 March 1986)

Short Note

Golden Eagle's attacks cause Red Deer hind to defend calf

On the 8 June 1985 I witnessed a series of attacks by a Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* on a Red Deer hind and her calf. The interactions between eagle, deer and other birds were memorable and the defensive behaviour of the hind, whether completely intentional or not, was of interest.

On a grouse moor on lower Deeside, Grampian, a juvenile Golden Eagle was seen quartering low over a heather covered hillside about 500m away. It flushed a pair of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and they flew around extremely agitated. The eagle then drifted round the shoulder of the hill where it disturbed a small herd of Red Deer, some of which had calves. The deer scattered and most moved downhill and away out of sight. During the confusion the eagle picked out a hind with a small calf and began attacking them, diving repeatedly but never making contact. The calf was beneath the hind and she remained stationary whenever the eagle came close. The bird then broke off the attack, flew away and gained height. Meanwhile the hind, with the calf keeping close to her side, made slow downhill progress. Once the eagle had gained sufficient height it stooped on the deer, extending its legs and talons as it got to within 3m from them. This occurred about 20 times and during each attack the calf kept close underneath the hind, who stood still, watching every move the eagle made. At times the eagle was almost hovering above them but it never made contact, giving the impression it was trying to distract the hind away from the calf.

During one of the eagle's ascents an owl (probably a Short-eared) started diving aggressively at the eagle, causing it to settle for a short period on the open hillside. For an exciting few minutes the owl was 'mobbing' the eagle, the Golden Plovers were flying around calling in distraction display, and the deer were slowly moving downhill. As the deer progressed downward the eagle's attempts to regain height after attacks became increasingly laborious. It eventually flew off up the glen after about 25 minutes.

Seton Gordon (1955) described a number of attacks on Red Deer and their calves by Golden Eagles; these were second hand and anecdotal in nature. More recently two cases of attacks by eagles on red deer calves have been vividly documented (Cooper 1969, Northeast 1978). In view of the scarcity of recorded observations of interactions between Eagles and Red Deer it would be interesting to learn of other first hand accounts. I thank Sandy Payne for his comments on an earlier draft of this note.

**Graham W. Rebecca,
31 Rainneshill Gardens,
Newmachar, Aberdeenshire AB5 0JZ**

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Items of Scottish interest

Articles and reports on birds in Scotland, mainly on status and distribution. References from the widely available journals *British Birds*, *Bird Study* and *Ringing and Migration* are excluded. Most of the items listed are available for reference in the Waterston Library. Items marked with an asterisk are available from the SOC Bird Bookshop post free to SOC members at the price quoted. The librarian is glad to receive reprints or copies of papers on any aspect of ornithology or general natural history.

- Notes on the biometrics and egg measurements of breeding Dunlins in Sutherland, Scotland. J. Barrett & C. Barrett 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* no.46:29-30.
- Regional variations in the dispersal patterns of Shags in northern Europe. H. Galbraith, S. R. Baillie, R. W. Furness & S. Russell 1986. *Orn. Scand.* 17:68-74.
- The food of young Razorbills on the Isle of May and a comparison with that of young Guillemots and Puffins. M. P. Harris & S. Wanless 1986. *Orn. Scand.* 17:41-46. Their study over three years showed that Razorbill chicks received far less food than the young of Guillemots and Puffins, and had a relatively low breeding success.
- The Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Loch Lomond — a sift through the evidence relating to the almost forgotten 19th century record. J. Mitchell 1983. *Scottish Naturalist* 1983:81-90. (This journal has only recently been received in the Waterston Library).
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- Argyll Bird Report 1985.* (112 pp) Colin Galbraith (ed) 1986. Available from the editor, 4 Achagoil, Minard Inveraray, Argyll PA32 8YE, for £3.00 including postage. This is the third bird report published by the Argyll Bird Club. In addition to a 56 page systematic list and a ringing report there are ten short papers.
- Arran Bird Report 1985.* (12 pp) Margaret Dunn (ed) 1986* 75p. The format of this sixth Arran bird report is unchanged, with a systematic list and a revised check-list giving the status of each bird species.
- Ayrshire Bird Report 1985.* (38 pp) Angus Hogg (ed) 1986* £1.50. Includes a 32-page systematic list and three short papers on birds.
- Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report for 1985.* (91 pp) Nick Riddiford (ed) 1986* £2.50. This is a well-produced report from the FIBO Trust on the life of the island, with a 30-page systematic list and an interesting ringing report.

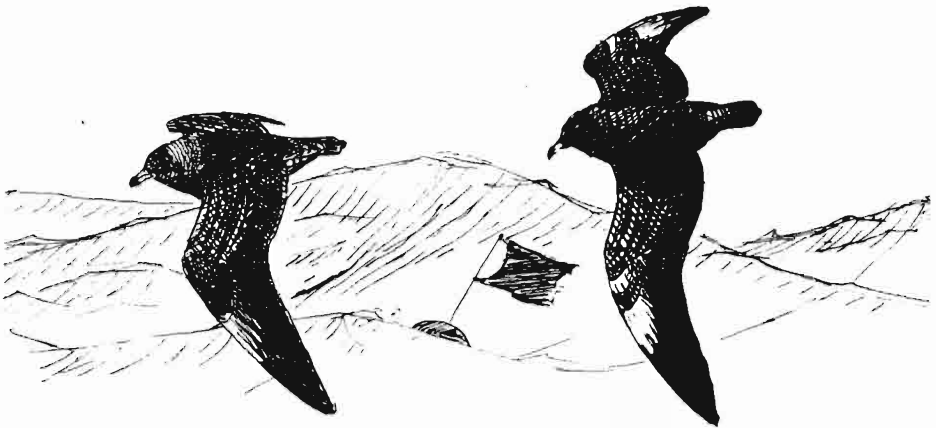
Fife and Kinross Bird Report 1985. (36 pp) D. Dickson, M. Ware & C. Smout (eds) 1986.* £2.00. A nicely printed report with a 23-page systematic list and four short articles on Fife birds.

Orkney Bird Report 1985. (72 pp) Chris Booth, Mildred Cuthbert & Peter Reynolds (eds)

1986* £1.80. Includes a 55-page systematic list and five short papers on Orkney birds.

Birds in East Lothian 1985. (39 pp) Alan Brown (ed) 1986. An unpublished report in photocopy, the third for the East Lothian District.

W. G. Harper



Pomarine Skuas. J. G. Steele

Scottish Bird Report 1985

**EDITED BY ANGUS HOGG
ASSISTED BY ALAN BROWN, ROY DENNIS,
RON FORRESTER AND PETER GORDON**

*With this issue the **Scottish Bird Report** returns 'within the fold' of **Scottish Birds** after seven years' production as a 'separate'. What happens to it in the future will depend to a large extent on members' reactions to this change and to the new format of the report. **SBR 1985** includes descriptions of four rarities; Little Shearwater, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Forster's Tern and Common Yellowthroat (pp. 124-126), but it has not proved feasible to incorporate a ringing report, as had been planned.*

INTRODUCTION

1985 — The Year's Events

310 species were recorded in Scotland during 1985. While Forster's Tern and Blackpoll Warbler are the only 2 species to be admitted to the Scottish list as "firsts," the following potential new birds for Scotland remain under consideration:- Eleanora's Falcon, Little Swift, Cedar Waxwing, Brown Shrike, Daurian Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Chestnut Bunting. While the possibility of escape cannot be immediately ruled out in some cases, it can be seen that 1985 was obviously a remarkable year.

During a spring which was notable for the arrival of many eastern species e.g. Olive-backed Pipit on the Isle of May, the event which will clearly be remembered for many years was the dramatic influx of Bluethroats. High numbers were recorded all along the east coast, and the first successful breeding of the species in the UK followed. While Ospreys were having their best year so far, another raptor, the White-tailed Eagle, successfully reared young in Scotland for the first time this century. A real surprise, however, was the second Scottish breeding record of Golden Oriole.

Autumn was no less spectacular, even if the main events were a bit late. During

November and December large numbers of Pomarine Skuas and Little Auks arrived in the North Sea, providing seawatchers with a real bonus. Earlier in the autumn Scotland had recorded its 2nd Little Shearwater and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, but other much sought-after rarities included Franklin's Gull, Pechora Pipit, White's Thrush, Dusky Warbler and Two-barred Crossbill.

Arrivals and last dates for summer visitors

	Arrival	Last date
Osprey	19 Mar	16 Sep
Corncrake	10 Apr	3 Nov
Whimbrel	23 Mar	27 Oct
Common Sandpiper	15 Mar	18 Oct
Cuckoo	14 Apr	27 Sep
Swift	20 Apr	7 Oct
Sand Martin	21 Mar	10 Oct
Swallow	4 Apr	5 Dec
House Martin	6 Apr	31 Oct
Tree Pipit	4 Apr	26 Oct
Redstart	8 Apr	31 Oct
Whinchat	3 Apr	8 Nov
Wheatear	20 Mar	1 Dec
Sedge Warbler	18 Apr	7 Oct
Whitethroat	13 Apr	5 Oct
Garden Warbler	18 Apr	3 Nov
Willow Warbler	17 Mar	1 Nov
Spotted Flycatcher	5 May	27 Oct

SCOTTISH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

As a result of some lack of clarity over the remit and functions of the SBRC with regard to the adjudication of scarce species records, the following statement may help make our position clearer:- the SBRC is available to consider records of species which appear on the list below, or any others which recorders wish to submit. Whilst we understand that the machinery exists in many recording areas to cope with such records, we would particularly like to see all records of species appearing below in block capitals. We also exercise the right to call in records of certain species in circumstances which might merit the panel's consideration.

CORY'S SHEARWATER

Great Shearwater

PURPLE HERON

White Stork

Spoonbill

FERRUGINOUS DUCK

Honey Buzzard

Red Kite

MONTAGU'S HARRIER

Rough-legged Buzzard

Hobby

STONE CURLEW

Little Ringed Plover

KENTISH PLOVER

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Pectoral Sandpiper

Long-tailed Skua

Mediterranean Gull

Sabine's Gull

* Roseate Tern

† Little Owl

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

WOODLARK

RICHARD'S PIPIT

Key Block capitals: **all** records to be submitted.

*: only records away from E coast to be submitted.

†: only records away from normal breeding range to be submitted.

TAWNY PIPIT

Nightingale

CETTI'S WARBLER

SAVI'S WARBLER

AQUATIC WARBLER

* Marsh Warbler (trapped preferably)

* Icterine Warbler

MELODIOUS WARBLER

DARTFORD WARBLER

* Barred Warbler

* Yellow-browed Warbler

* Firecrest

* Red-breasted Flycatcher

NUTHATCH

† Marsh Tit

† Willow Tit

† Crested Tit

Bearded Tit

† Chough

SERIN

* Scarlet Rosefinch

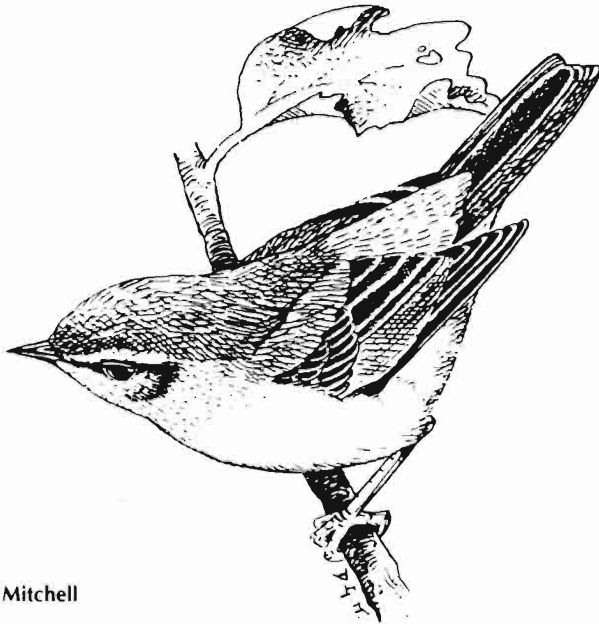
CIRL BUNTING

Ortolan Bunting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many Scottish and visiting observers have contributed to this year's report, and the prompt submission of your records is appreciated. My thanks are also due to the area recorders for all their hard work, coping admirably with the new Regional format. Special thanks are due to the assistant compilers, Alan Brown, Roy Dennis, Ron Forrester and Peter Gordon, and also Mike Rogers and Tim Sharrock for their help with rarities decisions. Photographs and drawings have been generously provided by S.M.D. Alexander, A. Brown, A. Dowell, B. C. Forrester, R. Hissett, D. Mitchell, B. Proctor, J. G. Steele and B. Zonfrillo.

Pete Ellis has been replaced as assistant compiler by Peter Gordon; many thanks Pete for helping to keep SBR to schedule, and in addition to thanking Peter for taking over, can I also welcome the following area recorders:- Arthur Jennings, Rick Goater and Mike Innes. Their arrival means the departure of David Stroud, Norman Atkinson and Mike Bell to whom I am grateful for their past recording work. For full lists of Regions and Recorders, and of Observers, please see the relevant list at the end of this report.



Wood Warbler. D. G. Mitchell

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

All records should be sent directly to the appropriate recorder, but in cases of difficulty, they can be sent to the editor. All records should be on one side of a sheet only, well spaced and, if possible, in the Voous order (as in this report). Observers are asked to consult this and previous reports for the kind of information

required. To avoid duplication of records, names of other observers present should be given where appropriate. All notes for the year must be sent promptly to recorders by the end of January, but more frequent submissions are also welcomed. Please consult your local recorder about this if in doubt.

Species List

Abbreviations and Symbols used in the Species List

all known records given	*
of escaped or doubtful origin	.
male ♂	males ♂♂
female ♀	females ♀♀
N, S, NE etc.	direction of flight
§	subject to BBRC acceptance

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* Breeding: Shetland, 1st eggs Fetlar 18 May, 1st chicks Whalsay 16 Jun, decline Yell where 48 sites held breeding prs (66 in 1983), but 17 prs Fetlar (14 in 1984); Orkney, 46 prs reared 39 young Hoy, 14 young reared on monitored lochs Mainland; Highland, 9 sites recorded Caithness Dist; Strathclyde, 7 prs Coll, pr reared 2 young on artificial island Bute, 11 prs Arran, pr failed Renfrew Dist. Peak counts/passage: Highland, 254 Inverness Firth 25 Jan, 50 Embo 18 Oct; Grampian, passage N Peterhead end Mar-mid Jun, 722N in 28 hrs over 14 days Apr, 373 Spey Bay-Burghhead Bay Oct, 315 Balmedie-Ythan 19 Oct; Tayside, 75 Lunan Bay 20 Oct; Fife, 110S in 7 hrs Fife Ness 22 Sep; Lothian, peaks 50 Tynninghame Mar, 65 Gullane Apr, 51 Gosford Oct, 140W in 1 hr Hound Pt 20 Nov; Borders, 16N/30S St Abbs 30 Jul; Strathclyde, 29 Clyde est 29 Mar, 31 Girvan-Turnberry 30 Mar, 40 L Indaal, Islay Nov; Dumf & Gall, 50 Southernness 26 Oct.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* Breeding: West Isles, c12 prs Lewis and Harris; Highland, increasing human disturbance Caithness Dist, only 1 successful pr out of 4 checked, 35 prs Ross & Cromarty Dist, 4 prs Inverness Dist, 4 prs Lochaber Dist, poor success due to high water levels; Tayside/Central, of 7 prs, 4 prs failed perhaps due to Mink, successful pr reared 1 young; Strathclyde, pr reared 2 young in south-west. Peak counts/passage: Shetland, singles Weisdale Voe 31 Mar, Reawick 7 May; Orkney, max 12 Waulkmill Bay 20 Jan; Highland, 35 Sinclair's Bay 21 Jul; Grampian, 18 Culbin 23 Sep; Fife, 13N Fife Ness 27 Nov; Lothian, low nos again in Forth, max 4 Dunglass 6 Feb; Borders, 5S St Abbs 22 Sep; Strathclyde, 17 Dipple-Turnberry Pt 30 Mar.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* An adult mated with Black-throated Diver in NW Scotland, no evidence of successful breeding. Winter-spring peaks: Shetland, max 19 Quendale 6 May; Orkney,

40 Papa Westray 28 Apr; West Isles, 40+ South Uist 4 May; Highland, 23 Dunnet Bay 15 Apr, 14 Eriboll 14 May; Grampian, 9 Rattray 5 May; Tayside, 2 R Tay, Kinfauns 22 Feb; Borders, 4 Pease Bay 16 Feb; Strathclyde, 27 West L Tarbert 17 Feb; 13 Lochranza-Dougrie, Arran 24 Mar, 6 Lendalfoot 3 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 7 L Ryan 12 Jan. Summer: Highland, singles Handa 7 Jun, L Insh 5-12 Jun, Kyleakin 18 Jun, L Garten-L Muick 8-9 Jul, L an Eilein 12-20 Jul, L Duntelchaig 18 Jul, L Lochy 22 Aug; Grampian, 1 L Muick 8-9 Jul, at L Davan 14 Jul. Autumn: Shetland, 19 South Nesting 26 Oct; Orkney, 22 Deer Sound 30 Dec; Borders, 1 R Tweed, Edenmouth 12-27 Nov; Strathclyde, 10 Machrie-Imachar, Arran 30 Oct, 1 Luss, L Lomond 16 Nov, 1 Balgray Res, Barrhead 6-22 Dec.

***White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* Four: Shetland, ad Whalsay from 26 Nov 1984 till 6 May, returned 15 Nov-end Dec (BM et al), ad near Holm of Burravoe 8 May (MH), 1st s Burravoe 13 May-16 Aug (MH), ad Colgrave 15 Oct (PME).

***Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* West Isles: the long-staying bird at L na Liana Moire, South Uist (from 8 Jun 1983) was last seen 22 Jul (DO).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Breeding: Orkney, no breeding recorded; Lothian, 15-18 prs Threipmuir-Bavelaw, 14 prs at 11 other sites; Borders, 21 prs reared 30 young; Strathclyde, 27 prs recorded Argyll mainland, 3 prs Colonsay, poor season Central Strathclyde where 56 prs reared ave 1.1 young/pr, in South-west Strathclyde 8 prs reared 20 young, with single prs at 11 other sites. Counts/passage: Shetland, peaks 2 Sandwater 26 Oct, 2 Hillwell 27 Oct; Highland, 5 Kessock Narrows 20 Jan, 30 L Flemington 13 Oct; Fife, 20 Kilconquhar L 14 Aug, 2 I of May 4 Oct; Lothian, 40 Threipmuir 26 Jul; Strathclyde, 14 Lochdon, Mull 19 Jan, 31 R Clyde, Thankerton 24 Nov.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Breeding: Grampian, pr reared 1 young Moray Dist, pr reared 1 Sand L, Newburgh, pr also present L Davan but no breeding; Tayside, poor season with only 5 young reared; Central, 8 prs at 3 sites reared 5 young; Fife, 21 prs recorded; Lothian, poor season in W Lothian and Midlothian Dist, 38 prs at 5 sites, 9 prs out of 24 prs bred Lindlithgow L, 22 juvs were hatched, but only 6 were left on 25 Aug; Borders, 10 prs, only 3 prs bred, 1 young reared; Strathclyde, 1st recorded breeding Bute where pr reared 1 young L Fad, in C and SW 38 prs at 19 sites reared 16 young; Dumf & Gall, poor in W, 5 prs at 3 sites reared 4 young, 12 prs hatched 18 young Castle L, Lochmaben. Counts/passage: Shetland, singles Belmont 9-16 Feb, Sullom Voe 1 Mar, Gutcher 26 Jun, Scalloway 3 Nov; Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 6 Apr, L of Harray 23 Nov; West Isles, 1 South Ford Sep; Central, 850 Kinneil 20 Jan; Fife, 119 St Andrews 8 Jan; Lothian, 112 Gosford Aug, 210 Seafield 29 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 65+ L Ryan 26 Oct.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Winter-spring: Grampian, 1 Ythan 26 Jan, singles dead Lossiemouth 11 Feb, Girdle Ness 12 Mar; Tayside, 2 L Leven 5 Jan; Central, singles Grangemouth 22 Feb, L Watson 4, 5 Mar; Lothian, 5 Blackness 16 Feb, high nos E Lothian Dist, 33 Gullane Mar, 38 Gosford Apr, last 1 Gullane 6 May; Strathclyde, 1 Strathclyde Country Park 12 Jan, 2 Doonfoot 20 Feb, 3 Ballantrae-Stevenston 3 Mar, 1 Portencross 24 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 1 L Ryan 10 Mar. Summer: Lothian, 2 Gullane 8 Jun, 1 Gosford 13 Jun, 3 on 23 Jun. Autumn: Highland, 2 Whiteness Hd 5 Dec; Fife, 5 Largo Bay 29 Oct; Lothian, max 37 Gosford Aug; Strathclyde, singles Endrick Mouth 9 Oct, Culzean 23 Nov, 2 Girvan 30 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 1 Carlingwark L 27 Dec.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Breeding: of 21 prs monitored N of Great Glen, 16 prs reared 12-19 young; 40-48 prs nested S of Great Glen where 19-21 young were reared; 7 prs on 4 lochs Strathspey where 6 prs reared 6-7 young. Counts/passage: Shetland, 4 Catfirth-Sullom Voe 13 Jan, 1 Mousa 1 Jul; Orkney, 15 L of Harray 17 Mar; Highland, 5 Cromarty Firth 6 Nov, 6 Embo-Dornoch 9 Dec; Grampian, 2 Aberdeen 12 Jan, 3 Burchead 27 Jan; Tayside, 1 R Tay, Perth 20 Jan-16 Feb; Central, 2 Carron Valley Res 19 Oct; Fife, 8 Largo Bay 26 Oct; Lothian, 49 Gosford Mar, 8 Musselburgh Dec; Borders, 1 summered on inland loch, 4 Hule Moss 22 Aug; Strathclyde, 15 L na Keal, Mull 25 Mar, 2 Hunterston 2 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 4 L Ryan 7 Dec.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Breeding: 4 prs reared 6 young at 2 sites, single prs at 2 other sites, but only 1 bird latterly at 1 of these sites. Counts/passage: Tayside, 1 L of Kinnordy 14 Jul; Fife, singles Aberdeen 26 Jan, Burntisland 12 Dec; Lothian, singles Seafield 5 Jan, Gosford 22 Mar,

Tynninghame 24 Mar, Gullane 30 Aug, 2 Gullane 14 Sep, 3 on 15 Oct, 1 Musselburgh 13, 24 Nov; Borders, 1 Pease Bay 27 Jan; Strathclyde, singles Ardmore Pt 19 Jan, Cambro 20 May, Lochranza, Arran 27 Oct, Rubha Airigh Bhearg, Arran 29 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 4 L Ryan 6 Oct, 10 Nov.

***Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris* Shetland; the Hermaness ad was again present from 5 Apr-10 Sep (DC).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* Breeding: Shetland, 1st incubating Noss 17 May, 1st hatching 17 Jun, 2656 occupied sites Papa Stour, 2275 occupied sites Vaila, poor season Fair Isle where many sites empty by Jul; Orkney, poor success suggested due to bad weather, 1st eggs Hoy 14 May, 226 sites Gairsay 1 Jun; Fife, only 64 chicks 1 of May; Lothian, min 262 sites on 4 Forth islands, 512 sites E Loth sea cliffs, 40 sites Holyrood, 18 sites Traprain Law, 16 sites Torphin — low success at these inland sites; Borders, marginal increase to 258 nests St Abbs-Eyemouth (246 in 1982); Strathclyde, 689 sites Colonsay, 164 sites Tiree, 251 prs Arran, poor success continues in SW. Blue-phase birds: Shetland, 30 Sumburgh Hd 24 Oct, max 10 Fair Isle 29 Oct; Orkney, 8 singles Oct; West Isles, 6 Lewis 25 Aug; Grampian, 9 singles Jun; Borders, 4 singles 13 Jun-23 Nov; elsewhere Highland (1), Fife (2). Passage peaks: Shetland, 2500/hr Sumburgh Hd 30 Sep; Orkney, 6000W Brough of Birsay 7 Oct; Grampian, 2500/hr Peterhead 13 Jun; Dumf & Gall, 1050 Corsewall Pt 1 Sep. Inland: Highland, 1 Aberlour 10 Sep; Tayside, 1 off cliffs L Valigan, Atholl 24 Jul; Borders, 1 dead Tweedbank 28 Aug, 1 over Tweedbank 8 Sep; Strathclyde, 1 Kilmarnock 14 Apr.

***Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* Three: Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 17 Oct (AM, JV); Fife, 1 Fife Ness 24 Aug (RJB); Strathclyde, 1 Troon 2 Aug (BDK). Large shearwaters (Cory's/Great): Shetland, 2 off Fair Isle 13 Sep; Strathclyde, IN Troon 2 Aug, 1 Dunure 25 Aug, 2S Ardrossan 1 Sep.

***Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis* Highland, IN Noss Hd 15 Sep (MA, HC).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* Recorded 9 Jul-18 Nov, very low nos in S. Max counts/passage: Shetland, 1st on 9 Jul, 9 Sumburgh-Fair Isle 1 Oct; Orkney, 1 freshly dead Stromness 3 Jan was an unusual date, max 200W North Ronaldsay 26 Aug, 90W on 9 Sep; Highland, 4N Noss Hd 11 Aug, 4N Wick 18 Aug, last 1 Wick 18 Nov; a poor showing Grampian, Fife, Lothian: peaks 11N Peterhead 27 Aug, 17 Fife Ness 31 Oct; Borders, 29N Eyemouth 21 Sep; Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall, 5S between Mull & Coll 11 Sep, only 16 birds recorded in SW mainland, max 5S Corsewall Pt 1 Sep.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* Breeding: Shetland, 37 occupied burrows Lambhoga, Fetlar was only comment on breeding population. Counts/passage: Orkney, from 7 Apr, max 100 off Rackwick, Hoy 3 Jul; Highland, 107N Noss Hd 13 Jul, late singles Chanonry Pt 28, 29 Nov, 2 Dec; Grampian, max 134N Peterhead 7 Aug, last 1 Peterhead 3 Dec; Fife, max 498N in 4 hrs Fife Ness 13 Jul; Lothian, 400W in 2 hrs Hound Pt 14 Aug, 1 Aberlady 23 Nov; Strathclyde, summer peaks low in Clyde, 1000S in 1 hr Ardrossan 2 Aug, 2000 off Ailsa Craig 8 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 520S Corsewall Pt 1 Sep. Inland strandings included Highland, 1 Glen Affric 26 Jul, up to 10 individuals as far inland as Kingussie mid-late Sep; Grampian, 1 Aboyne Golf Course 23 Sep; Strathclyde, 1 Strathclyde Country Park 13 Sep. Balearic *mauretanicus*: Grampian, 1N Peterhead 8 Sep; Strathclyde, singles Ardrossan 24 Jun, Troon 10 Aug.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis Dumf & Gall, 1S Corsewall Pt 14 Sep (RHH, GM, PMCE). (see p.125)

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* Breeding: Shetland, back Fair Isle 28 May, 1st ashore 4 Jun, rather low nos Aug, last 1 on 1 Oct; Orkney, some nesting birds Auskerry found using old Rabbit burrows. Tape-luring: Highland, 647 ringed Noss Hd Jul-Aug, 120 tape-lured Strathy Pt Aug-Sep; Fife, 7 tape-lured I of May 1 Aug, 15 trapped Eden est-Fife Ness 17-20 Aug. Counts/passage: Orkney, 229E in 4 hrs North Ronaldsay 9 Sep, late singles Warbeth Beach 3 Nov, Shapinsay 2 Dec; Highland, 4 Chanonry Pt 12 Dec; Strathclyde, highest figures in Clyde during Aug, peaks 300N in 3 hrs Troon 6 Aug, 505N in 2¼ hrs on 25 Aug; Dumf & Gall, 1 L Ryan 10 Nov.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Counts/passage: Shetland, singles Sumburgh-Fair Isle 9 Jul, Fair Isle 11 Oct; Orkney, 1 on board MV St Magnus 18 Sep; Highland, 4 tape-lured Noss Hd 22 Jul-4 Aug, 3 tape-lured Strathy Pt 5 Aug, 12 Minch 23 Aug, 1N Wick 22 Nov; Grampian, singles S Peterhead 5 Nov, N on 7 Nov; Tayside, 1 R Tay, Port Allen 17 Sep; Strathclyde, 1 Ailsa Craig 29 Jun, 7S Turnberry Pt 15 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 8 Corsewall Pt 1 Sep, 36S on 14 Sep, 6S on 15 Sep, 2S on 5 Oct.

Gannet *Sula bassana* Breeding: Shetland, early fledging Noss where 1 fledged 14 Jul, increase of 2.4% in Noss monitoring sites, 138 nests and 900 non-breeders Fair Isle late Jun; West Isles, increase to 219 nests Flannan Isles, breeding probable, but not confirmed Shiant Isles; Lothian, still increasing Bass Rock; Strathclyde, 20,000 prs and 5000 non-breeders Ailsa Craig. Counts/passage: Orkney, 3500 in 1 hr Tor Ness, Hoy 20 Sep; Highland, 455N in 1 hr Noss Hd 26 Oct;

Grampian, 1270S Peterhead 25 May; Lothian, 400 Dalmeny 27 Aug; Borders, juv St Boswells 5 Nov; Strathclyde, 950 Troon-Ayr 8 Feb, singles Balloch 23 May, Endrick Mouth 25 May, 2000 Kingscross, Arran 21 Aug; Dumf & Gall, 5000S Corsewall Pt 14 Sep. Overland passage again seems likely from 2 following records: Lothian, 132W in 15 mins Cramond 9 Aug; Strathclyde, 188S in 1½ hrs passing down Clyde at Skelmorlie 9 Aug.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Breeding: Shetland, 392 nests counted in survey was increase on 1982, but decrease on 1975 figures; Orkney, aerial survey revealed 570 nests; Highland, 40 prs North Sutor 30 Apr; Lothian, 197 nests on 3 Forth islands Jun; Dumf & Gall, 128 nests Port o' Warren 12 May, 200 juvs on 17 Aug, 46 nests at 2 other sites. Counts/passage: Shetland, 182S Yell 13 Jan, main passage Fair Isle 2-28 Sep, max 50 on 22 Sep; Highland, 430 Beauly Firth 19 Dec; Grampian, 158 Strathbeg 19 Jan, 147 Girdle Ness 8 Dec; Tayside, 32 Perth tree roost 6 Jan, 120 L Leven 12 Dec; Fife, 200 Newport 26 Jan; Lothian, 132 Inchgarvie 12 Oct, 213NE in 45 mins Hound Pt 17 Nov; Strathclyde, 166 Ayr 3 Feb, high nos Clyde est, 545 on 10 Mar, 591 on 17 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 50 roosting L Ken 6 Jan.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Breeding: Shetland, significant increase since 1984 at Sumburgh Hd study area (456 nests), many early nests lost Fair Isle, but later nests very successful; Fife, 1524 nests 1 of May, low success due to poor weather, only 521 pulli ringed; Lothian, 488 nests on 4 Forth islands Jun; Borders, 268 nests St Abbs; Strathclyde, 165 nest Colonsay. Counts/passage: Shetland, 840 Bluemull 11 Jan, 959 on 8 Dec; Orkney, 800-1000 Burra Sound 14 Nov; Highland, 2000 Badbea-Ousdale 2 Jan, 800 Handa Sound late Aug; Grampian, max 2530N Peterhead 14 Dec; Tayside, 1 L Rannoch 27 Feb; Fife, 2000W Anstruther 3 Nov; Strathclyde, 500 Balnahard 24 Jan, singles Libberton 15 Feb, Erskine 29 Sep, Endrick Mouth 13 Oct.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris Five: Shetland, 1 Unifirth 17 Jan, later found dead Westerwick; Grampian, 1 L Spynie 24 Jan (JM); Borders, 1 Coldingham L 11-13 May, at Mire L 24 May (GLS, EJW); Strathclyde, 1 New Cumnock 29 Sep (WMcK); Dumf & Gall, 1 Hensol, L Ken 16 Dec (RH).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax Lothian, no counts Edinburgh Zoo colony, but total of 16 now colour-ringed.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba Shetland, 1 Burrafirth, Unst 6-7 Jun (DG, MS, IS et al), a differing individual North Nesting 25-26 Jun (DC, ISa); Highland, 1 Gills Bay, Caithness Dist 18-19 Jun (PMC et al) was probably the same as the 2nd Shetland bird.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Breeding: Orkney, min 4 nests with 4 fledged young seen Jul; Highland, 2 sites held 13 nests Caithness Dist, 2 other sites known, 3 sites held 22-24 nests Badenoch & Strathspey Dist, elsewhere in Region 44 sites held 163-171 nests; Grampian, 14 sites held 88 nests, but 8 sites unoccupied; Tayside, 2 sites held 21 nests; Lothian, min 26-28 nests recorded; Strathclyde/Central, 4 sites held 25 nests L Lomondside; Strathclyde, 12-14 nests Colonsay, 8 nests Coll, 4 nests Cowal, 3-4 nests Ascog, Bute, 54 nests Bothwell Br/Finlaystone, 78 nests in SW; Dumf & Gall, 5 sites held 45+ nests. Counts: Shetland, max 5 Fair Isle 11 Apr; Orkney, 27 Stromness Holms 1 Nov; Highland, 23 North Kessoock 8 Oct; Strathclyde, 27 Hunterston 4 Feb, 22 Quien L, Bute 28 Dec.

† **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* Grampian, 1 Strathbeg Jan-23 Mar; Lothian, singles Blackness 12-16 Jul, Tynninghame 26 Sep, Aberlady 26 Nov; Strathclyde, 1 Doonfoot 9 Jun. Flamingo sp also seen Tynninghame, Lothian 6 Mar.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* Breeding: Orkney, breeding recorded on 10 islands, 1st young Echnaloch 17 May; Highland, 3 prs reared 9 young Caith Dist, pr reared 2 young Fort Augustus; Grampian, poor success Dinnet where 3 broods lost within 1 week of hatching; Lothian, 25 prs reared 90-91 young; Borders, 16 prs reared 62 young; Strathclyde, 2 prs with 11 young Jura Jun, 2 prs with 11 young Tيرة Jun, 5 prs Bute, in C and SW 33 prs reared 102 young; Dumf & Gall, poor success, only 7 young from 2 broods L Ken. Counts: Shetland, juv Fair Isle 16-24 Oct was only 2nd record; Orkney, 281 Harray-Stenness Nov; Highland, 147 Cromarty Firth 27 Oct, 13 Dec; Grampian, 263 Strathbeg 1 Aug, 93 Ythan 1 Dec; Tayside, 172 L Leven 11 Sep, 223 Montrose Basin Oct; Borders, 92 Hirsell 28 Oct; Strathclyde, 73 Hogganfield L 1 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 71 Carlingwark L 15 Dec.

† **Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus* Tayside, 2 Carsebreck 22, 27 Dec may have been present for a month; Central, 1 L Ardinging 23 Feb; Strathclyde, 1 Dunure 16-17 Feb, 1 Endrick Mouth 25 Feb, 4 Jul, 2 from 27 Oct-19 Nov, 1 Black L, Cumnock 11-13 Jun.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus* Winter-spring: Shetland, 1 Spiggie 6-28 Apr; West Isles, 1 Benbecula 3-18 May; Fife, 2 L Gelly 13 Mar; Lothian, 15 Lochhouses-Tynninghame 26 Jan-20 Feb; Strathclyde, 2 Libberton 16 Feb, 7 Carnbroe 18 Feb. Autumn: Highland, 1 Shalmstry, Caithness Dist 18 Dec; Tayside, c15 L Leven 12 Dec, 27 on 15 Dec; Lothian, 5 Muirton-Aberlady 17-26 Dec, 3 Tynninghame 28 Dec; Strathclyde, 3 Stanely Res, Paisley 17-24 Nov.



Grey Herons. B. C. Forrester

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* 2 feral prs Endrick Mouth, Strathclyde, pr reared 1 young. Summering birds: Shetland (3-4), Orkney (1-2), West Isles (2), Highland (1), Grampian (1), Tayside (1-2), Fife (1), Lothian (2 — 1 died), Strathclyde (1), Dumf & Gall (2-4). Winter-spring: Shetland, 109 Dunrossness 1 Jan; Orkney, last 6 L of Stenness 22 May; Highland, 55 Nairn 3 Jan, 84 Insh Marshes Jan, 79 Tarradale 28 Feb; Grampian, 103 Strathbeg 5 Mar; Lothian, 45 Tynninghame Jan; Borders, 89 Teviot Haugh 10 Mar, 90 Tweed Haugh 30 Mar; Strathclyde, 99 Georgetown 19 Jan; Dumf & Gall, 51 Creetown Jan-Feb, 80 L Ken Feb-Mar; dep generally around late Mar-mid Apr in S, mid Apr onwards in N. Autumn: arrival from 21 Sep in N, up to 2 weeks later than normal in S, early-mid Nov; Shetland, max 327 Spiggie 30 Oct, count on 10 Nov gave 297 birds, 33.7% juvs, and mbs 2.7; Orkney, 264 Sandwick 23 Nov, count of 1629 birds gave 22.9% juvs; Highland, 4 Sandside Bay 21 Sep, 220 Tarradale 16 Nov, 13 Dec, 405 Delny 19 Nov, 122 Hallum 14 Dec, 151 Insh 26 Dec; Grampian, 508 Strathbeg 6 Nov; Tayside, 162 L Leven 17 Nov; Central, 140 Thornhill 26 Dec; Lothian, 100 Aberlady-East Fenton Dec, 85 Tynninghame Dec; Borders, 106 Hirsell 15 Dec, 232 Teviot Haugh 22 Dec; Strathclyde, 220 Stanely Res 15 Nov, 99 Tيرة 23 Nov, 140 Cranley Moss late Nov; Dumf & Gall, 92 L Connell 24 Nov.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* Winter: Strathclyde, 3 Libberton 20 Feb; Strathclyde/Central, 108 Carron Valley Res 27 Feb; Lothian, 4 Tynninghame-Lochhouses 22 Jan-3 Feb, 1 West Fortune 11, 16 Feb; Tayside, 8 Balgedie, Kinross 7 Feb; Grampian, 2 Strathbeg 23 Jan, 3 Ladymire 17 Feb, 2 Rattray 6 Mar, 1 Lossiemouth-Findhorn Bay Mar; Shetland, 1 Whalsay 10-27 Mar. Autumn: West Isles, 6 near Stornoway 22 Oct; Fife, 4 Cameron Res 12 Dec; Central, 12 Skinflats 27 Nov; Strathclyde/Central, 58 Carron Valley Res 26 Sep; Strathclyde, 2 L Skerrols, Islay 18 Oct.

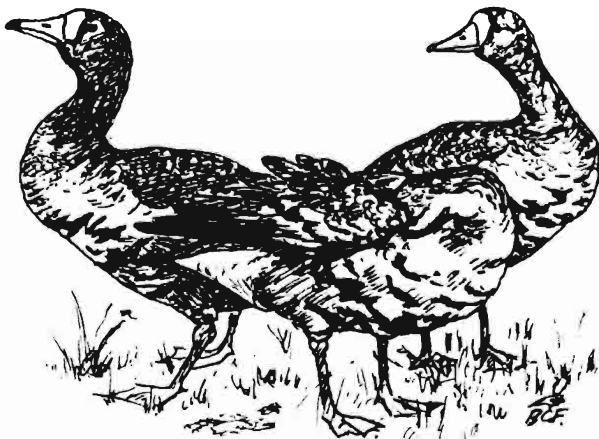
Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* Winter-spring: Highland, 3500 Beauly Firth 10 Mar, 3800 Ealthe 13 Apr, 6000 Nigg Bay 17 Apr, 1568 over Handa 17 Apr, passage N Caithness Dist 4-5 May; Grampian, 10,900 Meikle 17 Feb, 12,800 Slains-Ythan 21 Apr; Tayside, 12,670 L Leven 16 Mar, 2500 Carsebreck 24 Apr; Central, 5750 Kippen-Stirling 16 Mar, 2500 Carsebreck 24 Apr; Central, 5750 Kippen-Stirling 16 Mar; Lothian, 4340 Aberlady Jan; Borders, 8500 West Water 20 Apr; Strathclyde, passage Tobermory, Mull 18-19 Apr; Dumf & Gall, 12,200 Wigtown Dist 17 Mar, 6950 Lochmaben 17 Mar. Summer: Highland (3), Grampian (9), Lothian (1).

Autumn national count 16-17 Nov 108, 870 (UK total 128,000) is a new record for the species. Autumn arrival was early, and the abundant grain spill from a poor harvest held many large flocks into 1986. Autumn counts: Shetland, from 14 Sep Fair Isle and Fetlar, max 104S Fair Isle 19 Sep; Orkney, also from 14 Sep North Ronaldsay, 80 on 8 Oct; Highland, 2 Wick 8 Sep; Grampian, 43 Strathbeg 9 Sep, 16,100 on 30 Sep, 27,900 on 14 Oct, 15,300 Meikle 19 Oct — highest totals ever; Tayside, 13-14,000 at main roost Nov, 12,000 Montrose Basin Nov, 8000 L Leven 12 Dec; Fife, 8000 Cameron Res 17 Nov, 16 Dec; Lothian, 70 Musselburgh 7 Sep, 8350 Fala 12 Oct, 12,500 Aberlady 25 Nov — record count; 7000 Gladhouse 8 Dec; Borders, 43 Reston 26 Aug, then from 8 Sep, 17,900 West Water 27 Oct, 12,000 Hoselaw 3 Dec, 10,000+ West Linton 24 Dec; Strathclyde, 8000 Libberton 17 Nov.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* Winter-spring: Dumf & Gall, 486 West Freugh-Lochinch Jan, 250-280 L Ken Jan-Feb, last 70 on 21 Apr; Strathclyde, 306 Coll Feb, 66 Colonsay Mar, 750 Tiree Mar, 4198 Islay Mar; Grampian, 25 Rattray

2 Feb, 24 Lossiemouth 24 Feb; Highland, 200 Broubster 5 Feb, 106 L Heilen-L of Mey 14 Apr, 200N Reay 5 May; Orkney, 52 West Mainland 12 Jan; Shetland, 22 Fair Isle 19 Apr. Autumn: Orkney, 49 West Mainland 23 Nov; Highland, 19S Ackergill 18 Sep, 102 Broubster 5 Dec; Grampian, 8-10 Lossiemouth-L Spynie 23 Nov-24 Dec; Borders, 1 Leadburn 24 Sep; Strathclyde, good breeding success due to early spring in Greenland, 28-30% young in Islay flocks, 6393 Islay Nov, 1442 Rhunahaorine-Machrihanish Nov, 708 Tiree Nov, 548 Coll Nov, 300+ Endrick Mouth 21 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 28 L Ken 8 Oct, 275 in Nov, 530 West Freugh-Lochinch Nov. Eurasian *albifrons*: more than usual, Shetland, 7 Muness-Uyeasound 12 Jan-3 Mar; Highland, 2 Dale 12 Jan, 1 Gollanfield 27 Jan, 1 Charleston 10 Feb; Grampian, peaks 28 Slains 2 Mar, 70 Rattray-St Fergus 2 Mar, 5 Strathbeg 20 Nov, 8 Dec; Tayside, 1 Tibbermore 6 Jan, 1 Oct; Lothian, max 30 Lochhouses 9 Feb; Borders, 1 Eyemouth 22 Feb.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* Breeding: Shetland, pr bred Unst — 1st proven record; Orkney, pr reared 3 young West Mainland; Highland, 3-4 feral prs bred Insh Marshes; Lothian, 7 broods reported from feral population; Dumf & Gall, very few young from feral population, 250 birds L Ken Aug. Winter-spring: Orkney, 984 Harray-Skaill 17 Mar; Highland, 1950 Caithness Dist 17 Mar, passage 1528N Handa 7-21 Apr, 2500 Bonar Bridge 21 Apr; Grampian, 3170 L Spynie 17 Feb, 23,690 in NE 16-17 Mar — highest ever spring count; Tayside, passage N Killiecrankie 7-22 Apr, 1500 Meikleour 13 Apr; Central, 1600 Gargunock 17 Mar; Borders, 1127 Hoselaw-Graden 10 Mar; Strathclyde, 2-3000 Bute Jan, 2000 Endrick Mouth 12-14 Apr; Dumf & Gall, 2000 Greenlaw 23-26 Jan, 3000 Cree est 3 Mar.



Greenland White-fronted Geese. B. C. Forrester

Autumn national count 16-17 Nov 101,710 (UK total 107,000) is a new record for this species also. Autumn counts: Shetland, max 300 Fair Isle 30 Oct; Orkney, 7 The Loons 14 Sep, 630 in Orkney 16-17 Nov; Highland, 10,000 L Eye 15 Oct, 3000 L Heilen 22 Nov, 5500 Tarradale 22 Dec; Grampian, 29,160 in NE 17 Nov, 19,900 Davan-Kinord 25 Nov; Tayside, max 8-10,000 Meikleour 15 Dec; Fife, 2400 Newburgh 25 Nov; Lothian, 1200 Harperrig 18 Nov; Borders, 12 Hule Moss 13 Sep, 6350 Dowlaw 13 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 2500 Lochinch 15 Oct-end Dec, 3400 Threave 27 Dec.

* **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus* Shetland, 2 Scatness 21 May; Grampian, singles Ythan all year, Strathbeg 27 Oct; Tayside, singles Tibbermore 19 Nov, Dunning 7, 8 Dec; Lothian, 1 Aberlady-Dirlerton 5-18 Feb, 25 Sep-30 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 1 West Freugh 3 Feb.

* **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens* Breeding: no new information apart from 51 Breachacha, Coll 21 Nov, inc 8 juvs. Others: Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 21 May-12 Jul, 2 L of Tankerness 3 Sep; Highland, 1 Meikle Ferry-Skibo late Jan-Feb, ad *Greater Admore-L Eye* 22 Feb-2 Apr, blue phase Achavrole, Caithness Dist 24 Apr, ad *Greater Nigg* 19-21 Nov, 1 L Heilen 6-24 Dec; Grampian, singles Strathbeg Jan-8 Mar, 10 Feb-8 Mar, Slains 17 Feb-24 Mar, 29 Sep-10 Nov, Strathbeg 29 Sep-5 Nov, 2 from 12 Oct-3 Nov, 1 L Spynie-Findhorn 6 Nov-19 Dec; Tayside, singles L of Lowes 4 Feb, Tibbermore 4 Feb, L Leven 8-30 Apr, Careston 21 Dec; Lothian, ad *Greater Aberlady-Lochhouses* 18 Jan-3 Feb, imm West Fortune-Aberlady 2 Feb-16 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 5 L Ken late Aug, 1-2 Lochinch 15 Oct-end Dec, 4 on 29 Oct.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* Breeding: Borders, pr Bemersyde Jun, 35 Mellerstain Jun; Strathclyde, many prs attempted breeding Colonsay but high egg predation, max 42 Barcraigs/Rowbank Res Jul; Dumf & Gall, prs bred Lochmaben, Dalswinton, Morton, max 69 Lochinch Dec. English moult migration: Highlands, peak 612 Beaully Firth 26 Jun, 552 on 9 Aug but most gone by end Aug. Counts/passage (mostly in association with moult migration): Shetland, 1 Eshaness 1-2 May; Orkney, 17 Firth 24 May; Highland, 2 Ardgay 15 Oct-15 Dec; Grampian, 6 Strathbeg 18 Dec; Tayside, 50 L Leven 21 Jul; Central, 15 Gartmorn 2 June; Fife, 35NE Anstruther 9 Jun; Lothian, few, 25N Tynninghame 25 Mar, 25SE on 25 Jun; Borders, 35N Bowhill 7 Jun; Strathclyde, 1 *hutchinsii* Islay Jan-end Apr, 21 Oct-end Dec, 13 Endrick Mouth 28 Jul-end Dec.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* Solway flock: 10,500 in winter 1984/85, 10,400 in autumn; Strathclyde, Islay flock peaked at 18,311 on 28 Mar, 17,500 in autumn with rise to 18-19,000 in Dec (possible count error), 4-500 Danna, mid-

Argyll 18 Feb, 325 Colonsay early Mar, 5 Rhu-na-ha-orine Nov may be start of new flock; Highland, 556 Eilean Hoan 14 Jan; Orkney, 800+ Scapa Flow 20 Feb. Counts/passage: apart from some very early birds, main arrival from 26 Sep-8 Oct; Shetland, 24 Whalsay 7 May, 1 Fetlar 7 Jul, max 31 Fair Isle 8 Oct; Orkney, 2 Papa Westray 10 Jun; Highland, 1 Tarradale 5 Jun; Grampian, 3 Strathbeg 1 Jun, passage 1105 Strathbeg-Ythan 28 Sep, 4 Lossiemouth 13-end Dec; Tayside, 15 Errol 7 Sep, 60S Arbroath 9 Sep, Fife, 30 Cameron Res 13 Oct; Lothian, 60SW Musselburgh 7 Oct, 250 Aberlady 13 Oct, large nos remained in area to feed with Pink-feet, still 42 on 3 Dec; Borders, 10SW Hawick 26 Sep; Strathclyde, 86SW Ayr 29 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 1 L Ken 21 Sep.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* D=dark-bellied *B b bernicla*, P=pale-bellied *B b hrota*. Peak counts/passage: more than usual; Shetland, 1D Fair Isle Jan was only 2nd record of this race, 6D Virkie 12-15 Sep; Orkney, 27P Holm 20 Apr, 47P L of Skail 23 Apr, 24P Birsay 21 Oct; Highland, 6P Embo 19 Jan-7 Feb; Grampian, 9D Inverugie 2 Mar, 25S Peterhead 4 Mar, 12 Findhorn 10 Oct; Tayside, 16P Lunan Bay 5 Oct; Central, 1 L Venachar 13 Oct; Fife, 16P Eden est 10 Mar; Lothian, 10P Dunbar 5 Jan, 1D Aberlady 4 Jul; Borders, 1D Wark 17 Feb; Strathclyde, 300P Coll 16 Apr, 125P over Doonfoot 21-23 Sep, passage of 550 Islay Oct; Dumf & Gall, 71P L Ryan 1 Oct.

* **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* Highland, 3 Inver-Morrish More 7-15 Sep; Lothian/Borders, 2 Aberlady 5, 6, 10 Oct, at Hoselaw 3 Nov, 3 Dec.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* Breeding: 1st young South Ronaldsay 23 May; Highland, 14+ broods totalled 94 young L Fleet, fewer young inner Beaully Firth; Lothian, 50 young Dalmeny 3 Jul, 89 young Aberlady 6 Jul; Borders, pr reared 1 young Dunglass — 1st breeding record; Strathclyde, 32 prs Arran where 8 prs reared 71 young, good season in SW, 82 young Bogside 8 Jul; Dumf & Gall, 2 prs bred Lochmaben. Counts/passage: Shetland, 38 Pool of Virkie 26 Apr, excellent spring Fair Isle, max 3 on 7 May; Orkney, 54 Widewall, South Ronaldsay 20 Jun; Highland, 221 Inverness Firth 7 Dec, 433 Cromarty Firth 13 Dec; Grampian, 75 Ythan 17 Mar, 250 Findhorn 14 May; Central, 1780 Grangemouth 21 Aug; Fife, 1200 Eden est 23 Mar; Lothian, 132 Aberlady Mar; Strathclyde, 209 Hunterston 10 Feb, 73 Lochdon, Mull 17 Feb, 363 Clyde est 10 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 252 Cree est 13 Jan.

* **Mandarin Aix** *galericulata* Tayside, no change suggested, max 49 Perth 5 Jan. Elsewhere: Shetland, 2 ♂ Norwick 14 Apr; Orkney, 2 ♂ Papa Westray 6-8 Apr; Highland, pr plus ♂ Tomich-Cannich area Jun, ♂ L Garten 23-25 Oct; Lothian, ♂ Tynninghame 2 May-23 Jun; Borders, 2 prs Reston, no evidence of breeding.

Wigeon *Anas penelope* Breeding: Shetland, only proven Sandwater where B/6 on 30 Jun; Orkney, up to 6 prs bred at 4 sites; Highland, 1st young Lochindorb 11 Jun; Grampian, bred at 2 sites mid Deeside; Central, B/6 at one site 25 Jun; Borders, up to 10-12 prs recorded at 4 sites, 2 broods totalled 7 young at one site 1 Jul; Dumf & Gall, pr with small young L Ken 19 May. Counts/passage: Shetland, low nos in autumn Fair Isle, max 17 on 30 Oct; Orkney, 1802 Harray-Tankerness Nov; Highland, 1200 Alturlie Pt 2 Feb, 18,897 Cromarty/Inverness/Beaulie Firths 27 Oct, 3100 Dornoch-L Fleet 13 Dec; Grampian, 1500 L Spynie 15 Dec, low nos Strathbeg, max 450 on 18 Dec; Tayside, 4500 Montrose Basin Nov, 1200 L Leven 12 Dec; Fife, 1147 Eden est 19 Feb; Lothian, 1090 Aberlady 26 Nov; Strathclyde, 1100 Bute 13 Jan.

American Wigeon *Anas americana Strathclyde, ♂ Endrick Mouth 19 May (GJB).

Gadwall *Anas strepera* Breeding: Tayside, 45 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀ L Leven 20 Jun, 3 prs Kinnordy, 2 prs successful; Fife, 4 prs Kilconquhar L 18 Jun. Peak counts: Shetland, pr Spiggie 1 Jan, singles on 25 Mar, 1 Nov, 1 Norby 22 Nov; Orkney, max 31 North Ronaldsay Oct; Grampian, ♂ Spynie Canal 17-19 Apr, 11 records of 17 birds Rattray-Ythan area; Tayside, 195 L Leven 11 Sep, 46 Dunning 17 Nov; Lothian, 6 Lochcote 27 Oct; Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall, no more than 2 birds at any location, but peaks in Apr (7 birds) and Oct (5 birds).

Teal *Anas crecca* Breeding: Orkney, bred at c6 sites, 3 broods noted; Borders, 4 broods totalled 17 young, 8 other broods noted; Dumf & Gall, 10 prs bred Wood of Cree. Counts/passage: Shetland, 32 Scatness 16 Jan; Orkney, 303 Papa Westray 18 Oct; Highland, 998 Cromarty Firth 27 Oct; Grampian, very low nos Slains-Strathbeg, 950 Strathbeg 6 Dec, 500 L Spynie 15 Dec; Tayside, 1000 Duns Dish 10 Sep, 970 L Leven 17 Nov; Central, 2335 Kinneil 20 Jan; Strathclyde, 650 Kirk Dam, Bute 15 Oct, 530 Biggar floods 28 Oct. Nearctic *carolinensis*: Orkney, ♂ L of Isbister 8 Jan (ERM); West Isles, ♂ near L Portain, North Uist 2-12 Apr (SJ & MrsJAR); Tayside, ♂ near Williamston, Madderty 12-18 Apr (EJM).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Breeding: Shetland, 1st young Lerwick 19 May; Tayside, 35 prs reared min 38 young Kinnordy; Borders, sample 37 prs produced 26 broods totalling min 104 juvs; Strathclyde, 22 prs reared 99 young at 10 sites in SW. Counts: Shetland, 77 Clickimin Sep; Orkney, 224 Houton-Ireland 11 Jan; Highland, 3864 Cromarty/Inverness/Beaulie Firths 27 Oct, 477 L Watten 17 Nov; Grampian, 1170 Burghaed Bay 13 Dec, 2950 Strathbeg 18 Dec; Tayside, 1733 L Leven 11 Sep; Lothian, 1000+ Linlithgow 29 Dec; Strathclyde, 1300 Doonfoot 26 Nov.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes Lothian, ♀ Tynninghame 9 Feb-23 May, 20 Jul, 31 Aug, paired with Mallard (AB, AJC, PRG et al).

Pintail *Anas acuta* Breeding: Orkney, 3 nests at one site, 3-4 prs noted at 2 other sites; Strathclyde, single prs bred at 2 sites Argyll. Counts/passage: Shetland, 3 singles Fair Isle 20, 28 May, 6 Jun, 1 on 23 Oct; Orkney, max 13 in Mar; Highland, 151 Lentrans 3 Mar, 25 Dornoch 14 Sep, 300 Nigg 15 Dec; Grampian, 21 Strathbeg 8 Oct; Tayside, 44 Montrose Basin Mar, 60 L Leven 17 Nov; Central, 72 Skinflats 22 Feb; Fife, 25 St Andrews 5 Jan; Lothian, 25 Musselburgh 8 Oct; Strathclyde, 18 Langbank 10 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 30 Threave Jan, Dec, 95 L Ken 28 Mar.

Garganey *Anas querquedula Only 8 in spring: Shetland, ♂ Hillwell 17-18 May, ♂ Spiggie 17 May, ♂ Sandwater 25 May, pr Skerries 1-3 Jun; Orkney, ♂ North Ronaldsay 25 May; West Isles, ♂ Benbecula 19 May; Grampian, ♂ Strathbeg 29 May. Autumn: Tayside, pr L Leven 7 Jul; Fife, 1 Eden est 16-17 Aug.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Breeding: Shetland, pr bred Hillwell where 10 large young 28 Jul; Orkney, min 12 prs at 8 sites, 1st young 24 May; Highland, 3 prs bred Insh Marshes; Grampian, B/6 Crimond 17 Jun, probably bred Rattray; Tayside, 15-20 young fledged Kinnordy; Strathclyde, pr bred Tiree, 5 prs Lochwinnoch, 3 prs New Cumnock had good success. Counts: Shetland, pr Fair Isle 1-3 Jun; Orkney, 77 Papa Westray 18 Oct; Grampian, 30 Strathbeg 14 Oct; Tayside, 102 Kinnordy 25 Sep, 350 Perth 26 Oct, 500 on 15 Nov; Borders, 103 Hirsell 17 Oct; Strathclyde, 25 Strathclyde Country Park 13 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 20 L Ken 18 Mar.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina Five: Orkney, ♀ L of Harray 14 Mar, 24 Nov; West Isles, ♂ Lewis 13 May — 1st record; Highland, ♂ L Borralie 26 May, at L Croispol 27 May; Grampian, ♀ Strathbeg 9 Aug, ♀ L Spynie 29 Oct.

Pochard *Aythya ferina* Breeding: Grampian, B/4 Sand L, Newburgh 9 Jun, all perished; Tayside, 4 broods Kinnordy, 9 young fledged; Borders, B/6 Bemersyde 6 Jun. Counts: Shetland, 146 Brow 23 Nov; Orkney, 1937 L of Boardhouse 12 Jan, 1549 L of Harray 13 Nov; Grampian, only 550 Strathbeg 27 Oct; Tayside, 280 L Leven 17 Nov; Fife, 400 Leven 10 Feb; Lothian, 500 Leith docks 28 Jan, 350 on 30 Dec; Strathclyde, 186 Luss-Balloch, L Lomond 20 Jan, 185 Glenbuck L Feb; Dumf & Gall, 170 L Ken Feb.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris Four: Shetland, ♂ L of Norby at least 7 Jul (CH et al); Highland, ♂ Insh Marshes Jan, at Inverness Firth 5-11 Feb (LGRE, SJA et al); Strathclyde, ♂ Martnaham L, Ayr 9 Mar, at Kerse L 10 Mar (IHL, RHH, WMCK); Dumf & Gall, ♂ Milton L 18 at least 26 Apr (DMH et al).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Breeding: Orkney, 10 prs bred at 8 sites; Highland, 17 broods totalled 68 young Insh Marshes 19 Jul; Grampian, 8 broods totalled 43 young Skene/Forvie; Tayside, 21 broods totalled 98 young Kinnordy, only 23 fledged; Lothian, poor success due to bad weather and Mink; Borders, 37 broods totalled 127 young; Strathclyde, 11 prs Inverclyde Dist, 6 prs reared 25 young at 2 sites in SW. Counts: Shetland, 123 Spiggie/Brow 30 Jan; Orkney, 1447 L of Harray 13 Nov; Highland, 1346 Ness Mouth 15 Feb, 641 Invergordon 22 Feb; Grampian, very low max 550 Strathbeg 16 Sep; Tayside, 3310 L Leven 11 Sep; Fife, 3 I of May 19-30 May; Lothian, 1000 Leith docks 29 Jan, 14 Feb, 500-600 on 30 Dec, 425 Linlithgow 3 Nov; Strathclyde, 580 Milngavie Resrs 15 Feb, 460 Lochwinnoch 4 Aug, 270 Martnaham L, Ayr 31 Aug, 339 Strathclyde Country Park 29 Dec.

Scaup *Aythya marila* Summer: Shetland (1), Orkney (7), Highland (1), Grampian (9), Lothian (13), Strathclyde (8-12), Dumf & Gall (1). Counts: Orkney, 113 L of Harray 13 Nov; Highland, 138 Dornoch Firth 4 Mar, 301 Edderton 2 Apr; Fife, 1100 Leven 10 Feb, 200 St Andrews 27 Nov; Lothian, increase in S Forth, 75 Seafield-Eastfield 27 Jan, 80 Leith docks 28 Jan, 20N Barns Ness 29 Sep; Strathclyde, 174 Langbank 3 Jan, 262 Stevenston 12 Feb, arrival of 5 Islay 18 Aug, 811 in Nov; Dumf & Gall, 1400 Carsethorn 24 Sep, 250+ L Ryan 7 Dec.

Eider *Somateria mollissima* Breeding: Shetland, 1st young Lerwick 23 May; Highland, 20+ broods Handa, 13 broods totalled 60 young L Fleet; Grampian, a very poor year Forvie, spring max only 3736 birds, only 200 ♀♀ attempted to nest, small clutches averaged only 3.0 eggs, only c15 fledged perhaps due to poor weather and increased Fox activity; Lothian, 390 nests on 5 Forth islands, 83 nests Aberlady, 143 young South Queensferry-Cramond 16 Jun; Strathclyde, 130 young Ardrossan-Irvine Jun, 48 young Lunderston Bay-Wemyss Bay 15 Jun. Counts: Shetland, 1800 Sumburgh end Jun, max 830 Fair Isle 30 Sep; Highland, 900 L Fleet 24 Apr; Grampian, 5300 Blackdog 21 Aug, 1200 Rattray 20 Oct; Tayside, 1515 Montrose Basin Nov; Fife, 1100 I of May 17 May, 5000 Tentsmuir Dec; Lothian, 2060 Gosford Jul, 1566 Aberlady-Gullane Jul; Strathclyde, low nos, 2360 Clyde est 15 Sep.

***King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* Shetland, ♀ Lerwick 13-28 Apr (DC et al), ♂ Fair Isle 22-25 May (CDRH, KBS); Highland, ♂ Embo 3 Jan-16 Feb (GNM, RP et al), ♂ L Fleet 3 Mar-10 May, 2 ♂♂ from 7 Apr-10 May (PA, JFB, SJC et al), ♂ 7-29 Aug (per ARM), ♂ Golspie 1 Jun (PAW et al) presumed to be one of above; Strathclyde, ♂ Skelmorlie from 10 Dec 1984-13 Jan (RMS).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* Summer: Shetland (1-2), Orkney (up to 17), Highland (2), Grampian (2), Lothian (1), Strathclyde (1). Counts: Shetland, 631 Bluemull 11 Jan, 613 on 8 Dec; Orkney, max 400 Fourth Barrier 28 Apr, main influx from 3 Oct; West Isles, 1000+ Broadbay, Lewis 9 Dec; Highland, 5270 Brora 17 Feb, 600 L Fleet 28 Apr, 608 Kessock Bridge 7 Dec; Grampian, 450N Peterhead 1 Jan, 4673 Burghhead Bay 27 Feb; Fife, 128 Kinshaldy 19 Jan; Lothian, 160 Seafield-Eastfield 17 Feb, 1 Tynninghame 15 Sep; Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall, 1-2 at usual sites, but 6 L Ryan 6 Apr, 7 Dec, 6 Bogside 27 Dec.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* Breeding: Shetland, no proven breeding although 1-6 birds at 11 sites till 28 Jun; Highland, 2 prs at one site 30 May, B/5 on 30 Jul, 14 prs possibly bred in NE, 4 other sites held up to 9 birds 25 May-25 Jul; Tayside, bred usual site, B/9 early Jul, down to B/6 on 11 Jul; Strathclyde, 12 birds present at 3 sites May, 4 prs and 2 ♀♀ L Lomond 22 May. Counts: Shetland, 45 Ronas Voe 12 May; Highland, 232 Embo-Dornoch 7 Mar; Grampian, 2500 Spey Bay 4 Jan, 3000 Blackdog 9 Jul; Tayside, 275 Lunan Bay Oct; Fife, 2500 St Andrews 10 Feb, 1000 Largo Bay 18 May; Lothian, 600 near Ffdr 20 May, 649 Aberlady-Gullane Nov, 300W Hound Pt 16 Nov; Strathclyde, 70 Ballochroy, Kintyre 18 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 700 Balcary Pt-Rascarrel Pt 27 Jul.

***Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* Highland, ♂ Glenelg 10 Jun (Mrs IC, JEM); Grampian, ♂ Spey Bay 4 Jan, ♂ and ♀ on 2 Feb (SJD, RJS, JY, RHH et al); Fife, ♂ St Andrews 4-20 Jan (PIH, RC, JG); Lothian, ♂ Gosford Bay 21-22 Mar (AB, TS et al) was thought to be Fife bird.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* Counts: Orkney, 11 Echnaloch Bay 3 Mar; Highland, 20 Ackergill 2 Feb, 100+ Embo 18 Oct; Grampian, 800 Spey Bay 4 Jan, 155 Blackdog 21 Aug, 580 Burghhead Bay Oct; Fife, 1800 St Andrews 4 Jan; Lothian, 235 Gosford Apr; Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall, 16 birds recorded, 5 in Feb, 5 in Nov.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Breeding: eggs laid in 66 nests, 336 hatched from 49 clutches, fledging success lower than 1984. Summer: Grampian, 57 Strathbeg 11 Jul, 52 on 23 Aug; usual scatter of summer records elsewhere. Counts: Shetland, 60 Uyeasound Nov; Orkney, 258 L of Stennes 19 Dec; Highland, 150 Dunnet 12 Feb; Grampian, 370 Girdle Ness 26 Jan, 173 Strathbeg 27 Oct, 232 Girdle Ness 8, 10 Dec; Tayside, 233 Balmossie-Monifieth 9 Mar; Fife, 800 Leven 10 Feb; Lothian, 350 Seafield-Eastfield 27 Jan; Borders, 118 Tweed Haugh 13 Jan; Strathclyde, 508 Ayr-Troon 13 Jan, 359 Clyde est 10 Feb, 425 Ayr-Irvine 17 Nov; Dumf & Gall, low nos, 76 Carlingwark L 15 Dec.

Smew *Mergus albellus* Winter-spring; large influx in Feb, especially in N Scotland. Min 61-68 birds, summary:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Shetland-Highland	9	9	8	1	1
Grampian-Fife	12	24	13		
Lothian-Borders	5	3	3		
Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall	5	12	1	2	1

24 in autumn, redheads unless stated: Orkney, singles L of Boardhouse 19 Oct, L of Stenness 30-31 Dec; Grampian, singles Strathbeg 27 Oct, 17 Nov, 18 Dec, Fyvie 3 Nov, Inverugie 30 Dec; Tayside, singles L Leven 6-19 Nov, Dunalastair Res 16 Nov, Monikie 1-31 Dec, ♂ Montrose Basin 2 Dec, 1 Perth 16 Dec; Central, 1 Grangemouth 3 Nov; Fife, 1 Cameron Res 17-20 Nov; Lothian, 1 Rosebery 30 Nov; Borders, ♂ Kelso 22 Dec; Strathclyde, 1 Langbank 27 Oct, 2 L Croot, Dalrymple 16-24 Nov — 1 at Doonfoot till 28 Dec, ♂ Kelvin Mouth 19 Nov-13 Dec, 1 L Indaal, Islay 20 Nov-end Dec, ♂ Strathclyde Country Park 1-31 Dec, 1 Endrick Mouth 3, 23 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 1 Lochmaben 31 Oct. A Smew x Goldeneye ♂ hybrid was present at Ness Mouth, Highland 26 Jan-15 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Breeding: Shetland, 1st breeding Fetlar since 1977; Orkney, bred 9 sites, 1st young Echnaloch 28 Jun; Highland, 6 broods totalled 40 young L Fleet; Strathclyde, 8 broods totalled 32 young Arran. Counts: Shetland, 72 Sullom Voe 13 Jan; Orkney, 82 Echnaloch Bay 27 Aug; Highland, 1573 Inverness Firth 27 Oct, 1400 Ealthe 8 Nov; Tayside, 200 Lunan Bay 5 Oct; Fife, 1050 Kinshaldy 13 Oct; Lothian, 281 Gosford Aug; Strathclyde, 102 Turnberry Bay 11 May, 102 L na Keal, Mull 12 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 280 L Ryan 8 Sep.

Goosander *Mergus merganser* Breeding: Lothian, ♀ B/5 R Esk 28 Jul — 1st breeding record for Region; Borders, 4 broods totalled 32 young; Dumf & Gall, 7 broods totalled 56-57 young. Counts: Shetland, 5 Spiggie 19 Jan; Highland, 1700 Beaulie Firth 13 Dec; Grampian, 197 Skene 2 Feb, 74 Ythan 12 May; Tayside, 90 L of Balloch, Crieff 3 Jan; Borders, 76 C Borders roost 4 Jan, 106 Portmore 5 Jan, 109 Tweed Haugh 13 Jan; Strathclyde, 88 Strathclyde Country Park 19 Jan, 80 Hillend Res 3 Mar, 75 Harelaw Dam, Neilston 3 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 141 Lochmaben mid Feb.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* Breeding: Grampian, pr bred Cotehill, Newburgh, B/4 on 15 Sep, juv Sand L till 17 Nov; Tayside, 2 prs hatched young Kinnordy, none fledged. Elsewhere: Tayside/Fife, 1-2 from 7 Apr-13 Oct, max 3 Kilconquhar L 4 Aug; Lothian, ♀ Duddingston L 23 Jun; Strathclyde, 4 singles 3 May-9 Oct, ♀ L na Beiste, Clachan 15 May was 1st for Argyll; Dumf & Gall, ♂ Mochrum L 18, 20 Sep.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* Shetland, singles Fetlar 29 May, Westing 31 May, Baltasound 31 Aug, Fair Isle 2 Sep; Highland, 1S Thurso Bay 16 Oct; Lothian, 1S Tynninghame 1 Sep.

***Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* Strathclyde, 1 L Gruinart, Islay 30 Nov-1 Dec (GJ, LS).

***White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* 4 prs nested, 1 pr reared 1 young from 2 hatched (1st successfully fledged young this century). 10 juvs released Rhum, Highland bringing total released to 82. Wandering birds: Highland, Spey Dam early Oct, Insh Marshes 12 Oct-12 Nov, Alturlie Pt 19 Oct, Braham 10 Nov; Strathclyde, imm Endrick Mouth 28-29 Nov, 3 Dec.



Ruddy Ducks. B. C. Forrester

***Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* About 16-17 birds, ♀♀ immatures unless stated: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 31 May; Orkney, 1 Papa Westray 30 May; Grampian, 2 Strathbeg 12 May, singles Ythan 12 May, L Spynie 28 May, Strathbeg 29 May, Findhorn Bay Jul, Strathbeg 14 Aug, Roseisle 28 Aug; Tayside, 1 Duns Dish 4 Jun, 2 on 8 Jun, imm ♀ Montrose Basin 16-25 Aug, 1 from 18-20 Aug; Fife, imm Lochore 28 Sep; Lothian, 1 Gladhouse 13 Aug; Dumf & Gall, 1 L Ken 3 Nov.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* Breeding: Orkney, 22 nests found, 15 successful, 24+ young reared from 12 nests West Mainland; Highland, low success continues Caithness Dist: Borders, slow increase, 2 prs successful; Strathclyde, 6 prs bred L Gruinart, Islay, 5+ prs Mull, min 5 prs Arran, 3 prs failed; Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall, 20 territories located, poor success due to bad weather. Migrants: Shetland, 12 singles 5 Jan-15 Oct; Fife, 2 singles 1 of May 5, 11 Oct.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* Breeding: pr reared 3 young N Scotland; single prs at suitable sites Borders, Strathclyde, Dumf & Gall. Elsewhere: Shetland, ♀ Baltasound 25 Oct; Orkney, ♀ Hoy Lodge 18 May; Fife, ♀ East Lomond 6 Jun; Lothian, 1 Hopes 4 Apr; Strathclyde, 7 singles Mull-Islay 10 Feb-19 Dec.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Breeding: Orkney, 2 prs nested, pr lost eggs before hatching; Grampian, 14 prs reared average 3-4 young/successful nest West Moray; increase noted Lothian, Borders; Strathclyde, 15-17 prs Arran, 8 prs reared 18 young East Kilbride. Migrants: Shetland, 28 birds recorded 11 Apr-26 Nov, max 3 Kergord 24 Nov.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Breeding: Orkney, pr reared 3 young; Grampian, poor year West Moray, of 18 occupied sites, only 11 pairs reared average 2.6/successful nest; Lothian, pr failed East Lothian Dist; Borders, of an estimated 14 prs, only 2 reported successful; Strathclyde/Central, 50 territories Strathendrick; Strathclyde, 7 prs bred Coll, 20-25 prs Bute. Migrants/counts: Shetland, 1 overwintered Fair Isle till 16 Mar, 1 Kergord 13 Jan, 1 Fulmar-oiled bird Reawick 10 Apr, died in captivity.

***Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus* Up to 14 birds, only 1 in autumn: Shetland, singles Fetlar 10-12 Jan, 21-22 Feb, Whiteness 25 Jan, at Kergord 25 Feb, 18 Mar, 7 Apr, Mid Yell 19-20 Apr; Orkney, singles Birsay 13 Jan, Firth 26 Feb, Hoy 1-25 Feb, Rendall 18 Mar-5 Apr, Harray 4 May, Papa Westray 7 May, Birsay 26 May; Highland, 1 Tulloch Moor 16 Jun; Lothian, 1 Lammernmuirs 28 Dec; Borders, 2 Dye Water 24 Feb, 1 on 9 Mar.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* Breeding: no breeding Orkney; Tayside, present in 33 home ranges, 11-12 prs successful; Strathclyde, in Argyll study area 19 prs laid, 10 successful prs reared 15 young, another 20-22 prs laid eggs and 14 successful prs reared 1 chick each, pr reared 1 Arran; poor season in SW, 2 prs failed and no young reared.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Breeding: 34 prs held territory, 28 prs laid eggs, and 22 nests fledged 53 young — best ever; arrival 19 Mar, last 1 on 16 Sep. Migrants: up to 9 singles Shetland 10 Apr-20 Aug; Tayside, 4 Lintrathen 20 Jul; Strathclyde, 1 shot Elvanfoot 22 Jun had been ringed at a Scottish nest in 1983.



Marsh Harriers. J. G. Steele

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Breeding: Orkney, up to 32 territories on 7 islands; good season suggested Caithness Dist, Highland and West Moray, Grampian; Strathclyde, 25 territories Strathkelvin Dist, in SW study area 31 results showed high clutch size, but only 68% hatched, and only 58% fledged — 72 young reared from 19 broods. Migrants: Shetland, strong spring passage with influxes early and mid May, c20 birds involved, 14 singles Fair Isle 27 Jul-13 Nov.

***Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* Grampian, ♂ Auchmacoy, Ellon 29-30 May (SP).

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Breeding: Shetland, 21 prs attempted, another 4 territories occupied, 13 successful nests fledged 47 young; Orkney, 5 prs laid eggs, only 2 successful; Grampian, of 37 prs located, 19 prs reared min 60 young, clutch sizes high, but persistence of DDT and Dieldrin in dead birds and many egg failures; Lothian/Borders, of 30 occupied sites, 17 prs laid eggs, 25 young reared, failures due to heavy rain, avian predators and human disturbance; Strathclyde, of 20-22 occupied sites, most outcomes unknown but 4 prs successful. Migrants: Shetland, 13 Mar-27 May Fair Isle, 1 on 30 Jun, 1-3 almost daily in autumn, max 4 on 10 Oct.

***Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* Eight: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 4 Jun; Highland, 1 Strathfarrar 31 Jul; Grampian, 1 Ludquharn, Peterhead 27 Sep; Fife, 1 Fife Ness 16 May; Strathclyde, 1 Hyne, Coll 26-28 Jun, 1 Kilkerran, Maybole 29 Jun, 1 Glen Afton 5 Aug; Dumf & Gall, 1 Southwick 28 May.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* Breeding: Shetland, 2 prs reared 3 young; Orkney, 13 prs held territory, but only 6 reared young; Grampian/Tayside, 43 successful prs reared 84 young, but coastal success remains poor; Central, of 23 occupied sites, 17 successful prs reared 33+ young; Borders, recovery maintained, but human disturbance at 5 nests; Strathclyde, 45 successful prs showed low brood sizes, but uptake of new territories in one area; good season Dumf & Gall. Migrants: Shetland, main passage Fair Isle 2-7 Apr, 7 Sep-Nov, max 3 on 24 Oct; Orkney, 2 Fulmar-oiled victims; Fife, singles 1 of May 2 May, and 8 days till mid Nov, 2 on 3 Oct.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus* Breeding: Orkney, 25 prs North Hoy; Highland, good nos Caithness Dist but poor season; Grampian, generally major increase and good success but one-third decline and poor success Rickarton, Stonehaven; Lothian, good season Lammermuirs despite wet summer; Borders, poor season; Strathclyde, further decreases many areas Argyll through afforestation, decreases/low nos noted Jura, Islay, Colonsay, Mull, Bute, Arran, Inverclyde, nos still high near

Darvel; Dumf & Gall, still low nos. Count on 20 Jan in snow in Lammermuirs, Lothian 200 Hungry Snout, 190 Danskine Burn, 120 Faseny Cottage, 50 Darent Hill.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus* Highland, 2 prs and 1 young East Scaraben, Caithness Dist, 17 chicks Ben Hope 14 Jun; Highland/Grampian, poor year Ben Avon with late laying and heavy chick loss, good nos and success Cairnwell, good nos but poor success Ben Macdui, low nos and poor success Cairngorm; Tayside, more reports; Strathclyde, recorded on Ben Cruachan and Ben Sgualaird, Argyll, 9 at 800 m SE Mull 25 Nov, 1 pr and singles Arran.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* Grampian, success poor and nos still low but signs of increase Glen Tanar, max 30 Glen Fenzie 28 Apr; Tayside, more reports, 10+ at each of 5 sites, max 40 Cardney, Dunkeld Oct; Lothian, more reports Lammermuirs; Borders, at least 114 birds mostly lekking; Strathclyde, decline noted Argyll, 2 Ross Road 24 Mar was only report Arran, 10 ♂♂ Auldhouse lek 17 Apr; Dumf & Gall, good broods Clatteringshaws where 12 ♂♂ at 1 lek but heavy losses in wet weather.

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* Highland, 3 ♂♂ at lek L Garten, only 1 report Black Isle; Grampian, becoming very scarce in many areas, probably extinct Lossie and Speymouth Forests and Bin of Cullen, disastrous breeding season for second year in a row Glen Tanar where Nov density of about 13/sq km was at lower end of previously observed range, max count 14 Glen Dye 19 Oct; Tayside, nos still low; Fife, ♂ and 2 ♀♀ Tentsmuir.

***Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa* Confirmed breeding only in Grampian between Buckie and Fochabers and at Strathbeg where nest with 16 eggs but young died in bad weather. Highland, 9 Drumguish 4 Oct, widespread reports of up to 5 S of Grampian. Continuing introductions eg 200 released Loch Lomondside, Strathclyde in Jul.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* Breeding: Highland, population perhaps fallen Caithness Dist, pr reared young L Fleet; poor seasons reported Highland, Grampian, Fife and Lothian; Strathclyde, now considered extinct Coll, no records Islay since 1 in Apr 1984. Peak counts: Lothian, 46 Musselburgh 17 Oct; Strathclyde, 60 Highfield, Ayr in autumn.

***Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* Singles unless stated: Shetland, Fair Isle 19 Jun and 24 Jul; Orkney, Sanday 11 Jul; West Isles, 2 South Uist 3 Jun; Highland, Noss Hd 15 May, L Fleet 2 Jul and 3, 6 and 16 Aug; Borders, Auchencrow 1 Jul; Strathclyde, Gateside 7 Jun-4 Jul; Dumf & Gall, Corseyard, Borgue 1 Sep.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* Orkney, max 40 South Ronaldsay in winter; Lothian, 20 territories Aberlady; Strathclyde, low nos Colonsay, 2 calling Corraibeg, Tiree 16 Jun (no previous records for Tiree).

† **Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*** Strathclyde, a small feral population exists in Gruline estate, Mull; Dumf & Gall, nos now very low, only 2 heard Palmure/Bargaly in 8 hr search 21 Apr.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* Breeding: Highland, 7 calling Insh Marshes May; Grampian, 1 calling L Spynie 27 May, probably bred Strathbeg and Davan; Tayside, 5 territories Kinnordy, bred Tay est and probably 1 site inland; Fife, 4 prs; Strathclyde, 1 calling Tiree Jun, 9 prs reported from 5 sites C Strathclyde, 11 prs plus 7 singles New Cumnock; Dumf & Gall, 2 calling Aird Marsh, Stranraer 20 Jun. Migrants: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 9 Jun, 8 singles 24 Aug-Dec; Orkney, 1st autumn North Ronaldsay 8 Sep; Fife, 1 1 of May 26 Oct; Borders, 1 St. Abbs 6-8 Apr, 1st autumn 13 Oct.

* **Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*** Five singles: Shetland, Fair Isle 26-27 May, 16 Aug and 29 Sep; Fife, Guardbridge 20 Mar, calling Rossie Bog May.

Corncrake *Crex crex* Breeding: Shetland, 3 calling, pr failed; Orkney, 19 calling; West Isles, 72 calling North Uist, 2-3 prs bred within Stornoway Burgh; Grampian, nest with 9 eggs near Aberdeen hatched but outcome unknown, second ♂ calling nearby, singles calling at 2 other sites; Strathclyde, calling birds Coll (6+), Tiree (86), Mull (1), Iona (1), Colonsay (2), Islay (20-29). Other records, mostly calling birds: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 20 Aug; Highland (11); Fife (1); Strathclyde (5); Dumf & Gall (2). First Lewis, West Isles 10 Apr; last singles North Ronaldsay, Orkney 13 Oct; Virkie, Shetland 3 Nov.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Breeding: Shetland, pr bred Hillwell, young on 18 Jun; Orkney, bred 9+ sites; Highland, 11 prs Insh Marshes (43 prs in 1975); Lothian, poor season Threipmuir where 17-21 sites but no young until 1 fledged juv 25 Jul; Strathclyde, no records Kilmartin area, Argyll possibly due to Mink; otherwise little change indicated in S. Counts/passages: Shetland, singles Fair Isle 14 dates 22 Mar-16 Apr, 3 on 3 Apr, 7 in 1975; 26 Sep-12 Dec; Orkney, 49 St Ola 5 Dec; Fife, 30 Kilconquhar 13 Aug; Lothian, 42 Linlithgow Jan; Strathclyde, 48 Baron's Haugh 17 Sep.

Coot *Fulica atra* Breeding: Orkney, min 26 prs at 10 sites, 1st young 11 May; Lothian, 80+ prs at 17 sites. Counts: Shetland, 13 Dunrossness Feb; Orkney, 330 L of Harray Nov; Highland, 246 L Watten 17 Nov; Grampian, 300 Davan 13 Jan, 900

Strathbeg 29 Oct; Tayside, 227 Kinnordy end Jul; Central, 234 Carsebreck and L Rhyn 13 Jan; Fife, 302 Lochore 8 Jan, 1370 L Leven 27 Oct; Lothian, 700 Linlithgow 6 Jan; Strathclyde, 311 Hogganfield L 22 Dec.

* **Crane *Grus grus*** Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 5 May (PVH); Orkney, 1 Greenay Hill, Mainland 27 May (ERM); West Isles, 1 L na Liana Moire, South Uist 27 Apr (TJ & MrsJS); Highland, 1 Dalilea, L Shiel 27 Jun (SG, SL, HM); Strathclyde, 1 near Port Askaig, Islay 18 May (SH, MP); Dumf & Gall, 1 Caerlaverock mid Aug-30 Dec (per RHH).§

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Breeding: Shetland, 77 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 87 prs Papa Westray; Highland, 26 prs Handa, 38 prs L Fleet; Strathclyde, record 11 prs Strathkelvin. Counts/passages: Shetland, peaks Fair Isle 135 on 19 Apr, 200 on 29 Jul; Highland, 3243 Inverness Firth 27 Oct, 2758 Cromarty Firth 13 Dec; Highland/Grampian, 2807 Nairn and Culbin Bars 27 Oct; Tayside, 2685 Montrose Oct; Fife, 3000 Eden est 19 Jan, max 1 of May 70 on 9 Oct; Lothian, 3500 Dalmeny Dec, 2300 Musselburgh Jan, 3500 in Aug, 1100 Gosford Sep; Strathclyde, 4366 Clyde est 10 Feb, 4646 on 17 Nov.

* **Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*** Shetland, 1 Spiggie 18 May (JSR).

* **Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*** Two: Lothian, 1 Gladhouse 19 Jun (RWJS); Strathclyde, 1 Baron's Haugh, 26 May (RGN).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Breeding: Shetland, 12 prs Fair Isle with 5+ prs successful; Orkney, 5 prs North Hoy, 8 prs Papa Westray; Highland, 4 prs Handa reared only 1 chick, 17 prs L Fleet; Lothian, 32 prs Aberlady. Counts/passages: Shetland, low max Fair Isle 34 on 31 Aug; Orkney, 143 Hoy Nov; Highland, 110 Dunnet 17 May, 169 Cromarty Firth 27 Oct; Grampian, 420 Findhorn Bay 28 May, 370 Ythan 28 May; Fife, 260 Tayport 27 May; Lothian, 130 Musselburgh 19 Aug, 520 Aberlady May, 435 in Aug, 365 Tynninghame May; Strathclyde, 114 Clyde est 21 Apr, 133 Ardrassan 22 May, 250 Strand, Colonsay Oct, 125 Crossapol, Coll 21 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 186 Port William-Balcary in winter shore survey.

* **Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*** Two: Fife, 1 Eden est 22 Apr (BAC); Lothian, ♂ Aberlady 5-6 Apr (PRG et al).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Breeding: good nos Cairngorms and Grampians but success generally poor Cairngorms probably due to heavy summer snowfalls; further N, 1 pr on a mountain in Sutherland 3 Jul. Migrants: Shetland, 2 Fair Isle 9 May; Orkney, 2 North Ronaldsay 7 May; West Isles, 8 North Uist May, 1 Benbecula 14 Sep;

Highland, 8 Achnashellach 8 May, 1 East Ackergill 16 Oct; Fife, 1 Elie 23 Jul, 1 I of May 21 Oct; Lothian, 4 Bransly Hill, Lammermuirs 11 May; Borders, 7 Tweedsmuir Hills 4 May; Strathclyde, 1 Bogside, Irvine 24 Aug.

***Lesser Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* Shetland, juv of race *P d dominica* Fair Isle 17-20 Sep (SJA, DC, NJR).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* Breeding: Orkney, 23 prs North Hoy, 35 prs West Mainland; Highland, 74-83 prs in 21 sq km census Caithness Dist, good nos Grampians and Monadhliaths; Tayside, apparently declining; Strathclyde, 16 prs Mull, 12 prs Muirkirk. Counts/passage: nos low in many areas: Shetland, 300 Uyeasound 15 Aug, peaks Fair Isle only 31 on 1 May, 25 on 16 Aug; Orkney, 1000 Rendall 10 Oct, 1000 Deerness 23 Nov; Grampian, 1000 Rattray 5 Sep; Fife, 3500 Fife Ness 9 Oct, 1120 Eden est 30 Oct; Lothian, 2470 Aberlady Oct, 1800 Gosford Dec; Borders, 800 Chirnside 20 Oct; Strathclyde, 1100 Bothwell 6 Sep, 2512 Barassie 23 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 1650 Luce Bay and 1250 L Ryan 14 Oct.



Golden Plover. Shetland, July 1985, A. Hogg

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Shetland, 4 singles 4 Apr-14 Jun were unusual, 4 records involved 14 birds Fair Isle Sep-Oct; Orkney, 55 Sanday 8 May; Highland, 26 Dornoch 20 Jan, 29 Nigg Bay-Cromarty 27 Oct; Highland/Grampian, 99 Nairn and Culbin Bars 27 Oct; Tayside, 65 Carnoustie 25 Jan; Central, 26 Skinflats 27 Nov; Fife, 350 Eden est 19 Jan, 400 Tentsmuir 2 Nov; Lothian, 450 Aberlady Mar, 45 summered, 400 in

Sep, 187 Tynninghame Oct; Borders, 31 Eyemouth 19 Nov; Strathclyde, 22 L Gruinart, Islay Jan, 22 Bogside, Irvine 3 Oct. Inland singles: Drem, Lothian, 29 Sep; Hule Moss, Borders 15 Sep; Strathclyde Country Park 15-17 Nov.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Breeding: Shetland, 1st chicks 9 May, 6 prs Fair Isle but only 1 pr successful; Orkney, good early hatching rates but later broods had very poor success; Fife, 1+ prs bred I of May; Lothian, 41-42 prs Threipmuir, 32 prs Aberlady; Strathclyde, 108 prs L Gruinart, Islay, 56 prs Strathkelvin, 12-14 prs Inverclyde, 41 prs Red Moss. Counts/passage: nos low in many areas, Shetland, peaks Fair Isle 200 on 1 Apr, 180 on 11 Oct; Orkney, 900 West Scapa 29 Oct; Highland, 1000 L of Mey 17 Aug; Grampian, 1000 Pitmedden 1 Jan, 1400 Strathbeg 29 Oct; Central, 1000 Drip 8 Oct; Fife, 720 Eden est 28 Oct; Lothian, 1200 Bathgate 1 Oct, 1600 Tynninghame Sep, 2600 Aberlady Oct; Borders, 1100 Eyemouth 14 Dec; Strathclyde, 2500 Bothwell 6 Sep, 4500 Bogside, Irvine 6 Sep, 1550 Carstairs 17 Sep, 3100 Erskine-Langbank 29 Sep.

Knot *Calidris canutus* Low nos: Shetland, max Fair Isle 40 on 21 Aug; Orkney, 300 Sanday 8 May; Highland, 200 L Fleet 20 Jan, 3000+ Nigg Bay 13 Dec; Grampian, 750 Findhorn Bay 25 Aug; Tayside, 1000 Montrose Jan; Central, 1000 Skinflats 27 Nov; Fife, 1020 Kirkcaldy 20 Jan, 2100 Eden est 14 Dec; Lothian, 2640 Aberlady Feb, 300 summered, 1350 in Dec, 2750 Musselburgh 14 Dec; Strathclyde, 1 inland Summerston 25 Aug, 246 Barassie 30 Aug.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Low nos. Winter-spring: Shetland, 21 Virkie 2 Jun, 2 singles Fair Isle May; Orkney, 300 North Ronaldsay 27 May; Grampian, 65 Blackdog 19 Jan; Fife, 60 Leven 12 Apr; Lothian, 71 Aberlady May. Autumn: Shetland, 90 Virkie 1 Sep, max Fair Isle 6 on 15 Sep; Orkney, 200 North Ronaldsay 17 Sep; Highland, 23 Dunnet 26 Jul; Grampian, 77 Blackdog 14 Dec; Tayside, 200 Balmossie 30 Mar; Fife, 145 Tay est 13 Oct; Lothian, 170 Aberlady Jul; Strathclyde, 59 Barassie-Troon 27 Jul, 95 Gott Bay, Tiree 13 Aug. Inland: Lothian, 2 Gladhouse 24 May; Strathclyde, 1 Hillend Res 18 Apr, 1 on 25 May, 3 on 20 Aug.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Spring: Shetland, 7 Virkie 1-14 Sep, 2 Fair Isle 31 May, 1 till 1 Jun; Lothian, 1 Tynninghame 18-19 May, singles Aberlady 18, 26 May, 22-23 Jun. Autumn passage 28 Jul-Nov, recorded in every region except Borders; low nos except East Lothian Dist where peaks 16 Drem 24 Sep, 23 Aberlady 26 Sep, 10 Tynninghame 26 Sep; max elsewhere Shetland, 4 Fair Isle 25-26 Sep; Orkney, 4 North Ronaldsay 26 Sep; Highland, 18 Wick 26 Sep, 5 Udale Bay 30 Sep; Lothian, 5 Musselburgh 25 Sep; Strathclyde, 5 L Gruinart, Islay 5 Oct.

***Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* Breeding: 1-2 birds at one site 21 May-15 Jun but no proof of breeding, 2 birds at another site, display 6-11 Jun. Migrants: Shetland, singles Spiggie 20 May, Quendale 22-23 May; Highland, 2 Lairg 9 Jul, 1 Noss 15 Aug; Grampian, 1 Don 30-31 May; Lothian, 1 Aberlady 17-22 Aug; Strathclyde, 1 Fiddon, Mull 17 Sep.

***White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* Grampian, ad Ythan 31 Aug (MVB), 1 Rattray Hd 12-13 Sep (DCB, RAS, STS).

***Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* Three or four: Shetland, 1 Scatness 19 May (ND); Orkney, singles Birsay 23 May (TF) and Stenness 9 Jun (ERM) may have seen same bird; Strathclyde, 1 L Scridain, Mull 9 Sep (MM et al).

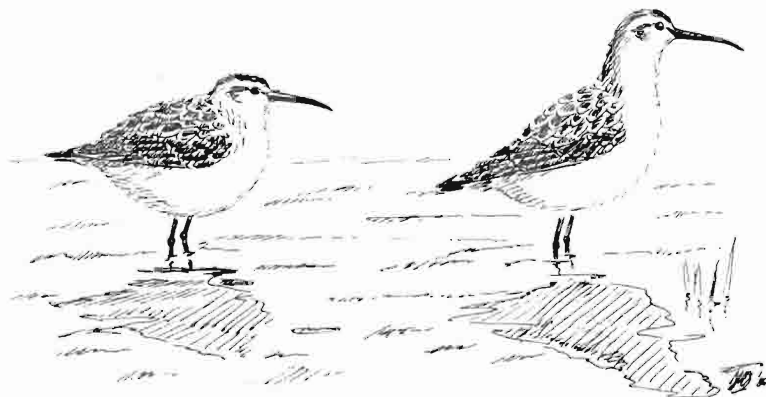
***Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata* Lothian, ad Aberlady 17 Aug (GA, IJA, PRG). (see p.124)

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Summer: Grampian, 1 Ythan 19 Jun; Strathclyde, 1 Ballantrae 16 Jun. Very good autumn passage 28 Jul-27 Oct, recorded in every Region, peaks: Shetland, 15+ Virkie 7 Sep, 9 Fair Isle 1 Sep was record count; Orkney, 6 North Ronaldsay 23 Aug; West Isles, 12 South Uist 2 Sep; Grampian, 38 Findhorn Bay 15 Sep, 70 on 25 Sep, 24 on 16 Oct; Tayside, 59 Invergowrie 7 Sep; Central, 22 Grange-mouth 6 Sep, 50 on 15 Sep; Fife, 54 Eden est 8 Sep; Lothian, 23 Musselburgh 8 Sep, 23 Aberlady 9 Sep, 16 Muirton 14-15 Sep; Strathclyde, 13 Bogside, Irvine 11 Sep, 18 Erskine 13 Oct, 14 Langbank 27 Oct.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* Counts/passage: Shetland, 90 Whalsay 7 Feb, last 1 Fair Isle 31 May, return 10 Jul, max 85 on 30 Oct; 360 Papa Westray 6-8 Apr, 220 North Ronaldsay May, small nos summered; Highland, 63 Stroma 26 Jan; Grampian, 300 Fraserburgh 20 Jan, 103 Lossiemouth 17 Feb, a few summered Peterhead, 230 on 23 Dec; Fife, 101 I of May 16 Apr, 200 on 14 Oct; Lothian, 80 Belhaven-Dunbar Mar; Borders, 87 Eyemouth 23 Dec; Strathclyde, 102 Girvan 9 Apr.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Breeding: Orkney, 17 prs North Hoy; Highland, population high in Caithness Dist, 73 prs in 21 sq kms Dunbeath and 19 prs in second area; Strathclyde, some breeding areas Islay being drained for peat extraction; Dumf & Gall, now considered a very scarce breeder; no other significant comments. Counts/passage: Shetland, 176 Virkie 3 Sep, max Fair Isle 16 on 6 Oct; Orkney, 270 Scapa Bay 27 Dec; Highland, 330 L Fleet 20 Jan, 600 Broadford, Skye 24 Jul, 2500 Cromarty Firth 13 Dec; Grampian, 1500 Findhorn Bay 20 Jan, 1050 Ythan 29 Sep; Tayside, 2200 Invergowrie 6 Oct; Central, 1250 Skinflats 27 Nov; Fife, 1900 Eden est 13 Nov; Lothian, 2000 Dalmeny 17 Feb, 1262 Tynninghame Dec; Strathclyde, 700 Barassie 12 Jan, 476 L Indaal, Islay Dec, 1309 Clyde est 15 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 600 Dee est 11 Feb.

***Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* Shetland, 1 Pool of Virkie 20-23 May (DC, JND, AF); Orkney, 1 Brodgar, Mainland 8-11 Jun (ERM, JBR).



Curlew Sandpipers. J. G. Steele

***Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* Four: Shetland, 1 Scatness 24 Sep (PME, DC); Orkney, 1 Papa Westray 1 Sep (JC); West Isles, 1 Benbecula 15-18 Aug (PB et al); Strathclyde, 1 Linwood 14-23 Sep (IPG, DC et al).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Winter-spring: Orkney, 29 bird-days North Ronaldsay 20 Apr-2 May, max 9 on 26 Apr; West Isles, 1 South Uist 26 May; Grampian, 3 Rattray 7 Apr, 2 Cotehill 12 May; Lothian, max 5 Cockenzie-Gosford 4 Jan, 4 Aberlady Jun; Strathclyde, 1-2 recorded at 5 sites during Apr-May. Autumn passage from Jul, peaks: Shetland, 55 Virkie 15 Sep, Fair Isle 27 Jul-4 Oct, max 25 on 31 Aug; Orkney, 19 South Ronaldsay 20 Aug; West Isles, 15 Balranald 23 Aug; Highland, 23 Wick 11 Sep, 12 Tarbat Ness 25 Sep; Grampian, 12 Don 19 Aug; Central, 23 Kinneil 31 Aug; Fife, 22 Anstruther 5 Oct; Lothian, 21 Muirton Sep; Borders, 8 West Morriston 15 Sep; Strathclyde, 11 Linwood 17 Sep. Winter: Highland, 1 Castle Stuart Bay 13 Dec, 1 Hisna Caithness Dist 21 Dec; Lothian, max 3 Cockenzie-Gosford Dec; Strathclyde, 1 Bogside, Irvine 15 Dec.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus mimimus* Usual widespread records of 1-3 to 20 May (Fair Isle) and from Aug (Orkney). Peaks low: Shetland, 4 Fair Isle 25 Sep; Grampian, 10 Cairnbulg 27 Jan, 6 on 10 Feb; Strathclyde, 6 Balgrochan, Lennoxton 1 Jan, 10 Erskine 20 Jan, 7 Paisley Moss 27 Jan, 7 Dykebar, Paisley 26 Oct, 5 Kilmacolm 26 Oct, 5 Paisley Moss 27 Oct, 4 Cunning Park, Ayr 21-24 Dec.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Breeding: Shetland, late newly hatched chicks Sandness 9 Sep, 26 drumming birds Fair Isle; Orkney, 40 prs North Hoy, 1st drumming 28 Feb; Highland, 29 prs Handa; Fife, 12+ drumming Lomond Hills; Lothian, 14 prs Aberlady; Borders, 10 prs Bowden/Cauldshields; Strathclyde, 10 prs L Gruinart, Islay, 30 prs Colonsay, decline noted Tiree; Dumf & Gall, 15 prs Wood of Cree. Counts/passage: Shetland, max Fair Isle 60 on 30 Aug; Orkney, 117 North Ronaldsay 13 Sep; Highland, 60 Wick 29 Sep; Grampian, 48 R Spey, Fochabers 4 Jan, 50 St Combs 27 Jan; Lothian, 57 Aberlady 18 Mar; Borders, 23 in off sea Lamberton 27 Aug; Strathclyde, 200 Cunning Park, Ayr 10 Mar, 91 Millersneuk, Lenzie 31 Mar, record 250 Endrick Mouth 27 Oct.

***Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 30 Aug-7 Sep (DRB, NJR, DS).

***Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Dumf & Gall, juv Caerlaverock 1-9 Oct (CDC, RHH, GMcD).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* No significant breeding comments; 1st roding 5 Mar Grampian. Counts/passage: most areas had poor autumn nos, Shetland, peaks Fair Isle 50 on 8 Apr, up to

50 in influx 16-20 Nov; Orkney, perhaps 100 North Hoy Jan; Highland, 20 Sandside 27 Jan, 13 Stroma 26 Jan; Grampian, 12 Strathbeg 11 Feb; Fife, max 5 1 of May 3 Nov; Lothian, 1 in blizzard over west central Edinburgh 16 Jan; Borders, 10 St Abbs 28 Jan; Strathclyde, influx L Doon Nov; Dumf & Gall, good nos Glentworth from 29 Oct.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* Breeding: Shetland, birds present 1 May-12 Jun, no young seen — disturbance by birdwatchers? Counts/passage: Shetland, 28 Spiggie 17 Aug; Orkney, 4 The Loons 18 Apr; West Isles, 14 Balranald 20 Apr; Highland, 10 Inverness 11 Jan, 7 Udale Bay 27 Oct; Grampian, 8 Findhorn Bay 20 Apr, 9 Ythan 13 Aug; Tayside, 26 Kingoodie 17 Mar; Central, 6 Kinneil 17 Feb, 25 Aug; Fife, max 179 Eden est 18 Apr, 10 Pettycur 25 Aug; Strathclyde, 6 Hunterston 25 Apr.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* Counts/passage: Shetland, max Fair Isle 6 on 21 Sep; Orkney, 350 Sanday 21 Aug; Highland, 746 Cromarty Firth 27 Oct, 890 Inverness Firth 13 Dec; Highland/Grampian, 946 Nairn and Culbin Bars 13 Dec; Grampian, 50 Ythan 8 Jun; Fife, 1800 Eden est 15 Nov, 2000 Lucky Scalp, R Tay 13 Dec; Lothian, 1600 Musselburgh Jan, 2250 on 14 Dec, 2040 Aberlady Feb, 150 summered, 1740 in Dec; Strathclyde, higher nos, 55 Hunterston 13 Jan, 57 Erskine-West Ferry 13 Oct. Inland: Grampian, 1 Cloia 14 Sep; Lothian, max 4 Drem 24 Sep; Strathclyde, 1 Endrick Mouth 11 Aug.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Breeding: Shetland, 1 displayed Fair Isle Jun and early Jul but no breeding; Orkney, about 10 prs; Highland, 2 birds or territory, 19 May, 1 till 16 Jun, no evidence of success. Counts/passage: early bird Barns Ness, Lothian 23 Mar, otherwise 7 Apr-27 Oct; Shetland, peaks Fair Isle 29 on 8 May, 12 on 17 Aug; Orkney, 8 North Ronaldsay 24 Aug; Highland, max 10 Caithness Dist, 9 Handa 13 Aug; Grampian, 20S Peterhead 8 May, 85S on 25 Jul, 17 Findhorn Bay 24 Aug; Tayside, 24 Port Allen 18 Aug; Central, 6 Kinneil 19 Aug; Fife, 8 Fife Ness 1 Sep; Lothian, 43 Tynningame 20 Jul, 35 on 5 Aug, 28 on 17 Aug, 30 Musselburgh 27 Jul; Borders, 17 St Abbs 2 Jul; Strathclyde, 25 Troon 17 Apr, 31 Ballantrae 27 Apr, 17 L Indaal, Islay May, 20 L Gruinart, Islay Oct.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* Breeding: Shetland, 5 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 32 prs North Hoy; West Isles, increase to 18 prs Lewis, 1st breeding North Uist; Strathclyde, 30 prs L Gruinart, Islay, decline to 23 prs Strathkelvin. Counts/passage: Shetland, max Fair Isle 26 on 3 Jul; Orkney, 1200 Widewall 6 Feb and Sep; Highland, 340 L Fleet 13 Aug, 1120 Cromarty Firth 27 Oct, 875 Inverness Firth 13 Dec; Grampian, 800 St Fergus 12 Jan, 870 Ythan 10 Aug; Tayside, 1000 Montrose 1 Aug; Fife, 624 Eden est 28 Nov; Lothian, 800 Crumond 1 Aug,

730 Aberlady Sep; Strathclyde, 1054 Clyde est 10 Mar, 840 L Gruinart, Islay Jul, 1595 Carnwath 20 Sep (a major UK inland gathering); Dumf & Gall, 900 Kirkcudbright 1 Aug.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Winter-spring: Shetland, 1 Hillwell 12 May; West Isles, 1 Benbecula 28 Apr; Tayside, singles Montrose 8 Apr, Barry Buddon 28 Apr, 2 Kingoodie 23-29 Apr. Autumn, about 82 from 14 Jul, summary:

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shetland-Highland	—	8	8	3	1	—
Grampian-Fife	3	11	17+	3	—	1
Lothian-Borders	—	5	9	2	1	—
Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall	3	2	5	2	1	—

Peaks and late records: Grampian, 5 Findhorn Bay 31 Aug, 3-4 on 10 Sep, 3 Ythan 21 Sep; Fife, 1 Eden est 16 Dec; Lothian, 3 Tynninghame 1 Sep, 1 on 23 Nov; Strathclyde, 3 Langbank 5 Sep, 1 from 3 Nov to at least 15 Dec.

Redshank *Tringa totanus* Few breeding comments: Shetland, good season, 1st chicks 23 May; Lothian, 12-13 prs Threipmuir, 11 prs Aberlady had good success; Strathclyde, 12 prs L Gruinart, Islay, 26 prs Colonsay, 15 prs Red Moss; Dumf & Gall, decrease Glenkens area. Counts/passage: Shetland, max Fair Isle 100 on 23 Aug; Orkney, 280 North Ronaldsay 22 Sep; Highland, 220 Thurso 14 Jan, 3675 Cromarty/Inverness Firths 13 Dec; Highland/Grampian, 839 Nairn and Culbin Bars 13 Dec; Grampian, 2000 Findhorn Bay 15 Sep, 1100 Ythan 1 Sep; Tayside, 1366 Montrose Oct; Central, 500 Skinflats 27 Nov; Fife, 775 Eden est 12 Nov; Lothian, 950 Dalmeny 15 Sep, 407 Tynninghame Oct; Strathclyde, 2489 Clyde est 10 Mar, 3866 on 13 Oct, 400 Bogside, Irvine 6 Sep.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Breeding: Shetland, 4 prs bred; West Isles, prs seen at 28 sites Lewis and 9 singles in other areas; Highland, still substantial population Caithness Dist despite increased forestry (17 prs recorded); Tayside, present usual areas; Strathclyde, present 2 sites Mull with breeding proved at one, prs at several sites North Argyll. Counts/passage: Orkney, 7 Twatt 19 Aug; Highland, 12 Conon Islands 8 Aug, 9 L Fleet 19 Aug; Grampian, 25 Findhorn Bay 25-27 Jul, 7 Strathbeg 14 Aug; Tayside, 12 Montrose 20 Aug; Central, 8 Kinneil 21 Aug; Fife, 12 Eden est 16 Aug; Lothian, 11 Musselburgh 28 Jul, 15 Tynninghame 1 Sep; Strathclyde, 7 Lochdon, Mull 21 Apr, 13 Bogside, Irvine 24 Aug, 26 Langbank 1 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 6 Rigg Bay 7 Apr. Wintering birds, peaks: Fife, 5 Eden est 15 Dec; Strathclyde, 7 Hunterston 13 Jan, 6 Lochdon, Mull 3 Feb, 19 Clyde est 10 Feb, 25 on 15 Dec; widespread records of 1-3 N to Caithness Dist.

***Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* Highland, 1 L Sligachan, Skye 19 May (WTA).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Winter-spring: Shetland, 4 singles 17-30 May, on Fair Isle singles 8 dates 15 Apr-2 Jun, 2 on 6 May; Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 5 Apr; Fife, 1 Morton Lochs 13 May, 1 l of May 22-23 Jun; Lothian, singles Aberlady 6 Apr, 14 and 21 May; Borders, 1 Garvald 6 May, 1 St Abbs 19-22 May; Strathclyde, 2 Baron's Haugh 3-14 Jan, 1 Carnbroe 18 Feb. Autumn passage 4 Jul-30 Oct, good nos most areas: Shetland, 27 birds 3 Aug-15 Sep, 7 Scatness 15 Aug, 1 Quendale 10 Nov, on Fair Isle from 26 Jul, 1-3 almost daily 7-29 Aug, max 5 on 16 and 21 Aug, last 1 on 12 Sep; peaks elsewhere: Highland, 3 Strikoke, Caithness Dist 2 Sep; Grampian, 6 Ludquharn 26 Aug, 3 Longside 12 Oct; Tayside, 5 Panbride Beach 16 Aug; Lothian, 4 Drem 25 Aug, 5 on 1 Sep, 4 Tynninghame 1 Sep; Strathclyde, 3 Erskine 13 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 6 Grennan 22 Aug. Winter: Strathclyde, 1 Crosshands 3 Nov, 2 Baron's Haugh 7 Nov, 1 on 15 Nov, 1 Inchinnan 7 Nov, 1 Wellbrae Res 12 Nov, 2 Erskine Nov-Dec.

***Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* Breeding: Highland, up to 3 prs at one site 12 May-14 Jul, 1 pr bred successfully, 1-3 at another site 20 May-25 Jun, 1-2 prs bred. Passage singles: Shetland, 9 birds 27 Apr-18 May, 1 Fetlar 22 Aug, on Fair Isle 18, 21 May, 12-20 Aug; Orkney, North Ronaldsay 27 May, Papa Westray 7-10 Aug; West Isles, North Uist 20 May; Highland, Wick 4 Jun, 25-29 Sep; Grampian, Ythan 13 Aug, Kinord 18 Aug; Tayside, 2 Montrose 8 Apr, 25 Aug, singles on 30 Aug, 10 Sep; Central, Cambus 11 May; Fife, 1 of May 20-21 May, Fife Ness 11 Aug; Lothian, Aberlady 4 Jun, 11-12 Aug, 17 Aug, Drem 8 Aug, 15-17 Aug, 23-29 Sep; Borders, Eitrick Valley 30 Jul; Strathclyde, North Craig Res 16 May, New Cumnock 19 Aug.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Breeding: Shetland, good season; Highland, good population Caithness Dist, 14 prs on 1 river, at least 26 prs in SW; Lothian, 14 prs Whiteadder WBS; Borders, 7 prs Melrose WBS; Strathclyde, 27 prs Colonsay, possible extinction as breeder Kilmartin area, Argyll due to Mink predation; Dumf & Gall, good season Upper Minnoch but late broods suffered in wet weather. Spring arrival: 1st Ken Bridge, Dumf & Gall 15 Mar; Baron's Haugh, Strathclyde 1 Apr; Mull, Strathclyde 8 Apr; most 1st dates 12-21 Apr; 1st Orkney 5 May. Counts: Shetland, 15 Fair Isle 15 Aug; Highland, 23 Longman Bay 22 Aug; Tayside, 40 Port Allen 30 Jul; Fife, 22 Eden est 4 Aug; Lothian, 15 Musselburgh 27-28 Jul, 13 Tynninghame 4 Aug, 14 Almond est 15 Aug; Borders, 15 West Water 7 Jul; Strathclyde, 22 North Craig Res 13 Jul, 17 L Gruinart, Islay Aug. Last record Ormsary, Argyll, Strathclyde 18 Oct. Winter: Tynninghame, Lothian 12 Nov; Crinan Ferry, Strathclyde 24 Dec.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Shetland, Fair Isle peaks 110 on 22 Mar and 4-8 Apr, 200 on 17 Nov; Orkney, 353 North Ronaldsay 28 Sep, 252 Papa Westray 19 Oct; Grampian, 465 Fraserburgh-Roseheart 20 Jan, 425 Girdle Ness/Greg Ness 5 Feb, 425 Fraserburgh-Roseheart 31 Aug, 415 Girdle Ness 27 Sep; Fife, 200 Fife Ness 5 May, 250 1 of May 20 Aug; Lothian, 232 Gosford Mar, 400 Musselburgh 8 May; Strathclyde, 209 Colonsay 18-25 Jan, 308 Turnberry-Chapeldonan 30 Dec. Summering birds: max 45 Aberlady, Lothian; also noted Fair Isle, Orkney, Highland, Grampian. Inland: Highland/Grampian, 1 Lochindorb 15 May; Grampian, 25 Meikle 1 Dec; Strathclyde, 1 Hillend Res 20 Aug, 12 North Craig Res 28 Aug.

***Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* Highland, 1st w Inverness 3-4 Sep (SJA, CHC et al); Lothian, 1 Aberlady 21 Sep (KH et al).

***Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* Breeding: Shetland, arrival Fetlar 25 May, good season with 13 broods reared, 3 prs at 2 other sites with fledged young seen from mid Jul; West Isles, prs present but no confirmed breeding; Strathclyde, pr present and breeding suspected at 1 site.

***Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* Thirteen (singles unless stated): Orkney, North Ronaldsay 14 Sep and 19 Sep; West Isles, 4 South Uist 21 Sep; Highland, Wick 1-13 Jan, Castlehill 15 Sep; Lothian, Scoughall 22 Jan, Musselburgh 13 Oct; Strathclyde, Endrick Mouth 6 Oct, L Martnaham L 8-11 Oct; Dumf & Gall, The Wig, L Ryan 1 Aug was an unusual date.



Grey Phalarope. Martnaham, Strathclyde, October 1985, A. Hogg

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Spring: Orkney, 1 Marwick Head 25 May; West Isles, 37 Balranald 11 May, 42 on 16 May, 20 on 17 May,

25 on 18 May; Highland, 1 Insh — Boat of Garten 28-30 Apr; Lothian, 1N Barns Ness 20 Apr. Autumn: exceptional passage, 2340 from 28 Jul-end Dec, summary:

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shetland-Highland	34	1062	126	28
Grampian-Fife	41	152	131	23
Lothian/Borders	19	386	289	27
West Isles-Dumf & Gall	9	3	2	1

Peaks: Shetland, 50-100 near Sumburgh Hd end Oct; Orkney, 16 Brough of Birsay 1 Nov, 12 Finstown 21 Oct; Highland, 200+ Moray Firth 22 Oct; Grampian, 9 Buckie 11 Oct, 28 Peterhead 11 Oct; Fife, 17 Fife Ness 22 Sep, 15 on 19 Nov; Lothian, 26W Hound Pt 22 Oct, 45W/3E on 25 Oct, 37 on 23 Nov, 31 on 24 Nov, 23W on 26 Dec, 16W Crumond 20 Oct, 105N, 38 Barns Ness 31 Oct, 76NW North Berwick 31 Oct.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* Breeding: Shetland, 1st chicks Fetlar 11 Jun, 81 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 124 prs Papa Westray; Highland, 35 prs Handa; Strathclyde, 30 prs Coll; 10+ prs Jura. Migration: Orkney, 16 Apr-19 Nov; Highland, 100 Inverness Firth 17 Sep; Grampian, 205S/27N Peterhead 12 Aug; Fife, 79 Fife Ness 22 Sep, last 1 on 26 Dec; Lothian, 66 Barns Ness 21 Sep, 36 Hound Pt 23 Sep; Borders, 34N/1S Eyemouth 21 Sep; Dumf & Gall, singles Southernness 26 Oct, 16 Nov.

***Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* Shetland, ad Melby 11 Oct; ad Fair Isle 8 Jun, juv on 21 Sep; Orkney, 2 Birsay 16 Jul, 1 North Ronaldsay 23 Sep, 1 Papa Westray, another Papa Westray — Kirkwall 21 Oct; West Isles, 9 Balranald 16 May, 28 on 18 May; Grampian, 15 Peterhead 6 Oct; Lothian, juv S Barns Ness 22 Sep, sub-ad W Hound Pt 23 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 2 juvs Milleur Pt, Loch Ryan 15 Sep.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* Breeding: Shetland, nos and success rate low Noss, 72 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 250 prs North Hoy; Highland, 52 prs Handa. Winter: Strathclyde, singles Tiree, Tighnabruich and Kyles of Bute 19 Jan. Migration: Shetland, Fair Isle, 7 Mar - 1 Nov; Highland, 50N/hr Wick 27 Apr, 20E/hr John o'Groats 9 Sep, last one Chanonry Pt 4 Dec; Grampian, 50N/29S Peterhead 12 Aug; Fife, 17 Fife Ness 21 Sep, 65 on 22 Sep; Lothian, 28W Hound Pt 23 Sep, 26W on 25 Oct, 1 Aberlady 25 Nov; Strathclyde, 17S Turnberry Pt 15 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 39+ Corsewall Pt 15 Sep.

***Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus* Grampian, ad Dee, Aberdeen 27 Jan, ad Don, Aberdeen 8, 11 Dec; Lothian, Musselburgh, ad 20 Jan, 7 Apr, 2nd w 24 Feb, 24 Mar, 2nd s 18 Apr, 1st yr 8 Oct, juv 25 Sep; Borders, ad St Abbs Hd 25 Jul; Strathclyde, ad Prestwick 24 Jan, 2nd w Bogside 11 Mar.

***Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* West Isles, ad North Boisdale, South Uist 6-14 Aug (TJS, MT et al).

Little Gull *Larus minutus* Shetland, 4 singles 15 Mar - 21 Sep; Orkney, 7-9 singles, 17 May - 28 Dec; Highland, single ads Castlehill 1 Jan, Brora 18 Jan, 8 singles 9 Mar - 14 Dec, 2 Longman Bay 4 Sep; Grampian, 29 birds Jan - Oct, 3 Girdleness 27 Jan, 5 Strathbeg 8 Aug; Tayside, 4-500 Arbroath-Dundee 10 Feb, 350-360 Carnoustie 30 Aug; Fife, good numbers, 24 Leven 18 Jan, 175 Kilconquhar L 22 Aug, 86 on 10 Sep; Lothian, 34 records, mostly singles, 23 Jan - 23 Nov, 2 Gladhouse 14 Jul, 4W Hound Pt 18 Nov, 3W/1E on 21 Nov; Borders, 3N St Abbs 30 Jul, 2N on 17 Aug; Strathclyde, 4 singles Islay, Arran, Lunderston Bay and Lochwinnoch Aug-Oct, 7 singles in SW 30 Jan - 20 Oct; Dumf & Gall, singles L Ryan 6 Apr, Corsewall Pt 5 Oct.

***Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini* West Isles, imm Benbecula 21 Jul; Highland, 1 Golspie 20 Jun; Lothian, juv Musselburgh 7 Oct; Strathclyde, juv, Doonfoot 13 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 2 Corsewall Pt 1 Sep.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* Breeding: Orkney, 156 prs Papa Westray; Highland, 220 prs Lochindorb; Grampian, 256 prs Forvie, only 70 chicks fledged; Tayside, 5500-6000 prs Kinnordy; Central, 300 prs Cromlix; Lothian, 1770-2000 prs Bavelaw, very successful, 1525 prs N Esk Res, good success; Borders, 815 nests West Water; Strathclyde, 250-300 prs Hunterston; Dumf & Gall, decrease L Moan, large colony abandoned Luce Bay. Counts: Grampian, 3400 Findhorn Bay 27 Oct, 10,000 Skene 18 Mar, 10,000 Kinord Mar-Apr; Lothian, 4450 Threpmuir Mar; Borders, 5000 West Water 12 Mar, 4500 Hoselaw 22 Dec; Strathclyde, 30,000 West Ferry 6 Jan, 22,000 on 28 Dec, 6500 Strathclyde Country Park 13 Jan, 8000 Ayr - Prestwick 16 Feb, 4000 Hogganfield L 21 Dec.

***Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* Grampian, ad Kingston 29 Dec (MJHC); Lothian, 1st w Musselburgh 2 Apr-1 May when moulting to 1st s (CCMcG, AB et al); Strathclyde, ad Munnoch Res, Ardrossan 9, 13 Jan (JLB, EL, DMW), ad Doonfoot 21-24 Feb (RHH, HJM).

Common Gull *Larus canus* Breeding: Shetland, good season, 1st chicks Unst 15 Jun; Orkney, 680 birds Hoy; Highland, 7 prs Handa; Grampian, 1550 prs Mortlach, Dufftown; Tayside, one colony deserted because of Mink, another through egg-collecting; Lothian/Borders, 9-10 prs at 5 sites; Strathclyde, 96 prs Colonsay, 21 nests Sliderry, Arran; Dumf & Gall, 15-20 prs Lochinvar L. Counts: Grampian, 20,000 Skene 18 Oct, 8 Dec; Lothian, 1000 Cobbinshaw 16 Mar; Borders, 16,540 mainly this

sp West Water 6 Apr; Strathclyde, 6000 Irvine-Barassie 26 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* Breeding: Shetland, nos slowly declining, further decrease to 17 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, decrease to 38 prs Papa Westray; Lothian, 350+ prs Craigleith; Strathclyde, 50 prs Scarba, 260-390 prs Shian Bay, Jura, 100+ prs Coll. Counts/passage: Shetland, Fair Isle 6 Mar - 26 Oct; Orkney, 26 Feb - 20 Oct; Tayside, 352 Trinity Gask 1 Oct; Borders, 750 West Water 24 Sep; Strathclyde, 850 Hogganfield L 24 Aug. Winter: usual small numbers in Jan and Dec Central, Lothian and Borders with many more Strathclyde, max 170 Balgray Res 22 Dec. Scandinavian *fuscus*: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 5 Oct, 2 on 6-7 Oct; Lothian, singles Duddingston 22 Jan, Aberlady 25 Mar, 2 Rosslynlea 31 Mar, Penicuik 11 Dec.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* Breeding: Shetland, only 87 nests Noss (500 in 1973), fared badly, apparently finding food scarce Fair Isle; Orkney, 56 prs Papa Westray; Highland, 200 prs Whiteness Hd, 65 nest Handa; Lothian, 1450-1500 prs Craigleith, 550+ prs Fidra; Borders, 782 nests St Abbs Hd. Counts: Shetland, 2500, mainly large, dark-backed northern birds, Fair Isle 18 Nov; Highland, 15,000 Beaulie Firth 25 Dec; Grampian, 2500 Skene 19 Jan; Strathclyde, 8000 West Ferry 6 Jan, 4800 Strathclyde L 3 Mar, 4000 Ayr 22 Nov, 4000+ L Lomond 24 Dec, 5000 Rigmuir, East Kilbride 29 Dec. Yellow legged birds: Highland, 1 Thurso Bay 9 Sep, 11 Sep; Lothian, 1 Musselburgh 21 Apr.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides* Few birds, mostly Jan-Apr: Shetland, 11 birds 13 Jan-20 May, 4 from 14 Oct-19 Nov; Orkney, 11 birds, max 2 Kirkwall, Jan-Mar; West Isles, 1 Benbecula 11 Jun; Highland, max 3 Thurso 17 Mar, 7 other singles 11 Feb-18 May, 1 Inverness 9 Jun; Grampian, max 4 Fraserburgh 20 Apr; Central, singles Stirling 14 Jan, Carron Valley Res 3 Feb; Lothian, 3 birds Apr; Strathclyde, 9 birds Jan-May, 2 in Nov-Dec. Kumlien's *L g kumlieni*: Grampian, ad Banff Bay 17 Mar (KMDB, JGS).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* Records, mostly in singles, in all months. Shetland, 22 Baltasound 11-12 Jan, 20 Fair Isle 2 Nov; Orkney, 2 North Ronaldsay 5 Apr; Highland, 4 Brims Ness 10 Nov, 9 other singles 3 Mar-30 Dec; Grampian, 5 Fraserburgh 3 Feb, 20 Nov; Tayside, 5 Arbroath Jan; Lothian, 17 in Jan-Jun, 5 in Jul-Dec; Strathclyde, 2 Loch Indaal, Islay 8-14 Dec, max 17 birds in SW, Glaucous x Herring hybrids: Shetland, singles Scalloway 2 Jun, Haroldswick 1-3 Sep.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* Breeding: Shetland, decline to 82 nests Cradle Holm,

reasonably successful Fair Isle; Orkney, 614 prs Hoy Reserve, 41 prs Papa Westray; Highland, 50 prs Whiteness Hd, 30 nests Handa. Counts: Shetland, 700 Fair Isle 21 Mar, 650 Spiggie late Jul; Grampian, 1000 Findhorn Bay 25 Aug, 800 Rattray 20 Sep; Fife, 450 I of May 10 Nov; Lothian, 432 Aberlady 9 Sep; Strathclyde, 170 Doonfoot 14 Dec.

***Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* Highland, ad Thurso from 1984 to 10 Feb (SL et al); Strathclyde, ad Ayr Harbour 2-3 Feb (AAM et al).



Ross's Gull. Thurso, January 1984, A. Hogg

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Breeding: Shetland, very poor season, 9438 nests Noss (11,050 in 1980), high mortality of young caused by food shortages; Orkney, no change from 1984 in 5 monitored colonies; Lothian, 319 nests Dunbar Harbour; Borders, 11,997 nests St Abbs Hd; Strathclyde, 6212 occupied nests Colonsay, 5000 prs Ailsa Craig. Counts/passage: Orkney, 3500 North Ronaldsay 8 Oct; Highland, 700 Inverness 27 Apr; Grampian, 7800S in 1 hr Peterhead 9 May, 1200 Lossiemouth 1 Sep; Fife, 3000 I of May 23 Oct; Lothian, 900+W in 1¼ hrs Hound Pt 7 Nov; Borders, 4100N/hr Eyemouth 20 Apr; Strathclyde, 1000S in 6½ hrs Turnberry Pt 15 Sep. Inland: Highland, 19 Lochend 28 Mar; Grampian 1 dead Spynie 10 Apr; Central, 91 Carron Valley Res 25 Oct; Lothian, 1 Duddingston 15 Jan; Strathclyde, 1 live, 1 dead Midross 20 Jan, 2 Lochwinnoch 20 Apr, 70 Aird Meadow 16 May, 200+ S Luss 30 May, 1 Hillend Res 20 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 2N L Ken 21 Apr.

***Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* Fife, 1 Anstruther 8 Sep (TC & Mrs A-MS).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* Breeding: Orkney, 50 birds Holm of Rendall, 250 birds Pentland Skerries, 50+ prs Sanday; Grampian, 700 prs Strathbeg, under 300 fledged, 495 prs Forvie, only 120 fledged; Lothian, 442 prs Inchmickery; Strathclyde, 4 prs Hunterston. Winter: singles Fife, Burntisland 20 Jan; Lothian,

Gosford Bay 19 Jan, Almond est 20 Jan, Aberlady 21 Jan, 25 Feb, Musselburgh 17 Feb. Counts/passage: Shetland, 11 birds 4 Apr-12 Jul; Orkney, 3 Apr-9 Oct; Grampian, 1st Peterhead 3 Mar, 400 Kingston 7 Aug; Fife, 457 Burntisland 21 Aug, last Inverkeithing 10 Dec; Lothian, 1230 Musselburgh 21 Aug, 500 Hound Pt 19 Sep; Borders, 150N/hr Eyemouth 14 Apr. Inland: Lothian, 1 Salisbury Crags, Edinburgh 3 May, several parties inland over Musselburgh 12 Aug-28 Sep; Strathclyde, 1W Gadloch 17 May, 12 SW North Craig Res, Kilmarnock 5 Sep.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougalii* Breeding: 13 prs at 2 colonies Forth. Counts/passage: Fife, 4 Largo Bay 31 May, 25, including 1 juv, Kirkcaldy 3 Aug; Lothian, first 2S Barns Ness 26 May, 2 Aberlady 28 Jul, 1 Gosford Bay 9 Sep; Strathclyde, 1 Grasspoint, Mull 21 Jun; Dumf & Gall, 3 L Ryan 15 May.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Breeding: Shetland, no attempts Noss, 38 prs failed Fetlar, 34 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 100 birds Pentland Skerries; Highland, 47 prs L Fleet, 50 ads with 22 fledged young Alness Pt 20 Jul; Grampian, 150 prs Garmouth, 164 prs reared only 20 young Forvie due to Fox predation, 89 prs Strathbeg reared only 10-13 young due to flooding; Central, 30 prs Grangemouth; Fife, 80 birds I of May, 10+ prs elsewhere; Lothian, 436-456 prs at 4 sites; Strathclyde 200 prs Port Olmsa, Colonsay, 40 prs Hunterston. Counts/passage: Shetland, 5 May-28 Aug, late bird Skellister 15 Nov; Highland, 50+S/hr Duncansby Head 18 Aug; Grampian, last 'Commic' Findhorn 16 Nov; Tayside, 500 Carnoustie Jul; Fife, 295 Kirkcaldy 21 Aug; Lothian, 260 Musselburgh 19 Aug; Strathclyde, 1st Prestwick 23 Apr, last Portencross 26 Oct.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* Breeding: Shetland, very poor season, many colonies deserted, a few chicks fledged in larger colonies; Orkney, few young fledged, 6210 birds Papa Westray, 1000 birds Muckle Skerry, 2210 birds Rousay, 1500 birds Westray, 850 birds Stronsay; Highland, 1560+ Stroma, very poor season Sutherland; Grampian, 35 prs reared 5 young Forvie, 72 prs reared 32 young St Cyrus; Fife, increase to 87 birds I of May; Lothian, 90-110 prs at 3 sites, low success; Strathclyde, 12 prs Ballantrae, none fledged, 40 prs Meikle Craigs. Other records: Orkney, last Brough of Birsay 16 Nov; Grampian, first 2 Lossiemouth 8 Apr, 245S in 3 hrs Peterhead 12 Aug, 600 Ythan 28 Jul; Lothian, (1st/2nd s birds Aberlady on 3 dates Jun,) 4 Gladhouse 27 Jul; Borders, 1 Hule Moss 8 Sep; Strathclyde, 3 Baron's Haugh 28 Apr.

***Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* Lothian, 1 Musselburgh-Granton 6 Oct-9 Nov (IJA, PRG, LLJV et al). (see p126)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* Breeding: Highland, 2 prs Caithness Dist, 5 prs successful at 1 site Sutherland Dist; Grampian, late influx mid-Jun, no young fledged Forvie, 47 prs, 24 fledged St Cyrus is best for many years; Lothian, 24 prs at 1 site, no young reared; Strathclyde 15 prs Coll, 5 prs in SW. Other records: Orkney, 1 Auskerry 10 Jul; Tayside, 35 Westhaven 11 Jul; Fife, last 1 I of May 16 Oct; Lothian, 1st 3 Aberlady 20 Apr, last 1 on 14 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 1st Ardwell 14 Apr.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* Poor year, about 36. Spring adults: West Isles, 1 Balranald, North Uist 17 May, 4 Jun; Lothian, 1 Aberlady 27 Jun. Autumn: Highland, 1 L Flemington 2-10 Nov was late; Fife, singles Anstruther 8 Sep, Eden est 15 Sep, Kirkcaldy 20 Oct; Lothian, 19 bird-days, 4 Jul-13 Sep, max 4 Hound Pt 30 Aug; Borders, 15 St Abbs 14 Aug, 22 Sep; Strathclyde, 1 Bogton L 14 Jul, 2 L Gruinart, Islay 18 Jul, 1 Gadloch 24-28 Aug, 1 Dreghorn 6-8 Oct, 1 Endrick Mouth 9 Oct, 1 Doonfoot 9 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 1 Corsewall Pt 5 Oct.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus Orkney, ad L of Harry 23-25 Jun (SH, ERM).

Guillemot *Uria aalge* Breeding: Shetland, significant decrease in study areas, up to 29%, little change, excellent season, Fair Isle; Orkney, 18% increase at 5 monitored colonies, 20,000 birds North Hoy; Lothian, 2500 birds Bass Rock, 2200 birds Lamb; Borders, 17,815 birds St Abbs Hd; Strathclyde, 13,460 birds Colonsay. Counts: Highland, 2000 Eriboll 5 Feb, 7800 Inverness Firth 4 Dec; Grampian, 10,000 Auks N/hr Peterhead 17 Feb, 357,000 Buckie — Montrose to 65 km offshore Aug; Central, 7 inland records around

25 Nov, some birds flying W; Lothian, 114W/30E in 1½ hrs Hound Pt 18 Nov, large numbers found dead, mostly emaciated, Nov-Dec; Strathclyde, 100-150 caught in predator nets at fish farm Kyles of Bute 1984/85, 11 inland birds 15 Sep-30 Nov.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia Orkney, 1 dead Scapa Bay 9 Jan (MPH, MH, ISR).

Razorbill *Alca torda* Breeding: Shetland, good breeding season, partial recovery Fair Isle; Orkney, 4.3% increase at 5 monitored colonies; Lothian, 130 birds at 3 sites; Borders, 1197 birds St Abbs Hd is slight increase; Strathclyde, 1760 birds Colonsay. Counts: Shetland, 6 Spiggie L 16 May; Highland, 200 Eriboll 5 Feb; Grampian, 67,000 to 65 km offshore Buckie — Montrose, mostly off Fraserburgh, Aug; Strathclyde, 1 inland Endrick Mouth 15 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 900-1350S Corsewall Pt 5 Oct.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* Breeding: Shetland, showing slight increase Yell, more successful than 1984 Fair Isle; Orkney, 630 birds Holm of Papa Westray, 227 North Hill Reserve; Strathclyde, 82 Colonsay late May. Counts: Grampian, 73 bird-days Peterhead, max 16 Fraserburgh 24 Feb; Fife, max 2 Fife Ness 20 Dec; Lothian, max 2 Musselburgh 19 Jan; Strathclyde, 12 Port Glasgow — Inverkip 29 Jul; Dumf & Gall, 50 Mull of Galloway 6 Apr.

Little Auk *Alle alle* Few Jan-Apr, big influx Nov; Shetland up to 23 Yell Jan, 200/hrS Sumburgh Hd 4 Nov; Orkney, 11 live birds, max 3 Flotta 22 Nov; West Isles, 1 Sound of Taransay 11 Sep; Highland, 9 birds Caithness Dist, mostly Nov-Dec; Grampian, 7 Fraserburgh 20 Apr, 54S in 2 hrs



Little Auks. J. G. Steele

Peterhead 16 Nov; Fife, 100 1 of May 11 Nov, 199 Fife Ness 23 Nov, 97N on 24 Nov; Lothian, 9 Dunglass 24 Feb, influx 10-25 Nov, 233E Musselburgh 17 Nov; 29W/16E in 2 hrs Hound Pt 17 Nov, 102E Gosford 17 Nov, 26E Aberlady 23 Nov; Borders, high nos Nov-Dec, 59 Eyemouth 23 Nov; Strathclyde, 1 Port Glasgow 16 Nov. Dead birds: 24, mostly Grampian and Lothian, Jan-Apr, 1 Western Isles Jun, 1 Orkney Oct, 2 Lothian Nov.

Puffin *Fratricula arctica* Breeding: Shetland, 24% decrease Burrista, Fair Isle, food scarce, late departure; Orkney, 2000 Bre Brough, Hoy; Highland, 335+ prs Handa; Lothian, min 1580 occupied burrows Craigeith; Borders, increase, 52, inc imms, off St. Abbs 27 Jul; Strathclyde, 25 birds Ailsa Craig. Counts/movements: Grampian, 222 in 2½ hrs Peterhead 22 Jul, 11,000 to 65kms offshore Buckie-Fraserburgh and 16,000 Fraserburgh-Montrose Aug; Borders, 80N/hr Burnmouth 27 Jul.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Breeding: Shetland, population becoming tainted with lost racing pigeons Fair Isle; Orkney, 50 prs North Hoy. Counts: Orkney, 500 L of Clumly, Mainland 17 Nov; Central, 200 Dunblane Cathedral 19 Jan; Strathclyde, 160 Fiddin, Mull 25 Nov.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* Breeding: Strathclyde, little change in S; Dumf & Gall, decreasing Stewartry/Wigtown Dist. Counts/passage: Shetland, 2 singles Fair Isle 11 May, 1-7 Oct; Fife, 75 Vane Farm Oct; Lothian, 90 Aberlady 15 Jan, 75 Rosebery 17 Feb, 70 Bawsinch 8 Dec; Strathclyde, 56 North Craig Res 21 Jan.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* Breeding: Orkney, 4+ prs North Hoy; Strathclyde, present in 27 out of 38 deciduous woods mid/N Argyll. Counts/passage: Shetland, recorded Fair Isle 22 Mar-5 Nov, good spring passage, max 28 on 7 Apr; Grampian, 1000 Rattray 10 Feb; Lothian, 1500 Craigielaw, Aberlady 8 Feb; Strathclyde, 1500 Carnwath 24 Nov.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* Breeding: Grampian, continued decline Moray; Strathclyde, decreasing Argyll, especially Islay, 20 prs Alloway. Counts/passage: Shetland, max 12 Vensgarth 23 Nov, noted Fair Isle 17 Apr-5 Oct, max 7 on 29-30 May; Orkney, 115 Crantit, St Ola 27 Oct; Highland, 7 records of 1-3 birds Handa 13 May-3 Jul; Tayside, 30 Stormontfield, Perth 18 Oct; Lothian, 73 Turnhouse 8 Oct; Strathclyde, 37 Monkton 30 Sep, 52 Auchinloch 20 Oct.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* Shetland, 12 May-20 Oct, peaks 6 Fair Isle 29 May, 3 Baltasound 4 Jun; Orkney, singles 19 May-9 Jul, 1-2 on 4-23 Sep; Highland, 1 Rothiemurchus 8-10 Jun, 1 Noss Fm 21 Sep-1 Oct; Grampian, singles Rattray 15 May, 14 Sep, Strathbeg 21 Sep; Tayside,

1 Carnoustie 26-28 Oct; Fife, 3 Fife Ness 20-26 May, singles 1 of May 27 May, 25 Jun, Fife Ness 3 Jun; Lothian, singles Aberlady 25, 27 May, Colstoun Wood 31 May, Craigielaw, Aberlady 9 Sep; Borders, singles St. Abbs, Reston on 7 dates 15 May-30 Jun, 30 Sep; Strathclyde, 8 singles Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Tiree, Campbeltown, Douglas Water, Coylton 20 May-5 Jul, 1 Prestwick 25 Aug; Dumf & Gall, 1 Mull of Galloway 6 Oct.

****Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*** Strathclyde, 1 Wellbrae, East Kilbride 5 May.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Breeding: Strathclyde, recorded in 35 out of 38 deciduous woods in Mid/N Argyll. Counts/passage: Shetland, 13 May-8 Sep, max 8 Fair Isle 26 May; West Isles, 1 Stornoway 25 Apr; Highland, 1 Kingussie 14 Apr, last 1 Cawdor 3 Sep; Grampian, 4 May-14 Aug, 1 Aberdeen 27 Sep; Fife, increase, 24 Apr-6 Sep; Lothian, 26 sites, 25 Apr-20 Aug, 9 Monynut 27 May; Borders, 23 Apr-6 Aug; Strathclyde, singles Arran 17 Apr, Colonsay 18 Apr, Connel 19 Apr, fewer in SW; Dumf & Gall, scarce, from 22 Apr.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Breeding: Highland, nos low; Grampian, 4 sites; Lothian, 1 summering pr; Strathclyde, 12 prs Arran, 66 young reared from 27 occupied sites in SW; Dumf & Gall, better nos Cree Valley/Glentool, moderate nos and success Glenkens, fewer sightings L Ken area. Other records: Highland, 1 Freswick 2 Jan; Fife, singles at 3 sites inc 1 of May 31 Oct; Lothian, 6 sites; Borders, 23 sites.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca Shetland, 3-4 ♀♀ present, mostly Fetlar-Unst, 3 ♂♂ Unst 3 Sep; ♀ summered Ronas Hill; Orkney, ♀ Sanday 6 May (RT), possibly same bird North Ronaldsay 10 May (KFW); West Isles, ♀ Barvas, Lewis 30 Sep.

Little Owl *Athene noctua Lothian, 1 Turnhouse 30-31 Mar, 6 May; Borders, singles St Abbs 6 Jul-17 Nov, Ayton, Chirnside early Jul suggest post-breeding dispersal.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* Breeding: Highland, good population Caithness Dist, 3 prs within 500 yards Apigill/Skelpick, Sutherland Dist; Lothian, reported presence at 43 sites; Strathclyde, 4-6 prs Arran, 8 prs Culzean reared 18 young; Dumf & Gall, 13 nests Kirkcudbright area but high losses of eggs and young in cold spring.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* Few breeding reports: Highland, reported from at least 7 sites; Strathclyde, 1 pr Colonsay, 2 prs Lennox Forest, 10 prs in SW reared 12 young. Counts/passage: Shetland, only 6 spring records from 5 sites, max 14 Fair Isle 26 Oct; Orkney, 20 Rendall Nov, 15 St Ola Dec; West Isles, 1 St Kilda 16-28 Sep.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammea* Breeding: Orkney, 29 prs; Highland, good year Caithness Dist; Grampian, 5 sites; Tayside, usual nos; Central, 3 prs; Lothian, good year Lammermuirs; Borders, present 8+ sites; Strathclyde, 5 prs Mull, 2 prs North Bute, 9 prs Arran, 9 prs in SW; Dumf & Gall, 5+ prs Clatteringshaws-L Dee. Count/passage: Shetland, 21 Jan-20 Nov, max 4 Fair Isle 9 Apr; Fife, max 5 I of May 24 Oct; Lothian, 6 Musselburgh 16 Jan, 6 Aberlady 2 Feb; Borders, 9+ Craik 11 Jan.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* Breeding: Strathclyde, 6 calling Arran, 1st on 31 May; Dumf & Gall, 2 ♂ and possible ♀ at 1 site, 2 ♂♂ at another. Passage: Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 20, 28-29 May; Lothian, 1 Craiglockhart, Edinburgh 20 Jul; Strathclyde, 1 near Croig, Mull 16 May.

Swift *Apus apus* Breeding: Highland, 3 at tree nest holes L Garten 2 Jul. Counts/passage: main arrival late; Shetland, 25 May-11 Sep, peaks 20 Dale of Wall 3 Jul, 22 Noss 21 Aug; Orkney, 11 May-4 Oct; Highland 300 Insh 24 Jul, 450 Longman 26 Jul, 50 Thurso 29 Jul; Grampian, 200 Strathbeg 30 Jul, last 2 Buckie 6 Nov; Central, 200 Inchcailloch 27-28 Jul; Fife, 350 Kilconquhar L 5 Aug; Lothian, 400 Linlithgow 23 May, last North Berwick 7 Oct; Borders, 250 Hallydun 10 Jul, 250 Cockburnspath 27 Jul, last 2 Eyemouth 5 Oct; Strathclyde, 2 Martnaham L 20 Apr, 1 Endrick Mouth 25 Apr, 500 Linwood 23 Jul, last Crosshill, Maybole 6 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 250 Carlingwark L mid-Jun.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Breeding: Tayside, 1 breeding record; Lothian, 1 pr; Borders, 5 sites; Strathclyde, 20 prs, Inner Clyde population healthy. Outwith usual areas: Highland, 1 Corpach 12 Nov; Grampian, 1 Haddo House 12 Jan, 1 Cruden Bay 7 May, 1 Darnaway 9-10 May, 1 Ballater 10 May; Strathclyde, singles Mull 1 Jan-3 Feb, Taynuilt 14 Jan, 7 sightings Arran Aug-Dec.

***Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* Orkney, 1 North Walls 11 Jul, Sanday 4 Aug, Papa Westray 9 Aug, Kirkwall 13-15 Aug — probably all same bird (JRLH, AO, DB, EB, VEB).

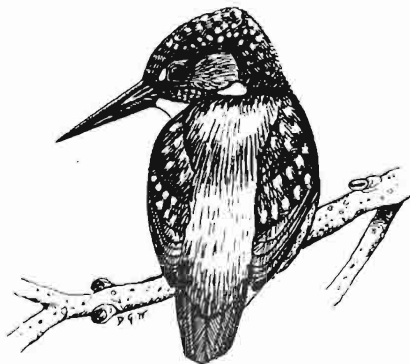
***Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* Eleven singles: Shetland, Bressay, 7 Apr, Sumburgh 3 Oct; Orkney, Shapinsay 17-24 May; Highland, Achfary/Alltarnrhynie 21 Apr, Kildonan Lodge end May, Whiteness Hd 15 Oct, Reay 22 Nov; Grampian, Inverurie late Sep-26 Nov, perished in snow; Borders, St Abbs 19-21 Jul; Strathclyde, Mt Stuart, Bute 24-25 Apr, L Gruinart, Islay 9 May.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Breeding: Highland, up to 8 singing birds May-Jun, pr reared 2 young;

Grampian, 5 birds at 1 site, none present on later visit; Tayside, 2 birds seen 23 Jun. Passage: Shetland, a good spring, 7 May-22 Jun, 16 Aug-24 Sep, Fair Isle peaks 14 on 14 May, 10 on 20 Aug; Orkney, 5 birds spring, 5 autumn, max 2 North Ronaldsay 16 May; Highland, 1 Ackergill 21-24 Sep; Grampian 2 Nigg 14 May; Fife, 1 Fife Ness 13 May, max 5 I of May 15-16 May, 2 on 25 Sep; Lothian, 1 Barns Ness 19 May; Borders, 2 St Abbs 14 May, singles 13, 15, 17 May, 3 on 23 Sep.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* Breeding: Highland, 10 sites Badenoch & Strathspey Dist, Grampian, 7 records Deeside, 1 Donside, singles Arndilly mid-Apr, L Spynie 7 Sep; Tayside, more reports; Fife, much as last year; Lothian, reported 25 sites, 13 during breeding season; Borders, reported 28 sites, bred at 3; Strathclyde, none in 38 deciduous woods mid/N Argyll, reported 6 sites in SW, probably bred at 1; Dumf & Gall, scarce, may have disappeared from some long-occupied areas.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* Breeding: Tayside, usual nos; Fife, still fairly scarce; Strathclyde, 4 prs Calder Glen, East Kilbride, recorded in 35 of 38 deciduous woods mid/N Argyll; Dumf & Gall, plentiful and widespread in W, eg 4 prs Wood of Cree. Other records: Shetland, singles Lerwick 4 Sep, Fair Isle 23-28 Sep; Orkney, Orphir 29 Sep, Finstown 24 Oct-2 Nov; West Isles, Stornoway 1 Sep; Grampian, Strathbeg 29 Oct.



Kingfisher. D. G. Mitchell

***Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 28-29 May (NJR, JT), 1 on 13-14 Jun (NJR, KBS); Fife, 1 I of May 8 May (MPH, JHBM, SW).

***Woodlark** *Lullula arborea* Two: Shetland, singles Fair Isle 10-25 Mar, 21 Apr.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* Breeding: Shetland, 87 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 37 prs North Hoy; Highland, 50+ prs Ferry Links, L Fleet, 31-36 prs Handa; Lothian, 50+ prs Bathgate Hills, 47 prs Aberlady; Strathclyde, 200 prs RSPB L Gruinart. Counts/passage: Shetland, 250 Fair Isle 1 Apr, 550 on 7 Oct; Grampian, 520S Don, Aberdeen 27 Nov; Central, 400 Cambuskenneth 25 Jan; Fife, 500+ Tayport 29 Nov; Lothian, 600-800 Musselburgh 16 Jan; Strathclyde, 400 Ladykirk, Ayr 6 Jan.

***Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* Only two: Grampian, 1 Troup Head 10 Mar; Fife, 1 West Sands, St Andrews 13 Mar.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* Breeding: decline or low nos reported Grampian, Tayside, Central, Lothian, Borders, Strathclyde, Dumf & Gall. Less scarce than last year Fife. Counts/passage: Shetland, 12 May-9 Oct, 6 records Fair Isle, max 6 on 29 May; Orkney, 10 records of 1-3, mostly North Ronaldsay, 17 May-24 Aug; Highland, 7 Apr-2 Oct, 190 Insh Marshes 7 Jul; Grampian, max 130 Davan 14 Jul; Tayside, 2000+ Port Allen 18 Aug; Fife, 120 L Leven 4 Sep; Lothian, 1st Musselburgh 5 Apr, last Aberlady 10 Oct; Strathclyde, 1st New Cumnock 21 Mar.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Breeding: Orkney, poor season; Tayside, low nos; Strathclyde, poor season in many parts of SW. Counts/passage: arrival again late; Shetland, 19 Apr-1 Nov, peaks 55 Hillwell 28 May, 80 Fair Isle 30 May; Orkney, 56 North Ronaldsay 27 May; Highland, 5 Apr-21 Oct; Grampian, 14 Apr-29 Oct, autumn roost of thousands L Spynie, 700 Kinnord 2 Aug; Tayside, 15 Apr-3 Nov; Central, 5 Apr-7 Oct; Fife, 14 Apr-21 Oct, 1000 Kilconquhar L 10 Sep; Lothian, 4 Apr-2 Nov, 850+ Linlithgow 19 May; Borders, 300 St Abbs 7 Sep; Strathclyde, 1 Apr-12 Nov, 400 Linwood Pool 4 Sep; Dumf & Gall, late bird Kirkcudbright 5 Dec, died 6th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica* Breeding: Orkney, 3 prs; Fife, 21 nests Elie cliffs; Lothian, 42 cliff nests Dunbar. Counts/passage: arrival late, departure early; Shetland, 10 May-25 Oct, max 50 Fair Isle 29 May, 3 Jun; Orkney, 18 Apr-10 Oct, max 35 North Ronaldsay 27 May; Highland, 1st Bonar Bridge 7 Apr; Central, 14 Apr-15 Oct, 250 Inchealloch 1 Aug; Lothian, 13 Apr-12 Oct, 250 Drem 23 Aug, 250 Craigielaw, Aberlady 7, 9 Sep; Borders, 600 St Abbs 7 Sep; Strathclyde, 6 Apr-31 Oct, 300 Crossford 25 May.

***Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Eleven: 9 birds (1-2 daily) Fair Isle 22 Sep-8 Nov, 1 Out Skerries 24 Sep; Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 24-26 Sep.

***Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* Fife, 1 l of May 22-23 May (JHBM, SW et al).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Breeding: Highland, 5 prs L Garten CBC (9 in 1984); increase Lothian; Borders, 11 sites occupied; Strathclyde, apparently plentiful deciduous woods Jura, 10+ prs Sannox, Arran, increase in clearfell areas North Glentworth, recorded in all 38 deciduous woods surveyed mid/N Argyll; Dumf & Gall, good nos, 36 prs Wood of Cree. Counts/passage: Shetland, 3 May-8 Oct, 180 Fair Isle 15-22 May; Orkney, late 1 South Ronaldsay 26 Oct; Highland, 2 L Garten 18 Apr; Fife, 200 l of May 14 May; Lothian, 16 near Coulsland 21 Apr; Borders, 1st Eyemouth 4 Apr; Strathclyde, 7 Apr-15 Oct.

***Pechora Pipit** *Anthus gustavi* Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 23 Sep (DBe, NJR, PS), 1 from 24-27 Sep (SMH, DTP, NJR), 1 from 24-29 Sep (PVH, NJR, DS).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* Breeding: Shetland, 32 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 500 prs North Hoy; Highland, 57-62 prs Handa; Lothian, 31 prs Aberlady. Counts/passage: Shetland, 23 Jan-15 Dec, max 520 Fair Isle 16 Sep; Orkney, 200 North Ronaldsay 15 Sep; Highland, 4800-7200W in 4 hrs Thurso 14 Jan; Grampian, 550 Davan/Kinord after snow on high ground 28 Apr; Fife, 1000 l of May 8 Oct; Borders, 440N in 15 mins Stanhope 21 Apr; Strathclyde, 530 L Gruinart, Islay Jul.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* Breeding: Orkney, 10 prs North Hoy, 18 prs Papa Westray; Highland, 37 prs Handa; Borders, 9 territories St Abbs; Strathclyde, 8+ prs Fisherton-Dunure. Counts/passage: Shetland, 150 Fair Isle 20 Aug, 16 Sep; Orkney, 50 in 1½km Deerness 9 Jan; Highland, 100 Melvich 28 Dec; Lothian, 40+ Tynninghame 3 Mar. Scandinavian *littoralis*: Lothian, Barns Ness 9 Mar-5 Apr, max 6 on 31 Mar, 1 Yellowcraig 24 Mar, 1 Musselburgh 24 Mar; Borders, 2 Dunglass 3 Mar, 3 Burmsmouth 17 Mar; Strathclyde, 1 Turnberry Point 28 Mar. Water Pipit *spinoletta*: Tayside, 1 Elliot Burn 17 Nov-end Dec; Lothian, 1 Barns Ness 9-10 Mar, 1 Tynninghame 20 Apr; Borders, 1 St Abbs 17 Apr; Strathclyde, 1 Doonfoot 27 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 1 High Auchneel, Stranraer 15 May.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* Breeding: Lothian, 1 pr Barns Ness; Strathclyde, 10-11 prs East Kilbride, incomplete survey; reduction to 10 prs study areas in SW. Counts/passage, *flavissima* or unspecified: Shetland, 6 May-8 Oct, poor year; Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 9, 19, 31 May; West Isles, singles Balranald 10 May, St Kilda 21 May; Highland, 1 Balnakeil 26 May; Grampian, 4 birds 4-11 May; Tayside, pr summered lower Tay; Fife, 11-12 birds 29 Apr-30 Aug; Lothian, many 8 Apr-11 Oct; Strathclyde, 24 Apr-8 Sep, 1 Uanhannan Donna, Islay 27 May. Blue-headed *flava*: Shetland, 3 birds 9 May-11 Jul; Highland, singles Handa 1 Jun, Sibmister 4 Dec was exceptionally late; Fife, 1 Fife Ness 5 Sep; Lothian,

singles Skateraw/Barns Ness 10, 26 May, 11 Jun; Borders, 2 St Abbs 13 May, 1 on 22 May. Grey-headed *thunbergi*: Shetland, 11 birds 9 May-26 Jun; singles Orkney, Graemeshall, Holm 16 May; Lothian, Aberlady 17 May; Borders, St Abbs 1 Jun; Strathclyde, Ulva Ferry, Mull 16 May. Grey and white morph, possibly of eastern origin, Fair Isle, Shetland 24-30 Oct.

***Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* Shetland, 1st w Fair Isle 31 Aug-2 Sep (CMcK, NJR, KBS); Lothian, imm Tynningame 31 Aug (DJB, AJC), 1st w Musselburgh 10-12 Oct (TB, JC, PRG et al).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Breeding: Highland, 8 prs Caithness Dist; Borders, 5 prs Melrose; Strathclyde, recovery to 15 prs Strathkelvin Dist, 8 prs Caldergleng, East Kilbride; little change elsewhere in SW Scotland. Counts/passage: Shetland, 12 records 1 Apr-28 Sep, 2 Lerwick 27 Sep; West Isles, singles Tarbert 12 Apr, Stornoway 1 Aug.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* Breeding: Orkney 10 prs North Hoy; Fife, 1-2 prs 1 of May; Lothian, 12 prs Muiravonside; Strathclyde, 47+ prs Strathkelvin Dist, Dumf & Gall, decrease Upper Minnoch. Counts/passage: Shetland, 26 Jan-27 Nov, max 45 at roost Quendale 2 Sep; Orkney, 60 North Ronaldsay 24 Sep; Highland, low nos Caithness Dist, max 200 Wick 9 Sep; Grampian, 200 L Spynie 29 Oct, 1000 Aberdeen Airport Aug; Lothian, 125 Drem 8 Aug; Strathclyde, 300+ Kilmarnock mid-Sep, 300 Dalry Dec; Dumf & Gall, 500+ in 2 roosts Dee est Oct. White *alba*: Passage: Shetland, Fair Isle, 1 Apr-31 Oct, max 30 in Aug; Orkney, 3 Mar-26 Sep; Highland, 16 Chanonry Pt 28 Apr; Lothian, 15 Tynningame 14 Apr, 15 Pefferside 20 Apr; Strathclyde, 53 Troon 18 Apr.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Few Jan-Apr, small influx Nov: Shetland, 1 Scalloway 2 Feb, 3 Lerwick 12 Nov-3 Dec, max 4 Fair Isle 20 Nov; Orkney, 3 Stromness 13 Nov, 2-6 Rackwick, Hoy 16 Nov, 3 Finstown 16 Nov, 8 Kirkwall 29 Nov; Highland, 6 Dingwall 20 Jan, 11 Inverness 24-26 Feb, 2 Mallaig 30 Nov-2 Dec, 9 Culrain 30 Nov; Grampian, 26 Aberdeen 16 Feb, 16 in Mar, 15 in Apr, 2 Pitmedden 10 Nov; Tayside, 7 Killiecrankie 16 Nov, 12 Pitlochry 20 Nov, 3 Dundee 7 Dec; Fife, 3 Edenside 26 Nov; Lothian, 2 Longniddry 19 Nov, 9 Dirlerton 21 Nov, 10 Beltonford, Dunbar 1 Dec; Strathclyde, 3 Ardrishaig 10 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 20-25 Penninghame 18 Apr.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* Breeding: Highland, good nos Caithness Dist; Fife, possible decrease; Lothian, decrease to 28 sites R South Esk below Gladhouse; Borders, 10 territories Leithen Water; Strathclyde, disappeared Kilmartin, probably due to Mink predation, 8 prs Arran, 8 prs in 8½ km

Upper Duneaton Water; Dumf & Gall, still small broods Minnoch, low nos Ken Valley. Outside usual areas: Orkney, 1 Trowie Glen, Hoy 27 May is 1st since 1974. Black-bellied *cinclus*: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 1-4 Apr, 1 on 12 Dec.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* Breeding: Orkney, 100 prs North Hoy; Lothian, 26 territories Roslin Glen; Strathclyde, 36 prs L Gruinart Islay, present in all 38 deciduous woods surveyed mid/N Argyll, 27 prs Baron's Haugh, 25 prs Lochwinnoch; Dumf & Gall, recovery Glentroot. Passage: Orkney, 4 North Ronaldsay 5 Apr; Fife, 20 I of May 27 Sep. Fair Isle *fridariensis*: increase to 25 singing ♂♂ but low success, perhaps surplus ♂♂.

Duncock *Prunella modularis* Breeding: Orkney, 14 territories North Hoy; Lothian, 33 territories Aberlady; Strathclyde, noted in only 6 of 38 deciduous woods surveyed mid/N Argyll, 15 prs Baron's Haugh. Passage: Shetland, influx 5-14 Apr involved up to 34 birds, few in autumn, last 1 Fair Isle 27 Oct; Fife, 20 Fife Ness 7 Apr; Lothian, 20 Barns Ness 29 Sep.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* Breeding: Orkney, 6 prs Hoy; Lothian, 26 territories Roslin Glen; Strathclyde, present in all 38 deciduous woods surveyed mid/N Argyll, 24 prs Baron's Haugh, 15 prs Lochwinnoch. Passage: Shetland, influx 5-14 Apr, several hundreds, peak 150 Fair Isle 5 Apr, few autumn, max 7 on 29 Sep; Orkney, 300 North Ronaldsay 5-6 Apr, 20 on 24 Sep; Highland, 60 Noss Farm 24 Sep; Fife, 50 I of May 27 Oct; Lothian, 30 Barns Ness 23 Sep; Borders 53 Burnmouth 28 Sep.



Waxwing. College of Education, Aberdeen, February 1985, S. M. Alexander.

***Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* Shetland, 1st s Fair Isle 10-30 May (PVH, NJR), 1st s Whalsay 15-19 May (CFM, BM), 1 Fair Isle 21-23

May (Mr and Mrs McL, NJR, KBS); Fife, 1 Craill 15 May (JGS).

***Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* Four: Shetland, singles Fair Isle 15, 19 and 21 May, 1 Whalsay 16 May.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Breeding: pr reared 2 young N Scotland (1st successful UK record), 1 alarm-calling at another site 23 Aug. Record spring influx of red-spotted *svecica*: Shetland, 8 May-11 Jun, 70 birds involved, outside main island group max 70 Fair Isle 13 May, c10 from 2 Sep-14 Oct; Orkney, 9 May-30 May, max 6 North Ronaldsay 19 May, 1 on 27 Sep; West Isles, 1 Leverburgh, Harris 21 May; Highland, Noss Head 9-26 May, max 13 on 15 May, singles Staxigoe 16 May, Dunbeath 17 May, 1 Handa 20-23 May, singing ♂ Sutherland Dist 9 Jun present 2 weeks previously, 1 Benmore Lodge 16 Jun, 1 Noss Fm 23-24 Sep; Grampian, min 26 birds at 11 coastal sites, max 6 Girdle Ness 19 May, 1 inland Feardar 31 May; Tayside, 3 birds 15-19 May; Fife, 1 of May 8 May-5 Jun, max 100 on 14-15 May, 15-20 birds Fife Ness 8-26 May, max 15 on 14 May, 1 Cleish Hills 11 May; Lothian, 8 birds 15-20 May inc one 10 mls N of St Abbs on MV Gardyloo, 1 Barns Ness 23 Sep; Borders, min 13 birds 9-16 May, max 6 St Abbs 15 May, 1 on boat 98 mls E of Eyemouth 24 Oct. White-spotted *cyaneola*: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 22 May; Tayside, 2 Fowlsheugh 14 May; Borders, 1 Eyemouth 15-18 May.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Possible breeding North Scotland, very young juv 18-20 Jul. Winter: Fife, 1 St Andrews 5-6 Jan; Lothian, 1 Belhaven-Dunbar 2 Jan-10 Mar, 1 Holyrood Park, Edinburgh 12 Jan; Borders, 1 Eyemouth from 1984 to 17 May; Strathclyde, 1 Troon 20 Jan, 2 on 21 Jan-23 Mar, 1 till 26 May, 1 Turnberry Pt 14-16 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 1 Glenkiln 17 Jan. Migration: Shetland, 5 Mar-8 Jun, 6 Fair Isle 5 Apr, 6 Dunrossness 7 Apr, singles 27 Jun and 23 Oct, 2 Fair Isle 26-27 Oct; Orkney, 25 Mar-10 Jun, max 8 North Ronaldsay 4 Apr, 1 Copinsay 25 Sep; West Isles, 1 Benbecula 17 Oct; Highland, 5 singles 5-14 Apr; Grampian, 1 Girdle Ness 16 May, 1 Rattray 25-26 May, 1 on 27 Oct; Central, 1 Strathblane 20 Apr; Fife, 24 Mar-25 Oct, max 4 1 of May 23 Oct; Lothian, 4 Skateraw 10 Apr, 1 on 14 Apr, 1 Aberlady 13 Apr, 1 Monynut 27 May; Borders, 5 singles St Abbs 5 Apr-30 May, 1 Eyemouth 1 Oct; Strathclyde, 1 Gigha early Apr, 3 singles Arran 13 Oct-3 Nov.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Breeding: Borders, 49 singing ♂♂ reported; Strathclyde, recorded in all 38 deciduous woods surveyed mid/N Argyll, no change in SW; Dumf & Gall, 33 prs Wood of Cree. Passage: Shetland, 6 May-31 Oct, max 120 Fair Isle 14 May; Orkney, 5 May-11 Oct, max 16 North Ronaldsay 25 Sep; West Isles,

1 St Kilda 29 Jun, 2 South Uist Sep; Highland, 21 Apr-25 Sep, max 13 Noss 24 Sep; Grampian, 20 Apr-26 Sep; Fife, 150 1 of May 14-15 May; Lothian, 17 Apr-23 Sep; Borders, 1st St Mary's L 8 Apr; Strathclyde, 1 Tisee early Apr; Dumf & Gall, 1st Laurieston 8 Apr.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Breeding: Lothian, 68 prs Monynut; Borders, 20 prs Leithen Valley; Strathclyde, 28 prs Arran but poor success, 32 prs/km² in young forestry Garabal; Dumf & Gall, numerous Glentroof 4 yrs after clearfelling. Passage: Shetland, 1 Lerwick 14 Apr, then 6 May-25 Jun and 16 Aug-8 Nov Fair Isle, max 130 on 15 May; Orkney, 5 May-15 Oct, max 10 North Ronaldsay 16 May, 10 South Ronaldsay 16 May; Highland, 1 Cnoc Mor, Sutherland Dist 7 Apr, then 28 Apr-6 Oct, 18 Noss Fm 24 Sep; Grampian, 6 May-29 Oct; Fife, 1st Fife Ness 3 Apr, max 200 1 of May 14 May; Strathclyde, 20 Apr-22 Oct.



Whinchat male. A. Brown

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* Breeding: Orkney, 11 prs North Hoy, many 1st clutches failed; Highland, slow recovery Caithness Dist, 2 prs Handa; Grampian, recovery Moray Dist with 6-9 prs at 3 sites; no records Tayside, Borders; decrease and no breeding Fife, Lothian: Strathclyde, mixed fortunes, scarce Jura, Mull, increase Colonsay, mid-Argyll, 3 prs Coll, 8 prs L Gruinart Islay, 16 prs Arran, 13 territories in SW; Dumf & Gall, coastal nos low, poor inland. Passage: Shetland, 5 Spring, 1 Autumn. Siberian Stonechat *maura/stejnegeri*: Shetland, ♀/imm Fair Isle 23-27 Sep (SMH, PL, NJR), ♂ Quendale 28-29 Sep (AF); Fife, ♀ Fife Ness 20 May (JLSC).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Breeding: Shetland, 87 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 27 prs North Hoy, 21 prs Papa Westray; Highland, 35 prs Handa; Lothian, 25 prs Moorfoot Hills; Strathclyde, 31 prs south-

facing Campsie Fells, 32 prs Arran. Passage: Shetland, from 3 Apr, 100 Fair Isle 25 Apr, 410 on 20 Aug; Orkney, 1st Stromness 10 Mar, 100 North Ronaldsay 10 Apr, 120 on 17 Aug; Highland, 1 Apr-31 Oct; Fife, 801 of May 17 May, last Anstruther 1 Dec; Lothian, 24 Mar-26 Oct, max 90 Aberlady 5 Apr; Strathclyde, 20 Mar-29 Nov, mass arrival by hundreds of birds Islay 8 Apr. Greenland *leucorrhoea*: Shetland, from 13 Apr Fair Isle, max 850 on 16 May; Grampian, 21 birds 4-25 May; Borders, 6 birds 18-31 May.

***Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* Highland, ♂ Freswick from 1984 to at least 12 Jan (per GPC).

1***Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* Strathclyde, 1 Skerryvore Lighthouse, South Minch 4-7 Jun, found dead on 8 Jun (AMcC).

***White's Thrush** *Zoothera dauma* Shetland, 1 Catfirth 10 Oct (CWB, MSC, JE).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Breeding: Lothian Ringing Group survey produced the following data:

Hill Area	Sites	Singles	Pairs	Nests	Broods
Pentlands	8	2	4	—	2
Moorfoots	68	28	17	—	23
Lammermuirs	66	27	24	2	13

Elsewhere: Strathclyde, 5 prs Mull, 6 prs Campsie Fells, 24 prs in S. Count: Tayside, 53 Glen Tilt 1 Aug. Arrival: several Mid Yell, Shetland 9 Mar, most from 1-4 Apr. Autumn: Shetland, max 25 Fair Isle 25 Sep; last one Colonsay, Strathclyde 28 Oct.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* Breeding: Orkney, 20 prs North Hoy. Spring passage small, mainly 1-11 Apr Shetland, max 300 Fair Isle 1-2 Apr. Autumn passage again light, but 8000 1 of May, Fife 23 Oct.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* Breeding: Borders, 1 recently fledged juv Stow 3 Jun is 1st breeding, record for Region. Winter/spring: Shetland, 680 Fair Isle 9 Apr, 680 Whalsay 21 Apr; Grampian, 695 Don 24 Jan; Fife, 2000 Crail 11 Apr; Lothian, 2000 Aberlady Jan; Strathclyde, 2700 Walston 7 Apr. Autumn: Shetland, 1600 Fair Isle 23 Oct; Borders, 1000+ Longnewton 13 Sep, 1000+ Craighur 13 Oct; Strathclyde, 1000 Baron's Haugh 12 Nov.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* Spring passage: Orkney, 100 North Ronaldsay 8 Apr. Autumn: low nos with max counts Fife, 150 Fife Ness 23 Sep, 200 1, of May 22 Oct.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* Breeding: up to 37 prs or singing ♂♂ recorded in N & NW Scotland, 14 prs proved breeding, and good success rate suggested from results. Winter/spring: Shetland, max 120 Fair Isle 6-7 Apr; Orkney, 1000 Berstane

Wood 2 Jan, 500 Moss of Dale 20 Jan; many smaller flocks of c250 in S. Autumn: Shetland, max 2300 Fair Isle 26 Oct; Highland, 1000S in 1 hr Glen Nevis 15 Oct; Fife, 2000 1 of May 22 Oct; Strathclyde, 500 Colonsay end Oct, 400 Lochwinnoch 15 Nov.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* Breeding: increase in Stornoway Woods, West Isles, resident population now 16. Migration/counts: Shetland, 3 Fair Isle Apr; Orkney, 4 North Ronaldsay 3 Apr; Highland, 50+ L Garten 2-4 Sep; Tayside, 100 Killiecrankie 22 Aug; Lothian, 44 Pefferside 26 Sep; Borders, 83 Castlecraig 13 Aug.

***Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* Shetland, 1st w Fair Isle 25 Sep (PME, NJR et al).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* Breeding: nos generally low, Grampian, only heard 5 sites; Strathclyde, 7 prs Lochwinnoch, 5 prs Baron's Haugh, up to 14 singing ♂♂ in SW. Arrival: 15 Apr Arran, Strathclyde; 17 Apr St Abbs, Borders.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Breeding: local fluctuations, with low nos recorded in most areas; Strathclyde, 17 prs Strathclyde Country Park, 75 singing ♂♂ in SW; Dumf & Gall, 16 prs Wood of Cree. Arrival: 18 Apr Lochmaben, Dumf & Gall; 27 Apr Drumclog, Strathclyde. Exceptional influx Fair Isle, Shetland, max 18 on 27 May, last one 7 Oct.

***Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* Eight: Shetland, singles Rerwick 27 May, Uyeasound 1-2 Jun, Fair Isle 28 Jun, 2 Jul; Orkney, 1 Stromness 15-16 Jun; West Isles, 1 North Uist 15 Oct; Fife, 1 1 of May 21-22 May; Lothian, 1 Aberlady 31 May.

***Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Shetland, singles Scatness 26 May, Fair Isle 27 May, Quendale 28-29 May, recorded 14 Aug-end Sep, peaks 8 Fair Isle 20-21 Aug, 3 Virkie 21 Aug, last singles Fair Isle 16 Oct, Strand 28 Oct; Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 16, 25 Aug, 14, 18 Sep, South Ronaldsay 24 Sep, Holm 25 Sep; Grampian, 1 Girdle Ness 18 Aug; Tayside, 1 Errol 3-9 Aug.

***Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Shetland, 1 Out Skerries 28 May (WEO, ET); Grampian, 1 Girdle Ness 19 May (DCB, CDRH, RAS).

***Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* 2 in spring, 18 in autumn. Shetland, singles Fair Isle 4, 24 Jun, Strand 10 Aug, Noss 12 Aug, Fair Isle 13-14, 17, 18 Aug, Sumburgh 18 Aug, Whalsay 20-21 Aug, Sumburgh 25 Aug, Fair Isle 31 Aug-3 Sep, 2 others on 3 Sep, 1 Out Skerries 17 Sep; Orkney, singles Sule Skerry 29-30 Jul, North Ronaldsay 23 Sep, 16 Oct; West Isles, 1 North Uist 1 Oct; Fife, 2 1 of May 30 Jul.



Subalpine Warbler. Isle of May, June 1985, B. Zonfrillo

***Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* Shetland, possible ♀ Fair Isle 27-28 May (NJR, DS, JT), 1st s ♂ 22 Jul-2 Aug (NJ & MrsEAR); Fife, ♀ I of May 23 Jun-4 Oct (PJA, DAB, PAK).

***Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria* c50 recorded from 10 Aug-20 Oct. Shetland, regular 10 Aug-20 Sep, peaks 3 Out Skerries 16 Aug, 6 Fair Isle 1 Sep; Orkney, 5 singles North Ronaldsay 5 Sep-6 Oct, last one Papa Westray 20 Oct; West Isles, 1 North Uist 15 Oct; Highland, singles Reay 30 Aug, Noss Hd 30-31 Aug, Melvich 31 Aug-17 Sep, Dunnet Hd 7 Sep; Fife, 2 I of May 24 Sep, singles 25-26, 29-30 Sep, 1, 13 Oct, 1 Fife Ness 4-5 Sep; Lothian, 1 Barns Ness 23-29 Sep.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* Breeding: expansion continues, 1st records for West Lothian District, and 1st this century for Dumf & Gall; Lothian, 6 sites East Lothian Dist excluding usual areas; Borders, 7+ singing ♂♂; Strathclyde, 7 territories in C and SW. Arrival: 1 May Slateford, Lothian; 5 May Deerness, Orkney, and Achnacairn, Strathclyde. Spring: Shetland, up to 45 birds 8-20 May, on Fair Isle peak 7 on 9 May; Fife, 20 I of May 14-15 May; Strathclyde, 1 Kildonan, Arran 14-15 May was 1st for 30 years. Autumn: Shetland, max 5 Fair Isle 25 Sep; Orkney, 10 from 4 Sep-7 Oct; last one Strand, Shetland 3 Nov.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Breeding: little change suggested, local decreases Highland, Borders, parts of Strathclyde; increases Lothian, 22 in 2½ mls of disused railway Ormiston; Strathclyde, 32 prs Arran, nos stable in SW. Arrival: 13 Apr Fair Isle, Shetland; 18 Apr Lochmaben, Dumf & Gall. Spring: Shetland, max 11 Fair Isle 19 May; Fife, 26 I of May 16 May. Low nos autumn; last one Fair Isle, Shetland 5 Oct.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Breeding: little change overall, but increase S Highland; Central, 20 prs Buchanan Castle Estate; Strathclyde, 56 territories in SW. Arrival: 18 Apr Lochmaben,

Dumf & Gall; 26 Apr East Kilbride, Strathclyde. Small spring passage. Autumn: Shetland, max 40 Fair Isle 30 Aug; Orkney, 11 North Ronaldsay 24 Sep; last one Fair Isle, Shetland 3 Nov.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Breeding: suggestion of slight increase in S Highland; Lothian, 38 singing ♂♂ at 15 sites Midlothian Dist; Borders, slight reduction, 53 singing ♂♂ at 19 sites; Strathclyde, 73 singing ♂♂ in SW. Small spring and autumn passages: Shetland, 35 Fair Isle 26 Oct; Orkney, 16 North Ronaldsay 2 Oct; Fife, 10 I of May 10, 26 Oct. Winter records included 8 ♂♂ Gullane, Lothian 12 Jan; monthly breakdown gave Jan (49), Feb (28), Mar (17), with the majority of birds (54) in the S of Scotland, Dec total 18 — 8 of these in Highland and N Scotland.

***Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* Fife, 1 Lochore 10-12 Jun (MJF, DI), 1st w I of May 8-10 Sep (IMD, DS).

***Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* About 142 birds from 17 Sep represented an exceptional influx. Shetland, up to 62, max 5 Fair Isle 7 Oct; Orkney, 23+ from 23 Sep-1 Oct, max 9 on 25 Sep; West Isles, 5 Uists & Benbecula Oct; Highland, 15-20 Noss Fm 24 Sep-23 Oct, max 4 on 25-26 Sep, 4 Ackergill 26 Sep; Grampian, 10+ from 23 Sep-26 Oct, max 4 Girdle Ness 25 Sep; Fife, 1-2 Fife Ness 23-29 Sep, 9 I of May 24 Sep-15 Oct; Lothian, 1 Barns Ness 23-25 Sep; Borders, 4+ St Abbs 22 Sep-26 Oct, 3 on 23 Sep, singles Burnmouth 28-29 Sep, 26-27 Oct.

***Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Fife, 1st w I of May 20-23 Oct (SRD da P et al).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Fife, 1st w I of May 20-23 Oct (SRD da P et al). prs Wood of Cree was local increase. Arrival: 26 Apr Kinord, Grampian; 28 Apr Rowardennan, Central. Spring and autumn passages showed low nos and scattered sightings: Shetland, 6 in spring and autumn Fair Isle, max 2 on 11-12 Aug; last one Kirkwall, Orkney 19 Oct.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Breeding: very slight decreases noted Borders and parts of Strathclyde where 70 territories recorded in SW. Spring and autumn passages light with peaks Shetland, 13 Quendale 8 Apr; Orkney, 10 North Ronaldsay 6 Apr. Monthly breakdown of winter figures gave Jan (9), Feb (6), Dec (3), with 12 birds in S Scotland.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Breeding: nos lower in several areas but good success suggested e.g. Highland, 22 prs Garten CBC (36 in 1984), but 327 ringed Drumadrochit Jul-Aug is very high; Lothian, 23 prs Aberlady; Strathclyde, 36 prs L Gruinart Reserve, Islay, 41 prs Lochwinnoch Reserve, 31 prs Culzean; Dumf &

Gall, 168 prs Wood of Cree. Arrival: 17 Mar Kinloss, Grampian; 4 Apr Lochmaben, Dumf & Gall; widespread by 5 Apr. Spring: Shetland, peaks 60 Fair Isle 16 Apr, 133 Noss/Out Skerries/Whalsay 9 May; Fife, 500 1 of May 14 May; Lothian, 50 Aberlady 6 May; Borders, 40 St Abbs 6 May. Autumn: Shetland, max 65 Fair Isle 31 Aug; Borders, 65 St Abbs 18 Aug, last one Dale of Wall, Shetland 1 Nov.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Spring passage light e.g. 30 St Abbs, Borders 7 Apr. Autumn: large influx late Oct; Shetland, 175 Fair Isle 26 Oct; Fife, 400 1 of May 22 Oct; Borders, 135 St Abbs 27 Oct.

***Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus* Three: West Isles, ♀ S Uist 27 Oct (TJD); Borders, 1 St Abbs 22 Oct (SRDdaP), 1 Burnmouth 26 Oct (BCF).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Breeding: little change noted, but slight increase S Highland. Arrival: 5 May Hawick, Borders. Spring and autumn passage light; Shetland, max 17 Fair Isle 29 May; Fife, 6 1 of May 5 Jun; late singles Fair Isle, Shetland 26 Oct; Burnmouth, Borders 27 Oct.

***Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* 2 in spring, 25-26 in autumn: Shetland, singles Fair Isle 26 May, 13 Jun, 11-12 birds 25 Sep-26 Oct (only one in Fair Isle); Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 26 Sep, Hoy 18 Oct; Highland, 1 Weydale, Thurso 26-29 Oct; Fife, 5 Fife Ness 22 Sep, singles 1 of May 25 Sep, 21 Oct; Borders, 1 St Abbs 22 Sep, 2 on 23 Sep, 1 on 6 Oct.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breeding: Highland, very good year Insh-Rothiemurchus, 10 prs fledged young — mbs 5-4; Strathclyde, 1st proved breeding Argyll, 12 sites occupied, confirmed nesting at 4, further improvement in SW, 14 territories Ballantrae-Cumnock; Dumf & Gall, good year Glentroot, 12 prs reared 52 young. Heavy spring passage: Shetland, max 45 Fair Isle 14 May; Fife, 40 1 of May 14 May. Autumn: lighter passage: Shetland, 60 from end Aug-mid Oct; Borders, 24 St Abbs 23 Sep; last one South Uist, West Isles 27 Oct.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Breeding: increase noted Glentroot, Dumf & Gall, and good season Tayside; reduced nos Lothian, Borders. Counts: Highland, 40 L Garten 19-21 Sep; Grampian, 37 Davan 23 Nov; Strathclyde, 40 Kingscross, Arran 14 Oct.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris* Breeding: little information, but recorded at 10 sites Borders and 1 site Lothian. Max count was 13 Ayton Castle, Borders mid Apr.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus* Breeding: little significant change in main areas of Nithsdale/Stewartry Dist, but a considerable spread of

records outside this area; Borders, 3-4 birds Ayton Castle-Eyemouth; Strathclyde, 2 prs Calderglen Country Park, pr Glenbuck L, 1 Possil Marsh 21 Jul-1 Nov, 4 Bogton Moss, Dalmellington 27 Sep, 1 Ardeer 15-18 Nov.

Crested Tit *Parus cristatus* Breeding: Highland/Grampian, increases noted Culbin study area, 9 prs (5 in 1984), L Garten, 6 prs (3 in 1984), apparently a good season with large flocks later in year. Outwith usual areas: 1 Achanalt 23 Jun, 1-2 L Lochy Jul.

Coal Tit *Parus ater* Breeding: slight decrease in some areas but apparent good success with large autumn nos and a marked movement N in autumn. Passage/counts: Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 5-7 Oct, Holm 7 Oct, 2 on 8 Oct (including trapped example of British race), 1 Hoy 12-13 Oct — only 2 previous Orkney records; Highland, high nos, 32 trapped Sep-Oct c.f. total of 9 trapped in previous 9 years; Grampian, 144 Lossie Forest 29 Sep, 115 Roseile Forest 1 Oct.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* Breeding: increase in population Grampian e.g. 24 prs Culbin Forest (12 in 1984), 19 prs Lossie Forest (12 in 1984); Tayside and Dumf & Gall also recorded increases, but success in S low due to poor weather. Movement: Orkney, 1 South Ronaldsay 21-23 Oct; Borders, 100+ St Abbs 29 Sep.

Great Tit *Parus major* Breeding: increase noted Highland, Grampian, Tayside, Strathclyde, but further decrease Stornoway Woods, West Isles. Movement: Highland, 12 trapped Melvich Sep-Oct c.f. 15 in previous 9 years.

***Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* One: Lothian, Gosford Estate 24 Apr (GA).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* Breeding: only 1-2 prs Stornoway Woods, West Isles. Elsewhere no change suggested since decrease of 1979. Movement: Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 4-9 Oct, Birsay 6 Oct.

***Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* Breeding: pr reared 2 young Strathclyde (per IPG) — 2nd Scottish breeding record. Migrants: Shetland, ♂ Fair Isle 11 Jun; Orkney, ad ♂ killed by cat South Ronaldsay 20 Apr, imm Shapinsay 4 Aug; West Isles, ♂ Grogarry Lodge, South Uist 18 Jun; Tayside, ♂ Monifeith 20 May.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* Summer: ♂ at site N Scotland 4-5 Jun, pr on 10 Jun, seen collecting food 24 Jul, ♂ at another site 28 May-9 Aug; Lothian, ♂ at site 31 Jul, ♀ on 2-9 Aug. Spring: very heavy passage for second successive year; Shetland, outside Fair Isle c100 birds 8 May-3 Jun, Fair Isle peaks 18 on 13, 16 May, 25 on 23 May; Orkney, 5 May-23 Jun, max 9 on 19, 21 May;

Highland, 16+ from 12 May-17 Jun, max 5 Noss Hd 16 May; Grampian, 1 Haddo 15 Apr, 12+ from 11-26 May; Fife, 5 on 15 May, 10+ elsewhere 11-25 May, max 4 Fife Ness 19 May; Lothian, 7 from 16 May-19 Jun; Borders, 7 from 15-25 May, max 3 Dowlaw Dean 15 May. Autumn passage also heavy, especially in N: Shetland, outside Fair Isle 40 birds 12 Aug-8 Sep, Fair Isle peak 8 on 20 Aug, late bird 27-29 Oct; Orkney, max 3 North Ronaldsay 4 Sep; West Isles, 1 North Uist 14 Oct; 4 singles Highland/Grampian/Lothian/Borders 10 Aug-26 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 1 Langholm 17 Sep.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* A very poor year with few migrants and few winter records. A total of only 18 birds were recorded, summary of records:

	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	1	1	2	6	2	2	2	1	
Grampian-Borders			2				1	1	

***Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* Strathclyde, 1 Gartocharn 7 Jun (CNAE).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Breeding: further expansion N, almost certainly now breeds Lochaber, Highland; higher winter nos Grampian, Tayside, Fife, Dumf & Gall may also reflect increased breeding populations; Lothian, still present Tynninghame; Strathclyde, 2 Erskine Wood 21 Apr, 1 on 14 Oct, 1 Brodick, Arran 24 Oct.

Magpie *Pica pica* Breeding: still increasing Grampian, but decrease noted East Lothian Dist; Strathclyde, 133 prs Strathkelvin Dist. Outwith usual range: singles noted Mey, Highland various dates, Melvich, Highland 12 Apr; Catacol, Arran Strathclyde 25-27 Jan, another Whiting Bay Feb.

Chough *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* Most complete census since 1982. Results show that breeding has ceased Mull of Kintyre since 1983; all results below refer to Strathclyde islands; of 104 known nests 154, 67 were occupied, and young fledged from 25 out of 31 recorded nests (mbs 2.76/successful nest); up to 5 prs Colonsay where total population 15-20 birds. Despite increases at above islands, only 1 seen Jura 1 Jun (6-8 prs in 1982). A total Scottish population of 72+ prs now exists compared to 61-72 prs in 1982, but their range appears more restricted.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* Counts: Shetland, 50 Veensgarth 17 Nov; Strathclyde, 2000 Kilmacolm 26 Oct, 3000 Eglinton, Irvine 9 Nov. Birds showing characteristics of Scandinavian *monedula*: Lothian, 3 Aberlady 3 Nov; Strathclyde, 2 Barassie 26 Jan, 1 Prestwick 26 Jan, 2 Barassie 17 Nov, 1 Prestwick 20 Nov.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* Breeding: Lothian, 736 prs Midlothian Dist; Strathclyde, 1017 nests at 14 rookeries Bute, 911 prs Kilmacolm. Counts:

Shetland, 65 Tingwall 17 Jul; Highland, 3000+ Aviemore Oct; Grampian, 3000 Alford 9 Nov; Strathclyde, 3000 Kilmacolm 26 Oct.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* Counts: Lothian, 400+ Duddingston 22 Jun; Strathclyde, 300 Baron's Haugh 18 Jan.

Raven *Corvus corax* Breeding: Orkney, 27 prs Mainland, 17 successful prs reared 50 young; Highland, now extinct as breeder Badenoch & Strathspey Dist; Strathclyde, 15 prs Arran. Counts: Shetland, 150 Skaw, Unst 6 Sep; Strathclyde, 100 Tobermory, Mull 23 Nov.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Counts: Strathclyde, 13,500 Strathaven 3 Jan, 26,000 Harelaw Dam, Neilston 26 Aug, 16,700 Thankerton 30 Sep, 20,000 Heart L, Maybole 26 Oct, c25,000 Ayr town centre Nov-Dec.

***Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus* Shetland, ♂ Fair Isle 31 May-2 Jun (BO'D, NJR); West Isles, 1st s North Boisdale, South Uist at least 9 Jun (PRB et al), ad from 21 Jun-17 Jul (TJS et al), juv Balivanich, Benbecula 18-20 Oct (PR & MrsJB).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Counts: Orkney, 1000 North Ronaldsay 12 Sep; Strathclyde, 500 Highfield, Ayr 15 Jul.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Counts: Shetland, 1 Sumburgh 13 Sep-20 Oct; Grampian, 100 Strathbeg 30 Nov; Tayside, 65 Lunan 26 Jan; Lothian, 75 Pepperside 5 Jan; Strathclyde, 100+ Sandyford, Ayr 6 Jan, 170 Greenan, Ayr 23 Feb, 150 on 27 Dec.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Breeding: Highland, 21 prs Garten CBC (32 in 1984); Grampian, 22 prs Clochan (17 in 1984). Counts: Shetland, influx 5-10 Apr, over 1000 birds involved; Highland, 1400 Flichty 9 Jan, 1000 Garten 6 Dec; Grampian, 800 Cairness 12 Jan; Tayside, 1000 Weem late Dec; Strathclyde, 1100 Newbigging 24 Nov, 1000 Balgray Res 9 Dec, 1200 Crosshill, Maybole 22 Dec.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Summer: Eyemouth-Millbank 12 Jun. Winter/spring: very low nos with 90 Mayshiel, Lothian 13 Jan being highest count. Autumn: few in Sep, influx Oct; Orkney, 136 North Ronaldsay 9 Oct; Fife, 500 1 of May 23 Oct; large arrival followed end Dec; Lothian, 2-300 Harburnhead 18 Dec, 400 Lammernmuirs 29 Dec; Borders, 250 Hoselaw 28 Dec, 550 Kilbucho 29 Dec, 1350 Selkirk Hill 31 Dec; Strathclyde, 800 Loudoun Hill 29 Dec.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* Counts: Shetland, influx 5-17 Apr, c70 birds involved; Grampian, 150 Rattray 20 Jan, 150 Strathbeg 30 Nov; Tayside, 300

Crieff Dec; Lothian, 400 Whiteadder 4-5 Jan; Borders, 200+ Hermiston 5 Nov; Strathclyde, 150 Greenan, Ayr 24 Dec.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Breeding: Highland, young fledged Golspie; Grampian, increase in N; Dumf & Gall, increase at several sites. Counts: Fife, 70 Lochore 20 Sep; Lothian, 100 Aberlady Sep-Oct; Borders, 114 Burnmouth 23 Sep; Strathclyde, 85+ Crosshill, Maybole 7 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 84 Kirkcudbright 5 Dec, 80 Dalry 28 Dec.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* Breeding: Orkney, fledged young White Glen Plantation — 1st breeding record; West Isles, single prs noted Stornoway and Garrynahine, Lewis /14-17 Jun; Dumf & Gall, highest ever breeding level Glentroof; data from other regions suggests high nos and good season also. Large midsummer movement noted: Shetland, from 13 Jul Fair Isle, regular small nos till end Aug; Orkney, large influx Jul, 50 Rackwick Road; Lothian, 290 North Pefferds 30 Jun. Counts: Grampian, 227 Fochabers 4 Jan; Tayside, 200 Aberfeldy 7-28 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 2000 Ae Forest 11 Feb. Higher than normal urban nos included Lothian, 90+ Kings Buildings, Edinburgh 13 Dec; Strathclyde, 30 St Enochs car park, Glasgow 30-31 Dec.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* Counts: Grampian, 300 Balgowrie 27 Oct; Lothian, 300 Musselburgh Aug-end Oct, 320 Leith docks 27 Sep, 300 Mount Lothian 22 Dec; Strathclyde, 400 Greenan, Ayr 27-30 Dec.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* Fewer winter records Grampian/Fife. Counts: Shetland, 300 Fair Isle, 11 Sep; Highland, 200 Bonar Bridge Dec; Lothian, 200 Gladhouse 23 Feb, 2 Mar; Strathclyde, 180 near Girvan 30 Nov.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* Breeding: good breeding season Highland; Dumf & Gall, good nos but poor success. Counts: Shetland, influx 5-8 Apr, 230 birds involved; Highland, 350 Insh Marshes Nov; Borders, 750 Craik 9 Mar. Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea*: Shetland, max 110 Fair Isle 20 Nov; Orkney, 2 fledged young White Glen Plantation 28 Jun — 1st breeding record of this race for the Northern Isles; Grampian, 15 Glen Dye 13 Feb; Lothian, 10 Whiteadder 2-19 Jan.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni Shetland, Laxfirth 17 Nov (PME); Grampian, 1 Rattray Hd 20 Jan (GC, DD).

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera Central, juv to 1st w ? Carron Valley Forest 14 Oct-end Dec (APB, PRG).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* Breeding: increase noted Highland, Grampian, Lothian, Borders,

Strathclyde, Dumf & Gall. At Glentroof, Dumf & Gall juvs out from 2 Jan, and 21 Apr. Midsummer irruption: Shetland, from 16 Jun-mid Jul, c700 birds involved with largest flock 92 Lerwick 29 Jun; Orkney, from 10 Jun, max 60 Segal Burn, Hoy 6 Jul; West Isles, influx Jul as far W as St Kilda; Highland, 100+ Cawdor 25 Jul. Other counts: Strathclyde, 250 Stonefield, L Etive 18 Jun; Strathclyde/Central, 300 Carron Valley 3 Feb.

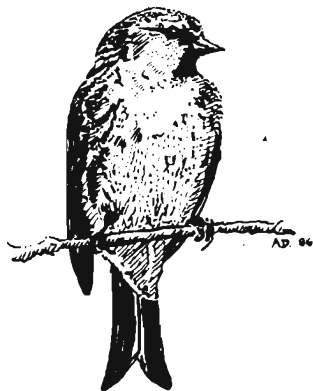
Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* Breeding: Highland, nest-building L Garten from 27 Feb, families from 10 Apr. Counts: Highland, 35 Culloden 10 Nov; Grampian, 38 Glen Tanar 25 Mar; Tayside, 3 Black Wood of Rannoch 2 Mar.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus Orkney, ♂ dead Holm, Mainland 27 Oct (RG & SRA, CJB).

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus Summer: 3 ♂♂ recorded May-Jun in N Scotland. 18-20 in spring, 35+ in autumn: Shetland, 12-14 from 17-30 May, all singles except 2 Fair Isle 24 May, 2 Fetlar 26 May, 19+ from 7 Jul-22 Oct, max 5 Fair Isle 23-25 Sep; Orkney, 4 singles 28 May-20 Jun, 15+ from 21 Aug-6 Oct, max 7 North Ronaldsay 25 Sep; West Isles, 1 North Uist 15 Oct; Fife, singles Fife Ness 19 May, 1 of May 1-2 Jun.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Breeding: West Isles, 1st recorded breeding involved a family party seen Stornoway Woods. Counts: Grampian, 45 Davan-Kinord 14 Dec; Central, 35 Lomond Hills Jan.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Breeding: no data, but present usual areas including Tayside, 9 Scone 21 Mar, pr Killiecrankie



Redpoll. A. Dowell

15 Apr; Lothian, 7 Botanic Gdns, Edinburgh 15 Apr, 2 Oxenfoord 4 May, 2 Gosford Estate 12-28 May. Outwith usual areas: Highland, 1 Grantown 6-16 Jan; influx in N Apr; Shetland, from 6 Apr-6 May, max 6 Unst mid Apr, lingering bird killed by cat Scousburgh 25 May; Orkney, 4 from 9 Apr-mid May, max 2 St Ola 11 Apr, 1 killed by cat Sanday 5 Dec; Highland, singles Wick 9-10 Apr, Ackergill 10 Apr.

***Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata* Shetland, 1st w Whalsay 30 Sep-3 Oct (JLI, BM).

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* Winter/spring: Shetland, 1 Whiteness 20 Feb, 9 singles 1-20 May; Orkney, 1 Swanbister, Orphir 21 Apr; Lothian, 8 Musselburgh 2 Jan-10 Mar, 1 till 26 Mar, singles Aberlady 11 Jan, 7 May, Barns Ness 10 Mar. Autumn: Shetland, 7 Sep-2 Nov, max 8 Fair Isle 22 Sep; Orkney, peaks 6 North Ronaldsay 16 Sep, 5 Papa Westray 19 Sep; Highland, 6 Reay 1 Dec; Fife, max 8 Fife Ness 25 Oct-end Dec; Lothian, peaks 9 Barns Ness 27 Oct, 8 Aberlady 13 Nov.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Breeding: Highland/Grampian, 5 ♂♂ and at least 2 broods E Cairngorms, 7 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ and 1 brood seen in W Cairngorms, 5-6 ♂♂ seen at 4 other sites. Passage/winter: Shetland, max 900 Fair Isle 3 Nov; Orkney, 500 Sanday 8 Dec; Highland, 500 Reiss 30 Dec; Tayside, 150 L Rannoch 29 Dec; largest count S of Forth-Clyde was 36 Tynningame, Lothian 3 Nov.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* Passage: influx Shetland 5-10 Apr, peaks 11 Fair Isle 5 Apr, 22 Out Skerries 7 Apr. Winter counts: Highland, 180 Allangrange 26 Jan; Grampian, 100 Pitmedden 10 Nov; Lothian, 150 Pefferfside 5 Jan, 220 Brunstane Burn 15 Jan; Borders, 110 Reston 6 Feb.

***Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* 6 in spring, 5 in autumn: Shetland, 1 Out Skerries 9 May, ♂ Fair Isle 14-16 May, 2 ♂♂ 18-22 May, 1 till 31 May, singles Yell 26 Aug, Fair Isle 30 Aug-7 Sep, 25-27 Sep; Highland, ♀ Handa 29 May, 1 Noss Hd 24 Sep; Fife, singles Fife Ness 19 May, 1 of May 23-26 Oct.

***Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* Shetland, ♂ Fair Isle 7 May (NJ & Mrs EAR), ♂ Whalsay 13 May (CM, BM), ♀ Virkie 21 May (AG & NJD, PME), ♂ Fair Isle 22 Jun (DRB, KBS), 1 on 27 Sep (JCE, NJR), 1st w ♂ on 7-17 Oct (PVH, NJR).

***Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 15-16 May (TL, NJR, KBS), 1 on 20-22 May (DRB, NJR), 1 on 9 Sep (RJE, SJH, SHH), 1 on 12 Sep (PVH et al), 1 Out Skerries 23-26 Sep (DMP), 1 Fair Isle 28-29 Sep (PVH et al), 1 on 7-10 Oct (DJW et al), another 7-10 Oct (KBS et al), 1 on 13-15 Oct (PVH, NJR), 1 on 17-18 Oct (PVH, NJR), 1 on 26 Oct (PVH, NJR); Orkney, 1 Torness, South Ronaldsay 24 Sep (MG), 1 Holm, Mainland 29-30 Sep (MG, ERM); Strathclyde, 1st w dead Skerryvore Lighthouse, South Minch (AMcC, BZ).

***Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola* Shetland, ♀/imm Fair Isle 13-17 Sep (SJA, PVH et al), another on 13-17 Sep (SJA, KBS et al).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Breeding: Shetland, 3 prs Spiggie, 2 prs Fetlar; Highland, decrease Insh Marshes to 24 prs (45-49 in 1976); Lothian, 30 prs Aberlady is increase to 1981 level; Strathclyde, continuing decline Strathkelvin Dist, 27 prs Lochwinnoch. Passage/counts: Shetland, influx 8-18 May involved c70 birds; Highland, 500 Reiss 28, 30 Dec is exceptional.

***Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* Shetland, ♂ Fair Isle 4-14 Aug (DRB, NJR).

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* Breeding: Highland/Grampian, decreasing and becoming scarce Moray Dist, 7 ♂♂ Tarbat Ness-Portmahomack 15 May; Lothian, further decline East Lothian Dist; Strathclyde, 28 ♂♂ Tiree (95 in 1977); Dumf & Gall, further decline and absent from many traditional areas. Passage/winter: Shetland, singles Bressay 19 May, Fair Isle 29 May; Highland, 1 Wick 15 Jul; Grampian, 50 Pitmedden 10 Nov, 70 Collieston 1 Dec; Fife, 40 Crail 20 Jan; Strathclyde, 20 Greenan, Ayr 27 Dec.

Additional BBRC decisions

The following records have all been accepted by BBRC: 1975/76 **Parrot Crossbill** Lothian, at least 7 Gladhouse 26 Oct-3 Jan 1976, some till 27 Jan; 1977 **Richard's Pipit** Orkney, 1 Stronsay 26-29 Sep; 1979 **Painted Bunting** Shetland, ♂ Fair Isle 19-22 Jun, also to 1 Jul (Cat D); 1980 **White-rumped Sandpiper** Lothian, another Musselburgh 6-17 Aug; **Tawny Pipit** Lothian, 1 Aberlady 19-21 Jul, also 22 Jul; 1982 **Blue-winged Teal** Dumf & Gall, juv ♂ shot Logan, Stranraer 29 Sep; **Gyr Falcon** Shetland, imm Fair Isle 12 Apr; **Short-toed Lark** Shetland, 1 Fair isle 16-18 Sep, also 20 Sep, 1 on 25-28 Sep, also 1 Oct; 1983 **White-billed Diver** Shetland, long-dead Sandvoe, North Roe 27 Feb; **King Eider** Shetland, ♀ Yell Sound 10 Nov; **Killdeer** Lothian, 1 Bo'ness 16 Jan-20 Mar (correction of last date); **Spotted Sandpiper** Orkney, ad Sule Skerry 30 Jul-4 Aug; **Thrush Nightingale** Fife, 1 I of May 16 May; **Subalpine Warbler** Fife, ♂ Fife Ness 3-9 May; **Arctic Warbler** Highland, 1 Wick R 17 Sep; **Bonelli's Warbler** Shetland, 1 Lerwick 27 Sep-3 Oct; 1984 **King Eider** Shetland, ♀ Lunna Ness 17 Apr; **Surf Scoter** Fife, ♂ St Andrews 3 Mar-4 Apr (correction of last date); **Surf Scoter** Grampian, Balmedie mid Aug; **Gyr Falcon** Highland, ad white-phase

Trotternish, Skye 17 Jun; **Killdeer** West Isles, 1 Askernish, South Uist 30 Dec 1983-7 Jan, also Kilvaley, South Uist 22 Jan; **White-rumped Sandpiper** Highland, ad Wick 3-5 Aug; **Baird's Sandpiper** Highland, juv Wick 12-15 Sep; **Ring-billed Gull** Strathclyde, 1st w/s Doonfoot 11 Apr; **Thrush Nightingale** Fife, 1 I of May 22-24 May; **Bonelli's Warbler** Shetland, 1 Fetlar 19-29 Sep; **Little Bunting** Shetland, 1 Scatness 20 Oct.

The following record has been rejected after review:— 1978 **American Wigeon** Grampian, ♀ near St Fergus 4 Apr.

Corrections to 1984 SBR

Additions: The following significant records were omitted:— **Smew** Lothian, 1 Linlithgow L 7 Jan; **Ruddy Duck** Lothian, ♂ Duddingston L 11 Oct; **Mediterranean Gull** Lothian, ad Musselburgh 9 Apr, 1st year on 9 Jul; **Iceland Gull** Lothian, ad Musselburgh 9 Jul; **Black Tern** Lothian, ad Bavelaw 23 Aug.

Amendments: The following amendments should be made:— **Black-tailed Godwit** Lothian, 12 Musselburgh 29 Aug should read 29 Jul; **Marsh Tit** Dumf & Gall, 1 Auchencairn, Dumf should read 1 Auchencairn, Kirk.



Rarity descriptions

Common Yellowthroat on Fetlar, Shetland

On the afternoon of 8 June 1984 Miss Joan Gates found a strange bird in her garden. Mike Walker went round immediately and re-discovered the bird which, although spending long periods skulking in cover, would occasionally hop along a drystone dyke and down on to a concrete path where it ate bread crumbs and caught insects. It was also observed in the branches of the elder trees in the garden, from which it gave short bursts of song. Frequent tail-cocking was noted as it hopped along the ground.

Description: The size and structure was roughly the same as Blackcap (*S atricapilla*) which was also present in the garden, but rather more dumpy. Short-winged (not beyond the end of the tail coverts) and long-tailed in appearance. The tail was slightly notched and the legs seemed quite stout. The short bill was deep at the base, and sharply pointed, with the narrowly curved culmen giving an almost decurved appearance. Head was proportionally large with a steep forehead and flat crown. The plumage consisted of a brown head with a dark olive nape, and a striking black mask which ran from just above the upper mandible to the rear of the ear coverts. Lores black. There were a few pale grey tips to the feathers within the mask area. Above the mask was a pale grey supercilium which joined above the bill, broadening towards the rear and ending square cut above the ear coverts. The throat and upper breast were a bright lemon yellow. The lower breast, belly and flanks were pale grey/olive. The under-tail coverts were yellow-green to almost "golden". The mantle was olive-green with the rump and upper tail coverts a brighter greeny-yellow, contrasting with the mantle. The upper wing was olive-green with bright greeny-yellow fringes to remiges. Tertiaries olive-brown. The tail was olive green with yellowish-green fringes to the outer retrices. Both bill and eyes black. Legs pink. The call was a harsh "chzack" with a slight buzzing quality. The song was given in short bursts, consisting of a repeated phrase "chi-wi-wee, chi-wi-wee, chi-wi-wee." The bird was last seen on 11 June.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) is abundant in thickets and marsh fringes in the USA. This record is the 1st for Scotland and 2nd for the UK.

Mike Walker

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Aberlady Bay, Lothian

On 17th August 1985 I J Andrews found a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in breeding plumage feeding with a mixed flock of Dunlins and Ringed Plovers at Aberlady Bay. It fed for about 20 minutes before joining the main flock of roosting waders. Here it was watched by up to 12 other birdwatchers including G Anderson and P R Gordon. An hour later the bird flew off to feed and could not be re-located.

Description: The nape and mantle were densely streaked with dark brown on a paler background, with two obvious long, paler, creamy lines down the sides of the mantle. The wing-coverts and flight feathers were dark brown with neat, thin rich creamy edges. The throat, sides of neck and upper breast were covered in a dense pattern on a buff background. These flecks merged on the lower breast, and sides of breast into prominent and very distinctive, backward-pointing "V's" or chevrons on a white background. There was not the sharply demarcated pectoral band of Pectoral Sandpiper, the markings extending much lower down the breast. Two or three rows of chevrons extended along to the rear of the flanks. The centre of the lower belly and the under-tail coverts were the only clean white areas on the bird. Several short, dark brown streaks were noted on the under-tail coverts.

On the head, the crown was dark, chestnut brown (but not very bright). The supercilium, which was only present behind the eye, was broad, dull off-white and finely streaked, and not too obvious. The forehead was steep and the crown flattish. The bill was 20% shorter than the average Dunlin's, being almost the same length as the head. It was broader-based and tapering, obviously decurved towards the tip. Black in colour, it had a pale base to the lower mandible. The legs were long and flexed, the toes being proportionately longer than a Dunlin's. In colour they were a dull olive-green or ochre, and not very bright.

In general the bird had a distinctive shape with a small head short neck, and long body. It was deep chested and also had a "full" throat, forming a further bulge. It stood higher than a Dunlin, but not as high as a Curlew Sandpiper. When feeding and standing its legs were kept flexed, but when it ran, its legs appeared almost the length of a Curlew Sandpiper's. The bird's normal gait was crane-like, being more stealthy and slower moving than Dunlin.

This record is the 2nd Scottish record, the 1st being at Hamilton, Strathclyde from 18-21 October 1956.

Ian J Andrews

Little Shearwater at Corsewall Point, Dumfries and Galloway

During a seawatch at Corsewall Point on 14 September 1985, a small seabird was noticed approaching from the North by A Hogg. At first the impression formed of the bird was that of an Auk sp due to the rapid flight which was reasonably direct. On closer approach it became apparent that the proportions were those of a shearwater. Gliding was short and infrequent in the force 4-5 wind, with the bird hardly banking or rising far above the surface of the sea — a marked contrast to Manx Shearwater. Despite its apparent speed, it took much longer to cover the same area of sea as Manx Shearwater. By good fortune both G Mitchell and P McEwan had, independently, seen the bird, and a summary of the main points noted follows.

Description: Plumage generally as Manx Shearwater, but with very white face (white well on to side of head). The small black "dot" of the bird's eye stood out on this white area. A dark,

blackish smudge was apparent on the side of the neck. Underparts were clean white — including the undertail (seen at closest approach). The underwing was, however, less crisp in appearance than Manx, and appeared "dirty" with more extensive black bordering.

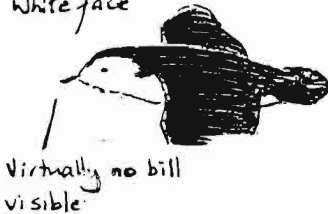
As the bird passed a Leach's Petrel two points were emphasised: a) its small size, and b) its deceptively slow speed over the sea. In shape and size it was clearly as much as $\frac{1}{3}$ smaller than Manx. The wings were shorter in proportion to the body and appeared more rounded at the tips (a feature perhaps highlighted by the "whirring" flight). The beak was very fine and hardly visible at any distance. The bird's flight was one of its most outstanding features. The very fast wingbeat was similar to, but not as rapid as an auk. Gliding was short and infrequent — during its fly-past, it performed only 3 to 4 short glides, rising only 1-2 metres above the sea. It kept low over the sea, hardly banking at all.

Much work has recently been done on small shearwater identification, e.g. British Birds Vol. 78:3. This record is the 2nd Scottish record the 1st being off Islay, Strathclyde on 30 June 1974.

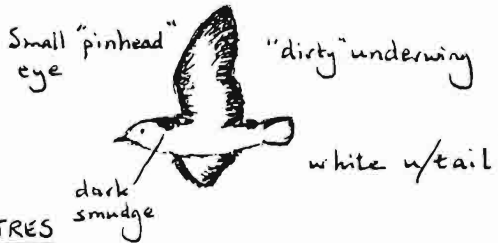
Angus Hogg

SKETCHES MADE AT TIME (FROM NOTEBOOK)

White face



Small "pinhead" eye



RANGE c. 250 METRES

Forster's Tern at Musselburgh and Granton, Lothian

On the afternoon of 6 October 1985 L L J Vick found a "Commic"-like tern with a distinctive black eye patch at Musselburgh. That afternoon it was also seen by 3 other observers, but over the next 10 days it was seen by numerous Scottish birdwatchers. At high tide it usually roosted with other terns and gulls on the ash lagoon, but it moved to the mouth of the River Esk to fish as the tide receded. Later, its visits became more erratic and it eventually turned up at Granton Harbour on 19 October. It was last seen here on 9 November, when it also put in an appearance at Musselburgh.

Although exact ageing of this individual proved impossible, the bird was identified as Scotland's 1st record of Forster's Tern; either an adult (winter plumage), or 1st winter.

Description: The bird's structure was slightly longer and more bulky than Common Tern, but very small and hunched up compared to Sandwich Tern. The bill was heavier, slightly longer than Common Tern's, and slightly decurved. The large, chunky head recalled Sandwich Tern. The legs were longer than Common Tern's due to a longer tibia. Compared to Common Tern the wings were slightly shorter and broader, with more rounded tips. The tail had a moderately deep fork with the other tail feathers at least 4 cm longer than the rest, but no streamers were present.

The forehead and crown were white; rear crown and nape white with fine mottling which was more prominent on the nape (obvious when preening). A solid black mask extended from slightly in front of the eye and back to rear of ear coverts, narrower at front, deepening gradually backwards; the lower edge curved downwards behind the eye with top edge straight. The mantle, upper-wing and scapulars were pale grey. In diffuse light this tone was seen to be slightly paler than Common Tern; similar to Sandwich Tern and Black-headed Gull. Tertiaries and inner secondaries were slightly darker grey with broad white tips and the greater coverts occasionally seemed to have darker centre-stripes. Rump white and underparts white.



Forster's Tern juv. California, USA, 1984, A. Hogg

The outer tail feathers were dusky grey with extreme tip white. Central feathers all tipped white, formed a white trailing edge 3-5 mm wide. Rest of tail was pale grey as mantle. In flight the most obvious feature was the bird's general paleness. The upper wing was predominantly pale grey except for a broad white trailing edge to the secondaries; the bases of the outer primaries and whole of inner primaries were also white, contrasting at some angles with slightly dusker webs to outer primaries. The underwing was pale but silvery undersides to primaries and secondaries formed a darker rear half with a paler mid panel. The bill was black with reddish-black base. Eye dark with white eyelids. Legs were orange-red. In flight it gave a distinctive ringing "zing, zing" call which was nasal and drawn out; on the ground it was heard to call "wick, wick, wick!"

Forster's Tern breeds in the central states of the USA, and along the north coast of the Gulf of Mexico. It is just possible that this bird was a storm-driven victim of Hurricane Gloria.

L L J Vick, I J Andrews, P R Gordon

LIST OF OBSERVERS

S. G. Abbott, A. Abrahams, M. E. Adam, R. G. Adam, S. R. Adam, G. M. Adamson, S. Addinall, G. M. Aitchison, P. Aitchison, D. Alexander, S. M. Alexander, P. Aley, P. J. Alker, J. T. Allan, G. Anderson, R. Anderson, D. G. Andrew, I. J. Andrews, M. Andrews, W. T. Appleyard, B. Averis, M. Arrowsmith, M. Ashley, S. J. Aspinall, R. S. Atkins, N. K. Atkinson, P. W. Atkinson, J. F. Babington, A. Bacon, C. O. Badenoch, K. Baikie, I. Bainbridge, J. H. Ballantyne, B. Barber, A. M. Barclay, A. W. Barker, J. & R. Barnes, A. P. Barr, D. J. Bates, G. B. Bates, J. Batrick, S. Bean, D. Begg, G. F. Bell, P. T. Bell, R. K. Bell, P. A. Bentley, J. Berry, R. & A. Bevan, D. Beveridge, E. Bewes, K. Bichan, E. M. Bignal, S. Bignal, A. Bilsland, D. R. Bird, H. B. Bird, A. Blackett, C. R. Blakely, C. R. Bland, J. Blatcher, Mr & Mrs Bolden, D. Boomer, C. J. Booth, C. M. Booth, E. J. Booth, P. R. Bould, P. R. Boyer, G. Boyle, D. Boys, W. R. Brackenridge, J. Bradfield, C. Bradley, A. T. Bramhall, P. Branscombe, J. Bridges, Bristol Ornithologists' Club, E. Brittan, R. Britton, A. Broad, R. A. Broad, G. J. Brock, S. Brogan, C. Brookes, A. Brown, A. W. Brown, H. Brown, I. Brown, L. M. Brown, P. Brown, K. Bruce, Sir N. Buchan-Hepburn, A. N. Buchanan, G. Buchanan, A. Buckham, E. R. Bullard, A. Buntun, V. M. Burgess, R. J. Burness, J. L. Burton, K. M. D. Bushby, D. C. Butcher, N. E. Buxton, T. Byars, C. W. Byers, R. W. Byrne, C. J. Cadbury, R. L. Calder, R. G. Caldwell, M. J. Callan, C. Cameron, E. D. Cameron, C. D. Campbell, I. Campbell, L. Campbell, D. Carnduff, J. Carnduff, H. Cassels, G. P. Catley, Mrs I. Chase, G. Checkley, M. L. Chesney, J. Chester, S. Chester, S. Chinnery, E. R. Christie, G. Christie, H. Clark, J. Clark, N. A. Clark, A. Clarke, J. & P. Clarke, R. Cleghorn, D. L. Clugston, A. J. Clunas, P. N. Collin, P. Collins, Mr & Mrs Cobham, B. A. Combes, R. F. Coomber, I. Cooper, C. J. Corse, S. J. Cox, R. S. Craig, N. R. Craigie, C. Craik, R. Crawford, G. Cresswell, H. Q. P. Crick, G. Crittenden, J. Crittenden, F. J. Cromarty, C. H. Crooke, A. B. Cross, J. Crossley, I. G. Cumming, G. Currie, T. Curtis, M. F. Cuthbert, J. Cutt, P. Darke, I. M. Darling, A. G. Darroch, J. N. Darroch, D. L. Davenport, P. R. Davey, W. A. Davidson, J. C. Davies, S.-L. Davies, J. Dawson, A. J. Dean, A. Dekker, T. Delaney, R. H. Dennis, M. G. Dennison, A. Dewar, T. J. M. Dick, T. D. Dick, D. E. Dickson, R. C. Dickson, T. J. Dix, T. Dobson, D. Doig, T. T. Dougal, J. W. Dougal, K. F. W. Doughty, P. M. Doughty, A. Dowell, I. Drever, J. Duffy, I. Duncan, F. Duncanson, Rev. A. Duncan-Jones, M. H. Dunn, J. P. Durman, R. F. Durman, M. Duthie, N. Easterbee, J. Eames, J. Eccles, S. Eccles, D. Eggingel, E. J. Eggingel, M. A. Eggingel, C. Edwards, I. Elder, N. Elkins, C. N. A. Ellen, R. R. Elliott, H. Embleton, I. English, Sir R. Erskine-Hill, I. E. Esland, I. Euson, A. Evans, B. & J. Evans, F. Evans, L. G. R. Evans, M. J. Everett, M. Fairbairn, K. Fairclough, P. Faulkner, M. J. Feltham, D. Ferguson, J. L. F. Ferguson, I. Findlay, R. J. Firth, P. Fish, A. Fisher, P. Fisher, A. Fitchett, H. Fleming, J. Fleming, L. V. Fleming, W. Flynn, J. Ford, A. M. Forrest, B. C. Forrester, R. W. Forrester, J. Forsyth, A. D. Fox, A. E. M. Fox, L. M. Fox, I. S. Francis, R. A. Frost, C. A. Galbraith, M. Garnett, F. Gatens, S. V. Gauld, I. P. Gibson, S. Gilbertson, K. Gillon, D. Given, R. Gladwell, D. Glue, D. Godden, C. Gomersall, P. R. Gordon, P. W. Gossip, J. C. Gourlay, C. Graham, D. K. Graham, J. A. R. Grant, N. Grant, J. & H. Gray, M. Gray, S. Green, B. J. Gregory, M. J. P. Gregory, F. Grey, M. Griffin, D. Grove, P. Gurney, S. R. Hacker, S. Hackett, C. Hall, K. Hall, M. Hall-Gardiner, D. Halliday, K. C. R. Halliday, F. D. Hamilton, I. R. Hamilton, K. C. Hamilton, J. Harcus, U. G. Harper, M. Hartley, C. Harvey, P. V. Harvey, M. Harwood, L. Hatton, H. H. Haugh, J. Hawgood, D. M. Hawker, R. Hawley, M. Hayes, S. J. Hayhow, S. Headley, C. D. R. Heard, P. J. Heath, A. Heavises, A. Henderson, M. Henderson, D. Henning, O. Henry, C. J. Henty, P. B. Heppleston, K. Heron, N. Hewison, W. Hewison, B. A. Hickman, A. Hilton, S. J. Hingson, A. Hinton, E. M. Hissett, R. Hissett, D. Hobhouse, D. & P. Hodgkiss, J. R. L. Hogarth, J. Hogg, R. H. Hogg, J. R. Holden, S. H. Holliday, I. Hopkins, P. G. Hopkins, P. Hood, J. Horseburgh, J. Howard, J. M. B. Howie, J. E. Howie, P. Hughes, S. Hulka, M. Hull, J. F. Hulme, R. Hunt, C. Hunter, L. Hunter, M. Hutcheson, G. Huxley, J. L. Irvine, D. L. Irving, G. Jackson, S. Jackson, A. Jamieson, S. Jamieson, D. C. Jardine, A. R. Jennings, I. Johnston, I. G. R. Jolley, B. Jones, R. Jones, R. Keddie, A. Keldie, A. Kerr, B. D. Kerr, E. R. G. Kidd, R. F. Kiddie, P. A. King, J. Kirk, K. Kirk, J. Knowie, J. Knowler, L. & A. Krawczyk, R. Labbett, S. Laing, E. Laird, G. Lamb, R. J. Lamb, W. O. Lancaster, I. K. Langford, P. Lansdown, A. W. Lauder, N. J. Lawrie, E. A. Lea, I. H. Leach, R. Leask, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, E. P. Leven, M. R. 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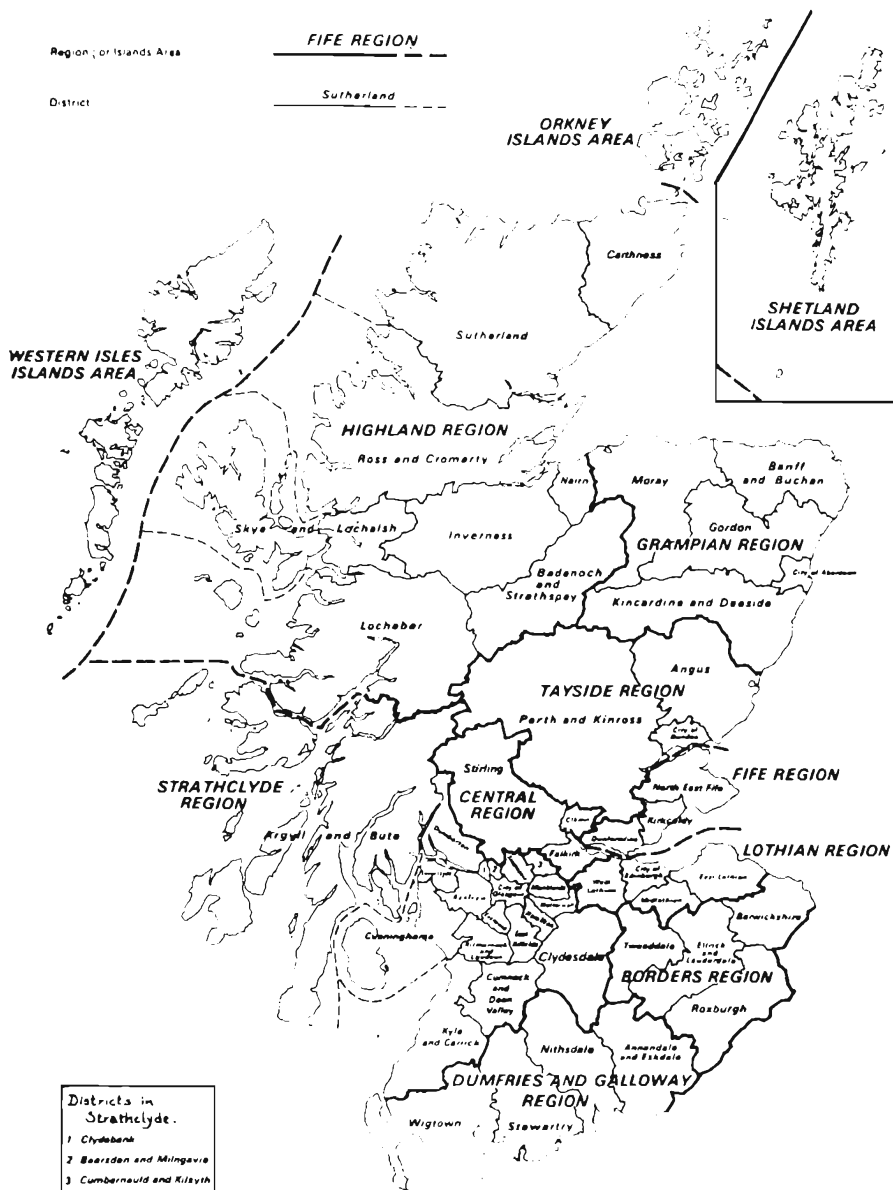
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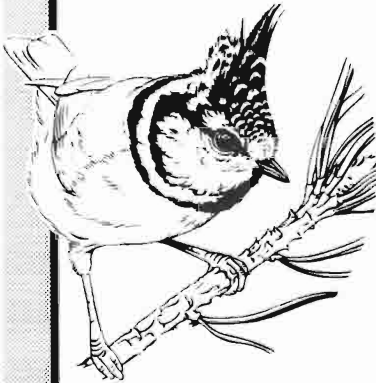


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