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Dotterel numbers, habitat and breeding success in Scotland

ADAM WATSON AND
ROBERT RAE

The number of Dotterel summering in Britain has previously been estimated as from 60-80 to 100-150 pairs. In the present paper the current Scottish total is roughly estimated as at least 600 pairs, and it is suggested that the main reason for this higher figure is better survey technique. In the east Highlands, birds have summered, and sometimes bred, on partly-bare grouse moorland at only 450-670 m. Dotterel bred better on schist hills than on nearby granite hills in the same year.

Introduction

Blackwood (1920) wrote that 80-100 pairs of Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* might breed in Scotland. D. & C. Nethersole-Thompson (in Bannerman, 1961) estimated Britain's breeding population at 60-80 pairs. Nethersole-Thompson (1973) again estimated 60-80 pairs, but "in recent years of exceptionally high numbers over a hundred pairs probably nested". He later gave "100-150 pairs in good years in 1970s" (in Cramp *et al* 1983), and "from 1970 onwards numbers have possibly increased to 100-150 pairs in favourable years" (D. & M. Nethersole-Thompson, 1986). Thom (1986) wrote of "the current Scottish total as 100-150 pairs". These figures are rough estimates, based on rather little information. Here we give another, based on more information, and also present new observations on habitat and breeding success.

Since 1967, one of us (A.W.) has studied Dotterel on Cairn Gorm near a ski development, on a remote hill in the east Cairngorms, and near a ski development south of the Cairngorms (Watson, in press). The aim was to find whether Dotterel numbers would be affected by the big increase in visitor pressure resulting from new roads and chair lifts. The evidence indicates no reduction in Dotterel numbers

or breeding success so far (Watson, Bayfield & Moyes, 1970; Watson, 1981; in press), and little change in adult numbers between years.

Numbers there were larger than previous information had suggested, and visits to other hills showed more birds than anticipated. Indeed, A.W. saw numbers greater than one of the previous estimated totals for Britain (60-80 pairs) in one spring on only five hills, including the three study-area hills. Below, we publish observations from outside these study areas, and give a more realistic estimate of numbers in Scotland.

One often sees all the birds on a hilltop in one flock after they arrive in May, and when they gather in August before leaving. Observations of these big gatherings were not used for our estimates, as they might include birds that nest elsewhere. (On one of A.W.'s three study areas, the May flock often greatly exceeded the number that eventually settled as pairs and bred there). Our estimates of the number of pairs were based mainly on counts of dispersed, settled pairs in May or later, and partly on observations of adults with nests and young broods. For data on breeding success, counts were done in late July-August when

young were well feathered, but still retained some down, and so were not fully grown or fully fledged.

At the end of each area section in the Results, the first figure (max.) is the largest number of pairs seen in any year there since 1973, and the second (est.) the estimated total number of pairs each year. The first figures cannot be added to give a grand total, as many are from different years. To get the second figure, we took the first one, estimated by eye on the map the approximate area that it applied to, added by eye any extra areas where Dotterel have been seen in one or more years, and multiplied according to the visually estimated area of other suitable-looking ground. This was necessarily rough, as few observations involved complete searches of measured areas.

For these calculations we assumed that Dotterel were present every year on every hill where they have been seen even just once. For example, an observer might see a pair on Hill A in 1985 and a pair on nearby Hill B in 1986, but might not search Hill B in 1985 or Hill A in 1986; this would appear in the Results as two pairs, but there might be only one. On some hills which are well known haunts, birds have been found breeding on every late-summer visit by an experienced observer. However, in most cases in the east, and nearly all in the west Highlands, the notes covered only one or two visits per hill over many years. This possible error will be overcome only if observers go to a reasonably big sample of hills in the same summer.

We assumed, as there was no evidence for doing otherwise, that numbers on each hill were fairly constant each year, as on A.W.'s three study areas. However, these study areas are all on good habitat, and may export birds to less suitable ground. Numbers on sites that may be marginal possibly fluctuate more; perhaps such sites may be colonised each year by a varying overspill only after the better places are fully occupied. A regional survey in one year could not overcome this problem; several years study of good and possibly marginal

nearby sites would be needed. If many sites prove to be marginal, with few or no birds in some years, our total will be too high. However, it may be too low for other reasons (see Habitat, below).

Distribution and numbers

The following notes refer to years since Nethersole-Thompson's book (1973), except for pre-1973 information that was not in the book. We use "hill" to mean a separate, distinct hill, not a subsidiary top or summit. Above 3000 ft (914 m), it corresponds to the term "Munro", and below 3000 ft to other lesser but separate hills as defined in Scottish Mountaineering Club guides (Donaldson, 1984).

Aberdeenshire-Banffshire, east of the Cairngorms massif. Pairs have been seen on eight hills. Young have been reared on three, and nests found on two others. Max. 6, est. 10+.

Aberdeenshire-Angus. Has bred on six boundary hills between the Perth-Braemar road and Kincardineshire, and on three hills to the north, with 5-7 pairs annually on a study area on part of one hill. On another hill, an observer came across seven nests in 1979. Found breeding on every late-summer visit to six hills. Max. 32, est. 70+.

Angus. Has bred on three hills between Glen Isla and Glen Clova, on one between Glen Clova and Glen Esk, and on one in Glen Esk, and has been seen on two other hills in Glen Esk. Max. 6, est. 10+.

Kincardineshire. Pairs have been seen in June at four sites on three hills, an adult in July at one of them, and an adult in early August on a fourth hill. At 580 m on one hill, 6-7 have been seen together in late July-early August in several years back to the early 1940s, and in July 1942 or 1943 a gundog picked up a flightless chick. Max. 4, est. 5+.

Aberdeenshire-Perth. Has bred on five boundary hills from Inverness-shire to Angus, and on three to the north, including tops down to 750 m. Max. 13, est. 20+.

North-east Perthshire. Has bred on

eight hills from Glen Bruar eastwards. Max. 11, est. 20+.

South Inverness-shire. Has bred on five hills in the Ben Alder range, on two east of Ben Nevis, and on three in the Creag Meagaidh-Carn Liath range. D. Pierce saw six broods in July 1984 on one range. Max. 12, est. 45+.

Monadh Liath. Has bred on four hills. Pairs have been seen on three subsidiary tops, and other hills and tops have suitable habitat. Max. 9, est. 30+.

South Inverness-shire-Perthshire. Has bred on ten hills between Loch Ericht and the Aberdeenshire boundary. Pairs have been seen on two other hills and on three subsidiary tops. Thompson (1983) studied part of this area in mid June, mainly while birds were incubating, finding 8+ pairs in 1976, eight in 1977, 13-14 in 1978 and 1979, and eight ("possibly an underestimate") in 1980. On two hills in 1986, 12 pairs or nests were seen. Max. 23, est. 65+.

South and west Perthshire. Has bred on four hills between Lochs Tay and Rannoch, and on two in upper Glen Lyon. Has been seen on three other hills, including south of Loch Tay. There is suitable habitat on 17 other hills. S. Payne estimates 10-25 pairs on hills south of Loch Ericht, and "there could well be 30 pairs". Max. 4, est. 30+.

Cairngorms massif in Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and south Inverness-shire. An early note on high numbers by Gordon (1915) was of a score or so after a June snowstorm, on a west-central Cairngorms hill. Since 1973 has bred on 17 hills and on many tops and ridges, with 16-17 pairs on a central study area, and about the same on an eastern study area. Pairs have been found on five hills at 640-750 m, and have nested on two and probably had young on another. Has been found breeding on every late-summer visit to 15 hills. Max. 80, est. 150+.

Inverness-shire north of Great Glen. Pairs have been seen on 11 hills, and eggs or young on six. In July 1979, R. Hewson saw four broods on one Inverness-Ross hill and one on another. Max. 6, est. 40+.

Ross-shire. Pairs have been seen on 16 hills, and eggs or young on nine. Dotterel "may be more widespread than is generally realised" in this area, to judge from the extensive stretches of typical habitat (Watson, 1955). Nine pairs were on one hill in 1986. On a May weekend, five pairs were seen on a second hill and four pairs on a third. As a nest has been found in the Fannichs as low as 460 m (Nethersole-Thompson, 1973), the possible area is large. Max. 10, est. 75+.

Sutherland and Caithness. Pairs have been seen on seven hills, and other hills have



Incubating Dotterel.

R.T. Smith

suitable ground. Has bred on a Sutherland hill once since 1980. In one day, R.R. saw five pairs on a second hill, and he has seen two cocks on a third. Max. 5, est. 20+.

Shetland and Orkney. A pair was in suitable habitat in Shetland in July 1974 (Scottish Bird Report). Max. 1, est. 1+.

Southern Uplands. In July 1978, R. Mearns found an adult with a big chick on a Dumfries-shire hill. Since then, birds have been seen almost annually in early May, perhaps mostly on passage. R. Mearns saw eight on a Kirkcudbright hill on 7 May 1981, but none there in July 1981. On Kirkcudbright hills in the first week of May, M. Marquiss has seen two birds once and single birds thrice, all at high altitude; of the three places, one had grass, one moss *Rhacomitrium lanuginosum*, and one eroded peat. Max. 1, est. 2+.

Argyll. Bred in 1982 and 1983 (Thom, 1986). Max. 1, est. 7+.

Hebrides. Some Dotterel sites in Sutherland and the West Highland mainland are so near the coast that it would not be surprising if birds bred occasionally in the Hebrides.

Habitat

The highest nest seen was at 1300 m in the Cairngorms, and the lowest summering birds were in Sutherland down to 300 m. Most Dotterel in the Cairngorms massif breed above 900 m, but a few on exposed ridges and lower hills down to 600 m. East of the Cairngorms and Lochnagar, short vegetation grows at lower altitudes; most birds there breed lower, often down to 700 m and in two places down to 570 m. Watson (1966) wrote "occasional birds, especially cocks, sometimes live for several weeks on areas where no breeding has been recorded"; two such observations were at 650 m and 700 m in Glen Esk (Nethersole-Thompson, 1973) on grouse-moor hills in 1958-59. From greater experience of Dotterel later, A.W. thinks these birds had run off their eggs on seeing his dogs; he has seen breeding birds in all these places since.

Nethersole-Thompson (1973) described the chief breeding habitats in Scotland. Here we give new observations. We have seen Dotterel in summer on many low hills on grouse moorland in the east Highlands, and have found nests or young on 12 of them. Most of these hills had short, wind-clipped heather *Calluna vulgaris* with some lichen and bare gravelly patches. On four low haunts the birds summered where deep peat had eroded to reveal gravelly ground, sparsely covered with short heather, crowberry *Empetrum* spp. and grass.

R.R. saw an adult, which was probably breeding, on a man-made bare patch at 630 m in Strath Don; peat removal for fuel had exposed a gravelly mineral soil with some short vegetation. A cock had chicks at 670 m at another such place in Strath Don. Also, on four hills from north-east Perthshire to Strath Don we have found nests on exposed low ridges where heather regeneration after muirburn had been slow. At one such place in Strath Don, R.R. saw a nest at only 570 m, and at another in Kincardineshire a pair has been seen at 450 m. Furthermore, Sim (1903) noted Dotterel breeding in the 1800s on low hills in two Donside parishes, and referred to them breeding on "elevated moors" in a third and abounding on "mountains" in a fourth (in fact, low hills in both cases).

As the number of such places in the Highlands is large, Dotterel may be more widespread and abundant than we have estimated. Any large-scale survey should include such places.

Breeding success

Table 1 gives 14 reasonably good samples of 10 or more birds. The mean from the 14 totals was 0.51 young reared per adult, including adults with no young. Dotterel on schist hills reared more young per adult than on the nearest granite hills with a sample in the same year (Mann-Whitney $U = 0$, $n = 4$ & 4 , one-tailed $P = 0.014$). This was noticed earlier on A.W.'s study areas (Watson, Bayfield & Moyes, 1970). Nethersole-

Thompson (1973) wrote that birds on Moine schist in the central Grampians reared more young per adult than on granite in the central Cairngorms, but his two sets of data were not from the same years. Table 1 shows data from three categories of richness in the same year; in 1979 the number of young reared per adult was 0.3 on the poorest (granite), 0.6 on the intermediate (Moine schist), and 1.1 on the richest (Dalradian schist).

TABLE 1 Breeding success of Dotterel on hills not used for regular population studies.

Year	Area*	No. of young reared per adult	No. of adults and young **
1970	Mounth east	0.3	20
1971	Cairngorms east	0.6	40
1979	Mounth east	0.2	16
	Mounth central	1.2	26
	Cairngorms west	0.6	31
1980	Cairngorms west-central	0.3	12
	Cairngorms west-central	0.3	17
	Cairngorms west	0.9	17
1981	Cairngorms west-central	0.1	41
	Mounth central	0.4	13
1983	Cairngorms west-central	0.5	20
1984	Inverness south	0.8	20
	Cairngorms west	0.6	21
1985	Cairngorms west	0.4	10

* Mounth east, Cairngorms east and Cairngorms west-central were on granite.

** Each figure is the number of adults and big young seen on one hill in one day, adding up family parties and adults without young. Most counts by A.W., with a few by D. Batty, P. Ewins, D. Pierce and D. Pullan.

Discussion

Table 2 compares Nethersole-Thompson's (1973) and our estimates. The biggest differences between the two are where least ground was searched before 1973, such as Sutherland and Perth south & west.

Did higher numbers and a wider distribution occur due to a big increase since the late 1960s? What makes this seem unlikely is that the apparent increase coincided so closely with the first detailed, standardised work on numbers and breeding success on defined, measured study areas every year. Nethersole-Thompson (1973) wrote that high numbers in 1969-71 (which were mainly found by A.W. on his three study areas and nearby hills) probably resulted from colonisation due to cooler climate. However, there is some evidence that numbers were as high in earlier decades (Watson, in press). Numbers in recent years have been no greater than in the late 1940s-early 1950s on two hills on Mar Forest (two and five pairs). Nethersole-Thompson (1973) also attributed records of Dotterel on lower hills and in Sutherland from the 1960s onwards to a cooling climate, but no statistical analysis of Dotterel numbers and climate has been done. Moreover, Dotterel occurred on low hills in Kincardineshire back to the early 1940s and in Glen Esk back to the late 1950s (Results). Hence we regard Dotterel as one more of the many cases where detailed population studies of a bird or mammal show incidentally a greater abundance than was previously thought.

On his study areas, A.W. found that scanning counts between 1000 and 1800 hours in the three midsummer periods when Dotterel were laying eggs, incubating eggs and tending small chicks up to a week old, usually under-estimated adult numbers greatly. (Where more than one such count was done on any area in one year, one of them was chosen at random for analysis, so that all counts analysed would be statistically independent within areas and years. On the three areas, 28 such midsummer counts in 14 years showed only 34 cocks and

58 hens (total 92), compared with 184 cocks and 186 hens (total 370) seen earlier as dispersed, settled pairs shortly before egg-laying. Midsummer counts ranged from 0% to 63% of what had been seen earlier as settled pairs. Four midsummer counts of zero were on areas where 77 adults plus big young were subsequently counted, and six midsummer counts of only one adult were on areas where 61 adults plus big young were seen later.) Having found that midsummer counts between 1000 and 1800 hours under-estimated numbers on other hills too, we suggest that it is the main reason why past estimates were low.

As is obvious from their published data and descriptions, most past observers concentrated visits in the egg-laying period, the early chick period, and especially the incubation period, when Dotterel are least noisy and visible. Many watchers in these periods have tended to visit in the middle of the day in warm, sunny weather with little wind, when birds are often inactive and silent, and when many adults that are not incubating eggs or tending young are away from the nesting grounds. Dotterel are most noisy and easily seen in May, and to a lesser extent in August. However, May weather and snow conditions are often dangerous to those who are not mountaineers, and bird-watchers tend to visit lowland and coastal habitats in August. Recent observers include mountaineers who have gone in May and August as well as, or more often than, in June-July; this is the main reason why the current estimate is higher. A second reason, which applies to places where Dotterel were not recorded before, is that more, skilled Dotterel observers now visit hills not previously covered, for "atlas" work, other enquiries, and their own explorations.

One snag with any larger-scale survey will be that if Dotterel are not seen or heard in daylight, it is hard to be sure that they are really not there. Unlike many other waders, Dotterel with eggs or young may not move or call unless one comes within a few metres, and at other times are often silent and inactive. It is unlikely that a

TABLE 2 Estimates of the number of Dotterel pairs in Scotland.

Area	Nethersole-Thompson (1973)		Recent
	Max. recorded in any one year	Est. no. in most years	
Sutherland	1	0	20
Ross	3-4	6-8	75
Inverness north of Great Glen	1	3-4	40
Monadh Liath	2-3	6	30
Cairngorms:			
east	15*	8-10	70**
central	9-11	5-7	20**
west	10+	7-8	60**
Grampians:			
east	16-18+*	10-15	135**
central	22-23	10-15	65**
west	5-6	8-10	45
Perth, south & west	1-2	—	30
Southern Uplands	1	—	2
Argyll	not mentioned		7
Shetland & Orkney	not mentioned		1
Total	85-94	63-83	600

* Areas where high figures were due mainly to A.W.'s observations on three study areas and nearby hills.

** Areas with most, recent study.

complete, accurate national survey could be achieved with the scanning method, given the difficulties of finding Dotterel, the short periods when they are conspicuous, the many remote hills with suitable habitat, the frequent bad weather, and the few experienced Dotterel observers. However, a randomised sample survey should be possible.

Other methods might speed survey work and make it more reliable. One is to listen to calls at dawn and dusk, using a method developed for studying Red Grouse on large areas with low densities (Watson & O'Hare, 1979a). This proved valuable for spring counts of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and several other bird species on Irish moorland (Watson & O'Hare, 1979b), and A.W. has found it equally effective for Ptarmigan, Golden Plover, and Dunlin *Calidris alpina* on Scottish arctic-alpine ground. In May-early July in Scotland, members of each Dotterel pair without eggs or young call for up to 1½ hours starting shortly after sunset, and again before sunrise, in light usually too poor to see them. Their locations are obvious from the calls; they often call in flight, after calling on the ground. A second method that proved useful with Red Grouse was to play a tape-recording of a cock's crowing, preferably with a stuffed cock as a decoy, whereupon the nearest cock often responded by flying close and calling. These two methods might help show quickly whether Dotterel are present in spring.

Although the Dotterel is undoubtedly much more abundant in Scotland than used to be thought, it is still an uncommon British bird. Some of the hills with high numbers are beside existing or planned ski developments (Thompson, 1986); others are near sites suggested for ski developments (Nethersole-Thompson & Watson, 1981). In view of these threats, and the still inadequate knowledge of Dotterel numbers and distribution in Britain, a sample survey as outlined above would be timely. One of our aims in presenting this paper was to help give any such survey a better base.

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Kittiwake alighting at nest.

W.S. Paton

The seabirds of Troup and Pennan Heads 1979-86

C.S. LLOYD AND
S.G. NORTH

The seabirds breeding on Troup and Pennan Heads have been counted completely on three occasions (1969, 1979, 1986). Their population changes were monitored between 1979 and 1985 by counts in sample areas of the Troup Head colony. This paper gives the results of the 1986 census and discusses population changes since 1969 in the light of available data.

Introduction

Troup and Pennan Heads lie about 20 kilometres west of Fraserburgh on the north Grampian coast of Scotland. Apart from More Head to the west, which has a big gull colony, they are the only stretches of high cliffs suitable for breeding seabirds on the south side of the Moray Firth. The two headlands have held large colonies of seabirds for at least two hundred years.

The earliest reference to seabirds on Troup Head (known then as Gamrie Head) is in the *Statistical Record* for 1791-9 which describes a great rock, full of shelves and "possessed by thousands of birds called Kit-tiweakes (sic)" *Rissa tridactyla*. Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus* and *L. marinus* bred in Banffshire for the first time only in 1968 (Thom 1986), but Herring Gulls *L. argentatus* were nesting in an "enormous gullery" on Pennan Head in 1936 (Baxter & Rintoul 1953). Fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis* have bred at Troup since 1920, and Shags *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* at Pennan since at least 1895. The auk colonies are also very old. Baxter and Rintoul (loc. cit.) record Guillemots *Uria aalge* nesting at Troup and Pennan Heads in 1809, and both Razorbills *Alca torda* and Puffins *Fratercula arctica* bred on Troup Head in 1834-45. By 1850 Puffins were reported to have declined "owing to persecution" on Troup Head but nine years later Harvie-

Brown and Buckley recorded "thousands" present (in Baxter & Rintoul loc. cit.). On Pennan Head, Puffins were first recorded breeding in 1850, and George Waterston noted a large colony there in 1945. Black Guillemots *Cepphus grylle* bred up to the mid-nineteenth century on both Troup and Pennan Heads (Baxter & Rintoul loc. cit.).

The seabirds on Troup and Pennan Heads were counted for the first time in 1969 when both colonies were covered by the national Operation Seafarer survey. Another complete count was made in 1979 (North 1979), and in the same year selected cliff faces on Troup Head and the adjacent Lion's Head were chosen for annual monitoring. Counts in these sample sections of the colony were carried out by SGN until 1983, and by John Edelsten in 1985. A third count of the entire stretch from Pennan Head to Troup Head was made by CSL in 1986 during survey work for the Seabird Group/NCC Seabird Colony Register.

A rather more complete history of seabird population changes is available for Troup and Pennan Heads than exists for any other cliff seabird colony in Grampian. The data demonstrate the population trends detected by occasional total counts (1969, 1979, 1986), with extra information gained from monitoring of part of the colony (1979-83 and 1985).

Methods

The seabird colonies on Troup and Pennan Heads each contain two sub-colonies, separated by areas with few breeding seabirds (Figure 1). The two colonies are themselves divided by about two kilometres of coast (Pennan harbour westwards) which holds only 60-70 pairs of Fulmars and 10-15 pairs of Herring Gulls. In 1986 the cliff was divided into sections roughly according to rock faces and bays. Sketch maps and photographs were provided to ensure that, as far as possible, these sections were the same as those used in 1979.

In 1979, counts at Troup Head were made between 18 and 25 June, and at Pennan Head on 11 July. All counts were from land. Troup and Lion's Heads were visited on foot on four days between 29 May and

10 June 1986. Then on 23 June the whole stretch from Collie Head to Aberdour Bay (see Figure 1) was examined from a boat close below the cliffs. This appears to be the first time the seabirds on these cliffs have ever been censused from the sea. All counts were made between 0900 and 1600 (BST) on days without strong winds or rain. Units and methods used followed recommended counting techniques (Seabird Group 1980, Seabird Group/NCC Seabird Colony Register instructions) and were exactly the same in both years, apart from the additional sea coverage in 1986. Apparently occupied sites were counted for Fulmars, apparently occupied nests for Shags, Kittiwakes and other gulls, and individual birds on land in breeding habitat for Razorbills, Guillemots and Puffins (the auks).

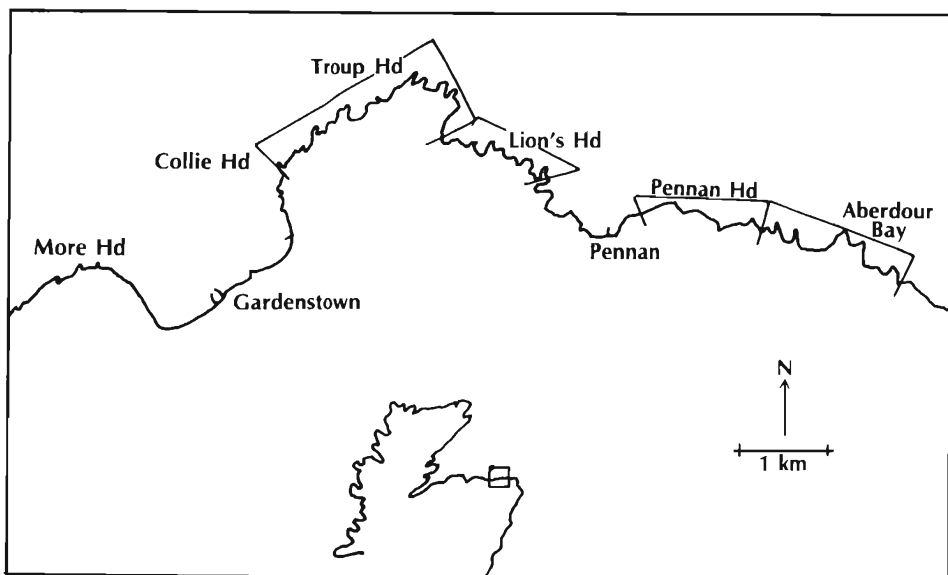


Fig. 1 Map of the study area showing places named in the text and main seabird colonies

Results

Observation from the sea in 1986 showed that large portions of the nesting colony on Troup and Lion's Heads could not be seen from the top of the cliff. The seabirds on Pennan Head were considered impossible to census satisfactorily from the cliff top in 1986; instead the whole colony was counted from the sea. The proportion of occupied nests and breeding birds visible from land on Troup and Lion's Heads in 1986 varied from 100% in the Herring Gull and 94% in the Fulmar and Shag, to 41% for the Guillemot (Table 1). This gives an indication of the amount by which previous land-based counts must have under-estimated the population, although the birds on at least one section of cliff which was counted from the sea in 1986 could be seen adequately from land in 1979.

Nearly 17,500 auks and 20,600 pairs of other seabirds were present on Troup and Pennan Heads in 1986 (Table 2). For all species except the Herring Gull this represents a considerable increase since 1969, although comparison with 1979 totals shows that numbers are actually lower now

TABLE 1 Proportion of Troup Head seabird colony visible from land in 1986. Total numbers counted are given in Table 2.

Species	Troup Head	Lion's Head
Fulmar	94%	75%
Shag	94%	86%
Herring Gull	90%	100%
Kittiwake	max. 61% *	83%
Guillemot	41%	90%
Razorbill	83%	75%
Puffin	78%	—

* Section of cliff with approx. 200-250 nests accidentally missed during counts from both land and sea.

than they were seven years ago (Table 3). In addition, since the 1979 counts were conducted only from land, it is likely that numbers on both Troup and Pennan Heads were under-estimated.

Results of the monitoring counts carried out in a sample of the colony on Troup and Lion Heads from 1979 to 1985 show

TABLE 2 Results of seabird census in 1986.

Species	G/town-Collie	Troup Head	Lion's Head	Pennan Head	Aberdour Bay	Total
Fulmar	179	472	355	303	265	1574
Shag	20	64	28	0	12	124
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	1	0	0	0	1
Herring Gull	1236	721	65	183	370	2575
Great Black-backed Gull	0	1	0	0	2	3
Kittiwake	1924	4959*	6654	1493	1285	16315
Guillemot	432	10554	4174	935	90	16185
Razorbill	135	797	175	90	32	1229
Puffin	6	44	1	8	0	59

Units are apparently occupied sites for all species except auks for which counts are of individual birds on land; see text for details.

* = incomplete count, see Table 1.

TABLE 3 Seabird census results for Troup Head (including Lion's Head) and Pennan Head (including Aberdour Bay) 1969-86.

Observer	Troup Head			Pennan Head		
	1969 July JE	1979 June SN	1986 June CL	1969 June DO	1979 July CN	1986 June CL
Fulmar	370	952	827	810	660	568
Shag	43	69	92	40	12	12
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	–	1	0	–	0
Herring Gull	1090	–	786	c.13000*	–	553
Great Black-backed Gull	0	–	2	0	–	2
Kittiwake	10725	12012	11613	700	2255	2778
Guillemot	8489	20909(i)	14728(i)	350	918(i)	1025(i)
Razorbill	584	1771(i)	972(i)	45	188(i)	122(i)
Black Guillemot	0	0	0	0	1	0
Puffin	237	185(i)	46(i)	140p+20(i)	338(i)	8(i)

Units are apparently occupied sites except for the auks in 1979 & 1986 where counts are of individual birds on land (i).

– = no count, * = "order of abundance".

Observers: JE = John Edelsten, SN = Steve North, CL = Clare Lloyd, DO = David Ogilvie.

that the populations of Fulmar, Kittiwake, Razorbill and Guillemot increased steadily up to 1982 or 1983 and then began to decline (Figure 2).

Discussion

Repeated counts of seabirds on successive days give a more accurate estimate of breeding numbers than a single "one off" count (Lloyd 1975, Harris *et al.* 1983). This is particularly important for the auks where counts involve individual birds whose attendance at the breeding colony varies throughout the day and the season. The error in a single annual count can be reduced by timing the census to coincide with the date and time of day when attendance is least variable (details in Seabird Group 1980). Counts at Troup and Lion's Heads in 1969 and at Pennan Head in 1979 were made too late in the season (9 and 11 July

and sometimes too late in the day (up to 1930 BST) to provide accurate census figures for auks. The 1969 counts were also too late in the breeding season for most of the Herring Gulls and Shags, which would have finished nesting.

With a total of nearly 59,000 breeding seabirds, Troup and Pennan Heads are the largest colonies in the south Moray Firth, and one of the largest concentrations of nesting seabirds in Grampian Region (Seabird Group/NCC Seabird Colony Register, unpubl.). Despite under-estimates in previous counts (July counts in 1969, and no coverage from the sea in either 1969 or 1979), seabird numbers appear to have increased during the 1970s, probably until the early 1980s, and then to have decreased slightly. Similar changes in numbers of Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Guillemots have been recorded at seabird

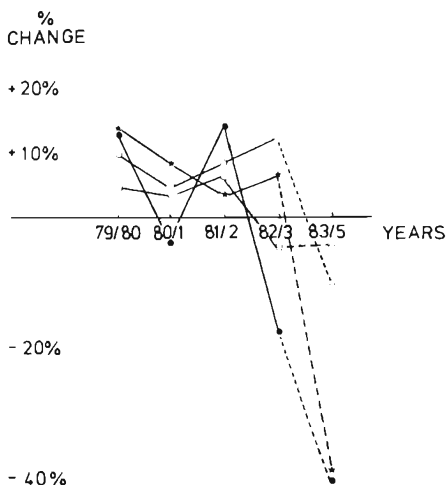


Fig. 2 Seabird population changes at Troup and Lion's Heads shown by monitoring of samples of the colony (annually 1979-83 and in 1985).

Key, with 1979 sample sizes:

Guillemot	□—□	n = 3257 birds
Kittiwake	○—○	n = 324 nests
Fulmar	★—★	n = 104 sites
Razorbill	●—●	n = 122 birds

colonies in Caithness on the other side of the Moray Firth (Mudge 1986), also in Orkney and Shetland (Benn & Tasker 1985, M. Heubeck pers. comm.) and further south, on the Isle of May, Firth of Forth (Wanless & Kinnear 1986).

The exception to this general pattern is the Herring Gull whose numbers have declined steadily since 1969 at both Troup and Pennan Heads, also elsewhere in Grampian (Seabird Group/NCC Seabird Colony Register, unpubl.) and in Caithness (Parsons 1987).

Reasons for these considerable changes in seabird populations remain speculative, but food availability seems likely to have played a major role. Sandeels *Ammodytes* spp. are an important food for North Sea

seabirds during the breeding season (eg. Pearson 1968), and incidental observations between 1979 and 1986 suggest that this is also true at the Troup Head colony. Sandeels declined in the North Sea and Moray Firth during the early 1980s (unpubl. ICES data). The majority of the seabirds breeding in the Moray Firth remain in the area during the winter months, when they are joined by birds from colonies further north (Blake *et al.* 1984, Mudge *et al.* 1984). Dense concentrations of sprats *Sprattus sprattus* are found inshore in the Moray Firth in winter (Hopkins 1986), and these shoals form a vital food supply for over-wintering birds. The most significant recent change in the marine fauna of the Moray Firth has been the decline in sprats. When the North Sea inshore sprat fishery was flourishing in the late 1960s and 1970s, the Moray Firth was a particularly important area (McKay 1983). Catches began to fluctuate in size during the late 1970s, apparently in response to sprat availability in the Moray Firth rather than fishing effort, and they declined continuously after 1977 (Johnson 1985). Acoustic surveys carried out by DAFS Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen from 1978 onwards showed an index of sprat abundance on the east coast of Scotland in 1983 only 5% of that obtained in 1978 (Edwards & McKay 1984). The decline in sprats appears to have been due to reduced survival of eggs and young fish caused by marine environmental change, followed by a decline in spawning stock (McKay 1983) but the exact cause remains unclear.

It seems likely that food for seabirds was comparatively abundant in the Moray Firth during the 1970s, when stocks of sandeels and sprats were high. If so, this would have favoured increased over-winter survival and breeding population growth among both local birds, including those at Troup and Pennan Heads, and ones from further north (eg. north Caithness, Orkney, Shetland); such population increases were recorded during the 1970s. The decrease in fish stocks in the late 1970s and early 1980s

was accompanied by a decline in size of local seabird colonies and those elsewhere. Additional support for the hypothesis that recent population changes were caused by fluctuating food supply is the lag of four to five years between the apparent decline in winter food stocks (1977-78) and the decrease in breeding numbers (1982-83). This is to be expected in seabird species, all of which show delayed maturity and do not breed until three to five years of age.

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Breeding Status of the Ring Ouzel in Southeast Scotland 1985-86

IAN R. POXTON

In 1985-86 a survey was carried out of Ring Ouzels breeding in the three main upland areas of Southeast Scotland. 143 territories were found in 30 valleys. Most of the valleys in the Moorfoots and Lammermuirs held territories, but only two out of eight in the Pentlands. Territories were associated with valleys in which heather was the predominant vegetation and nest sites were almost always under clumps of heather.

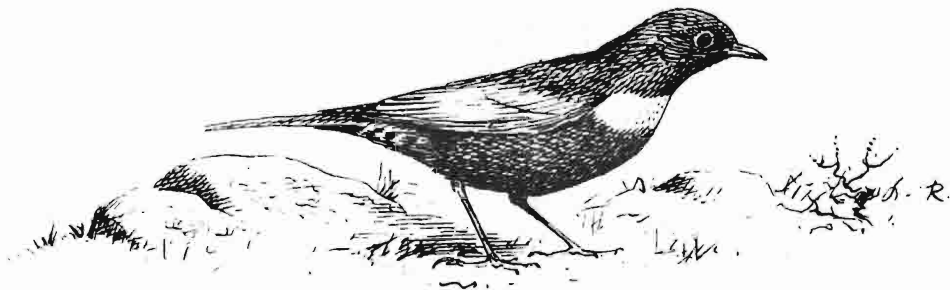
Introduction

The Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* is commonly encountered in the uplands of southern Scotland. General impressions suggested that its distribution was patchy, but documentation of the number of breeding pairs in the region was lacking. In 1985 a systematic survey was made by members of the Edinburgh Branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club Discussion Group and the Lothian Ringing Group. The three main hill ranges in the area, the Pentlands, the Moorfoots and the Lammermuirs, were surveyed with the aim of determining the distribution and numbers of breeding Ring Ouzels, and relating this distribution to habitat.

From a study of breeding Ring Ouzels in one valley system in the Pentlands between 1979 and 1984 (Poxton 1986), baseline information such as time of arrival of birds, general habitat, territory size and behaviour was already available as a guide to observers.

Methods

The three hill ranges were divided into 42 valley systems and allocated to observers. Visits were made on at least two occasions between mid April and mid June, and it was recommended that early mornings or evenings of still days were the best times to find



Ring Ouzel.

R.A. Richardson

birds. Observers were issued with separate record forms for each visit. The following information was to be recorded: location (grid reference and nearest name on 1:50,000 OS map), description of habitat, altitude in metres, date and time of visit, weather conditions, activity of bird(s), eg. courtship, nest building, singing, feeding, 'alarming'. If the nest was found details of site, stage of building, number of eggs, number and age of young (and ring numbers if ringed) were recorded. Supplementary information was sought regarding other birds seen in the locality, especially raptors, chats, thrushes, waders and herons. The main survey was made in 1985, but a few valleys with incomplete coverage were

surveyed in 1986. Records were entered into a data base designed for the purpose (based on Superbase 64 for Commodore 64, Precision Software Ltd).

Results

Records of 191 sightings of Ring Ouzels were received from more than 20 observers. In general, records were considered to be from the same site if they were within 100m of each other, although such records were carefully checked taking all the information on the form into account. The criteria for judging attempted or successful breeding are listed in Table 1, and the sites with evidence of breeding Ring Ouzels are shown in Fig. 1.

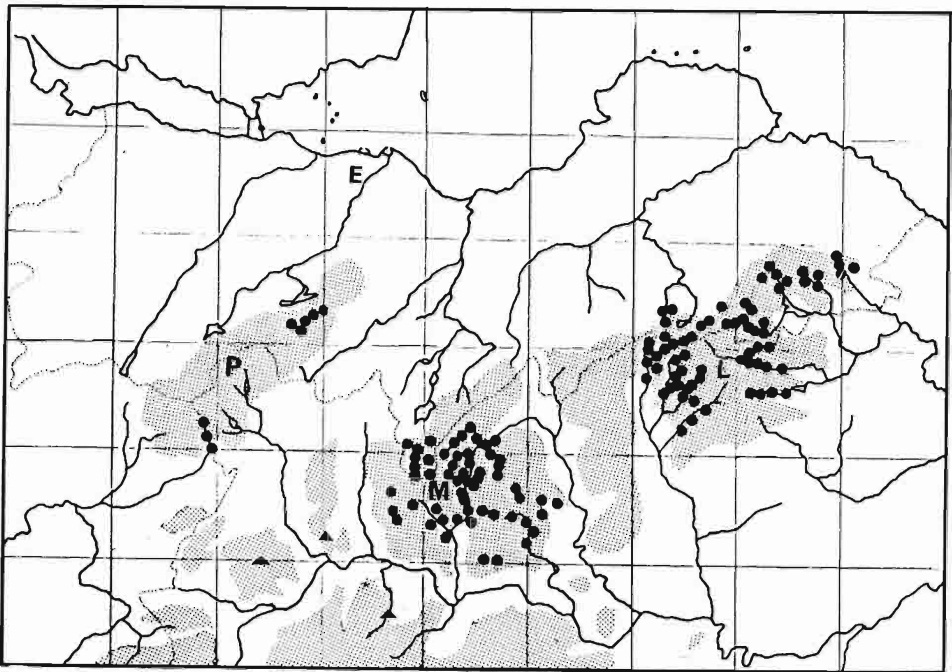


Fig. 1 Distribution of Ring Ouzel territories.

Key Shaded area = land above 300 metres = Regional boundaries

P = Pentlands M = Moorfoots L = Lammermuirs E = Edinburgh

● = Ring Ouzel territory

▲ = site known to hold Ring Ouzels but outside survey area

TABLE 1 Criteria for judging breeding,¹.

Evidence	Number of sites
Pair seen in territory	41
Male singing	40
Nest found	22
Adult(s) with fledged young	17
Single bird alarming	14
Single bird seen ²	9
Total	143

¹ When several visits were made to one site the most positive piece of evidence is recorded.

² No positive signs but bird in suitable territory in breeding season.

From the 1985 data, 29 valleys showed evidence of breeding birds, with a total of 140 occupied sites. This figure increased to 143 sites after three more breeding territories were found in one more valley in 1986. Table 2 summarises these results by hill ranges.

TABLE 2 Valley systems with breeding Ring Ouzels.

Hill Range	Valleys with birds/total	Territories
Pentlands	2/8	8
Moorfoots	15/17	66
Lammermuirs	13/17	69
Totals	30/42	143

The habitat types are listed in Table 3. Of the 12 valleys checked where no Ring Ouzels were found only four, three of which were in the Pentlands, could be described as heather moorland. The rest were all unsuitable in appearance, being predominantly

arable. The mean height above sea level of territories was 352m, with a range between 209m and 533m.

Of the 22 nests found during the survey, 15 were on the ground, usually under a clump of heather, on a steep slope and above a stream. Five nests were on rocky ledges under heather clumps and two were in conifers about 1.5m above the ground. During the survey 63 young were ringed.

TABLE 3 Habitat descriptions.

Description*	Territories with birds
Moorland: heather	108
Moorland: sheepwalk	18
Moorland: young conifer	14
Edge moorland/arable	2
Edge moorland/mature conifer	1

* heather, sheepwalk and young conifer refer to moorland in which ground cover was at least 50% of this type.

Discussion

The three hill ranges of southeast Scotland vary in character. The Lammermuirs are low rolling hills which are still used predominantly as grouse moor. Heather cover is extensive, afforestation is significant only at the eastern edge and gamekeepers are active. Disturbance is minimal over much of the range. The result is that most of the main valley systems provide good Ring Ouzel territory.

The Moorfoots are larger, steeper hills with much more sheepwalk than the Lammermuirs, although there is still much heather, especially on the steep valley sides. Disturbance is minimal and intensity of gamekeeping varies, depending on whether or not the area is used extensively for grouse shooting. Certain areas of the Moorfoots are now under afforestation.

From the results of the survey, there is evidence that the Ring Ouzel is present in good numbers. The new forest edge is even providing nest sites.

The distribution of Ring Ouzels in the Pentlands, however, is different. The whole of the north and northwest facing slopes of the Pentlands are predominantly sheepwalk with little heather. They look unsuitable for Ring Ouzels and this was borne out by the survey, as none were found. The valleys leading in from the southeast side look much more suitable. They are steep sided with much heather and good feeding areas and in many respects resemble the valleys of the previous study. Much of the area is largely undisturbed. It seems anomalous that one of the highest densities of Ring Ouzels recorded anywhere in the area was in the Pentland valley system centred on Logantea Reservoir, which was the area for the earlier study (Poxton 1986). This is the area most visited by the public in any of the three hill ranges and some nests were found close to busy footpaths. In only one other Pentland valley were Ring Ouzels found and then only two territories. At least three other valleys appeared suitable but no trace of birds was found.

This survey has provided baseline data on the number of Ring Ouzel territories in southeast Scotland. Good populations exist in the Lammermuirs and Moorfoots, with one major focus in the Pentlands. It will be interesting to see how afforestation affects this species (together with others) if the schemes in the Moorfoots continue to expand and those proposed in the Lammermuirs are allowed to develop. It would also be interesting to investigate why some apparently suitable valleys in the Pentlands do not hold breeding Ring Ouzels.

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Short Notes

Golden Eagles attacking deer and sheep

Publication of Graham Rebecca's note on this topic (SB 14: 86) resulted in the submission of several reports of Golden Eagles attempting to take red deer; these are summarised below. More recently we received the following note recording an instance in which an eagle attacked and killed a sheep. The fact that, despite extensive fieldwork carried out on this species over many years, such an incident has not been documented previously suggests that it is a very exceptional occurrence. While it would be undesirable to suppress this record, which is of scientific interest, it is also important that it is not taken out of context and regarded as of major significance. R.H. Dennis has also pointed out that very unusual behaviour, such as attacks on dogs and domestic poultry, has been recorded in eagles which have escaped or been released from captivity. There is no suggestion that the bird referred to in Peter Ewins' note was other than wild, but the origin of birds carrying out unprecedented behaviour may be suspect. Ed.

Eagles and Red Deer

In January 1965 James Wilson was stalking hinds and calves on Badanloch Estate, Sutherland, when an eagle stooped and hit a calf, knocking it over. The calf recovered and rejoined the rest of the stampeding herd, which swam a burn in full spate. The keeper he was accompanying commented that it took a lot to put deer into near-freezing water. On 17 September 1980, near the east coast of Islay, Keith Verral and a friend watched a juvenile Golden Eagle attacking a hind on the fringe of a mixed herd of deer, landing on her back and gripping her shoulder and hindquarters. The hind dislodged the eagle by throwing back her head. After several such unsuccessful

attacks, during which the deer were moving downhill, the eagle gave up. On 20 November 1982, in Glen Clunie (near Braemar), Ron Youngman saw an immature eagle making repeated dives, with its talons extended, at a party of four hinds. The bird came to within 4-5 feet of the deer but never actually struck them. There was heavy snow cover at the time.

Golden Eagle attacking and killing sheep

On 27 October 1981 M.W. Richards and I watched a female Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* attack and kill a fully-grown Blackface ewe on the west coast of Scotland. A pair of adult eagles, accompanied by an immature, were patrolling an open hillside, on which a loose flock of Blackface ewes were grazing. The female eagle suddenly stooped from the ridge down towards a group of about six ewes, which panicked and ran downhill. All six sheep appeared to be fully fit adults and there was no indication that a weak individual had been singled out. Within a few seconds the eagle had plunged its talons into the neck of one ewe, which fell to the ground. The eagle retained its grip on the ewe's neck for the next 20 minutes, despite initially being periodically tossed around by the spasms of the dying ewe. When the eagle finally released her grip she tugged at the fleece a couple of times before flying c.250 m up the hillside to perch beside the other two eagles, at which stage c.50 Hooded Crows *Corvus corone* moved in to the carcass. One hour later both adult eagles were feeding at the carcass, tearing at skin and flesh, and one remained feeding until dusk. Two days later three eagles were again flying over this hillside, the male displaying along the ridge. The sheep carcass had been removed, presumably by the shepherd, whose house was only c.500 m away, and only a few crows and scattered bits of wool remained.

Although there have been a considerable number of studies of the diet of Golden Eagles, it has often been difficult to decide whether prey has been taken alive or as carrion (Cramp 1980). In Scotland attacks by Golden Eagles on Red Deer and their calves have been documented (Gordon 1955; Northeast 1978; Rebecca 1986), and a calf apparently in good condition and weighing 20.5 kg was seen to be killed (Cooper 1969). Ratcliffe & Rowe (1979) witnessed a Golden Eagle killing an infant Roe Deer. Remains of sheep and lambs at Golden Eagle eyries have aroused much concern amongst the farming community, but whenever the problem has been investigated it has been found that most sheep and lamb meat is taken as carrion, although some individuals may regularly kill small lambs (Lockie & Stephen 1959; Weir 1973, 1985; Hewson 1984).

Some Golden Eagles are clearly capable of killing medium-sized mammals, and considering the high densities of sheep and eagles in northern Scotland today it is rather surprising that this appears to be the first documented instance of a fully-grown ewe being killed.

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Hen Sparrowhawk taking Rabbit Carrion

On 14 August 1986, whilst driving up Glen Clova, Angus, I saw a Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and a male Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* in flight together. After these birds had flown from sight I noticed on the road, about 30 m away, an immature female Sparrowhawk standing directly over a carcass of a well grown freshly dead rabbit. This was on a stretch of road where rabbits are often killed by cars and mountain hares and birds are also occasional casualties.

The hen Sparrowhawk stood still and upright with wings held out from its body, angled forward over the carcass with

primaries spread and talons gripping the foreparts. It relaxed to take pecks at the rabbit's head. By 8.56 it had been feeding for an estimated 10 minutes. After failing to swallow one beakful with a conspicuous bone fragment, apparently from the skull, the Sparrowhawk gripped it in one talon and pecked at it again, discarding the bone fragment. Later it grasped the neck region of the rabbit with one set of talons and flapped its wings. It was not clear whether this was an attempt to carry off the carcass or to pull back skin to expose more flesh.

At 9.21 the arrival of a vehicle forced me to drive on slowly. The Sparrowhawk did not abandon the carcass until my car

was within a few metres of it, when it flew a short distance away from the road.

At 12.30, when returning along the road, I saw an immature hen Sparrowhawk, probably the same individual, feeding on the remains of the carcass, where it stayed until flushed at 12.45. By this time the carcass was much smaller and entrails were spread a little distance away. The Sparrowhawk again abandoned the carcass only when I was at close range, and flew to a nearby fence post after a first false take off. There was no sign of a bird near the remains at 13.00 but the following afternoon a hen Sparrowhawk in flight was seen nearby.

After heavy rain the previous afternoon and night, the day of the observation started misty. A combination of inexperience and low prey availability because of poor weather could have made the Sparrowhawk unusually hungry.

Pigeon and quail carcasses, but not rats, placed on plucking posts in the pre-laying and laying periods have been taken by Sparrowhawks, Newton and Marquiss (1981). Poisoned baits, freshly killed Song Thrushes *Turdus philomelos* and Meadow

Pipits *Anthus pratensis* similarly placed in the breeding season have illegally killed Sparrowhawks in Scotland (anon. verbal report, pers. comm. J. Young). In late winter a hen Sparrowhawk has been found dead beside a poisoned pigeon (pers. comm. B. Etheridge). There seems to be no previous record of Sparrowhawks taking mammalian carrion.

The possibility that some Sparrowhawks obtain significant feeding from road casualties at critical times is of interest. If such scavenging is often of prey readily carried away without trace, such as small passerines, it would be easy to overlook, and consequently underestimate, some kinds of wildlife road casualties.

Acknowledgements

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A probable hybrid Dunlin/Sanderling

On 17 May 1981 a group of ringers from the North Solway and Lothian Ringing Groups made a cannon net catch at Waterfoot on the north shore of the Solway Firth. The catch consisted of 180 Dunlin *Calidris alpina* and Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula* on spring passage to Iceland and Greenland, and amongst them was one unusual wader. The bird was in full summer plumage and had the look of a Dunlin except that it had a completely white belly and the scapulars resembled those of a Sanderling *Calidris alba* rather than a Dunlin. Unfortunately a full description of

the bird was not taken in the field. The following description is based on five photographs of the bird.

Head resembling a *schinzii* or *arctica* Dunlin with distinctive buff ear coverts and dark lores and only a faint supercilium. Crown rufous, extensively streaked with black. Nape like the crown but duller. Mantle and scapulars similar to Sanderling, each feather being black with a rufous patch on either side and a white/grey tip. Tertiaries and wing coverts all in winter plumage, dun/grey coloured and heavily worn. Lesser coverts near the carpal joint darker, giving a dark 'shoulder patch'. Rump - not seen; upper tail coverts dark in the centre with

TABLE 1 Features common to the presumed hybrid and other species.

Similar to Dunlin	Similar to Sanderling
Presence of hind toe	White belly
Bill shape	Scapular
Head plumage	colouration
No summer-plumage tertials	Dark carpal patch

white at the sides; tail - grey. Throat, neck and upper breast streaked black. Lower breast, belly and under tail coverts white except for a few feathers faintly streaked black on the side of the breast. Bill black, short, slightly decurved, with a soft flexible tip, in appearance identical to the bill of a small, male Dunlin and much more delicate than that of a Sanderling. Legs black, hind toe present.

Table 1 shows the features most typical of the two species. The bird was retrapped on 23 May 1982 in a catch of 1,400 Sanderling, processed as a Sanderling, and released without a description being taken! In Table 2 the bird's measurements are compared with those of Dunlin and Sanderling. In both species bill length correlates with wing length; this bird's wing was too long in proportion to its bill for a Dunlin, and it had much too long a bill relative to its wing length for a Sanderling.

This bird clearly showed some features of both Dunlin and Sanderling. It is worth considering whether it could be any other calidrid species. The bill and wing lengths fall within the ranges of only two other species - White-rumped *C. fuscicollis* and Baird's *C. bairdii* Sandpipers (Cramp & Simmons 1983). White-rumped Sandpiper can be immediately ruled out as the central upper tail coverts were dark, not white as in White-rumped. Baird's Sandpipers have a generally buff appearance, but the upper breast of this bird had no buff, and the white upper tail coverts formed a much larger white patch than occurs on a Baird's Sandpiper.

This bird can not, then, be assigned to any other species and the only conclusion possible is that it was a hybrid. Although there are many instances of hybrid birds, especially waterfowl (Gray 1958), this seems to be the first recorded instance of a hybrid calidrid in the wild. A reported hybrid Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata* × Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea* (Lane et al 1982) has more recently been attributed to a Cox's Sandpiper *C. paramelanotos* (Parker pers.comm.) which was only described in 1982 (Parker 1982). Gray reports only six hybrids within the Charadriiformes but none were within the Charadriidae. It is surprising that more hybrids have not been reported in Europe, especially as over three-quarters of a million waders have been ringed in Britain alone.

TABLE 2 Measurements of the presumed hybrid compared with those of Dunlin and Sanderling (from Prater et al. 1977).

	Wing mm	Bill mm	Total head length mm	Weight g
Hybrid - 17.05.81	121	24.5	48.8	55
27.05.02	121	24.2	48.4	54.5
Dunlin male - Greenland	107-117	23.2-29.3		
- Britain	106-116	23.2-35.5		
- SE Baltic	105-118	24.5-32.4		
Sanderling - male	120-131	21-26		
- female	119-131	22-27		

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N.A. Clark, British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring HP23 5NR.

Icelandic Redwings in Inverness-shire

The typical pattern of autumn Redwing movements in Glenurquhart, Inverness-shire, mainly involves continental Redwings (Swann 1983), with a high percentage of adults and a peak during 10-24 October. The number of birds present is linked with the size of the rowan berry crop.

Autumn 1986 showed marked differences. The rowan berry crop was exceptionally heavy, but persistent westerly winds probably made it difficult for Redwings to cross over from the continent. This resulted in a much later passage than usual, with the main peak between 25 and 31 October and numbers present throughout November. It soon became apparent that many of the birds were larger and darker than usual. Adult Redwings tend to have slightly longer wings than first year birds (Table 1). A comparison of wing lengths between the two years shows that the birds caught in 1986 had, on average, wings about 3 mm longer

than the 1982 birds. Indeed in 1982 only 9% of adults had wings longer than 123 mm, whereas in 1986 29% had. Other atypical features were the presence of far more young birds than usual in 1986 (Table 2) and an increase in the retrap rate, suggesting that some birds were staying in the area longer than usual (1.5%, cf 0.3% 1976-82).

These differences all suggest that in 1986 many Icelandic birds were present in the area, and the control of a bird carrying an Icelandic ring, on 30 October, substantiated this. da Prato *et al* (1980) have previously shown that the passage of Icelandic Redwings tends to be later than that of continentals and involves more young birds than adults.

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R.L. Swann, 28 Druimlon, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire.

TABLE 1 Wing lengths of Redwings in Glenurquhart.

	1982	1986
Adult	119.4 (n = 269)	122.0 (n = 193)
First year	118.2 (n = 115)	121.0 (n = 222)

Adults had significantly longer wings than 1st year birds ($z = 3.785$, $p < 0.01$) and 1986 birds had significantly longer wings than those caught in 1982 ($p < 0.01$).

TABLE 2 Age ratios of Redwings in Glenurquhart.

	1976-82	1986
No. examined	1762	460
% adult	62.2	46.5
% 1st year	36.8	53.5

There were significantly more young birds in 1986 ($\chi^2 = 40.22$, $p < 0.001$).

Red-breasted Mergansers moulting in Galloway

There are, apparently, few localities on the west coast of Scotland where moulting Red-breasted Mergansers *Mergus serrator* occur. A flock of international importance (more than 400) has been recorded in the Sound of Gigha and flocks of more than 40 in Wester Ross and the Ayr coast (Thom, 1986). Other moulting areas occur at Loch Linnhe (Prater, 1981) and at Mull (Scottish Bird Reports).

Nationally important numbers (more than 75) also occur at Luce Bay and Loch Ryan, Galloway, with some peak counts just below the numbers of international importance. Table 1 gives the peak counts of

there in August and only 40 at Loch Ryan. A similar pattern occurred in 1986 (not included in the table) when 330 were moulting in Luce Bay and only 20 in Loch Ryan.

Numbers have fluctuated from year to year probably depending on the number of males, non-breeders and juveniles present. In Galloway they begin to build up at these two estuaries from July and reach peak numbers usually up to September. According to Cramp and Simmons (1977), however, females sometimes moult for a month longer than males and this may account for the numbers which occur up to late September here. They usually begin to

TABLE 1 Peak counts of moulting Red-breasted Mergansers at Luce Bay and Loch Ryan, Galloway, 1966-1985 (in 5 yearly intervals).

Years	Luce Bay		Loch Ryan		Combined Total	
	Av.	Range	Av.	Range	Av.	Range
1966-1970	38	26-62	90	16-200	128	56-224
1971-1975	19	5-61	187	73-294	206	78-355
1976-1980	2	0-12	232	130-350	234	130-350
1981-1985	98	190-300	186	40-290	284	152-480

moulting mergansers occurring at Luce Bay and Loch Ryan in August/September between 1966 and 1985. The highest combined counts were 355 in 1973, 350 in 1980, 480 in 1982 and 340 in 1983, the 1982 count being above the level of international importance.

Loch Ryan is apparently more favoured than Luce Bay and in six years out of twenty no moulting birds were found at Luce Bay. In only one year, 1983, was Luce Bay the more favoured, with 300 counted

decrease in October/November but some probably remain, at times in sizeable flocks (up to 200), through to December.

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Kestrels copulating in winter

Cramp and Simmons (1980) state that the pair-bond in Kestrels *Falco tinnunculus* is maintained long after the breeding season, at least until late autumn, and that the first copulation sometimes occurs two months before egg laying.

On 29th November 1986 I was watching a marshy area in Galloway at dusk. A male Kestrel arrived and began still-hunting from electricity lines running across the edge of the marsh about 50 metres from me. After 33 minutes a female Kestrel began hovering above the edge of the marsh about 200-300 metres from him. After hunting for a while she half-closed her wings and stooped in a long diagonal dive towards the male which began uttering calls as she approached him. The female landed less than a metre from him, adopting the invitation posture for copulation: lowered head, wings dropped and tail raised. The male, still uttering calls, mounted the female, flapping his wings slowly, apparently copulating for about 10+ seconds, as both uttered calls. He dropped down and flew away. The female shook herself, then followed the

male, returning shortly after to hunt the marsh before finally flying to nearby woods to roost.

Kestrels do not normally mate as early/late in the season as this, although Pettifor (1983) found that Kestrels copulated in early February in winter territories in East Anglia. Shrubbs (1982) states that pairs wintering together made "daily contact" often in the evening before roosting. Occasional copulations outside the breeding season probably serve to maintain or reinforce a pair-bond on a year round territory rather than as an act for reproduction. It would be of interest to hear of other species in which comparable behaviour has been observed.

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Probable interbreeding of Roseate and Arctic Terns

On 14 June 1984 an adult Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* was found incubating an egg amongst a colony of c.100 pairs of Arctic Terns *S. paradisaea* on the island of Burra, Shetland (60°05'N 1°20'W). The bird was flushed on two separate occasions and regularly gave the rasping alarm-call overhead as we inspected the nest. After marking the nest position with a small cairn we withdrew to c.100 m, permitting the terns to resettle. The Roseate returned to incubate at the marked nest on this and all subse-

quent occasions. The egg was in a shallow scrape in short *Calluna* heathland and showed all the characteristics of Roseate Tern eggs. In addition to PME's first-hand identification, a number of people with experience of Roseate Tern eggs have examined photographs of the egg and agree that it seems to be typical for the species. On 26 June an adult Arctic Tern was incubating this egg on two visits that morning, but the Roseate was back on the nest in the afternoon. There was no sign of the

egg on 1 July but the Roseate landed at the nest carrying a sandeel and was clearly agitated by our presence. A chick (c. 1 day old) was found 2 m away but we could not be absolutely certain that it was from this nest. As happened in most other parts of Shetland in 1984 this colony failed, and a visit on 7 July found only a few Arctic Terns present, with no sign of the adult Roseate.

This constitutes only the fifth Shetland record of Roseate Tern; two were recorded in 1983, one of which associated with displaying Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* on Bressay in late May (PJE, *pers. obs.*). This also represents an extension of breeding range for Roseate Tern - the previous northerly limit being set by 3 pairs which bred in Orkney in 1969 (Cramp *et al.* 1974).

There has been no previous suggestion of Roseate and Arctic Terns interbreeding (Cramp 1985; Nisbet *in litt.*); these species rarely breed in the same areas. However, the breeding ranges of Common and Roseate Terns overlap considerably and it now appears that hybridisation between these two species is regular on a small scale on both sides of the Atlantic, with mixed pairs often succeeding in fledging hybrid young (eg. Robbins 1974; Hays 1975; Nisbet 1976). All but one of the cases in which the sexes were known involved a female Roseate Tern.

Although we did not witness pair behaviour between the Roseate and any Arctic Terns, the most likely interpretation is that a female Roseate Tern paired with a male Arctic Tern, laid an egg, and may

have hatched a chick. Cullen (1956) found an excess of unmated males in Arctic Tern colonies on the Farne Islands, many of which persistently attempted to court the mated females throughout the season. A few were accepted by established pairs and assisted with incubation and chick feeding. It is thus perhaps not surprising that a lone female Roseate Tern should accept the advances of a male Arctic Tern. However, we were unable to rule out the possibility that an Arctic Tern became attached to a pair of breeding Roseate Terns.

Acknowledgements

We thank Ian Sandison for the egg photographs, and Drs. Euan Dunn and Ian Nisbet for commenting on an earlier draft manuscript.

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J.D. Okill & P.M. Ellis, Shetland.*

Items of Scottish Interest

Articles and Reports on birds in Scotland, mainly on status and distribution. (Previous lists 14(1) 55-56; 14(2) 87-88; 14(3) 189-190). References from widely available journals *British Birds*, *Bird Study* and *Ringing and Migration* are excluded. Most of these items are available for reference in the Waterston Library. Items marked with an asterisk are also available from the SOC Bird Bookshop postfree to SOC members at the prices quoted.

The librarian is glad to receive reprints or copies of papers on any aspect of ornithology or general natural history.

Scientific papers.

- Populations of breeding waders Charadrii and their habitats on the crofting lands of the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. R.J. Fuller, T.M. Reed, N.E. Buxton, A. Webb, T.D. Williams & M.W. Pienkowski 1986. *Biol. Conserv.* 37: 333-361.
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- Peregrine report for 1986 for Dunbartonshire and Stirlingshire. J. Mitchell 1986. Nature Conservancy Council, SW Region Scotland, 2 pp.
- Demography of Capercaillie in north-east Scotland. I. Determining the age of Scottish Capercaillie from skull and head measurements. R. Moss 1987. *Orn. Scand.* 18: 129-134.
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- Purple Sandpiper studies in north Iceland 1986. R.W. Summers, C.J. Corse & D.P. Whitfield 1987. A Report of the Tay, Orkney and Grampian Ringing Groups' expedition in summer 1986, published privately. Copies are available from R.W. Summers, Leenane, Gong Lane, Burnham Overy Staithe, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Price £1 plus postage.
- The birds of St. Abb's Head. S.R. Warman 1986. *History Berwickshire Nats. Club* 43: 26-36.
- A Survey of the numbers and breeding distribution of the North Atlantic Gannet *Sula bassana* and an assessment of the changes which have occurred since Operation Seafarer 1969/70. S. Wanless 1987. *Research and Survey in Nature Conservation Series No. 4*, 100 pp. Nature Conservancy Council Peterborough. * £3.00.
- Birds, bogs and forestry - the Peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland. D.A. Stroud, T.M. Reed, M.W. Pienkowski and R.A. Lindsay 1987. Nature Conservancy Council, 121 pp. *£10.00.
- Some aspects of autumn wader migration across Southern Scotland. T.W. Dougall 1981. *Western Naturalist* 10: 5-22. This reprint has only recently been received in the Waterston Library.

Bird Reports

Arran Bird Report 1986. (12 pp) Margaret Dunn (ed) 1987. *£1.00.

Ayrshire Bird Report 1986. (48 pp) Angus Hogg (ed) 1987. *£2.00 Includes a Rook survey.

Caithness Bird Report 1986. (48 pp) S.A.M. Manson (ed) 1987. *£3.00. Includes a report on the Greenland White-fronted Geese in Caithness, and lists of birds seen on visits to Stroma and to the Pentland Skerries.

Islay Bird and Natural History Report 1986. (18 pp) Malcolm Ogilvie (ed) 1987. This is the first such report for Islay. It includes monthly counts of wildfowl, waders and gulls for Lochs Gruinart and Indaal. *£1.00.

Birds in Midlothian, West Lothian and Edinburgh Districts 1986. (37 pp) 1987. Ian Andrews (ed) 1987. Unpublished report which includes all the Forth Islands except the Isle of May.

Moray and Nairn Bird Report 1986. (37 pp) Martin Cook (ed) 1987. * 75p.

Orkney Bird Report 1986. (77 pp) 1987 Chris Booth & Mildred Cuthbert (eds) 1987. Includes a systematic list and short reports on Shelduck in Orkney, Long-eared Owl pellets, and Contamination of birds with Fulmar Oil. *£2.00.

Shetland Bird Report 1986. (62 pp) P.M. Ellis (ed) 1987. *c. £3.50. Includes reports on breeding Shelduck and on a survey of Arc-

tic Skuas and Great Skuas in Shetland. The startling conclusion is that Shetland holds 56% of the northern hemisphere population of Great Skuas, and 43% of Arctic Skuas.

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report 1986. (76 pp) Nick Riddiford (ed) 1987. *£2.50. This is more than just a bird report. It describes the whole life of the island, and records two noteworthy happenings, the award to the island of the Council of Europe's Diploma, and the opening of the George Waterston Memorial Centre on the island. There is a 22-page systematic list.

Lothian Bird Report 1985. (117 pp) M.R. Leven (ed) 1987. *£3.50. Includes a 64-page systematic list, and reports on Grey Heron and Mute Swan censuses, on a Wood Warbler survey, and several short notes.

Birds in Midlothian, West Lothian and Edinburgh Districts 1985. (51 pp) Ian Andrews (ed) 1987. Unpublished report which includes all the Forth Islands except the Isle of May.

Forth Area Bird Report 1984. (11 pp) C.J. Henty 1987. In *The Forth Naturalist and Historian* 9: 39-49. *£3.00. Covers Clackmannanshire, Stirlingshire and southwest Perthshire. Reports for 1985 and 1986 will be in vol. 10 (in press).

W.G. Harper

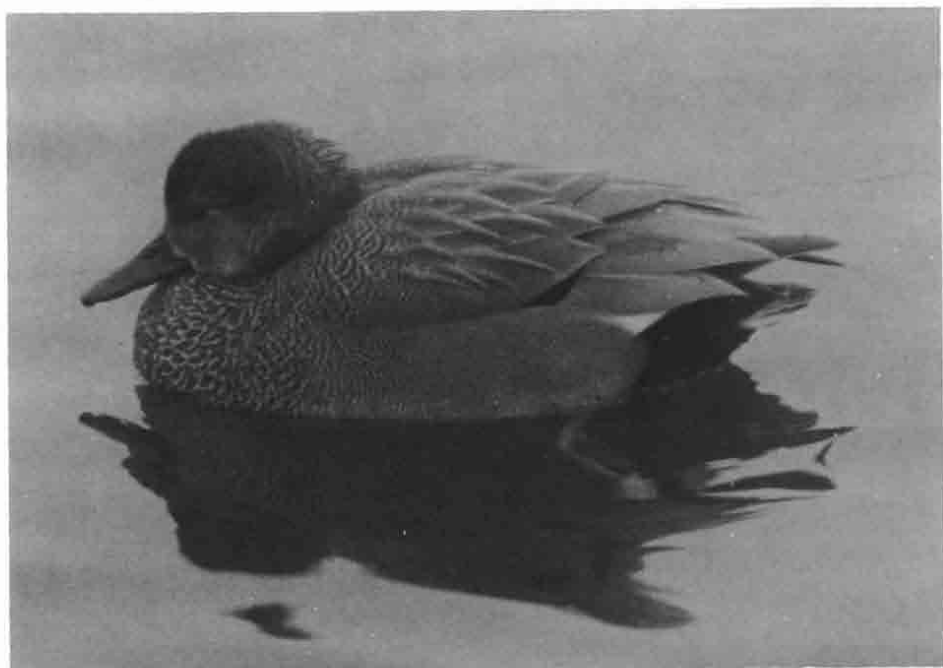


Long-tailed Skua.

A. Hogg

Scottish Bird Report 1986

Edited by Angus Hogg



Gadwall drake, Hogganfield Loch, Glasgow, December 1986.

B. Zonfrillo

INTRODUCTION

1986 — The Year's Events

313 species were recorded in Scotland during the year. While 1986 provided no new "firsts," the 1985 Little Swift was accepted; this being a bird new to Scotland. Several species mentioned in last year's report have still to have their fate decided, but the second record of Chestnut Bunting has been accepted, albeit into Category D. With yet another June record in 1986, on a Scottish island, there must exist the possibility of the genuine article.

Highlights during the first half of the year included records of Stone Curlew, Black-winged Stilt, Spotted Sandpiper, and up to four Little Ringed Plovers, while Orkney dealt a double blow to those of us who long to see some of the rarer owls with single Scops and Tengmalm's Owls. A Lesser White-fronted Goose (now becoming very rare as a British visitor) showed a real sense of timing, waiting until Malcolm Ogilvie had moved to Islay. On the breeding front, a pair of White-tailed Eagles produced another two young, but generally the poor spring weather resulted in many failures, and a much lower success rate was experienced by many raptors. On a more positive note, there is just the suggestion that Nuthatch is showing signs of range expansion. Although the number of Scottish records remains low, records of the species in South-east Scotland may be worth watching in future years.

The second half of 1986 provided Scotland's second records of Cattle Egret and Bobolink. Fair Isle again provided a host of rarities, with the warblers including Pallas's Grasshopper, Lanceolated, Savi's, Aquatic, Paddyfield, Arctic, and Dusky. Orcadians could take some consolation from their Bonelli's Warbler, although they did provide the year's only Great Reed Warbler in June. A surprising arrival of Glossy Ibises in the autumn gave Scotland up to three individuals, while the discovery of an adult female Woodchat Shrike passing the summer in a remote glen in the South-west of Scotland was equally unexpected. Other notables included Laughing Gull, Olive-backed Pipit, and Pechora Pipit, but a December record of Red-breasted Flycatcher in Orkney must have given its finders just as big a surprise.

Arrivals and last dates for summer visitors

	Arrival	Last date
Osprey	26 Mar	25 Sep
Whimbrel	3 Apr	11 Oct
Common Sandpiper	7 Mar	5 Nov
Cuckoo	15 Apr	20 Sep
Swift	1 May	16 Nov
Sand Martin	30 Mar	3 Nov
Swallow	28 Mar	25 Nov
House Martin	4 Apr	20 Nov
Tree Pipit	4 Apr	13 Oct
Redstart	15 Apr	28 Oct
Whinchat	17 Apr	25 Oct
Wheatear	15 Mar	2 Nov
Sedge Warbler	26 Apr	22 Oct
Whitethroat	29 Apr	8 Oct
Garden Warbler	24 Apr	25 Oct
Willow Warbler	31 Mar	24 Oct
Spotted Flycatcher	1 May	24 Oct

SCOTTISH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Observers and recorders are reminded that the changes to the SBRC list, as published in SBR 1985, still operate. A full list, with details of species which *must* be submitted to SBRC, appears below. Two changes to the list result from the deletion of both Crane and Ring-billed Gull from the BBRC list. In the case of the former, records will be left to local panels to judge. However, it is the Committee's opinion that the current high rejection rate with Ring-billed Gull, stemming from identification problems with immature birds, necessitates its submission. Our thanks are expressed for the high level of co-operation received so far from local recorders. Please note that the SBRC secretary's address has now changed as follows: *Ron Forrester, 1 Kirkdene Grove, Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire G77 5RW.*

SBRC LIST 1987.

CORY'S SHEARWATER

Great Shearwater

PURPLE HERON

White Stork

Spoonbill

FERRUGINOUS DUCK

Honey Buzzard

Red Kite

MONTAGU'S HARRIER

Rough-legged Buzzard

Hobby

Crane

STONE CURLEW

Little Ringed Plover

KENTISH PLOVER

Ruff-breasted Sandpiper

Pectoral Sandpiper

Long-tailed Skua

Mediterranean Gull

Sabine's Gull

RING-BILLED GULL

* Roseate Tern

† Little Owl

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

WOODLARK

RICHARD'S PIPIT

TAWNY PIPIT

Nightingale

CETTI'S WARBLER

SAVI'S WARBLER

AQUATIC WARBLER

* Marsh Warbler (trapped preferably)

* Icterine Warbler

MELODIUS 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

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.



Lapwings (winter).

D.G. Mitchell

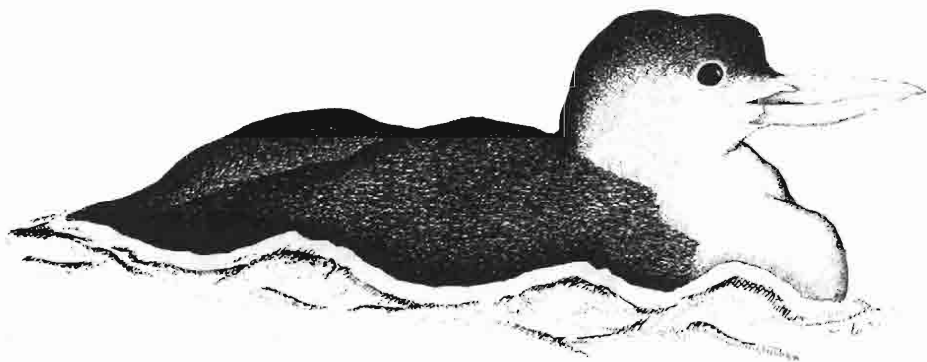
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many Scottish and visiting observers have contributed to this year's report, and the prompt submission of records is greatly appreciated. My thanks are due to the network of local recorders for all their hard work, and for their patience in answering enquiries. Special thanks are due to Roy Dennis for the provision of data on rare breeding birds, and to Mike Rogers and Tim Sharrock for their assistance with rarities decisions. Photographs and drawings are always welcome, and my thanks this year are due to S.M.D. Alexander, A. Dowell, D. NMitchell, J.G. Steele, R. Woodley, and B. Zonfrillo. With the acquisition of a word-processor, three familiar names are missing from the credits on the first page this year. My sincere thanks are due to all three for their help in the past: Alan Brown who has recently replaced Roy Dennis on the BBRC; Ron Forrester who has now become SBRC secretary; and Peter Gordon who has now become assistant recorder for East Lothian District. It was largely due to their efforts that the SBR regained its former schedule — thanks again. Departing recorders include Tony Mainwood who has been Sutherland recorder for many years now, and Sinclair Manson who coped admirably with Caithness records in

recent years. My thanks are due to both, and to replacement, Eric Maughan for Caithness, while Sutherland District has now been added to Roy Dennis's northern 'empire.' Finally, a word of thanks to two gents who stepped in to assist with local reports this year: Neil Darroch in Strathclyde, and Mike Bell in Central. Your help was much appreciated both by myself and the local recorders. A full list of recorders appears at the end of this report.

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 of paper 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 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 will be welcomed if this proves more convenient. Please consult your local recorder if in doubt.



White-billed Diver.

R. Woodley

Species List

Abbreviations and symbols used in the Species List

- * all known records given
- † of escaped or doubtful origin
- ∅ subject to BBRC or SBRC acceptance
- N,S,NE etc direction of flight

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* Breeding: Shetland, monitored prs showed good fledging success. 14 prs Fetlar; Orkney, 13 young reared on monitored lochs, a less successful season than 1985 with 25 sites failing, one nest flooded but succeeded after farmer moved submerged eggs to new site; Highland, 6 sites recorded Caithness Dist, 4 young reared at 3 sites; Central, pr B/2 at one site 21 Jun-outcome unknown; Strathclyde, up to 8 sites confirmed or probable Mull, confirmed breeding Coll. 9 prs Arran, 2 prs bred Bute. Peak counts/passage: Shetland, 36 South Yell Sound/Sullom Voe 26 Mar; Highland, 110 Inverness Firth 13 Mar, 200 Spey Bay Oct; Grampian, 854N in 22hrs seawatching Peterhead Apr, 455N in 12 hrs May, 405S on 11 Oct; Tayside, 82 Montrose Bay 5 Oct; Fife, 60S Fife Ness 21 Dec; Lothian, 45 Gullane May. 13W in 2 hrs Hound Pt 1 Nov; Strathclyde, 66 Finnarts Bay-Saltcoats 12-13 Apr.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* Breeding: Highland, of 5 recorded sites Caithness Dist, 2 sites robbed and 1 young reared at another, 24 prs reared 9 young Ross & Cromarty Dist; Tayside, only one pair known to breed successfully, 2 young reared; Strathclyde, of 7 prs Argyll 5 prs laid eggs but only one pr was successful-reared one young, pr failed in SW. Peak counts/ passage: Shetland, 2 Bluemull 26 Feb, 2 Quendale 24 Apr; Orkney, 3 Waulkmill 23 Feb; Highland, few in N. max 8 Dornoch-Golspie 4 Nov; Grampian, 12 Burghead Bay Sep; Fife, 8S Fife Ness 26 Sep; Lothian, very low nos Forth, max 5 Gullane 17 Nov; Borders, 4 Pease Bay 27 Apr; Strathclyde, 41 Finnarts Bay-Saltcoats 12-13 Apr, 32 Ballantrae-Turnberry Pt 27-28 Apr, 17 Kennacraig-Islay 14 Nov.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* Breeding: ad female paired to Black-throated Diver laid 2 clutches, 1st attempt flooded, 2nd produced 1 chick which died in first few days. Winter-spring peaks: 24 Bluemull 26 Feb; Orkney, max 50 Bring Deeps 24 Apr; Highland, 16 Dunnet Mar; Fife, very scarce; Lothian, max only 3 Tynningame 10 Feb; Borders, 8N St Abbs 1 Apr; Strathclyde, 75 West L Tarbert 16 Mar, higher nos than usual in SW, 29 Finnarts Bay-Irvine 12-13 Apr, 26 Ballantrae-Turnberry Pt 27 Apr; Dumf & Gall, 7L Ryan 12 Jan. Summer: Shetland, 1-2 several sites Jun-Aug; Orkney, only one Jul; Highland, singles

L Fleet 19 Jun, L Eriboll 20 Jun; Lothian, singles Musselburgh 13-15 Jul, Gullane 19 Jul. Autumn: Shetland, passage of 6S Fair Isle 14-17 Oct, 15 Scatness 2 Nov; Grampian, 37 in 17 hrs seawatching Peterhead Oct, 7 Burghead Bay 24 Oct; Lothian/Borders, very few in Forth, max 2 Dunglass 26 Dec; Dumf & Gall, higher than normal nos with 24 Drumore-Ardwell 19 Nov, 50 Luce Bay early Dec.

***White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* An exceptional year with perhaps up to 12 individuals: Shetland, at least 5 including ad off Whalsay ferry from 1985-3 May and 12-31 Dec (BM,NDP,WS et al)∅, singles Yeasound 4 Feb (AF)∅, Baltasound 9 Feb (JDO.GO)∅ may be same, 1st summer Quendale 31 May (MSC)∅ and imm Reawick 15 Jun (per DRB,PME) may be same, ad Foula 18 Jun (RWGC)∅, 1 probable ad off Holm of Heogland, Unst 23 Dec (JND)∅; Highland, 3 Castlehill, Caithness Dist 12-24 Aug, one till 28 Sep (MW et al)∅; Lothian, 1 Hopetoun 9 Mar (GIP); Strathclyde, ad L Indaal, Islay 27 Mar (JD,PM), imm Kennedy's Pass, Girvan 26 Apr (WAD), ad Bennane Head, Ballantrae 27 Apr (RHH, DLC, JKRM).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Breeding: no breeding Orkney; Highland, decrease to 3 prs at main site Caithness Dist, 18 prs at 12 sites Nairn Dist; good season suggested Fife; Lothian, 60-63 prs at 32 sites with at least 33 broods reported; Borders, 27 prs at 27 sites produced 24 juvs from 16 broods; Strathclyde, 134 prs at 70 sites Inner Clyde. Counts/passage: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 24-27 Apr, 1 Spiggie 8 Jun is unusual; Orkney, Highland, 2 L Fleet 14 Dec; Tayside, 12 L Faskally 1 Dec; Fife, 23 Townhill L, Dunfermline 14 Sep, 39 Cameron Res 12 Oct, 2 Isle of May 16 Oct, 1 on 17 Oct, 1 found dead 1 Nov; Lothian, 22 Threipmuir 1 Aug; Strathclyde, 22 L Etive 17 Jan, 54 on 30 km R Clyde Lamington-Crookboat 19 Jan, 65 on 21 Dec, 16 Lochdon, Mull 6 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 15 upper L Ken 21-31 Oct.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Breeding: Grampian, pr reared 3 young Moray, pr reared 2 young Gordon Dist, pr present but no breeding Kincardine & Deeside Dist; poor season Tayside with young reported from only 2 lochs; Fife, 20 prs

reported; Lothian, 21-23 prs reported at 6 sites produced 13-14 broods in West/Midlothian Dist., pr laid 1 egg but failed East Lothian Dist (first attempted breeding for Dist); Borders, min 8 prs at 10 sites but only one nest seen which failed; Strathclyde, 26 prs reared min 19 young at 19 sites Inner Clyde, continues poor in SW with only 1 juv seen from a total of 4 prs; Dumf & Gall, another poor year with only 3 broods seen in Western half, in Eastern area 15 prs Lochmaben lochs all failed. Counts/passage: Fife, 51 Culross 17 Jan; Central, 476 Kinneil 25 Jan, 287 on 14 Dec; Lothian, 116 Gosford Aug, max 397 Blackness-Musselburgh Sep; Strathclyde, 46 Cardross-Craigendoran 14 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 157 L Ryan 15 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Winter-spring: West Isles, 1 Hougharry, N Uist 17 Jan; Highland, 1 dead Ackergill 8 Feb; Grampian, 1 Findhorn 24 Feb; Tayside, 1 Broughty Ferry 1 Mar; Fife, 4 Largo Bay 28 Mar, last one 17 May; Lothian, 8 Musselburgh Feb, 8 Gosford Mar; Borders, 1 Eyemouth 6 May; Strathclyde, singles Balgray Res 7-17 Feb, Hunterston 14-15 Feb, Strathclyde Park 19 Feb, West L Tarbert 15 Mar, Milngavie Res 17 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 1 Lochmaben 4 May. Summer: 1 Gosford 7 Jun, 2 on 14 Jun. Autumn: Highland, 4 Portma-homack 30 Nov, 1 Thurso Bay 28 Dec; Grampian, 1 Spey Bay 23 Sep; Fife, 1 Lucky Scalp 17 Nov; Central, 1 Kinneil 25 Oct; Lothian, good nos with 45 Gosford Sep, 31 Gullane 29 Nov; Borders, singles Coldingham 26 Oct, 2 Nov; Strathclyde, 1 Strathclyde Park 15-19 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 1 L Ryan 28 Sep-26 Oct, 2 on 21 Dec.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Breeding: 63 prs plus 17-18 singles on 36 lochs, 52 prs nested, 25 prs hatched young, 24 prs fledged 39 young — ave 0.71/breeding pr, 1 summered Borders. Counts/passage: poor Shetland with max 5 Gruting Voe 24 Feb; Orkney, max 8 L of Harray 28 Mar; Highland, 4 Dornoch 12 Apr, 11 L Ewe 14 Apr. 16 Cromarty Forth 2 Dec; Fife, 12 Largo Bay 24-26 Jan, 5 on 21 Dec; Lothian, 9 Musselburgh Feb, Mar, 37 Gosford Apr, early returning singles Musselburgh 24 Aug, North Berwick 27 Aug, 15 Gosford Nov; Strathclyde, 11 upper L Sween Feb, 15 L Indaal, Islay 15 Nov, 5 Ardmore 14 Dec; Dumf & BGall, low nos, max 5 L Ryan 15 Nov.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Breeding: 2 prs each reared 1 young at one site, up to 18 birds reported at another site 11 May but no breeding data available, 3 other sites held singles or pairs from early-mid May. Counts/passage: Tayside, 2 L of Kinnordy 28 May, 1 Barry Burn mouth 21 Sep; Lothian, singles Musselburgh-Cockenzie 4-6 Jan, 22 Feb, 12 May; Strathclyde, singles Lamlash, Arran 2 Aug, Barr L 12-16 Sep, Ardmore 6 Dec, 2 on 20 Dec; Dumf & Gall, max 7 L Ryan 16, 26 Oct.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melano-phris Shetland, the Hermaness ad again kept its lonely vigil from 18 Mar-6 Sep (per PME).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* Breeding: Shetland, 3 study plots showed a decrease to 586 chicks fledged (615 in 1985), occupied site count gave 15,269 Fitful Head, 16,216 West Unst, 13,097 Fetlar, 8716 Yell, the total census of Fair Isle gave 26,995 occupied sites; Orkney, occupied sites included 37,026 Hoy, 10,094 South Ronaldsay, 3830 Stronsay, 1895 Calf of Eday, 1781 Rousay, 1045 Marwick Head, 1st young noted 30 Jun; Highland, 539 occupied sites Canna, 107 sites Eigg, 120 prs Holborn Head, Caithness Dist; Grampian, 7563 occupied sites Grampian coast Jun; Fife, a record number of 104 young were produced Isle of May; Lothian, 510 sites Tantallon 1 Apr, 1042 sites on 6 Forth islands end May-early Jul, inland breeding sites produced min 10 nests with young; Borders, 320 sites St Abbs Head; Strathclyde, 940 sites Colonsay, 734-774 sites Treshnish Isles, 568 sites around Tiree, 327 sites Mull, 176 sites Arran. Blue-phase birds: 11 Fair Isle 12 Sep, 6 Sumburgh 29 Sep; Orkney, max 3 sightings/month May, Aug, Nov; Highland, 5N in 1 hr Noss Head 22 Aug; Grampian, 10 in Jun; Lothian/Borders, singles Musselburgh 8 Feb, Hound Pt 25 Feb, Auldhame 1 Apr, Seafield 26 Aug, St Abbs 26 Aug; Strathclyde, singles S Turnberry Pt 11 Jan, N Brodick, Arran 28 Mar. Passage peaks: Shetland, 20,000/hr Sumburgh Head 1 Oct; Orkney, 6000/hr Brough of Birsay 18 Oct, 10,000 off West Hoy 24 Nov; Highland, 9000N/hr South Head, Wick 31 Jul, 1200N/hr Brora 7 Aug; Grampian, 2840/hr Rattray 26 Aug; Strathclyde, 10745 in 4 hrs Troon 2 Aug, Inland: Highland, 1 Glenmore-Cairngorm 6 Feb, Tayside, 1 L of Lowes 13 Aug; Lothian, 2W Tolcross, Edinburgh 7 Mar, 1 Blackford Hill 5 Jun; Borders, 1SE Hawick 21 Apr, 1 Glentress 20 Jun; Strathclyde, 1 Uddingston 1 Jul.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis Highland, 1 Rhum 30 Jul (MK,RW). Large shearwater (Cory's/Great): Borders: 1 off St Abbs Harbour 5 Oct.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* Recorded 9 Jul-16 Nov. Max counts/passage: Shetland, 70 on Fair Isle crossing 16 Oct; Orkney, from 9 Jul, 100/hr Brough of Birsay 21 Sep, 200/hr on 30 Sep, 1 Oct; Highland, 37 Noss Head 27 Aug, 15 Minch 6 Sep; Grampian, 79N in 2 hrs Rattray, last one Peterhead 16 Nov; Fife, 11N Fife Ness 26 Aug; Lothian, 26 birds over 10 dates Barns Ness, max 10S on 26 Aug; Borders, max 7N/20S St Abbs 26 Aug, in outer Forth 50+ were observed feeding 20 miles N of Eyemouth 12 Oct; Strathclyde, 9 Tobermory-Tiree 11 Aug, 1S Turnberry Pt 30 Oct.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* Breeding: Shetland, evening count Wick of Tresta revealed 37 on 17 Jul; Orkney, max counts at Rackwick, Hoy c200 on 1 and 4 Jul, 40-50 calling birds at another site 4 Aug; Highland, only 66% of monitored burrows occupied Canna (normally 75%); Strathclyde, estimated 200+ prs Lunga, Treshnish Isles 21-27 Jun. Counts/passages: Shetland, 1 off Skerries 11 Mar; Highland, 1 Chanonry Pt 12 Feb; Grampian, 1 Peterhead 1 Jan; Fife, max 200S/hr Fife Ness 5 Oct, last one Isle of May 29 Oct; Lothian, largest ever movement 25-26 Aug with min 400 Hound Pt 25 Aug, 4500E in 3 hrs 26 Aug, 742 Barns Ness 26 Aug; Borders, max 333S St Abbs 26 Aug; Strathclyde, 1800-1900 off Garvellachs 27 Jun, peaks in Clyde showed most in N of area, 4000 Troon 17 Jul, 3500S in 2 hrs Ardrossan 7 Sep, late singles Turnberry Pt 23 Nov, Pladda 12 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 3000S in 2 hrs Corsewall Pt 7 Sep, Balearic *mauretanicus*: Fife, 1N Fife Ness 12 Oct; Strathclyde, 1 Troon 16 Aug, 2S Turnberry Pt 7 Sep.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* Breeding: Shetland, suggested poor breeding activity Fair Isle; Orkney, churring birds heard Eynhallow, Rusk Holm, Sule Skerry, Switha; Strathclyde, estimated 2000 birds Lunga Jun. Tape-luring etc: Orkney, controls included 20 birds ringed at Noss Head, Caithness Dist, after 1984, other controls involved birds from Sutherland (1), Aberdeen (3), Sanda, Kintyre (1), and Copeland Is, Co Down (1); Highland, 246 ringed Noss Head, 125 ringed Holborn Head; Grampian, 181 caught Girdleness and 135 caught Collieston early Jul-early Aug; Strathclyde, c40 ringed Ailsa Craig Jul-Aug. Counts/ passage: Shetland, late one Sumburgh Head 22 Nov; Highland, 50+ off Summer Isles 18 Aug; Grampian, 1 found dead Burghhead 11 Nov; Lothian, 2 found dead Craigeith 7 Jun; Strathclyde, first 2S Turnberry Pt 27 May, low nos in Clyde in summer, max 47S in 2 hrs Ayr 16 Aug, last one Newton on Ayr 30 Oct; Dumf & Gall, late one S Corsewall Pt 9 Nov.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Counts/ passage: Shetland, tape-luring attracted 20 Foula 3-5 Aug, 2 singles trapped Fair Isle 5, 10 Aug; Orkney, 3 trapped 25 Jul-9 Aug, last one Brough of Birsay 30 Sep; Highland, 5 ringed Noss-Holborn Heads 21 Jul-14 Aug, 2W Sandside Head 6 Sep, 2 Uig-North Uist 10 Oct, singles dead Corran Ferry 17 Nov, Fort William 18 Nov; Grampian, 15 sightings or captures Collieston/Girdleness 10 Jul-10 Aug, 1 on board MV St Clair near Aberdeen 8 Oct; Fife, 1E North Queensferry 1 Feb; Borders, 1W up R Teviot, near Nisbet 12 Oct; Strathclyde, 1N Doonfoot 10 May, 1S off Catacol, Arran 28 Jul; 1SE Lismore 9 Aug, 1N, 2S Turnberry Pt 7 Sep, 8S on 25 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 12S Corsewall Pt 19 Oct, 14-15S on 25 Oct.

Gannet *Sula bassana* Breeding: Shetland, population stable Hermaness with 9904 nests, 258 nests Fair Isle is big increase; Lothian, still spreading Bass Rock; Strathclyde, breeding about 2 weeks later than usual Ailsa Craig, 1156 chicks ringed; Dumf & Gall, continued increase Big Sear Rock. Counts/passages: Orkney, 3500/hr Tor Ness. Hoy 12 Oct; Highland, 500W/hr Sandside Head 26 May; Grampian, monthly totals at Peterhead were 39,325 May and 15,951 Jun; Fife, 800 Anstruther 17 Sep; Lothian, 150W Dalmeny 14 Sep; Strathclyde, dead adult Tarbolton 18 May, singles Lanark mid May, East Kilbride 29 May; Dumf & Gall, 800S/hr Corsewall Pt 19 Oct.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Breeding: Shetland, 361 nests at 6 colonies is a slight decrease from 1985, mbs 3,05 chicks; Orkney, 338 nests at 6 colonies; Grampian, 7 prs bred on coast; Lothian, 231 nests at 3 Forth island colonies; Borders, decrease to 22 nests Green Stanes/The Rooks (44 in 1984); Dumf & Gall, 415 nests Mochrum L, Wigtown Dist, 160 nests at 4 colonies Stewartry Dist where egg-laying late and small clutches/ broods. Counts/passages: Shetland, 131 Yell Sound/Sullom Voe 26 Mar, main passage Fair Isle 31 Aug-26 Sep, max 14 on 16 Sep; Highland, 1620 at 5 roosts 17-18 Jan; Grampian, 132 Strathbeg 15 Dec; Tayside, 45 Perth 12 Jan, 163 on R Tay 21 Sep, 121 L Leven 23 Nov; Central, 256 Forth estuary 21 Jan, 114 Alloa 23 Feb; Lothian, 120NE Hound Pt 14 Feb; Strathclyde, 137 Ayr 8 Feb, 447 Clyde estuary 9 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 65 L Ken 15 Feb.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Breeding: Shetland, decrease noted ranging from 11% at monitoring sites Sumburgh Head, to 25% Noss, 1099 nests Fair Isle; Orkney, 750 nests at 5 sites; Highland, 436 nests Canna (1690 in 1985), only 58% contained eggs; Grampian, 625 nests on coast; Fife, 1310 nests Isle of May where weather conditions disrupted breeding, 917 pulli ringed; Lothian, 862 nests on 6 Forth islands; Borders, 364 nests St Abbs Head; Strathclyde, 148 nests Treshnish Isles, 120 nests Colonsay; Dumf & Gall, 72 nests Mull of Galloway, decrease to 60-70 nests Big Sear Rock. Counts/passages: Shetland, 1380 Horse Island 12 Oct; Grampian, 3340N in 2 hrs Peterhead 22 Mar; Fife, 3000W in 1 hr Anstruther 6 Nov; Lothian, 145W in 30 mins Musselburgh 11 Nov, m450 Tynninghame 30 Nov; Strathclyde, 200 Campbelltown 19 Aug.

***Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris* Two: Lothian, 1 Duddingston 18 Oct, 14 Nov, 7 Dec probably into 1987; Strathclyde, 1 Aird Meadows, Renfrew Dist 25 Mar.

†**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* The situation with this species needs clarification, the previous

assumption that almost all Scottish records were escapes from Edinburgh Zoo now appearing to be perhaps inappropriate. At least one genuine vagrant occurred in 1986: Orkney, ad L of Tankerness 23-25 May (GC). Lothian, no chicks Edinburgh Zoo colony, away from this site 2 immes Duddingston 6-22 May, 1 on 30 May, ad and imm on 18 Aug, imm Figgate Pond 3 Jun, imm E Blackford Hill 19 Jul, ad E Mayfield Rd, Edinburgh 4 Dec.

***Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* One: Dumf & Gall, 1 Stranraer-Souleat L, Wigtown Dist 15 Oct-19 Nov (GS et al), probably same bird at L Milton, Stewartry Dist, 6-14 Dec (KK et al) is the 2nd Scottish record of this species.

***Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* One: West Isles/Highland, 1 Balranald, N Uist 14 May-8 Jun (JV,TD), at Balivanich, Benbecula 11 Jun (per RHD), at Kensaleyre, Skye 2-7 Jul (BL,WGP).

***Great White Egret** *Egretta alba* One: Strathclyde, 1 Camps Res, Crawford 16-18 Jun (RE-H).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Breeding: Orkney, at least 3 fledged at one site where 6 nests and 18 ads 15 May; Highland, 6 nests held total 14 eggs at one site 20 Apr, 6 prs had 14 young at another site Caithness Dist, 52 nests Eilean Shona May; Lothian, up to 17 nests at 5 sites West/Midlothian Dists, up to 19 nests at 4 sites E Lothian Dist; Borders, 58 nests at 7 sites, but coverage incomplete; Strathclyde, 11 colonies Mull had at least 47 occupied nests, 18 prs L Lomond, 30 prs Bothwell, 11 prs reared min 8 young Arran, 58 occupied nests in SW; no change suggested Dumf & Gall. Counts: Shetland, max up to 7 Fair Isle 10-16 Sep; Orkney, max 24 Huipt, Stronsay 6 Oct; Highland, 50 Coulmore L 17 Oct; Grampian, 33 Ythan 16 Aug; Fife, 5 Isle of May 29 Jun, 19 Eden estuary 12 Oct; Lothian, 18 Tynninghame 30 Jun; Strathclyde, 24 Holy L 7 Oct, 39 Hunterston 30 Dec.

***White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* Two: Strathclyde, 1 Forth 22 Jun (ADW,AJY); Dumf & Gall, 1 New Abbey, Nithsdale Dist 16 Jun (MrC). Possibly same bird Corwar Farm, Garlieston, Wigtown Dist 20 Jun (PGH).

***Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* An outstanding year, with at least three birds. Many others reported in Britain during this period: Orkney, imm Holm-North Ronaldsay 19 Sep-10 Jan 1987 (EJW,VG); Grampian, 1 Strathbeg 27 Sep, 30 Oct-23 Nov (SW,RJJ,JD); Dumf & Gall, 1 Lochmaben 14 Sep (PS,DA,CA).

***Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* Two: West Isles, 1 Uist 8 Oct (RQ); Grampian, 1 Ythan 6 Jul (BJS et al).

†***Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* Highland, 1 L of Mey 28 Sep-21 Dec; Lothian, 1 Tynninghame 25 Apr; Borders, 1 dead Eyemouth Bay 10 Apr; Strathclyde, 1 Hunterston 17 Jun.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* Breeding: Orkney, no change suggested, pr Echnaloch incubating by 3 Apr; Highland, 4 prs recorded; Grampian, min 12 prs nested Moray Dist, 18 territorial prs Strathbeg, 5 prs laid, 2 prs hatched young but neither fledged young; poor year Tayside; Lothian, 29 prs bred, from which 20 prs produced 66-71 young; Borders, 20 broods produced 75 juvs; Strathclyde, 8 prs Mull but no successful breeding, poor year Islay where only 1 pr out of 6 prs successful, 49 prs Inner Clyde-15 prs reared 65 young, 10 prs produced 27 young in SW; Dumf & Gall, poor season suggested in Wigtown and Stewartry Dists. Counts: Shetland, high nos with 7-9 individuals involved, peaks 6 Foula 30 May-13 Jun, 7 Spiggie 6-12 Jul; Orkney, max 294 L of Harray 31 Dec; Highland, 144 Cromarty Firth 13 Feb, 130 Fearn 8 Oct; Grampian, 194 Strathbeg Aug; Tayside, 75 Carsebreck 15 Jan, 164 L Leven 7 Sep; Fife, 1 Isle of May 10 Oct; Central, 62 Gartmorn Dam 16 Nov; Lothian, max 76 Tynninghame May; Borders, max 60 Teviot-Tweed 12 Jan; Strathclyde, 110 Hogganfield L 6 Jan, 61 Tiree 5-12 Jul; Dumf & Gall, 78 Auchenreoch L 2 Jan, 67 Caerlaverock 12 Jan.

†***Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus* Tayside, 1 Carsebreck 15 Jan.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus* Winter-spring: West Isles, 1 Benbecula Jun almost certainly summered; Highland, 1 Shalmstry 1 Jan; Lothian, 1 Muirton-Aberlady 1-7 Jan; Borders, 1 Crailing 25 Jan; Strathclyde, 5 Largizean, Bute 5 Jan, 2 Cranley Moss 11 Jan-12 Mar, 4 Summerston 12 Jan-15 Feb, 2 Inchinnan 18 Feb, 4 Barr L 24 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 1 Wigtown Bay 12 Jan, 5 on 18 pJan, max 69 Caerlaverock 5-6 Feb, departure 16-22 Feb, last one 6 Mar. Autumn: Orkney, 3 L of Sabiston 18 Oct; Grampian, 6 Blackhill 14 Dec; Tayside, 10 Cleish, L Leven 30 Nov, 13 on 30 Nov, 10 Dec, 1 Dalreoch 5-7 Dec; Fife, 8 Ballo Res 30 Nov; Lothian, 1 Drem 31 Dec; Strathclyde, 1 Baron's Haugh 14 Dec, 5 Libberton 21-end Dec; Dumf & Gall, arrival Caerlaverock 15 Nov, max 11 on 19 Dec.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* Breeding: 2 feral prs failed Endrick Mouth, Strathclyde. Summering birds: Shetland (3), Orkney (up to 5), Highland (3), Grampian (2), Tayside (2), Strathclyde (10). Winter-spring: Shetland, max 55 Trossick 16 Jan; Orkney, Jan census gave a total of 297; Highland, 134 L Heilen 30 Jan, 300 Clay of Allan 23 Feb, 169 Insh Marshes 16 Mar; Tayside, 72 Coupar Angus-Glamis 12 Jan; Central, 98 Thornhill 11 Jan; Lothian, 102 Aberlady 7 Jan was a record count:

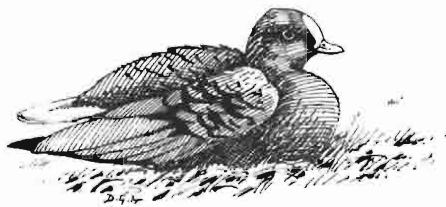
Borders, 251 Teviot Haugh 12 Jan, 134 Tweed Haugh 12 Jan; Strathclyde, 345 Inner Clyde area 11-12 Jan, 52 Bogton L, Dalmellington 9 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 145 Caerlaverock 6 Jan, main departure 31 Mar-2 Apr, last one 14 Apr, 215 Threave-Wigtown Bay-Auchenreoch 11-14 Jan. Autumn: Shetland, high nos with record flock of 384 Spiggie-Brow and 85 Easter L 19 Oct, poor season indicated by flock composition showing only 14.6% juvs; Orkney, max 234 L of Sabiston 18 Oct, of 367 birds aged Oct-Dec, 26.1% were juvs; Highland, early record of 3 L of Wester 12 Aug, 274 L Eye 19 Oct, 580 Wester Lovat 25 Oct, max 350 Thurso East 12 Nov, 256 Clay of Allan 13 Nov, sample of 982 birds gave 10% juvs; Grampian, 406 Strathbeg 30 Nov; Tayside, 190 L Leven 23-30 Nov; Lothian, 57 Aberlady-Tynninghame Dec; Borders, 250 Hirsell 9 Nov, 151 Teviot 13 Nov, 10-14% juvs in flocks; Strathclyde, 6 Scallastle Bay, Mull 9 Sep, max 150 L Gruinart, Islay late Nov, 99 Tiree 31 Dec; Dumf & Gall, arrival Caerlaverock 5 Oct is typical of arrival dates elsewhere, although most areas reported largest influxes around mid-late Oct, max 170 on 25 Oct, 26 Dec, 300 L Connell, Wigtown Dist late Oct.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* Winter: Shetland, 4 Hillwell-Quendale 25 Jan-11 Mar; Highland, 9 Tarradale 23 Feb-5 Mar; Tayside, 1 Kinnaber 23 May; Central/Strathclyde, 95-100 Slamannan area 2-14 Jan, 28 on 19 Jan, 3E Ochiltree 25 Jan; Dumf & Gall, 6 Threave-Glenloch 15 Jan-28 Feb. Autumn: Highland, 2W Sandside Head 3 Oct; Tayside, 54 Carsebreck 4 Oct; Fife, 5S Fife Ness 6 Nov, 8 Cameron Res 16 Nov; Lothian, 5 Luffness-West Fenton 26 Dec; Strathclyde/Central, 14 Carron Valley Res 13 Sep, 12 Libberton 13 Dec.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* Winter-spring: Highland, 3600 L Eye 3 Apr; Grampian, 15,350 Strathbeg 17 Mar, 16,900 Meikle/Ythan 19 Apr; Tayside, 10,000 L Leven 4 Jan; Central, 4350 Carse of Stirling 23-28 Mar; Lothian, max 5400 Aberlady Feb; Borders, spring peak 7760 West Water 11 Apr; Dumf & Gall, 2700 Wigtown Bay 18 Jan. Summer: Orkney (3), Highland (6), Grampian (9), Tayside (2), Borders (1). Autumn national count 15-16 Nov produced a total of 116,982 (UK total 135,720), another record count for this species. The breeding season was average with between 15.3% and 18.2% young from 13,000 aged birds. E Scotland held a higher proportion than usual, with two-thirds of the total count. Autumn counts: Shetland, from 14 Sep Fair Isle, max 139 on 29 Sep; Orkney, 120 over Scapa 21 Sep; Grampian, 8 Longmorn 8 Sep, 29,800 Strathbeg 7 Oct; Tayside, 20,000 at main roost 12 Oct, 12,600 Montrose Basin Oct-Nov; 10,500 L Leven 15 Nov; Fife, 6000 Cameron Res 16 Nov; Central, 2900 Carse of Stirling 20 Dec; Lothian, 16 Fala Flow 10 Sep, 7000 in Sep, max 12,500 Aberlady 28 Oct; Borders, 1 Hule Moss 6 Sep, max 24,610 West

Water 11 Oct; Strathclyde, 12,500 Dunsyre 23 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 612 Wigtown Bay 31 Dec.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* Winter-spring: Shetland, 14 Baltasound 26 Apr; Orkney, max 48 The Loons 28 Feb; Highland, 110 L Squod, Poolewe early Jan, 70 L of Mey 18 Jan, 200 L Calder 26 Jan, 43 Muck 1-9 Apr; Grampian, 11 Salterhill 15 Feb; Tayside, 11 Tibbermore 2 Jan; Lothian, singles Dirleton-East Fenton 10-15 Feb, Gladhouse 15 Mar; Strathclyde, total for Argyll area 7562, 203 Endrick Mouth 25 Jan, 248N Inversnaid 2 May; Dumf & Gall, max 297 L Ken Jan, last 9 on 23 Apr, max 530 West Freugh-Lochinich Feb. Autumn: Orkney, 47 North Ronaldsay 21 Sep, max 71 The Loons 12 Dec; West Isles, wintering flocks of 21 Lewis, 76 South Uist Nov; Highland, 165+ Shebster 29 Dec; Grampian, 6 Lossiemouth 16 Nov; Strathclyde, Argyll total 8325, 234 Endrick Mouth mid Dec; Dumf & Gall, arrival L Ken 3 Oct, 500 on 21 Dec, 600+ West Freugh-Lochinich end Dec. Eurasian *albifrons*: Grampian, 4 Strathbeg 10 Mar, 5 on 21 Mar, 4 on 23 Oct; Tayside, 1 Methven 27, 31 Dec; Lothian, 2 Tynninghame 4 Jan, imm West Fenton-Muirton 11-12 Jan; Strathclyde, 1 L Skerrols, Islay 13-15 Mar.



Lesser White-fronted Goose. D.G. Mitchell

***Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus* One: Strathclyde, ad L Skerrols, Islay 13-15 Mar (MAO.HB.RHH.DLC).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* Breeding: Shetland, 3 prs with young (1st bred 1985); Orkney, pr West Mainland, no breeding reported; Highland, min 13 prs reported at 5 sites Sutherland Dist; Tayside, .65 feral birds L Tummel 19 May; Lothian, 13 broods reported from feral population, including one on Inchkeith; Borders, 60 feral birds Jedburgh 14 Aug may have come from Duddingston, Lothian; Strathclyde, signs of expansion Argyll, 20-25 prs Tiree, 3 prs attempted Colonsay, feral pr reared 6 in SW; Dumf & Gall, min 18 prs and 12 broods from feral birds at 6 sites, moult flock of 550 Castle L, Mochrum 23 Jun. Winter-spring: Orkney, 817 Sandwick-Harray 15 Mar; Highland, 2500

Ospisdale 12 Jan, 2000 L Eye 15 Mar; Grampian, 8950 Skene 5 Jan, 4150 L Spynie 13 Jan, 5000 Findhorn Bay 15 Mar, 4900 Davan/Kinord 17 Apr; Fife, 3208 Guardbridge 3 Mar; Central, 1200 Inversnaid 24 Apr; Strathclyde, 750 Bridgend, Islay 7 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 2385 Ken-Dee 14 Feb, 4500 Luce Bay 15 Feb, overnight passage Dalry 18 Apr. Autumn national count 15-16 Nov produced a total of 98,000. The breeding season was average, with 19.0% young from 4600 aged birds. North and East Central Scotland held a large proportion of Greylags with numbers in the South-west being low. Autumn counts: Shetland, peak 300 Fair Isle 4 Oct; Orkney, 500 Rennister 28 Oct; Highland, 6000 L Eye 19 Oct, 5879 Caithness Dist 16 Nov, 5800 Beaulay Firth 16 Nov, 4122 Ospisdale 16 Nov; Grampian, 7750 L Spynie 16 Nov - 200 found dead at this site in early Dec had ingested lead shot due to low water levels, 15,300 Dinnet 25 Nov; Lothian, 1220 Whiteadder Nov; Borders, 4060 Hoselaw 9 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 1000 L Connell 20 Nov.

†***Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus* Grampian, 1 Rattray 7 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 1 Wigton Bay 9 Mar.

†***Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens* Breeding: no records from Mull, but Breachacha, Coll, Strathclyde held 42 on 8 Apr. Others: Highland, 1 Whiteface-L Ospisdale 12 Jan-9 Mar, 1 Tarradale 21 Apr, 2 on 25-26 Apr, 1 till 3 May, 2 Torridon 27 Apr, 1 Skibo-Clashmore 4 Nov-21 Dec; Grampian, 1 Ythan-Rattray 9 Mar-30 Apr, 2 Strathbeg 30 Sep-15 Nov, 4 on 14 Oct, 1 Ythan-Meikle 8, 12 Oct, 15 Kincorth 18 Nov; Tayside, 1 Forfar L 19 Sep-1 Nov, 1 Carsebreck 23, 30 Sep, 2 (including 1 blue phase) on 3 Oct, 1 Montrose Basin 12, 19 Nov, 1 L Leven 4-6 (Dec); Fife, 1 Cameron Res-Morton Lochs 15 Nov-4 Dec was probably L Leven bird; Lothian, singles Bavelaw 16 Jan, Dirleton-Drem-Aberlady 20 Feb-1 Mar, Tynehead 9 Mar, Esperston 21 Mar, Gladhouse 26 Mar, Fala Flow 8-15 Nov, Sowburnrig 15 Nov, Aberlady 5 Dec, Tynehead 6 Dec, blue phase Middleton Moor 6 Dec; Borders, 2 West Water area 5 Oct-14 Dec; Strathclyde, 1 Ballantrae 15 Jun, 2 Dunsyre 12-23 Oct, 1 till end Dec, 1 The Oa, Islay 23 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 2 ads Lochinch 3 Jan, 2 ads and imm on 19 Feb, 1 Lochmaben 16 Feb-2 Mar, 1 L Ken 17 Aug, 2 ads Lochinch 19 Nov, 2 Dec, 1 Kinmount 18 Dec, 1 West Freugh 22 Dec.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* Breeding: Tayside, numbers down with population movement to Blairgowrie lochs, max 125 L Clunie 22 Oct; Strathclyde, good nos young Colonsay Jun, 41 birds by mid Nov, pr bred Inveraray, 31 Barcraigs Res 28 Jun; Dumf & Gall, 20 juvs Lochinch 18 Jul. Kinmount colony increasing. English moult migration: Highland, peak 562

Beaulay Firth 16 Jun. Counts/ passage (mostly in association with moult migration): Shetland, 1 Skerries-Whalsay 17 Jan-8 Feb, 1 Uyeasound 18 Apr, 2 Sullom Voe 5 May, 1 Fair Isle 21 May; Orkney, 1 Sandwick 25 Apr; Grampian, 10 Strathbeg 9 Mar; Fife, 50NW Isle of May 9 Jun, 130S Fife Ness 26 Sep; Lothian, 35N Scoughall 8 Jun, 80W Musselburgh 9 Jun, 60SW on 16 Aug, 64 Gladhouse 10 Aug; Borders, 57E Reston 9 Jun, 42 St Abbs 9 Jun; Strathclyde, 1 *hutchinsii* Islay 19 Mar, 1 *canadensis* Islay 20 Oct-10 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 200 Caerlaverock 15 Aug.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* Solway flock: 10,500 in winter 1985-86, main departure 25 Apr, last one 6 May, up to 2 summered, autumn arrival 19 Sep with main arrival 24 Sep-1 Oct, peak 10,500; Islay flock: peak 18,246 Jan, 18,000 L Gruinart Oct, elsewhere in Argyll: 250 Crossapol, Coll 8-19 Apr, 6 summered Tayinloan area, autumn arrival from 30 Sep, 573 Tiree 31 Dec; Orkney, max 280 Scapa Flow 6 Apr, 200 on 15 Dec. Counts/passage: Shetland, 50 Fair Isle 7 May, 2 on 8 Jun, 32 on 8 Oct; Orkney, 140 over Hoy 24 Apr; Grampian, 330S in 30 mins Murcar 26 Sep; Tayside, 11 Tibbermore 5-31 Dec; Fife, 60 over Isle of May 26 Sep, 15 Cameron Res 17 Nov; Lothian, 110N Aberlady 6 May, 125 Aberlady 23 Sep, 310 on 26 Sep, 240 Tynninghame 28 Sep, 65S Musselburgh 28 Sep; Borders, 57S Burnmouth 27 Sep; Strathclyde, 63S Doonfoot 30 Sep.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* D=dark-bellied *B b bernicla*, P=pale-bellied *B b hrota*. Peak counts/ passage: Shetland, 2P Haroldswick 6 Sep, 2P Fair Isle 14 Oct; Orkney, 1P Papa Westray 29 May-22 Jun, 22 Kirkwall 4 Sep; West Isles, large migrant flocks reported: Highland, 27P Eigg 30 Apr, 58P Sandside Bay 5 Sep, 87P Longman 5 Sep, 35P Fascadale, Arisaig 30 Sep, 21P Broadford, Skye 13 Oct; Grampian, 35P Ythan 12 Feb, 118P Peterhead/Fraserburgh 14 Feb, 83P Ythan 23 Feb, 2D St Fergus 15 Mar, 28P Lossiemouth 5 Sep, 3D Fraserburgh 30 Dec; Tayside, 27P Balmossie 24 Feb; Fife, 35 Crail 18 Feb; Lothian, exceptional nos from mid-Feb, 48+P Pefferds 23 Feb, 45P Tynninghame 2 Mar, 2D Tynninghame 25 Mar, 1P South Queensferry 17 Aug, 15P Cromond 6 Sep, 13P Tynninghame 14 Oct; Borders, 55SE Eyemouth 14 Feb; Strathclyde, 40P L Gilp 28 Apr, 1 Gourcock 1 Jun, 113P L Gruinart, Islay 16 Oct.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* Breeding: Shetland, 10-11 prs attempted to nest, 2 prs successfully reared 13 young; Orkney, min 43 prs recorded, 1st young South Ronaldsay 16 May; Lothian, 64 ads and 24 juvs Aberlady 2 Jul; Strathclyde, 32 prs Arran hatched 47 young, c21 survived, 44 juvs Bogside, Irvine Jul. Counts/passage: Shetland, 28 Virkie 19-20 Apr; Orkney, 54 L of Stenness 8 May; Highland, 300 Nigg Bay 12 Jan, 488 Cromarty/

Beaully Firths 23 Feb, 112 L Fleet 23 Feb; Grampian, 240 Findhorn Bay 9 May; Fife, 1200 Eden estuary 26 Jan; Central, 2313 Kinneil 20 Aug, 2328 Forth estuary 14 Dec; Lothian, 172 Aberlady Jan, 132 Blackness-Queensferry Oct; Strathclyde, 409 Clyde estuary 9 Mar, 62 Lochdon, Mull Mar, 235 L Gruinart, Islay 14 Apr, 145 Hunterston 16 Jan; Dumf & Gall, 251 Wigtown Bay 16 Nov, 200 Caerlaverock 28 Nov.

***Mandarin** *Aix galericulata* Highland, small feral flock Tomich-Cannich, pr in tree-hole Strathglass late May; Tayside, decline in population suggested with max count only 30; Lothian, male Tynninghame 5 Apr-17 May, 21 Jun, at Preston Mill 6 Jun.

Wigeon *Anas penelope* Breeding: Orkney, breeding reported from 14 sites; Grampian, 3-5 prs bred Moray Dist; Central, 3 prs present at 2 sites Jun; Borders, up to 10 prs reported at 4 sites, 4 broods totalling 24 also reported; Dumf & Gall, pr with clutch of 9 L Ken 22 May, hatched by 13 Jun. Counts/passage: Orkney, peaks 1279 L of Harray 10 Feb, 2314 on 22 Oct; Highland, 15,882 Cromarty/Inverness/Beaully Firths 19 Oct, 4759 Dornoch-Whiteface 19 Oct, 1350 L Fleet 19 Oct; Grampian, 6256 Findhorn Bay 22 Feb; Tayside, 1200 L Leven 4 Jan, 4500 Montrose Basin 19 Oct; Fife, 2000 St Andrews 18 Jan; Central, 650 Gartmorn Dam 14 Dec; Lothian, 700 Tynninghame Feb, 675 in Nov, 670 Dalmeny Oct; Borders, 340 Bemersyde 8 Mar; Strathclyde, 700 Bogside, Irvine 8 Feb, 309 L Gruinart, Islay 14 Apr; Dumf & Gall, 820 L Ryan 12 Jan, 1175 Wigtown Bay 19 Oct; 675 Caerlaverock 30 Nov.

***American Wigeon** *Anas americana* Three: Shetland, 1st yr male Fair Isle 21 Sep-3 Oct (RH,GJM,NJR); Highland, male L Loy-Nairn Bar 10 Nov-end Dec (RHD)ø, male Nigg Bay 14 Dec (SJH.RHD).

Gadwall *Anas strepera* Breeding: Orkney, pr bred North Ronaldsay, brood seen; Tayside, 4 prs bred L of Kinrory, no breeding data L Leven; Strathclyde, brood of 10 L Bhassapol, Argyll was first proven breeding for many years. Peak counts: Shetland, pr Fair Isle 23 Apr, pr Hillwell 5 May, pr Strand 31 May-9 Jun; Orkney, max 9 North Ronaldsay 24-25 May; Highland, 9 Poolewe 2-4 Oct; Grampian, 3 Strathbeg 9 Jul, male L Spynie 14 Sep-12 Oct; Tayside, max 240 L Leven 21 Sep; Fife, female Isle of May 17 Oct; Central, 5 Skinflats 27 Aug; Strathclyde, 4 Bogside, Irvine 26 Oct, 7 Glen Lonan 2 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 8 Caerlaverock 14 Dec.

Teal *Anas crecca* Breeding: Shetland, breeding confirmed at 4 sites; Orkney, 89 prs reported from 24 sites, 1st brood South Ronaldsay 4 May; little

change suggested from available breeding data for rest of Scotland. Counts/passage: Shetland, max 30 Seatness 13 Apr; Orkney, 381 L of Harray 31 Dec; Highland, 964 Longman Bay 23 Feb, 2055 Cromarty/Inverness Firths 23 Feb, 1350 Edderton-Tain 14 Nov, Grampian, 1200 Strathbeg 18 Nov; Tayside, 1800 L Leven 5 Oct; Central, 500 Gartmorn Dam 12 Jan, 1290 Forth estuary 14 Dec; Lothian, 400 Gladhouse Jan; Borders, very high counts included 1000+ Hule Moss 10 Oct, 730 Watch Water 14 Dec; Strathclyde, 441 Bogside 8 Feb, 500 Endrick Mouth mid-Nov, 439 Tires 31 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 960 Caerlaverock 30 Oct, 1166 Wigtown Bay 16 Nov. Nearctic *carolinensis*: Shetland, male Hillwell 16 Feb-28 Mar (DC et al); West Isles, male St Kilda 2 May (DM); Highland, male Tain 6 Dec SJA); Lothian, male Tailend Moss 11 Mar (AJM).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Breeding: Shetland, 1st young 11 May; Orkney, min 290 prs reported from 43 sites, 1st young 23 Apr; Tayside, late brood of 1-wk old ducklings seen Perth 9 Oct; Lothian, min 155 broods reported from 48 (sites); Borders, 53 broods from 28 sites totalled min 194 young; Strathclyde, 53 broods totalled 284 young from 19 sites in SW. Counts: Shetland, 81 Spiggie 23 Feb; Orkney, max 336 L of Stennes 14 Dec; Highland, 2742 Cromarty/Beaully/Inverness Firths 23 Feb, 744 Dornoch Whiteface 19 Oct, 650 L Fleet 14 Dec; Grampian, 3450 Strathbeg 16 Jan, 2650 on 14 Dec; Tayside, 1200 L Leven 4 Jan, 2600 on 21 Sep, 880 Perth 13 Dec; Central, 1215 Gartmorn Dam 12 Jan, 900 on 14 Dec; Strathclyde, 1000 Doonfoot 26 Jan, 1000 Endrick Mouth early Sep.

***American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* One: Highland, hybrid Black Duck x Mallard L Loy 16, 23 Nov (AW,MJHC)ø; Lothian, female Tynninghame 8 Feb-27 Apr still paired with a male Mallard (MRL,PRG,AB et al).

Pintail *Anas acuta* Breeding: Orkney, 4 prs bred at one site, female B/7 there on 8 Jun, up to 4 other prs bred or present at 3 other sites; Strathclyde, pr possibly bred at 1985 site. Counts/passage: Shetland, max 3 prs Baltasound 27 Apr; West Isles, 8 Rudha Ardvale, South Uist 20 Oct; Highland, 308 Nigg Bay 23 Feb, 290 on 14 Dec, 180 Dornoch 19 Oct; Tayside, 102 Montrose Basin 21 Feb; Fife, 50 St Andrews 18 Jan, 36 Eden estuary 23 Feb, female Isle of May 9-11 Oct; Central, 39 Grangemouth 21 Jan, 22 on 23 Oct; Lothian, 10 Hound Pt 13 Oct; Strathclyde, declined to 10 Clyde estuary 12 Jan, 16 L Indaal 18 Oct; Dumf & Gall, low max 36 L Ken Mar, 253 Wigtown Bay 20 Sep.

***Garganey** *Anas querquedula* 17 in spring, 2 in autumn: Shetland, pair Sullom Voe 5 May, male Hillwell-Spiggie 21-23 May; West Isles, male Balranald, North Uist 11 May, possibly same at L Hallan, South Uist 13 May; Grampian, pr

Strathbeg 27 Apr, male on 8 May; Tayside, male Montrose Basin 6-13 May; Central, male Skinflats 15 May; Lothian, male Aberlady 5-8 May; Strathclyde, up to 3 males and a female Endrick Mouth 13 May-7 Jun, 2 males and a female Ryefflat Marsh 22 Jun, male on 23 Jun. Autumn: Strathclyde, male Irvine 23 Aug-10 Sep; Dumf & Gall, male L Connell 28 Sep.

***Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* Five: Orkney, male Papa Stronsay 23 Jun (ERM), imm male and imm female North Ronaldsay 10-28 Sep, male till 12 Oct (MG.KFW); Strathclyde, pr Tیره 26 May-3 Jun (GC).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Breeding: a good year with more records from SE Scotland where the species is only a sporadic breeder. Shetland, breeding confirmed Hillwell and Spiggie; Orkney, 26 prs reported at 9 sites, B/10 at one site 12 Jun; Highland, 1-2 prs bred Insh Marshes; Grampian, pr B/5 Cotehill Jul; Tayside, 20 prs bred L of Kinnordy; Lothian, 2 prs produced B/8 and B/2 Aberlady, single prs possibly bred at 2 other sites; Borders, 8 prs reported from 4 sites, B/7 at one site 8-9 Jun, B/3 at another site 29 Jun; Strathclyde, 9-12 females with broods Tیره, pr bred Barr L. 11 juvs New Cumnock 29 Jul. Counts: Orkney, max 21 North Ronaldsay Sep; Grampian, 29 Strathbeg 14 Oct; Tayside, 70 L of Kinnordy 24 Jul, 540 L Leven 5 Oct, 100 Perth 17 Nov; Fife, 44 L Gelly 16 Sep; Borders, 70 Hule Moss 30 Sep, 93 Hirsell 17 Oct; Strathclyde, 50 Endrick Mouth 16 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 80 Wigtown Bay 16 Nov, low max 32 L Ken Dec, 23 Annan 14 Dec.

***Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* Three: Orkney, female L of Harray 1, 5 Jan. 22-end Dec; Highland, female Inverness 10-20 May; Borders, male Bemersyde 15 Nov.

Pochard *Aythya ferina* Breeding: Grampian, 2 prs bred Sand L; Lothian, pr bred Tailend Moss, brood seen 16 May; Borders, 5 prs reported from 3 sites, 2 broods seen Hirsell; Strathclyde, female B/4 Endrick Mouth 17 Aug, pr laid 4 eggs Trabboch L, Ayr, clutch stolen. Counts: Shetland, 70 Brow 8 Mar, 80 on 2 Nov; Orkney, 2402 L of Boardhouse 12 Nov, 1569 L of Harray 31 Dec; Highland, 171 L Scarmclate 16 Nov; Grampian, 180 Strathbeg 30 Nov; Tayside, 780 L Leven 30 Nov, 92 Carsebreck 30 Nov; Fife, 260 Kilconquhar L 30 Nov; Central, 190 Gartmorn Dam 14 Dec; Lothian, 269 Leith Jan, 182 Linlithgow L Dec; Strathclyde, 116 Tیره 1-3 Jan, 225 Hogganfield L Feb, 102 Barassie-Stevenston Pt 9 Feb, 231 Lochwinnoch Dec; Dumf & Gall, 90 Carlingwark L 12 Jan.

***Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* One: Shetland, male Tingwall 7 Jun (PDD,MIE).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Breeding: Shetland, breeding confirmed Tingwall; Orkney, 47 prs reported at 14 sites, 1st young Papa Westray 17 Jun; Highland, 14 broods totalled 33 juvs Insh Marshes 18 Jul; Tayside, good season with 18 broods totalling 97 Carsebreck, 25 prs bred Kinnordy; Lothian, poor season, survey revealed min 98 prs at 37 sites; Borders, min 102 prs at 27 sites produced 26 broods totalling 102; Strathclyde, 72 broods Inner Clyde lochs, 14 prs reared 34 young at 6 sites in SW. Counts: Shetland, 120 Clickimin 7 Sep; Orkney, 987 L of Harray 31 Dec; Highland, 895 Inverness 4 Mar, 250 L Scarmclate 13 Oct; Grampian, 238 Meikle 1 Aug, only 220 Strathbeg 16 Sep; Tayside, 800 L Leven 4 Jan, 700 Stannergate 9 Feb; Fife, 300 Cameron Res 17 Sep-5 Oct; Lothian, 700 Leith Docks Feb, 480 Linlithgow L Dec; Strathclyde, 400 Strathclyde Park 22 Feb, 254 Doonfoot 23 Feb.

Scaup *Aythya marila* Summer: Shetland (5), Orkney (1), Highland (8), Grampian (8), Tayside (1). Counts: Orkney, 218 L of Harray 21 Nov; Highland, 284 Edderton 12 Jan, 148 Farness, Cromarty Firth 16 Nov; Fife, 1650 Leven 2 Feb; Central, 4 Kinneil 30 Aug; Lothian, 37 Dalmeny Oct; Strathclyde, 127 Doonfoot 26 Feb, 99 Clyde estuary 9 Mar, 800+ L Indaal, Islay 16 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 1200 Carsethorn Sep-Oct, 300 L Ryan 22 Dec.

Eider *Somateria mollissima* Breeding: Orkney, 1st young Deerness 29 May; Highland, 8+ prs with 39 young fledged 12 Eigg; Grampian, 4353 birds Ythan 9 May, low mcs of 3.5 but a good hatch with 450 out of c650 young ringed Aug; Fife, 557 nests Isle of May, few young seen after hatching; Lothian, 600 prs Aberlady, 235 nests on 6 Forth islands, 99 young Dalmeny 22 Jun, 35 young Tynninghame 22 Jun; Strathclyde, 20-40 broods Tیره, total 73 young in SW Jun. Counts: Shetland, 1600 Bressay Sound-Gulberwick 25 Jul, 825 Fair Isle 14 Oct; Orkney, 618 Holm of Papa Westray 3 Jun; West Isles, 450 Broadbay, Lewis 7 Oct, 322 Sound of Taransay, Harris 10 Oct; Highland, 1100 L Fleet 24 Sep; Grampian, 2300 Rattray 12 Apr; Fife, 12,000 R Tay 9 Feb, 6000 on 17 Nov; Lothian, 1580 Aberlady-Gullane May, 2120 in Dec, 1760 Musselburgh Sep, 1150 Leith Dec; Borders, 550 St Abbs 19 Jan; Strathclyde, 1128 Clyde estuary 9 Feb, 330 Colonsay May, 491 Tیره 12-14 May, 1300 Troon 31 Jul-19 Aug; Dumf & Gall, 1000 L Ryan 3 Aug.

***King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* Up to eight: Shetland, ad male Sand Voe 26 May-7 Jun (AI et al), 1st summer male Sumburgh Head 4 Jul (MH,ISR et al), another 1st summer male joined the previous bird on 7 Jul, both remaining till 22 Sep (DC et al); Orkney, male off Shapinsay 27 Jun



King Eider drake, Ythan. May 1986.
S.M.D. Alexander

(JB); Highland, 1-2 males Embo-L Fleet-Lothbeg Pt 21 Feb-30 Nov (ARM,JC,PT,RP); Grampian, imm male Burghead 3 Feb (JMC,SMD), male Ythan 24 May-3 Jun (GJHF,TWM et al); Tayside/Fife, male R Tay from 1985, 8 Jan-at least 9 Mar (RJB,NE).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* Summer: Shetland (4), Orkney (1-4), Highland (1), Lothian (3), Strathclyde (3). Counts: Shetland, 712 Bluemull 26 Feb, 573 South Yell Sound 26 Mar; Orkney, 1200 Wyre-Egilsay late Apr-early May, 530 Evie 14 Dec; West Isles, 300 Braighe, Lewis 29 Oct; Highland, 1000 Guillam Bank, Moray Firth 16 Jan-19 Mar, 1200 Eathie 28 Oct; Grampian, max 3740 Findhorn roost 27 Nov; Fife, 1070 Anstruther 6 May, 660 Kinshaldy 14 Dec; Lothian, 260 Musselburgh Nov, 317 Aberlady-Gullane Dec; Dumf & Gall, 17 L Ryan Z19 Feb.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* Breeding: Shetland, present at usual sites, 1 fledged young seen at one site; Highland, prs reported from 4 sites in NE, B/3 recorded at 2 sites, elsewhere 10 sites held min 14 prs plus 15 birds; Tayside, 4 prs present at usual site; Strathclyde, min 18 birds present at one site 23 Jun, 2 prs L Lomond, no young seen; Dumf & Gall, pr bred at one site, female with young seen Jul. Counts: Shetland, 14 Fair Isle 2 Mar; Orkney, 25 Deer Sound 6 Apr; West Isles, 700 Sound of Taransay, Harris 11 Oct; Highland, 1500 off L Fleet 1 May, 96 Dunnet Bay 23 May; Grampian, 450N/40S Peterhead 9 May, 1350 Blackdog 1 Aug, 2500 Burghead Bay 24 Oct; Tayside, 825 Lunan Bay 8 Sep; Fife, 1600 St Andrews Bay 14 Feb, 2400 on 16 Nov, 2000 Leven 31 Mar; Lothian, 672 Gullane Mar, 1000+ Yellowcraig 1 Jun; Borders, 245N in 1 hr St Abbs 22 Jun; Strathclyde, 100+ L Indaal, Islay 16 Mar.

***Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* Shetland, male Haroldswick-Norwick 1-4 Oct (MS,IS); Orkney, male Waulkmill Bay 8-9 May (EJW, G&DW); West Isles, 3 males Sound of Taransay, Harris 11 Oct, 11 Nov (GB, WAJC); Grampian, male Burghead 5-23 Feb (RP, MJHC, SJA), another or same male Spey Bay 25 Feb (SJA), male Burghead-Findhorn Speymouth 15 Oct-13 Dec (SJA, VSAC, DM); Tayside, 2 males Lunan Bay at least 14 Sep (RHH, JGS); Fife, male Largo Bay 9 Feb (NAS), 2 males and 1 female on 18 Feb-9 May (GC), 3 males and 2 females on 9 May (D&D), male on 21 Nov-21 Dec (AC); Lothian, pr Gosford Bay 9 Feb-5 Apr (GA, AB et al) were part of same group seen in Fife.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* Counts: Shetland, max 6S Sumburgh 4 Oct; Orkney, 35 Gairsay-Wyre Sound 1 Apr; Grampian, 270 St Cyrus 28 Sep, max 300 Burghead Bay 14 Nov; Tayside, 1000 Lunan Bay 14 Sep, 400 Montrose Bay 2 Nov; Fife, 400 Largo Bay 28 Feb, 120 St Andrews 9 Oct; Lothian, 45 Musselburgh Feb, 100 Gosford Mar, 100 Gullane Apr; Borders, 19N St Abbs 26 Sep.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Breeding: B/4 at site N of usual area was 1st breeding record; 77 nests located, 52 clutches incubated, 46 broods totalling 390 young hatched. Summer: Grampian, 16 Meikle 12 Jul, 26 Strathbeg 24 Jul, usual scatter of summer records elsewhere. Counts: Shetland, max 58 Sullom Voe 10 Feb; Orkney, 213 L of Stenness 16 Jan; Highland, 519 Inverness 30 Jan, 106 Wick harbour 25 Dec; Grampian, 395 Girdleness 12 Jan; Fife, 276 Kirkcaldy 16 Jan, 1750 Leven 2 Feb; Central, 444 Forth estuary 23 Feb; Lothian, 428 Musselburgh Jan; Strathclyde, 475 Doonfoot 23 Feb, 706 Clyde estuary 9 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 150 Lochinch 21 Mar.

Smew *Mergus albellus* Summary:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	2	1										
Grampian-Fife	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1				
Central-Borders	2	5	3	1					2	1	3	
Strathclyde/D&G	7	8	107	1						2	2	7

Max count 5 Strathclyde Park, Strathclyde 3 Jan-10 Apr, 3 on 20-end Dec. Late birds included a redhead Prestwick, Strathclyde 6 May, and a male summering Fyvie, Grampian (said to have been present 1984 and 1985 also).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* Breeding: Orkney, min 44 prs recorded at 24 sites including 1st breeding record for Auskerry where B/10 seen 8 Jul, 1st young St Mary's L 28 Jun; Highland, female with a creche of 50 young Mound 13 Jul; Strathclyde, 5 prs reared 30 young Arran. Counts: Shetland, 80 Sullom Voe 10 Feb; Orkney,

149 Cumminess 13 Apr; Highland, 1800 Eathie 6 Jan, 690 Beaully Firth 16 Nov, 565 Inverness Firth 8 Dec; Grampian, 313 Culbin Bars 28 Oct; Tayside, 400 Monifeith 19 Jan; Fife, 1040 Kinshaldy 19 Oct; Lothian, 303 Gosford-Gullane Sep, 238 Dalmeny Oct, 500 Musselburgh Nov; Strathclyde, 156 Clyde estuary 9 Mar, 135 Machrie, Arran 13 Jul, 200 moulting males L Indaal, Islay 1 Aug, 207 Balkenna, Girvan 31 Aug, 200 Machrihanish Bay 9 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 210 L Ryan 15 Nov.

Goosander *Mergus merganser* Breeding: Borders, 7 broods totalled 46 juvs; Strathclyde, B/12 L Awe 11 Jun, female B/5 Endrick Mouth 14 Jul; Dumf & Gall, poor success suggested Stewartry Dist. Counts: Shetland, max 4 Spiggie 24 Sep; West Isles, 3 males Harris 24 May, 1 Peninerine, South Uist 3 Jul; Highland, 1515 Beaully Firth 15 Jan, 52 Bonar Bridge 14 Dec, 1224 Inverness 23 Dec; Grampian, 61 Skene 13 Sep, 180 Glenlatterach Res 25 Sep; Tayside, 68 Balmossie 31 Jul; Fife, 70 Tayport 22 Jul, 100 R Tay 9 Aug; Borders, 86 Tweed Haugh 16 Feb, survey of 15-16 Mar revealed total of 413 birds on all rivers and lochs, 82 Tweed Haugh 16 Dec, max 165 at Central Borders roost mid-Dec; Strathclyde, 86 Strathclyde Park 22 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 62 Lochmaben mid Jan, max only 60 in gpost breeding flocks L Ken 9 Sep.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* Breeding: Grampian, 1-4 birds present at 3 sites 24 May-8 Nov, no breeding; Tayside, female B/5 near Perth 25 Jun, and female B/4 Blairgowrie 31 Jul — 1st confirmed breeding for Perth & Kinross Dist, 4 males and 2 females L of Kinnordy, no young reared. Others: Shetland, female Hillwell-Clumlie 21-22 May was 2nd record for Shetland; Orkney, female North Ronaldsay 27 May-7 Jun (3rd record); Highland, female L Flemington 25 Jun (1st record for Highland Region); Grampian, male Girdleness 22 May; Tayside, 2 males Stormont L-Hare Myre 11 May, 4 birds on 21 May, 1 till 30 Sep, male L Leven 14 Sep; Fife, male Kilconquhar L 6 Apr-11 Oct, 2 males on 9-11 May, female on 17 Aug, female Lindores L 29 Aug-11 Sep; Lothian, male Duddingston L 2-20 May; Strathclyde, female New Cumnock 5 May, 3 males Doonfoot 6 May, female Barr L 2 Oct-end Dec, male 1 Nov-end Dec (1st records for Renfrew Dist); Dumf & Gall, 3 yfemales Caerlaverock 11-12 Oct, 1 till 18 Oct.

***Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* Highland, 1 Fassfern, L Eil 26 Jan 14 Feb (WJ); Dumf & Gall, 1, probably a juv, over Kirkdale House, Stewartry Dist 21 Dec (MRGH,DS).

***White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* In W Highlands and islands 5 prs nested, one successfully reared 2 young. Wandering birds/

migrants: Shetland, imm Petta Dale 28 Feb, at Sandwater 1 Mar, and Unst 19 Mar 10 Apr (MH et al), sub ad Fair Isle 16 Nov (NR); Orkney, juv Rackwick Valley, Hoy 21 Sep (GC); 1 Harris 16 Aug (KG); Dumf & Gall, ad NE Monreith, Wigtown Dist 2 May (CH,WB).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* A much better showing with up to 34 birds recorded: Shetland, female L of Cliff 1 May, imm Haroldswick 14 16 May; Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 7 May, Sanday 14 May, North Ronaldsay 17 19 May, The Loons 20 21 May; West Isles, imm female South Uist 23 May; Highland, female Insh Marshes 1 May, female Croy May, pr Gollanfield 24 May; Grampian, 1 Ludquharn 29 Apr, female/imm L Spynie 30 Apr, 2 other females/imm Kinloss 1 May, 1 till 3 May, 1 Tillypronie 2 May, 1 Strathbeg/Rattray 8 May 4 Jun, 1 Strathbeg 24 Sep; Tayside, male Errol 11 25 May, 2 Montrose Basin 23 May 7 Jun, female on 24, 29 Aug, female Kinnordy 16 Aug; Fife, imm female Earlsall 11 May, female Kilconquhar L 12 May; Central, sub ad male L of Menteith 5 May; Lothian, female Aberlady 25 Apr, female/imm Tynninghame 26 Apr, female Barns Ness 10 May; Borders, female/imm W St Abbs 29 Apr; Strathclyde, ad female New Cumnock 4 May, female Ashgrove L, Stevenston 11 12 May, female Endrick Mouth 20 24 May, female Colonsay Islay early Jun 18 Jun; Dumf & Gall, 1 Logan Gardens 16 May, female Stranraer 31 May, female Kenmure Holms 23 Jun, 9 Sep, at Carlingwark 14 Sep.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* Breeding: Orkney, 36 nests found, min 35 young preared from 15 successful nests; Highland, 5 monitored nests Kingussie, 4 successful, mcs 4.2, mbs 1.8; Grampian, 8 prs located Deeside, c12 young fledged; Tayside, 16 prs reported, 2 prs known to have bred successfully; Borders, improvement continues, but no confirmed breeding; Strathclyde, poor success Mull, 8 prs Arran but only 1 successful, 4 young reared, 4 prs Bute 2 prs failed, 10 territories Inner Clyde 3 prs successful, 4 prs reared 4 young in SW; Dumf & Gall, poor season with many prs failing early or disappearing due to bad weather. Migrants: Shetland, 8 singles 4 Apr 1 Nov; Highland, 12 Insh Marshes roost 3 15 Mar; Fife, singles Isle of May 17 May, 6 7 Oct.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* Breeding: Highland, several birds present but no nests found; occupation and success patchy in S Scotland, but some signs of spread to new areas. Elsewhere: Strathclyde, 4 records from Mull Islay 26 Feb 15 Nov.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Breeding: Orkney, up to 5 occupied sites with min 6 young reared from 3 successful nests, one nest with 6 eggs robbed;

Grampian, poor season West Moray, in 24 occupied sites 10 prs failed and 14 prs reared 55 young; Strathclyde, 16 territories Arran, min 4 nests successful; Dumf & Gall, poor season suggested in parts of W. Migrants: Shetland, spring passage noted 8 Apr 10 May, in autumn singles from 26 Aug 24 Oct, with peak 3 Kergord and 2 Fair Isle 29 Oct; Orkney, 2 came off West German ships 27 Sep.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Breeding: Orkney, pr reared 2 young; Highland, 19 prs laid ave 2.07 eggs/nest Glenurquhart, 13 successful prs reared 15 young (worst in 12 years), of 12 prs Lochaber, only 2 successful prs reared total of 3 young, 6 successful prs Kingussie reared ave 2.5 young/nest, 5 prs recorded Caithness Dist with B/3 in one nest 17 Jun; Grampian, poor season West Moray, in 17 occupied sites 11 prs reared average 2.2/successful nest; Lothian, pr reared 2 young E Lothian Dist; Borders, 18 sites with up to 21 possible prs reported; Strathclyde, very poor season Mull, 25 territories Arran; Dumf & Gall, poor season suggested. Migrants/counts: Shetland, singles Skerries 24 25 Apr, L of Cliff 25 May, Unst 10 Jun, Mid Walls 7 Aug.

***Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus* Very few with only 7 individuals reported. Orkney; singles Cottascearth 15 Jun, Shapinsay 16 Jun; Highland, 1 Tore Hill, Nethybridge 10 Mar, 1E Borgie Forest 29 Mar; Grampian, 1 Torphins 12 Jan, 1 Strathbeg 7 8 May; Lothian, imm Hopes 9 Feb, 1 Lammermuirs 6 Dec; Borders, 1 Bundreich Burn 2 Feb may be same as Hopes bird.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* Breeding, a poor year with the cold, wet spring weather seriously affecting output: Highland, poor year with only 13 young from 47 monitored prs; Grampian, poor success, 6 prs raised 10 11 young; Strathclyde, 26 prs checked in Argyll study area, 11 prs laid, 6 prs hatched, and 5 prs reared 5 young, elsewhere in Dist only 6 young from 6 prs; 2 prs Arran, pr with 1 young failed, 2 prs reared 2 young in SW. Elsewhere: Orkney, singles Hoy 5 Jan, 25 Apr.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Breeding: 43 occupied nests, 34 nests contained eggs, 24 successful prs reared 48 young. Overall productivity was only 1.14 young/successful nest which is lowest since 1978. Arrival 26 Mar, last one 25 Sep. Migrants: Shetland, 3 or 4 individuals between 21 Apr 23 May; Orkney, 4 singles 4 May 8 Jun; Lothian, 1S central Edinburgh 25 Jul.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Breeding: Orkney, min 21 territories on 7 islands, 2 prs each reared 3 young; Grampian, fewer West Moray, 3 prs reared 10 young; Strathclyde, up to 22 sites located Mull in past 3 years, extremely poor season in SW, average clutch size only 4.3 with hatching rate of

50% and only 25 birds reared from study area cold, wet spring and early summer delayed laying into May and 1 Jun in one case; Dumf & Gall, very poor season due to weather. Migrants: Shetland, good spring passage 22 Apr 30 Jun, in autumn 9 Aug 28 Oct.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Breeding: Shetland, of 25 prs, 17 prs reared 62 young, eggshell thinning caused breakages at failed nests; Orkney, disastrous season with 5 prs laying and no young reared; Grampian, decline since 1983 from 6 prs West Moray to 1 pr, but 91 young fledged from 44 territories holding prs in rest of Region; Lothian/Borders, in 21 occupied territories 15 prs laid eggs, and 41+ young were reared; Strathclyde, in 12 occupied territories 5 successful prs reared 10 young. Migrants: Shetland, 7 Mar 28 May Fair Isle, almost daily from 11 Aug, max 4 on 15 Oct 6 Nov; Fife, max 2 Isle of May 5 Oct.

***Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* Seven: Shetland, 1 Lerwick 26 Jun; Orkney, ad North Ronaldsay 15 Jun, imm on 26 Sep; Tayside, juv Carlingsheugh Bay 27 Jul, juv Montrose Basin 29 Aug; Lothian, 1N Barns Ness 4 May, 1W Musselburgh 18 Aug.

***Gyr Falcon** *Falco rusticolus* Two: Shetland, grey phase Fair Isle 20 Feb (NJR), 1 Firth Voe 14 Nov (JR&PD).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* Breeding: Shetland, of 3 prs, 2 prs each reared 3 young; Orkney, up to 11 prs held territory, 6 prs successful; Highland, 25 successful prs reared 45+ young at monitored sites; Grampian, 15 successful prs reared 34 young; Central, of 29 prs, only 7 successful prs reared 17 young; Lothian/Borders, poor season with only 10 young reared persecution, egg and chick theft, and bad weather all contributed; Strathclyde, poor weather reduced success, only 4 prs out of 10 prs successful in NW, only 3 prs reared 6 young L Lomondside, 3 prs out of 8 prs successful Arran, 22 prs reared 18 young in SW; Dumf & Gall, poor season due to weather. Migrants: Shetland, main passage 1 2 birds Fair Isle 4 16 Apr, 3 30 Sep, 2 26 Oct; Orkney, 2 found dead due to Fulmar oiling May; Fife, 3 singles 17 Apr 20 May, 2 singles 7 Sep, 22 Oct 1 Nov.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus* Breeding: Orkney, 14 prs Rousay reserve, 1st young Birsay 11 Jun; Grampian, late season Upper Moray but good chick survival and high nos autumn, spring stocks up in some parts of upper Deeside, upper Donside, Tomintoul area and breeding success good, decrease Cairnwell but breeding success quite good, decrease Stonehaven; Lothian/Borders, very few young Moorfoot Hills, and Lammermuirs due to bad weather and worm infestation; Strathclyde, good nos but poor success Arran, indication of return to Fairlie Kilbirnie Moors.

Counts: Highland, 400 Bridge of Brown 2 Mar; Grampian, 151 in flock Lecht 26 Feb; Tayside, 150 Glen Brearachan 5 Feb, flocks of 75 and 54 Drumochter 24 Feb; Lothian/Borders, counts in snow 13 Feb, 2 Mar in Lammermuirs gave 467 Darent House, 280 Hopes, 1200 Darent Valley Whiteadder Res, 185 Leithen/Dewar Valley 2 Mar, 150+ Glencorse Loganlea 2 Mar.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus* Highland, 2 prs Scaraben 31 Mar, 1 or 2 present Morven Jun Jul; Grampian, spring stock high Cairnwell, breeding quite good though some failed in snowstorms at higher altitudes in the Mounth and Cairngorms, 30+ Cairnwell 29 Nov; Tayside, 11 Meall Garbh, Glen Lyon 10 Jul; Strathclyde, scarce Mull, pr Ben Sgulaird, N Argyll 3 Jun, min 2 prs successful Arran.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* Highland, a better season with more chicks seen, 27 males, 18 females Abriachan 25 Apr, 30 Strathvaich 26 Feb, 22 males L Laggan lek, 20 males Fort Augustus lek; Grampian, good success Birse but average Glen Tanar; Tayside, increase noted in number of records; Fife, 2 females Knockhill 11 May; Central, 12 Callendar Crag 5 Jan; Lothian, 8 Monynut 18 Jan, 7 males Fala Moor 4 Oct; Borders, min 114 birds recorded, including 92 males, mostly lekking; SW Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall; lower nos at most sites.

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* Highland, continued decline with survey revealing only 7 males and 7 females E Ross, 24 males and 35 females Inverness/Specy, 3 males and 1 female Affric, only 1 female Black Isle where common a few years ago, 1 Carbisdale, Sutherland Dist 2 Nov; Grampian, population still low Moray Dist, again a poor year Glen Tanar with ave 1 chick/female, max 7 Tullynessle 21 Oct, 1 Rora 20 Sep; Tayside, 2 nests found Montreatmont Forest; Fife, imm male Tayport 23 Apr; Central, female Stank Glen 15 May.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* (most records of this species refer to Red leg x Chukar hybrids) Highland, quite common Beauly Kiltarlity area, good nos Badenoch, max 21 Invertermie 15 Oct; Grampian, 18 Skene 12 Oct, 10 Keith Newmill 17 Oct; more reports Borders where 12 released Bowhill; Strathclyde, birds introduced Mull 1985, 60 released Cranley, successful breeding in SW where pr reared 8 near Maybole; Dumf & Gall, 400 released St Mary's Isle, Kirkcudbright.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* Breeding: Grampian, good season Moray Dist with large coveys reported, max 21 Roseisle 11 Nov, good season suggested elsewhere in Region; Lothian, good season with 6+ broods reported Gladhouse, but only 3 prs Aberlady (10 prs in 1985);

Strathclyde, patchy success in SW, 2 prs reared 38 Drongan, but decline Lower Girvan Valley; Dumf & Gall, remains generally scarce. Counts etc: Highland, 50 young introduced Sandside, Caithness Dist; Fife, 23 Leuchars 22 Dec; Lothian, 41 Musselburgh 8 Feb, 50 Tynninghame 19 Oct; Strathclyde, 41 Highfield, Prestwick 22 Feb.

***Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* Singles unless stated: Shetland, Eshaness 11 May; West Isles, Askernish, S Uist 10 Jul; Highland, Janetstown 24 Jun, 2 Myrelandhorn, Caithness Dist 13 Jun 10 Jul; Grampian, Duffus 24 Jun, Ludquharn 18 Jul; Lothian, Aberlady 9 May, Tynninghame 19 Jun; Borders, Hutton 24 May, 15 Jul, Reston 4 Jun, 7, 12 Aug, 12 Sep, Riccolton, Cheviots 20 Jun, Eckford 31 Aug, Bowhill 23 Sep; Strathclyde, Baron's Haugh 9 12 Jun, Barnbrook Farm, Renfrew Dist 20 Jun, Carluke 16 Aug.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* Orkney, max count 16 Crantit 1 Dec; West Isles, introduced North Uist; Highland, 500 males released Sandside, Caithness Dist; Lothian, 9 territories Aberlady (20 in 1985).

†**Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus* Strathclyde, small feral population still present L na Keal, Mull; Dumf & Gall, nos remain low, 3 prs Cumloden, 1 Palmure DApr May.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* Breeding: Highland, pr reared 3 Wick R Jul is 1st confirmed breeding for Caithness Dist, min 1 pr bred Egg; Fife, 6 birds reported at 3 sites; Strathclyde, birds calling at 2 sites Colonsay, 38+ prs Inner Clyde 11 calling birds at 4 sites in SW. Migrants: Shetland, singles wintered Fair Isle, Unst, autumn passage noted 29 Sep 29 Nov, max 2 Brow 5 Oct; Orkney, autumn passage from 16 Sep, 13 Longhouse, St Ola Oct Dec; West Isles, 1 Horgabost, Harris 9 Oct; Grampian, 5 Strathbeg 16 Sep; Lothian, 6 Aberlady Feb.

***Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana* Only two: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 14 Aug; West Isles, 1 Askernish, South Uist 14 May.

Corncrake *Crex crex* Breeding: Shetland, 3 calling, 6 juvs flushed from field Quendale 19 Aug; Orkney, 11 calling birds on 7 islands, predated egg L of Manks 27 May; West Isles, 4 calling within Stornoway Burgh Boundary; Highland, only 2 prs Canna, both failed, nest with 9 eggs failed Egg, 1 Reay 16, 22 Jun; Strathclyde, up to 23 probable breeding territories Islay, other calling birds included 5 Colonsay, 5 Coll, 2 Gigha, and singles Iona, Mull. Other records (mostly calling birds): Shetland, singles Fair Isle 3, 11 May, 2 Oct; Grampian, 1 Drummuir 10 Jun; Tayside, 1 dead Forgandenny 11 Aug; Lothian, 1 dead Dalkeith late Sep; Strathclyde, 2 Fannyside L 6 May, 1

Endrick Mouth 10 May, 1 Tighnabruaich early Oct; Dumf & Gall, singles Castle Douglas 1 Jul, Stranraer 21 Jul.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Breeding: Shetland, bred Hillwell and Spiggie; Orkney, min 27 prs at 24 sites; Lothian, 126 147 prs reported at 53 sites, 61 62 broods, pr Scoughall nested 8 metres off ground in Pine tree (reaction to Mink?); Borders, of 80 prs reported, 49 prs produced 51 broods with 119 juvs, mbs 2.33 (cf 1985 40 prs produced 23 broods with 54 juvs, mbs 2.35); Strathclyde, 150+ prs Inner Clyde; some recovery suggested in SW Scotland. Counts/passage: Shetland, max 4 Fair Isle 23 Apr; Orkney, 36 Crantit 26 Feb; Tayside, 27 L Leven 7 Sep; Lothian, 34 Edinburgh lochs 9 Oct; Strathclyde, 30 Doonfoot 1 Jan; Dumf & Gall, 26 Carlingwark L 12 Oct.

Coot *Fulica atra* Breeding: Orkney, 25 prs at 15 sites; Grampian, 24 territorial prs Strathbeg, 20 laid eggs but no young reared; Lothian, 133-154 prs at 38 sites, 54-55 broods; Borders, 228 prs at 56 sites, 150 broods totalled 404 young, mbs 2.68; Strathclyde, 232-239 prs at 69 sites Inner Clyde. Counts: Shetland, singles Fair Isle on 26 dates 7 Jan-15 May; Orkney, max 350 L of Harray Feb; Highland, 120 L of Scarmclate 13 Oct; Grampian, 950 Strathbeg 7 Oct; Tayside, 220 Drummond Pond 16 Feb, 930 L Leven 12 Oct; Fife, 330 Cameron Res 5 Oct; Central, 680 Gartmorn Dam 14 Dec; Lothian, 539 Linlithgow L Dec; Strathclyde, 468 Hogganfield L 11 Jan; Dumf & Gall, 500 L Milton 19 Dec.

***Crane** *Grus grus* Five: Shetland, ad Sandwick 7 May (DC); Orkney, singles South Ronaldsay 23 Apr-4 Jun (RMcC), Woodwick, Evie-Sanday 27 May-2 Jun (Mrs ZFC, JG, RT); Lothian, 2 ads Biel Grange 16-19 Apr (AJC, AFW, JRW).

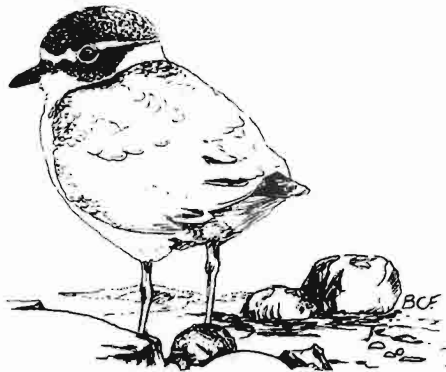
Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Breeding: Shetland, 92 prs Fair Isle, elsewhere in Shetland chick ringing results suggest a poor season; Orkney, 648 prs recorded at 48 sites; Highland, 84 prs Eigg, 70 prs Canna; Strathclyde, 131 kprs Colonsay, 50+ prs Arran. Counts/passage: Shetland, 240 Uyeasound-Haroldswick 29 Jul; Orkney, 300 Mill Sand 6 Apr; Highland, 2576 Nairn/Culbin Bars Jan, 4750 Cromarty/Inverness Firths 23 Feb, 3262 Inverness Firth 19 Oct; Tayside, 4200 Montrose Basin 1 Dec; Fife, 3650 Eden estuary 14 Nov; Central, 706 Forth estuary 23 Feb; Lothian, 3100 Musselburgh Sep, 1230 (Tynninghame Dec; Strathclyde, 1012 Tiree 10-13 May, 696 Barassie 1 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 2681 Wigtown Bay 16 Nov, 5500 Southernness 16 Nov.

***Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* One: Borders, ad female Millers Moss and Coldingham Moss 26 May (PRG, KR) is 1st Borders and 2nd Scottish record.

***Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* Four: Grampian, 1 Strathbeg 19, 22 Jan (TWM, JD), 1 Findhorn Bay 6 May (MM), 1 Ythan 6-8 Jul (AS, ES, AW); Strathclyde, 1 2 Brunerican Bay, Kintyre 15 May (LM).

***Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedecnemus* One: Borders, 1 Baddingsill 14 Mar (AD).

***Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* Four: Lothian, singles Tynninghame 26 Apr (MG, BDG), Aberlady 20 May, another 31 May, and another 18, 20-21, 28-29 Jun (PRG et al).



Ringed Plover.

B.C. Forrester

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Breeding: Shetland, 10 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 19 prs reported at 8 sites; Lothian, 33 prs Aberlady; Strathclyde, 46 prs Colonsay, 31 prs reared 11 young Arran; reports from many areas in Central and South Scotland suggest that many inland prs did not breed due to high water levels. Counts/passage: Shetland, 208 Virkie 16 Aug; Orkney, 265 North Ronaldsay 22 May; Highland, 150 Brora 21 Sep; Grampian, 800 Findhorn Bay 18 May, 556 Forvie 29 May, 262 Lossiemouth 30 May; Tayside, 210 Montrose Basin 12 May; Fife, 540 Tentsmuir Pt 28 May; Lothian, 650 Aberlady May, 150 Musselburgh May; 280 Tynninghame Aug; Strathclyde, 485 Tiree 10-14 May; Dumf & Gall, 158 Carluith 14 Dec.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Breeding: Highland/Grampian, good nos in main areas with apparent increase in outlying Western areas. Migrants: Shetland, singles Fair Isle 14 May, 28 Sep, 4 Oct, and an extremely late one 3 Dec; West Isles, juv South Ford, South Uist 26 Aug; Fife, 20 Kinkell Braes, St Andrews 14 May; Lothian, 1 dead near Carlops 13 May; Borders, 5 at one site mid May.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* Breeding: Shetland, combined 1985-86 total gave 80 prs Fetlar; Orkney, 61 prs reported at 7 sites; Highland, 3 prs bred Eigg; nos remain low in South. Counts/passage: Orkney, 1500 Tankerness 21 Sep, 1000 Widewall, South Ronaldsay 8 Oct; Highland, 350 Staxigeo 16 Oct; Fife, 1000 Fife Ness 14-17 Nov; Central, 467 Forth estuary 14 Dec; Lothian, 800 Musselburgh Oct, 1580 Aberlady Nov; Borders, 1000 Reston 24 Nov; Strathclyde, 350 Tiree 8-10 Apr, 3000 Bogside, Irvine 25 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 1700 L.Ryan 16 Oct.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Shetland, only 4 singles Fair Isle 11 Apr, 30 Jul, 9, 12 Aug; Orkney, max 30 Sanday 21 May; West Isles, 97 Eochar, South Uist 24 Aug; Highland, 36 Nairn/Culbin Bars 12 Jan; Grampian, 21 Cairnbulg 10 Feb; Fife, 520 Eden estuary 9 Apr; Lothian, 465 Aberlady Mar, 460 in Sep; Dumf & Gall, 79 Southerness 9 Mar.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Breeding: Shetland, poor season, 7 prs Fair Isle, only 2 fledged; Orkney, 436 prs reported at 43 sites, 1st full clutch 30 Mar; Highland, 21 prs bred Eigg; Lothian, 35-37 territories Threipmuir, 26 prs Aberlady; Strathclyde, 140 prs Colonsay, 121 prs L.Gruinart, Islay, 23-28 prs Coll, 17 prs Arran, 21 prs North Boig-Meikle Creoch, New Cumnock. Counts/passage: Shetland, 220 Fair Isle 14-15 Mar, 350 Quendale 27 Jul; Orkney, 800 L of Boardhouse 12 Nov; Highland, 1500 L Scarmclate 30 Aug; Grampian, 1250 Sandhaven 17 Sep; Tayside, 1960 L Leven 5 Oct; Fife, 550 Eden estuary 3 Aug; Central, 1990 Forth estuary 14 Dec; Lothian, 1650 Aberlady Nov; Borders, 1500 Reston 24 Nov; Strathclyde, 4000 Bogside, Irvine 25 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 1554 Wigtown Bay 16 Nov.

Knot *Calidris canutus* Orkney, max only 75 North Ronaldsay 10 Oct; Highland, 1000 Nigg Bay 12 Jan, 500 Ahturlie 12 Jan; Grampian, 600 Findhorn Bay 10 Apr; Tayside, 2000 Montrose Basin 21 Feb; Fife, 2400 Eden estuary 12 Jan, 2000 Tayport 4 Feb; Central, 1273 Forth estuary 21 Jan; Lothian, 2785 Aberlady Mar, 2900 in Nov, 2000 Musselburgh Dec; Strathclyde, 190 L.Gruinart, Islay 28 Oct; Dumf & Gall, 2000 Southerness 9 Mar.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Winter-spring: Orkney, 142 Sanday 30 Jan, max 680 North Ronaldsay 29 May; Grampian, 130 Blackdog-Ythan 12 Jan; Fife, 110 Tentsmuir 9 Mar; Lothian, 206 Aberlady May; Strathclyde, 172 Tiree 10-14 May. Autumn: Orkney, max 201 North Ronaldsay 21 Sep; Highland, 45 Dunnet Sands 21 Jul, 173 Nairn/Culbin Bars Nov; Tayside 230 Monifeith 7 Sep; Fife, 80 Tayport 10 Oct; Lothian, 140 Aberlady Jul; Strathclyde, 60 Doonfoot 29 Jul, 9 Hillend Res 29 Jul.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Spring: Shetland, 1 Noss 9-11 Jun; Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 25, 30 May, 2 on 26 May, 1 Sanday 16 Jun. Poor autumn passage from 13 Jul-24 Oct: Shetland, max 20 Virkie 23, 25 Aug; West Isles, 2 Balranald, North Uist 14 Jul, 4 South Ford, South Uist 16 Oct; Highland, 2 Easter Lovat 17 Aug; Grampian, 3 Don 18 Aug, 2 Kingston 18 Aug; Lothian, 1 Musselburgh 13-15 Jul, 3 Aberlady 3, 17 Aug, 3 Tynninghame 19 Aug; Strathclyde, 3 L.Gruinart, Islay 10 Sep. Only 1-2 birds reported from other areas.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Breeding: 4 birds at one site 15 Jun, 2 song-flighting and 2 with 2 young on 17 Jul, 1 at another site 17 Jun. Migrants: Shetland, 2 L of Cliff 26 May; Grampian, 2 Moray Dist 7 Jul; Lothian, B.Singles Aberlady 20-23 May, 25 Jun.

***Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* Five: Orkney, ad North Ronaldsay 19 May (KF); West Isles, 1 St Kilda 1, 2 Oct (DM); Grampian, 1 Ythan 28 Sep (RDS.AL,GA), 1 Kingston 22 Oct (K&JW) is 1st record for Moray Dist; Strathclyde, 1 Hillend Res 2-17 Oct (ND et al).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Spring: Shetland, 1 Virkie 21 May; Orkney, 1 Papa Westray 20 May; Highland, 1 Wick R 29 Apr; Lothian, 1 Cramond 3 May, single ads Aberlady 17 May, 24 Jun, 3 imm 17 Jun, 4 on 18-19 Jun, 1 on 26-27 Jun. As with Little Stint, this species showed very low nos in autumn: Shetland, 1 Baltasound 3 Aug; Orkney, 2 Cumminess 9 Sep, 1 on 21 Sep, 1 North Ronaldsay 21 Sep; West Isles, singles South Uist 3, 15 Oct; Highland, 1 Wick R 14 Nov; Grampian, 3 Lossiemouth 17 Aug, 2 Ythan 28 Sep; Tayside, 3 Port Allen 30 Aug, 1 Montrose Basin 18 Oct; Central, max 5 Kinneil 15 Sep; Lothian, max 3 Aberlady 28 Aug; Strathclyde, 2 Doonfoot 18 Aug, 2 Barassie 8, 30 Aug. Only 1-3 birds reported from other areas.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* Counts/passage: Shetland, 120 Whalsay Jan; Orkney, 250 Papa Westray 22 Apr; Highland, 146 Thurso Bay 28 Jan; Grampian, 260 Girdleness 10 Jan, 360 Fraserburgh 26 Jan, 300 Lossiemouth 27 Mar, 260 Peterhead 13 Dec; Tayside, 212 Arbroath 31 Feb; Fife, 345 Isle of May 15 Sep; Lothian, 101 Belhaven-Dunbar Feb, 5+ summered Tantallon; Borders, 105 Eyemouth 29 Dec; Strathclyde, 87 Ardrossan-Saltcoats 11 Mar, 155 Tiree 10-14 May; Dumf & Gall, 37 Southerness 9 Feb.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Breeding: Shetland, combined 1985-86 total of 90 prs Fetlar; Orkney, min 47 prs reported at 13 sites. 1st fledged young Hoy 29 Jun; Highland, 3 prs Strathy 6 Jun; Lothian, 1 pr Aberlady; Borders, 3-4 prs West Water; Dumf & Gall, still a few Wigtown Dist.

Counts/passage: Shetland, 180 Virkie 20 Aug; Orkney, 700 Sanday 30 Jan; Highland, 2876 Cromarty/Beauly/ Inverness Firths 23 Feb, 900 Dornoch 16 Nov; Grampian, 1700 Findhorn Bay Jan. 575S Peterhead 17 Jul; Fife, 1250 Eden estuary 12 Jan; Central, 2164 Forth estuary 21 Jan; Lothian, 1600 Dalmeny Jan, 1170 Aberlady Feb; Strathclyde, 2800 Langbank 26 Jan. 1238 Tiree 10-14 May.

***Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*
Two: Orkney, 1 L of Banks, Sandwick 21 May (ARD,ERM); West Isles, 1 North Uist 1 Aug (RA).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Winter-spring: Shetland, singles Whalsay 15, 17 May; Orkney, 1 Suckquoy 25 Feb, singles Stennes 19 Apr, 14 Jun, Birsay 20 May; Grampian, 3 records Ythan-Cotehill Jan-Mar, 5 from 30 Apr-4 May; Fife, 2 Inverkeithing 2 Jan-Mar; Lothian, max 6 Gosford Bay 24 Jan, singles Musselburgh Jan, Mar; Strathclyde, 1 Highfield, Prestwick 11 May. Autumn: Shetland, peaks 15 Fair Isle 7 Aug, 30 Whalsay 15 Aug; Orkney, 46 The Loons 15 Aug, 20 Eday 24 Aug; Highland, 9 Easter Lovat 16 Aug; Grampian, 6 Lossiemouth 8 Aug, max 40 Don 16 Aug, 26 Inverquhomery 21 Aug, 2 Ythan 27 Dec; Tayside, 25 Port Allen 17 Aug, 33 on 30 Aug, 11 Westhaven 19 Sep; Fife, 15 Wormit 22 Aug, 1 Inverkeithing 14-21 Nov; Central, 31 Kinneil 16 Aug; Lothian, 12 Gladhouse 23 Aug, 8 Cramond-Newhaven 14 Dec; Borders, 7 Dowlaw 10 Aug; Strathclyde, 1 Maybole 25 Jun, max 14 Bogside, Irvine 15 Aug, 10 Hillend Res 17 Aug.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus* Usual scatter of 1-3 birds in N Scotland to 19 May. Peak counts: Shetland, from 31 Aug Fair Isle, 5 on 24 Sep, 4 Seatness 8 Oct; Orkney, 2 North Ronaldsay 19 Sep; Grampian, 1 Ludquharn 8 May, 3 Corby 6 Oct; Tayside, 13 Kilspindie, Rait 5 Jan; Central, 4 Kinneil 15 Nov; Strathclyde, 8 Erskine 12 Jan, 9 Doonfoot 29 Mar, 5 on 21 Dec, 6 Auldhouse 14 Oct, 13 Paisley Moss 13 Dec.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Breeding: Shetland, 25 drumming birds Fair Isle; Orkney, 292 prs reported at 35 sites; Lothian, 5 territories Aberlady; Strathclyde, c60 prs L Gruinart reserve, Islay, min 26 prs Colonsay; Dumf & Gall, 7 prs Wood of Cree. Counts/passage: Shetland, 100 Fair Isle 24 Sep; Orkney, 300 North Ronaldsay 5 Oct; Lothian, 120 Aberlady 7 Mar; Strathclyde, 89 Blantyreimur 1 Nov, 300+ Doonfoot 13 Dec.

***Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* One: Strathclyde, 1 Islay airstrip 18-20 Jun (RE,PM,MAO,GJ et al).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Breeding: roding from 28 Feb Tayside; Dumf & Gall, 8 roding Wood

of Cree (5 in 1985). Counts/passage: Shetland, main spring passage Fair Isle 18-30 Apr Fair Isle, max 50 on 22 Apr, in autumn peaks 100 on 3 Nov, 40 on 14 Nov; West Isles, late bird L Hallan, South Uist 13 May; Fife, 4 Isle of May 25 Oct; Lothian, 14 in 180 ha woodland strips Luffness 22 tDec; Strathclyde, influx North Glentworth 12 Nov but low nos.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* Breeding: Shetland, 5 at breeding site 28-29 May, pr later behaving as if chicks present, but not seen subsequently; Orkney, pr reared 2. Counts/passage: West Isles, 10 Stornoway 3 May; Highland, 25 L Fleet 1 May, 4 Udale Bay 6 Jul; Grampian, 1 Findhorn 6 Jan, 10 Ythan 27 Apr, 1 Inverugie 14 Dec; Tayside, 48 Kinnordy 26 Apr, 13 Montrose Basin Aug, 3 L Leven 5 Oct; Fife, max 169 Eden estuary 26 Apr; Central, 4 Kinneil 12 Jan, 7 on 10 Aug; Lothian, 5 Musselburgh Jul; Strathclyde, max 14 Bogside, Irvine 24-30 Aug.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* Counts/passage: Shetland, 21 Virkie 23 May; Orkney, max 480 Sanday Jan; Highland, 500 L Fleet 12 Jan; Highland, 2373 Cromarty/Inverness Firths 12 Jan, 300 summered Whiteness, 800 in Oct; Grampian, 540 Findhorn Bay 12 Jan, 579 Culbin Bar 23 Feb; Tayside, 500 Broughty Ferry 27 Aug; Fife, 1350 Eden estuary 11 Feb; Central, 402 Forth estuary 21 Jan; Lothian, 2200 Aberlady Jan, 1500 Musselburgh Jan, 1100 Aberlady Nov; Strathclyde, 96 Fairlie 11 Feb, 62 L Gruinart, Islay Mar.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Breeding: Shetland, 74-81 prs Fetlar (70 in 1984); Orkney, 6-7 prs at one site, 2 chicks on 19 Jun, displaying singles at 2 other sites. Counts/passage: from 3 Apr when an early bird was seen Quendale, Shetland to 11 Oct when 3 Evie, Orkney and 2 Isle of May, Fife. Shetland, peaks 20 Fair Isle 7 May, 14 on 27 Aug; Highland, 12 Tulloch Moor 9 Apr, 34S Noss Head 2 Aug; Grampian, 15-20 Ythan 11 May, 13 Strathbeg 14 Aug, 15 Findhorn Bay 26 Aug; Tayside, 6 Westhaven 29 Sep; Fife, 13S Fife Ness 5 Aug; Lothian, 21 Aberlady 10 May, 63 Musselburgh 6 Aug, 60 Tynninghame 18 Aug; Strathclyde, 9 Endrick Mouth 5 Apr, 25 Coultorsay 20 Apr.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* Breeding: Shetland, 6 prs bred Fair Isle; Orkney, min 754 prs reported at 43 sites. 1st young South Ronaldsay 3 Jun; Lothian, 16-18 territories Threipmuir; Borders, 12-16 prs West Water. Counts/passage: Shetland, 1020 Sullom Voe 2 Jan; Orkney, 1250 Widewall, South Ronaldsay 17 Jan; Highland, 1922 Cromarty/Beauly/Inverness Firths 23 Feb, 400 Dornoch 23 Aug; Grampian, 820 Ythan 1 Aug; Tayside, 1000 Montrose Basin 20 Aug; Fife, 637 Eden estuary 6 Aug; Central, 556 Forth estuary 14

Dec; Lothian, 750 Aberlady Jul, 500 Dalmeny Aug; Strathclyde, 947 Doonfoot 29 Jul, 2-300 Machrihanish Bay Sep; Dumf & Gall, 2000 Auchencairn-Orchardton Bays early Sep, 1262 Wigtown Bay 16 Nov.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Winter-spring: Highland, 1 Udale Bay 12 Jan; Tayside, 1 Montrose Basin 15 Jun; Lothian, singles Crumond 30 Mar, 25 Apr, 3 May; Strathclyde, 1 Lochdon, Mull 4 May. Autumn: minimum 100 birds from 22 Jul, summary below:

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Shetland-Highland		12	4	2		
Grampian-Fife	1	25	11	3	5	2
Central-Borders		16	5	2		1
Strathclyde/	2	9	5	3	1	1
Dumf & Gall						

Max count was 12 Ythan, Grampian 19 Aug.

Redshank *Tringa totanus* Breeding: Orkney, 301 prs reported at 41 sites, 1st young South Ronaldsay 10 Jun; Lothian, 10 territories Threipmuir; Borders, 61 prs reported Mar/Apr; Strathclyde, 15 prs L Gruinart reserve, Islay. Counts/passage: Shetland, 79 Virkie 22 Aug; Orkney, 250 North Ronaldsay 9 Oct; Highland, 2357 Cromarty/Inverness Firths 23 Feb, 2892 on 19 Oct; Grampian, 1146 Findhorn Bay 6 Apr, 1000 Ythan 12 Oct; Tayside, 3000 Montrose Basin 18 Oct; Fife, 997 Eden estuary 15 Sep; Central, 1741 Forth estuary 14 Dec; Lothian, 1160 Dalmeny Sep, 540 Aberlady Nov; Strathclyde, 1500 Erskine-Langbank 26 Jul, 524 Bogside 21 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 354 Wigtown Bay 14 Dec.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Breeding: Shetland, possible reduction in breeding population indicated; Highland, up to 5 prs possibly bred Caithness Dist, nested in 5 areas Balmacaan Forest. Counts/passage: Shetland: 5 Spiggie 22 Aug; Orkney, 5 L of Hundland 21 Aug; Highland, 10 Easter Lovat 16 Aug; Grampian, 1 Cruden Bay 19 Mar, 23 Ythan 10 Aug, 12 Findhorn Bay 20 Aug; Tayside, 31 Montrose Basin 22 Aug, 17 Errol 21 Sep; Fife, 10 Wormit 7-29 Aug; Central, 6 Skinflats 17 Aug; Lothian, 14 Tynninghame 19 Aug; Strathclyde, 21 Finlaystone Pt, R Clyde 26 Jul, 8 Lochdon, Mull Aug, 19 Bogside, Irvine Aug. Wintering birds: Grampian, 4 Findhorn Bay 25 Jan; Fife, 2 Eden estuary 17 Dec; Lothian, 3 Tynninghame Jan-Mar, 5 on Nov-Dec; Strathclyde, 7 Hunterston 1-16 Jan, 2 L Gilp 1-2 Jan, 3 Taynish Jan, 17 Langbank 3 Jan, 21 Woodhall 3 Nov, 5 Hunterston Dec; Dumf & Gall, 13 Luce Bay 1 Dec.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Winter-spring: Shetland, singles Whalsay 22 Apr, Fair Isle 22-23 Apr, 12 May, Haroldswick 24 Apr; Highland, 1

Castletown 20-21 Apr; Lothian, 1 Scoughall 26 Apr; Strathclyde, 2 Erskine 2-23 Jan, 1 on 3 Apr, 1 Croftamie 23 Feb, 2 Lenzie 17 Mar, 1 Georgetown 13 Apr; Dumf & Gall, 1 Boreland, Stewartry Dist 11 Jan. Autumn: passage from 26 Jun when 1 Baron's Haugh, Strathclyde. Shetland, peaks up to 7 Fair Isle 1-20 Aug, 10 on 7 Aug; West Isles, 1 South Uist 9 Aug; Highland, 4 Wick R 11 Aug; Grampian, min 18 birds 27 Jun-5 Sep; Tayside, 1-2 Montrose Basin Aug-11 Sep; Fife, 1 Isle of May 10-12 Aug; Lothian, 3 Tynninghame 23 Jul, 3 Aberlady 6 Aug; Borders, 3 Wooden L 31 Aug; Strathclyde, 24 birds 30 Jun-5 Oct. Winter: Borders, 1 Bowhill 4 Dec; Strathclyde, 1 Erskine 1-6 Nov, 2 Symington, Clydesdale Dist 21-end Dec

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Breeding: Highland, singles at main site 20 May-6 Jun, 30 Jul, no breeding, 1st seen at other site 4 May, max 3 on 15 May, ad and brood 16-19 Jun, another brood 4 15 Jul. Passage birds: Shetland, 2 Skerries 21 May, singles Fair Isle 26 May, Baltasound 30 May, 8 singles on 12 dates 1 Aug-10 Sep, 2 Fair Isle 4 Aug; Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 20 May, 16 Sep, Birsay 3 Aug; West Isles, singles Kildonan, South Uist 9 May, L Stilligary, South Uist 21 Sep; Highland, singles Conon Islands 13, 23 Jul, Wick 8 Aug, Stoneyfield 9 Aug, Udale Bay 2 Sep; Grampian, singles Peterhead 8 Aug, Inverquhomery 21-24 Aug, Meikle 28 Aug, Keith 30 Aug; Tayside, singles Montrose Basin 15, 24 May; Fife, singles Morton Lochs 3 Aug, Wormit 16-20 Aug; Lothian, singles Aberlady 19 May, Threipmuir 11 Aug; Borders, 1 Millers Moss 30 Jul; Strathclyde, singles Linwood 2-6 May, Bothwell 16-26 Aug, Kilmarnock 30 Aug, Ryeflat Marsh 13 Sep, Baron's Haugh 14 Sep, Carnwath 17 Sep.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Breeding: Orkney, up to 11 prs reported at 9 sites; Highland, 31 prs bred Egg, 12 prs Canna; Borders, 15 prs R Tweed, Peebles-Walkerburn; Strathclyde, 25-30 prs Colonsay, good season Upper Minnoch. Spring arrival: early singles Aird's Bay, Argyll, Strathclyde 7 Mar, and Skinflats, Central 13 Mar may have overwintered in UK. General arrival from 17-23 Apr mostly in South Scotland. Counts: Shetland, max 9 Fair Isle 8-9 Aug; Highland, 20 Mound 23, 29 Jul, last one Kessock Bridge 5 Oct; Grampian, 12 Findhorn Bay 21 Jul; Tayside, max 21 Port Allen 22 Jul; Fife, 20 Eden estuary 4 Aug; Lothian, 15 Aberlady/Tynninghame/Seafield Pond 23 Apr, max 20 Threipmuir 1 Aug; Strathclyde, 24 Kilmarnock 4 May, 21 Doonfoot 19 Jul, 20 L Gruinart reserve, Islay Aug. Late singles Kirkcudbright, Dumf & Gall mid Oct, and Portmore, Borders 5 Nov.

***Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* One: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 20 May (RGA.NJR) was 1st record for Fair Isle.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Counts: Shetland, peaks 200 Fair Isle Jan, 107 Noss 20 Apr, 300 Fair Isle 29 Dec; Orkney, 370 North Ronaldsay 22 May, 600 on 9 Oct; Highland, 120+ Sandside 11 Jan, 437 Cromarty/Inverness Firths 23 Feb; Grampian, 436 Girdleness/Greg Ness 31 Mar, 270 Lossiemouth 14 Dec; Fife, 174 Anstruther/Kirkcaldy 8 May, 432 Isle of May 15 Sep; Lothian, 380 Musselburgh May, 35 Tantallon 28 Jun, 317 Seafield Eastfield Oct; Strathclyde, 356 Prestwick 23 Apr, 850 Tيرة 10-14 May, 90 Doonfoot 24 Jun (like the Lothian record, this is an unusually high count, although most birds were immes).



Red-necked Phalarope, Shetland, 1985.

A Hogg

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Breeding: Shetland, arrival Fetlar 21 May, 12-14 prs bred, 3 prs at 2 other sites, last seen Fetlar 13 Aug. Passage: Shetland, female Virkie 20 Jul, juv Fair Isle 31 Aug; Orkney, 1 Deerness 27 May; West Isles, 1 St Kilda 2 Jul.

***Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* Five: Orkney, 1 Widewall, South Ronaldsay 27 Mar; West Isles, 1 Scolpaig Bay 25 Jan, 1 off Barra 30 May; Lothian, 1 Gullane Bay 23-25 Feb; Strathclyde, 1 Ballinabay, Islay 11-20 Jun.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Overwintering birds: Highland, 1-2 Beauly/Inverness Firths Jan-Apr, max 3 Chanonry Pt 18 Jan, 1 Thurso Bay 2 Jan; Grampian, 1 Peterhead 4 Feb; Fife, 8 Inverkeithing 30 Jan, 1 Limekilns 1 Mar; Lothian, 1 Gosford Bay 12 Jan, 1W Hound Pt 2 Feb. Spring: Shetland, ad Fair Isle 7 Jun; Orkney, 3 Papa Westray 4 Jun; West Isles, 1600+ birds recorded North Uist from 18 May, max 766 on 21 May; Highland, 3 North Kessock 5 May, 8 on 27 May, 3 on 25 Jun, 1 on 10 Jul; Lothian, 1 Barns Ness 9 Apr; Strathclyde, singles Turnberry Pt 11 May, Troon 11, 13, 18 May. Autumn passage much lighter than 1985: Shetland, 25 birds on 17 dates 17

Jul-31 Oct, max 4 Whalsay Sound 12 Oct; Orkney, max 9 North Ronaldsay 19 Oct, 1 on 28 Nov; Highland, singles Chanonry Pt 11, 19 Aug, 2 Minch 18 Aug, 2 Dunnet Bay 20 Sep, 30 Oct, 1 Tarbatness 19 Oct, singles Chanonry Pt 30 Oct 4-8 Dec; Grampian, 18 birds 30 Jun-1 Nov, max 3 Buckie 27 Aug; Tayside, 1N Usan 5 Sep; Fife, max 14 North Queensferry 25 Aug, 12 Kinshaldy 30 Aug; Central, singles Kinneil/Skinflats 25 Aug, 26 Oct; Lothian, max 31 in 5 hrs Hound Pt 1 Nov, 5N Tynninghame 1 Nov; Borders, 7N St Abbs 13 Sep; Strathclyde, 4 off Port Ellen, Islay 10 Jul, late singles Gigha-Islay 14 Nov, Troon 7 Dec.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* Breeding: Shetland, 115 prs Fair Isle, full survey on other islands gave a total of 1912 apparently occupied territories (population seems stable since 1974-75 survey); Orkney, 276 prs reported at 14 sites, good season Papa Westray; Highland, 5 prs Camster, pr at another site 24 Jul; Strathclyde, incomplete census Coll gave min 24 at 2 usual sites. Migration: Shetland, from 21 Apr, last one Fetlar 15 Oct; Orkney, 1st Hoy 14 Apr; Highland, 30N in 1 hr South Head, Caithness Dist 31 Jul; Grampian, 91N/22S in 2 hrs Peterhead 24 Aug, 1 Rattray 13 Dec; Tayside, 1 Killiecrankie 2 Jun; Fife, peaks 34S Fife Ness 24 Aug, 60S on 29 Aug, 30 Kinshaldy 11 Sep; Lothian, unusual winter singles Musselburgh 31 Jan, Hound Pt 2 Feb, 4 Musselburgh 8 Dec, peaks 95E in 5 hrs Musselburgh 26 Aug, 137 Hound Pt 26 Aug, 243 Barns Ness 26 Aug; Borders, 3N/85S St Abbs 26 Aug, 3N on 11 Nov; Strathclyde, 21N Ardrossan/Troon 18 May, 3 Aird Meadows, Renfrew Dist 30 Jul, 1 Prestwick 23 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 1 Caerlaverock 3 Dec.

***Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* Shetland, singles Fair Isle 10 May, 11 Oct; Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 8 Jul; West Isles, spring passage mostly 18-21 May North Uist, 204 birds recorded; Strathclyde, 1N Troon 11 May, 2N on 18 May.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* Breeding: Shetland, 84 prs Fair Isle, full survey on other islands gave a total of 5647 apparently occupied territories (population increase of 15% since 1974-74 survey); Orkney, 223 prs reported at 9 sites; West Isles, 14 prs North Rona Jun; Highland, pr with nest and 2 eggs Stroma 22 Jun. Winter: Shetland, 1 Bard 16 Dec; Grampian, singles Peterhead 4, 31 Dec; Fife, 1N Fife Ness 21 Dec; Lothian, 1E Musselburgh 1 Feb; Strathclyde, 1 Troon 7 Dec. Migration: Shetland, from 25 Mar, last one Fair Isle 30 Oct; Orkney, 1 Finstown 9 Nov; Highland, 20N in 1 hr South Head 27 May, 56N in 1 hrs Wick 30 Aug, last one Noss Head 10 Nov; Grampian, 45N/9S in 2 hrs Peterhead 24 Aug; Fife, max 39N in 2 hrs Fife Ness 26 Aug; Lothian, 38W Crumond Island 25 Oct, 13 Tynninghame 1 Nov; Borders, 18N/3S St Abbs 26 Aug, 22S Burnmouth 25 Oct; Strathclyde, 1 inland

Fannyside L 17 Aug, low nos, late single Troon 10 Nov.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus Six: Grampian, ad Girdleness-Don 3 Jan-29 Nov, at Balgownie 11 Oct; Fife, ad Tayport 9-16 Aug; Lothian, 1st summer UMusselburgh 27 Apr, 11 Jun; Strathclyde, ad Doonfoot 6, 9 Jan, 2-3 Mar, 2nd winter dead Heads of Ayr 29 Dec; Dumf & Gall, ad Wigtown Bay 11 Feb.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla One: Strath-clyde, ad Stevenston Pt 20 Nov (JLB).

Little Gull *Larus minutus* Summary:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	1	2	1	2	2		1	4	1			
Grampian-Fife	1	1	16	9	11	38	10	21				
Central-Borders	2	1	3	6	212	7	1	4				
Strathclyde/D & G	3	1	3	6	2	1	2	4	2	1		

Peaks: Grampian, 6 Meikle 31 May; Tayside, c100 Carnoustie 21 Jul; Fife, 20 Kiconquhar L 23 Aug, 20 Fife Ness 5 Oct; Lothian, 3N Barns Ness 19 Aug, 4 Musselburgh 8 Dec; Borders, 4N St Abbs 13 Sep; Strathclyde, 3 Doonfoot 1 Jan.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini Two: West Isles, 1 Lewis 25 Nov (per WAJC); Lothian, 1 Musselburgh 10 Aug (BAH.PRB).

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia One: Highland, 1st summer Fort William 30 May (AJLS).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* Breeding: Shetland, 97 prs at 3 sites, 129 birds at another; Orkney, 591 prs reported at 6 sites, another 1532 birds were present at a further 6 sites, 1st young Papa Westray 31 May; Highland, 500 prs Broubster, 250 prs Newton, 150 prs L Marbh, Kiltarlity; Grampian, 200 prs Lochindorb, 200 prs Buinach, 3318 nests on coastal survey; Tayside, c5500 prs L of Kinnordy; Lothian, 1150 prs Bavelaw, 950 prs North Esk Res failed due to drainage, 571 prs Cobbinshaw; Borders, 10,375 nests Bemersyde, good success there indicated by an estimated 40,000 birds present on 12 Jul, 800 nests West Water; Strathclyde, 506 prs at 11 sites Tiree, 2223 prs Clydesdale Dist, 200 prs Aird Meadows had poor success, 300 prs Hunterston; Dumf & Gall, 200 prs Braid Fell, Wigtown Dist. Counts: Highland, 3300 L Garten 14 Apr; Grampian, 8000 Skene 17 Mar, 20,000 Kinord late Mar-early Apr, 10,000 Skene 29 Nov; Fife, 2400 Level 2 Feb; Lothian, 3000 Gosford 2 Feb, 4000 Musselburgh 7 Feb; Borders, 6000 West Water 17

Mar; Strathclyde, 6000 Doonfoot 12 Feb, 2 Mar, 9000 Strathclyde Park 28 Nov.

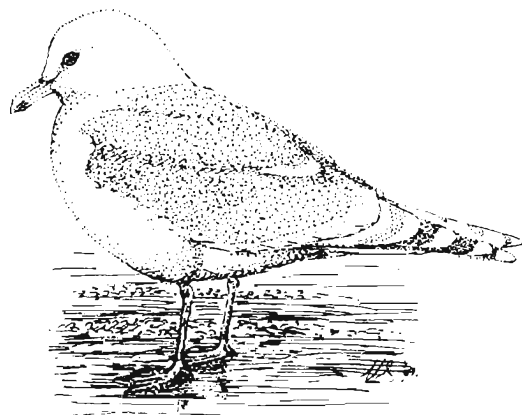
Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis Four: West Isles, ad Castlebay, Barra 24 Feb (TJD); Grampian, ad Lossiemouth 9 Jan (RP); Strathclyde, ad Doonfoot 14-15 Feb (RHH et al); Dumf & Gall, ad Wigtown Bay 11 Feb (PNC).

Common Gull *Larus canus* Breeding: Shetland, 284 prs at 4 sites (inc Fair Isle); Orkney, 2645 prs reported at 19 sites, another 310 birds present at a further 3 sites; Highland, 52 prs Egg; Grampian, 54 nests on coastal survey; Strathclyde, 78 nests Mull, 66 prs at 7 sites Tiree. 196 birds at breeding sites Colonsay. Counts: Shetland, 400 Lerwick 23 Feb; Orkney, 1000 Firth 6 Jan; Highland, 5000+ Forss 26 Dec; Grampian, 12,000 Skene 17 Mar, 1400N in 2 hrs Peterhead 11 Apr; Fife, 5000W in 1 hr Anstruther 6 Nov; Lothian, 4000 Duddingston 1 Feb, 4000 Gosford Bay 2 Feb, 11,000 Cobbinshaw 14 Mar; Borders, 16,800 West Water 17 Mar, 22,000 on 14 Dec; Strathclyde, 7000 Doonfoot 2 Mar; Dumf & Gall, 6000 Auchencairn-Orcharnton Bays 28 Nov, 10,000+ Wigtown Bay late Nov-Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* Breeding: Shetland, 117 prs at 3 sites (inc Fair Isle); Orkney, 1371 prs reported at 6 sites, another 75 birds present at other site; Highland, decrease to 29 prs Canna, 25 prs Egg; Grampian, 86 nests on coastal survey; Lothian, min 730 prs on 3 Forth islands, mixed colonies with Herring Gulls also on 3 other islands; Strathclyde, 292 prs at 8 sites Tiree, 82 birds at breeding sites Colonsay, 50 prs Balgair Muir, 32+ prs on warehouse Dumbarton. Counts/ passage: Shetland, 7 Feb-29 Sep; Orkney, last one Hoy 9 Oct; Highland, 1 Nairn 20 Feb; Grampian, 1 Lossiemouth 25 Nov; Lothian/Borders, 1st arrivals 7-8 Mar; Strathclyde, 595 Doonfoot 12 Aug; Dumf & Gall, 260 Crockettford 26 May. Winter: usual small nos in South Scotland Jan/Dec, but Grampian, 1 Girdleness 3 Dec; Tayside, 1 Perth 14 Dec; Central, 1 wintered Stirling; Lothian, 6 in Jan, and 7 in Dec were more notable. Other races, *fuscus*: Shetland, 1 Hillwell 11 May, Highland, 1 Dounreay 12 May; Grampian, singles Don 21 Mar, Strathbeg 12 Jul, Cults 5 Oct; Lothian, 1 Leith 31 Jan, 1 Musselburgh 7 Feb, 2 on 18 Mar, 1 Swanston 4 Apr, 2 Aberlady 24 Oct; Strathclyde, 1 Doonfoot 28 Apr. *intermedius*: Highland, 1 Sandside 31 May; Lothian, 1 Aberlady 1 Jan, 2 on 9 Mar, singles 31 Aug, 14 Dec, 1 Cramond 4 Jan, 3 on 8 Jan, 2 on 8 Feb.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* Breeding: Shetland, 1079 prs at 3 sites (inc Fair Isle); Orkney, 763 prs reported at 6 sites, another 954 birds at a further 2 sites; Highland, 380 prs Egg; Grampian, 16,863 nests on coastal survey; Lothian, 1000 prs Craigeith; Borders, further decline to 718 nests St

Abbs; Strathclyde, 1482 1513 prs at 13 sites Tiree, 302-389 prs Treshnish Isles, 2300 birds at breeding sites Colonsay, poor season Ailsa Craig; Dumf & Gall. 69 nests Mull of Galloway. Counts: Shetland, 7000 Fair Isle 30 Oct, 5-10,000 storm-blown Bressay 22 Dec; Highland, 35,000 Inverness/Beaulie Firths 13-24 Feb; Fife, 6000 Pittenweem 23 Nov; Lothian, 12,000 Gosford Bay 2 Feb; 4000 Musselburgh 8 Feb; Strathclyde, 4000 Ayr 7 Feb, 13,000+ Strathclyde Park 28 Nov. Yellow-legged individuals, perhaps Scandinavian *omissus*: Strathclyde, singles Oban 29 Jan, 4 Feb. Rigmuir 11 Feb, 2 Wellbrae 25 Oct.



Kumlien's Gull.

J.G. Steele

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* Once again, a poor showing for this species with none recorded in Central-Borders area. Summary:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	15	11	7	8	5	2			1	3	1	1
Grampian-Fife	4	7	7	10	13	1	1			2	6	10
Strathclyde/D & G	3	4	4	2							1	1

Peaks: Shetland, 3 Unst 29 Nov; Highland, 4 Inverness-Kessock 12 Apr. Kumlien's *L. g. kumlieni*: Grampian, ad Banff 15, 20 Mar, 25, 26 Dec (JGS et al).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* As with Iceland gull, the reports of this species were very meagre, especially in the South. Summary:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	15	11	11	7	8	6	7	3	3	3	4	6
Grampian-Fife	30	44	23	13	10		1	1	1	5	14	22
Central-Borders	2	6	2	3	4	1			1	2	3	2
Strathclyde/D & G	10	8	10	5	6	1		1	3	4	5	6

1 or 2 in most areas with peaks Shetland, 6 Uyeasound 23 Nov, and 5 Muness, Unst 29 Nov; Grampian, 5 Peterhead 25 Jan, 7 Fraserburgh 2 Feb. Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrids; Shetland, 1 Gutcher 9 May; Grampian, 1 Lossiemouth 11 Jan.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* Breeding: Shetland, 197 prs at 2 sites (inc Fair Isle) showed a drop of 52 prs from 1984 at Noss; Orkney, 1395 prs reported at 6 sites, another 1143 birds at a further 2 sites, poor chick production; Highland, 50 prs Whiteness; Grampian, 22 nests on coastal survey; Fife, 3 prs laid eggs Isle of May, failed; Strathclyde, 81-105 prs Treshnish Isles, 62 prs Colonsay, 61 prs at 9 sites Tiree; Dumf & Gall, good success with 52 chicks Murray's Isle, Stewartry Dist. Counts: Shetland, 3500 Burra 12 Sep; Highland, 361 Morrich More 8 Sep; Grampian, 1860 Lossiemouth 18 Aug, 2000 Culbin Bar 23 Aug, 1200 Inverugie 8 Oct; Fife, 1000 Isle of May 6 Nov; Lothian, 455 Aberlady 16 Sep; Borders, 150 Coldstream 7 Dec; Strathclyde, 162 Doonfoot 2 Sep.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Breeding: Shetland, 19072 nests Fair Isle, Noss colony declined by 17½ since 1985; Orkney, 27,085 nests occupied at 7 colonies; Highland, 15,000 nests Stroma, decrease to 803 prs Canna; Grampian, 82,694 nests on coastal survey; Fife, 4801 nests Isle of May, good success; Lothian, 1793 nests on 4 Forth islands, 344 nests Dunbar; Borders, 13,940 nests St Abbs; Strathclyde, 5700 prs Colonsay, poor season Ailsa Craig; Dumf & Gall, 360 nests Mull of Galloway. Counts: Shetland, 700 Fair Isle 15 October; Orkney 1800 in 1 hr North Ronaldsay 25 Oct; Grampian, 6000N/5300S in 1 hr Peterhead 10 Aug, 3000 Lossiemouth 25 Aug; Fife, 2000 Anstruther 3 Aug; Central, movements W noted Kinneil 10 May, 25 Aug; Lothian, 2500W in 3 hrs Hound Pt 1 Nov, 860N in 1 hr Tynninghame 1 Nov. Inland: Borders, 3 ads Portmore 22 Mar.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* Breeding: Orkney, 390 birds at 2 main sites, but poor success; Grampian, 597 prs Forvie, mcs 1.3, c252 chicks fledged, 493 prs Strathbeg produced 225-230 young; Lothian, 416 prs Inchmickery Jun; Strathclyde, 1-2 prs bred Hunterston. Counts/passage: Shetland, a good year with up to 28 birds on 20 dates 25 Apr-8

Oct; West Isles, 2 Ardvule, South Uist 31 Jul; Grampian, 1st Forvie and Strathbeg 29 Mar, 222 Burghead 14 Aug; Fife, 1st Fife Ness 30 Mar, 1000 Tentsmuir Pt 9 Aug, 2 Kirkcaldy 7 Nov; Lothian, 1200 Musselburgh Aug, last 1 on 30 Nov, 1220 Aberlady 7 Aug; Strathclyde, 1st Ayr 22 Mar, 155 Bogside 16 Aug.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* Breeding: West Isles, breeding discovered off West coast Lewis; Lothian, 18 nests Inchmickery Jun is highest number since 1980. Counts/passage: Grampian, singles Strathbeg 14, 24 Jul, Lossiemouth 24 Aug; Fife, 9 Kirkcaldy 8 Aug; Lothian, 1N Tynningame 20 Apr, 1 Musselburgh 29 Jun, 1 Aberlady 29 Jun, 3 on 30 Aug; Strathclyde, 1 Barassie 20 May.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Breeding: 23 prs bred Fair Isle, late season with some chicks not fledging till Aug; Orkney, 115 birds at 3 sites, 12 prs at another; Highland, 23 prs bred Eigg; Grampian, 250 prs Bogmoor, 153 prs Forvie, mcs 2.5, success uncertain, 97 prs Strathbeg where 45 fledged; Fife, 22 prs bred, 33 chicks ringed; Lothian, 313 nests Leith Docks, 202 nests Inchmickery, c35 nests at another site, 52 chicks ringed; Strathclyde, 113 nests Hunterston; Dumf & Gall, 30-35 prs L Ryan. Counts/passage: Shetland, 1st Fair Isle 29 Apr, last Virkie 3 Oct; Orkney, 1st Deerness 27 Apr; Grampian, 1st Girdleness 26 Apr, 510 Kingston 10 Aug; Fife, 500 Tentsmuir Pt 9 Aug, last 7 Kinshaldy 10 Oct; Lothian, 3 Dalmeny 19 Oct; Strathclyde, 1st 4 Troon 26 Apr.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* Breeding: Shetland, another extremely poor season, probably due to shortage of Sandeels, but Fair Isle colony boosted to 83 prs due to influx of failed breeders elsewhere; Orkney, 8790 birds at 9 colonies, but widespread failure and desertion; Highland, 225 prs Heisgeir, 2 colonies Portskerra totalled 140 prs, 60 chicks at one on 13 Jul, 24 prs Eigg; Grampian, 75 prs Forvie, mcs 1.8, success uncertain, 20 birds St Cyrus Jun deserted; Fife, 128 clutches Isle of May, 83 chicks ringed, success poor due to helicopter disturbance; Lothian, 74 prs at 2 sites unsuccessful due to tidal flooding; Strathclyde, 18 nests Pladda, 16 prs reared 13 Ballantrae. Counts/passage: Shetland, 1st 2 Fair Isle 4 May, last 28 Sep; Orkney, last one North Ronaldsay 1 Oct; Highland, 8 Sandside Bay 28 Apr; Grampian, 3 Lossiemouth 17 Apr, last one

Peterhead 25 Oct; Fife, 1000 Tentsmuir Pt 9 Aug; Lothian, 1st 5 Musselburgh 16 Apr, late bird Hound Pt 16 Nov.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* Breeding: Highland, 10 prs at one site, 7 prs produced 11 chicks, 5 flying young on 1 Aug; Grampian, 30 prs Forvie, 16 birds St Cyrus, min 7 young fledged, 2 prs bred Moray Dist, 1 pr successful; Lothian, 26 prs at 2 sites, unsuccessful; Strathclyde, 12 prs Coll, 4 prs reared 4 young Ballantrae, 2 prs reared 2 at another site in SW; Dumf & Gall, pr bred L Ryan. Counts/passage: Orkney, 1 Sanday 13 Jun; Grampian, last 3 St Cyrus 28 Sep; Fife, 12 Tentsmuir Pt 26 May; Lothian, 1st Aberlady 23 Apr, last 1 Barns Ness 6 Sep; Strathclyde, 69 Tiree 10-14 May, last 1 Doonfoot 6 Sep.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger Three in spring: Grampian, 1 Strathbeg 8 May; Strathclyde, 2 Linwood 18 May. Autumn: Shetland, juv Spiggie 18 Aug; Grampian, singles Don 11-16 Aug, Rattray 19 Aug; Fife, singles Leven 16 Aug, Fife Ness 9 Sep; Central, 1 Kinneil 16 Aug, 2 on 17 Aug; Lothian, singles Musselburgh 6, 10 13 Aug, Tynningame 8, 17 Aug, Barns Ness 9, 14, 26 Aug, Gladhouse 12 Aug; Borders, 1 Bemersyde 19 Aug; 2 Dumf & Gall, 2 Lochmaben 14 Aug.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus One: Fife, ad Wormit 13-22 Aug (DRS et al).

Guillemot *Uria aalge* Breeding: Shetland, 33,607 birds within colonies plus 1574 loafers Fair Isle, general decrease at monitoring sites e.g. -15% Eshaness. -13% Noss; Orkney, 95,825 at 5 colonies, only significant change at 5 monitored colonies was an 11.5% decrease at one; Highland, 15,000 birds Stroma, 9500 birds Duncansby Head; Grampian, 86,816 birds on coastal survey; Lothian, c2750 birds Lamb 1 Jun, 2500 Craigleith 7 Jun; Borders, 22,986 birds St Abbs Head; Strathclyde, 13,617 birds Colonsay late May; Dumf & Gall, 1116 birds Mull of Galloway 16 Jun. Counts: Shetland, high winter mortality, 460 found dead; Highland, 2000E in 2 hrs Chanonry Pt 13 Jan, Jan wreck produced 347 dead, 15,000 Inverness/Beaulie Firths 19 Feb; Grampian, Feb wreck produced 260 dead, auk movement of 19,700N/160S in 2 hrs Peterhead 18 Apr; Tayside, Feb wreck produced min 11 birds at Perth, Crieff, Glencarse; Fife, Feb wreck killed 100's Inverkeithing; Central, 140 live birds inland 2-8 Feb as result of wreck; Strathclyde, 11+ I. Lomond 4-16 Feb.

Razorbill *Alca torda* Breeding: Shetland, 3882 birds within colonies plus 68 loafers Fair Isle, decrease at Hermaness monitoring site -21%; Orkney, 4920 at 5 sites, only significant change at 5 monitored sites was a 15.4% decrease at one;

Grampian, 8728 birds on coastal survey; Lothian, min 168 sites on 5 Forth islands; Borders, 1383 birds St Abbs Head: Strathclyde, 1440 birds Colonsay late May, 202-302 sites Treshnish Isles 15 Jun; Dumf & Gall, 443 birds Mull of Galloway 16 Jun. Counts: Grampian, 778 Burghead 27 Sep; Strathclyde, 340S in 1 hrs Turnberry Pt 11 May.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* Breeding: Shetland, complete census Fair Isle gave 367 ads, pre-breeding count Noss gave 148 ads (107 in 1983); Orkney, c50 prs North Hill, Papa Westray, 603 Holm of Papa Westray 6 May, of 112 observed nests 22 failed, 42 produced B/1, 41 produced B/2; Highland, 43 prs Eigg; Grampian, pr reared 2 Portknockie (1st successful breeding Moray Dist), 3 Muchalls in summer; Strathclyde, 101 Colonsay late May, 41 Treshnish Isles 15 Jun, 8 prs Pladda, 30+ Ballantrae 13 Apr, 1-2 prs bred Greenock, Troon, Ardrossan; Dumf & Gall, 26 Mull of Galloway 2 May. Counts: Shetland, 629 Bluemull 26 Feb; remains very scarce Fife/Lothians/Borders but 1 St Abbs Head 11 Jul was 1st since 1951; Dumf & Gall, 35 L Ryan 3 Aug.

Little Auk *Alle alle* Few in Jan-May, more from Nov in North: Shetland, singles on 7 dates 8 Jan-17 Mar, 4 Fair Isle 1 Nov, 40 Whalsay-Skerries 16 Nov; Orkney, 2 live birds in Jan, Feb, Dec, 1 dead Scapa 16 Dec; West Isles, 1 Lewis Jan, 2 Harris Feb, 1 S Uist Nov; Highland, 5 live, 2 dead singles Caithness Dist, included 1W Sandside Head 26 May, singles Chanonry 4 Jan, Abriachan 16 Jan, Achnacarry 16 Jan; Grampian, 14 birds Jan-Apr, max 6 in Feb; Tayside, 10 birds Tay-Montrose Feb-early Mar; Fife, 6NE Anstruther 1 Feb, 7 on 2 Feb, 60NE on 17 Feb, 8 on 9 Nov; Lothian, small nos 5 Jan-12 Apr, max 32W Gosford Bay 5 Jan, 20 dead birds in year; Borders, 3S Eyemouth 1 Mar; Strathclyde, singles Turnberry Pt 11, 12 Jan, 23 Nov, Endrick Mouth 15 Jan, Aird's Bay 25 Mar, Oban 23 Oct.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica* Breeding: Shetland, census Fair Isle gave 20,224 birds, Hermaness study plot showed a 21% increase in occupied burrows 1973-81, but a 24% decrease 1981-86, late season and many ads carrying very small sandeels; Orkney, min 2672 birds at 7 sites; Grampian, 897 birds on coastal survey; Fife, breeding nos high; Lothian, 1350 Craigleith where decrease noted 7 Jun, 1452 Inchkeith 3 Jul; Borders, indications of possible increase in breeding population; Strathclyde, 850 Lunga Jun, 10 Ailsa Craig 20 Jul.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* Counts: Shetland, 120 Unst 4 Mar, 90 Boddam 24 May, 92 Quarff 19 Oct, 75 Fair Isle 8 Nov; Orkney, 333 L of Clumly 16 Sep, 180 Moss Quarry, Holm May-Aug; Highland, 250 ferals Burghead 8 Oct; Fife, 130 ferals Isle of May 17 Oct; Lothian, 250 ferals

Fenton Barns 15 Nov, 100 ferals Craigleith 19 Nov; Strathclyde, 400 ferals Prestwick 6 Dec, c100 Kintyre 22 Dec.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* Breeding: Fife, pr bred Isle of May, fledged young on 31 May. Counts: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 21 Jun; Lothian, 40 Gosford Estate 11 Jan, 105 Turnhouse 30 Mar.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* Breeding: Orkney, 15 prs at 4 sites West Mainland, several ground-nesters Rousay. Counts: Shetland, exceptional year with 350 records, max 120 Kergord 3 Jun; Highland, 1500 New Mills 5 Dec; Grampian, 5000 Gilston 9 Jan; Fife, 3000 Clayton 5 Jan; Central, 1500 Lecropt 20 Dec; Lothian, 5000 Darent House, Lammermuirs 18 Jan, 5000 Gosford Estate 15 Feb; Borders, 1000 Yetholm 16 Feb.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* Breeding: Orkney, pr reared young Stromness; Highland, 30 prs bred Bonar Bridge. Counts/passage: Shetland, strong passage Fair Isle 17 May-17 Jun, max 20 on 23 May; Orkney, max 97 Crantit 6 Sep; Highland, 100 Bilbster House 16 Nov; Grampian, 70 Drums 1 Feb, 35 Keith 5 Dec; Fife, 50 Kilrenny 30 Nov; Lothian, 50 Port Seaton 18 Dec; Borders, 48 Eastcote 14 Aug; Strathclyde, 70 Auchincruive, Ayr Feb, 30 Connel, Argyll May-Jun.

***Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* Breeding: Fife, pr attempted Colinsburgh. Migrants: Shetland, 6 May-25 Oct, peaks 6 Fair Isle 28 May, 7 on 3 Jun; Orkney, 12 birds 19 May-27 Oct, max 4 Stronsay 7 Oct; West Isles, singles North Uist 14, 15, 18 May, singles South Uist 18 Jun, 14 Jul, 6, 28 Sep, 2 on 3 Oct; Highland, singles Noss Farm 18 May, Eigg 23 May, Reay 1-9 Aug, Poolewe 13 Oct-20 Dec; Grampian, 1 Strathbeg 11 Jun; Fife, 1 Isle of May 21 May-10 Jun; Lothian, 1N Turnhouse 14 Aug; Borders, 2 Ayton 15, 23 May, 1 Lennel 12 Jun, 1 Reston 23 Jun; Strathclyde, singles Ardrossan 18 May, Barcaldine 26 May, 2 Scalasaig 23 May, singles Bowmore, Islay 22 Sep, Barassie 17 Oct, Coultorsay Oct.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Breeding: Borders, min 41 birds reported (53 in 1985); Strathclyde, fewer Colonsay, but better in SW. Counts/passage: Shetland, 1st Stromness 15 Apr; Orkney, last one Finstown 5 Sep; general arrival of 1st birds Highland/West Isles/Grampian to Borders 1-4 May; Fife, late bird Crail 20 Sep; Strathclyde, 1st Glen Lonan 18 Apr.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Breeding: Grampian, seen in 5 areas Moray Dist, but no breeding reported; Strathclyde, min 1 pr reared young Islay, reports of birds at up to 6 sites Mull, but no evidence of breeding, located 10 sites Arran; Dumf & Gall, in

Machars proved breeding 14 sites, mbs 3.0, in Cree Valley proved breeding 24 sites, mbs 3.1, poor success in Glentroot. Others: Fife, only 1 record, Rathillet 11 Dec; Lothian, up to 11 birds at 11 sites through year; Borders, slight increase in sightings, min 48 birds at 38 sites; Strathclyde, 1 dead Gigha Jun.

***Scops Owl** *Onus scops* One: Orkney, 1 Sanday 5-16 Jun (AS,RT,MG).

***Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca* Shetland, still at least 3 females present, 1 Uyeasound mid Feb-9 Jun, irregularly to 4 Oct, 2 Nov, 2 overwintered Fetlar, 1 through year, elsewhere sightings included birds at Hermaness 10 May, Norwick 17 May, Ronas Hill 7 Jul, also a female Fair Isle 16 May may have been a fourth individual.

***Little Owl** *Athene noctua* Grampian, 1 Rothienorman 2 Apr, died 3 Apr, 1st record for Region; Lothian, pr reared min 1 young; Borders, singles St Abbs 19 Jan, St Boswells 30 Dec; Dumf & Gall, apparently 1-2 prs still present Caerlaverock area, 1 Kirkcudbright 9 Apr.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* Breeding: Highland, only 3 nestboxes used out of 54 Glenurquhart; Fife, decline noted East and Central Fife; Lothian, reported presence or breeding at 39 sites; Borders, min 51 birds reported at 30 sites; Strathclyde, present Gigha Jun, poor success in SW and Western part of Dumf & Gall.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* Breeding: As usual, very few reports, Highland, pr laid 4, hatched 3, 2 fledged Achnabourin, 2 prs Egg; Central, female B/2-3 Ashfield 27 Jul; Strathclyde, 7 prs Carron Valley. Counts/passages: Shetland, max in winter 4 Gott 16 Feb, good spring passage Fair Isle 18 Mar-1 May, peak 7 on 23 Apr, autumn peaks included 6 Skerries 17 18 Nov, 4 Halligarth 26 Nov, 11 Strand/Halligarth Dec; Orkney, peaks 10-15 Longhouse, St Ola Jan, Feb, 7 St Margaret's Hope 30 Nov, 7 Wideford Burn 23 Nov, roost counts included 17 Berstane/Binscarth Mar, 18 in Dec; West Isles, 4 Lochmaddy, North Uist 3 Feb; Highland, 4 roosting Thurso 30 Dec; Grampian, 5 Cruden Bay 15 Nov; Lothian, max 4 Aberlady 26 Jan; Borders, 3 roosting St Abbs 21 Nov; Strathclyde, 12 Possil Marsh 7 Feb.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Breeding: Orkney, 14-23 prs on 5 islands showed low success rate; Highland, small breeding population suggested Caithness Dist; Lothian, pr bred Gladhouse; Borders, up to 15 territories at 9 sites, but only 2 prs showed signs of success; Strathclyde, no evidence of breeding Mull, perhaps not so common Islay, 13 territories Arran; Dumf & Gall, nos lower in West with apparently poor success. Counts/passages: Shetland, 12 Jan-21 Nov, max 5

Fair Isle 24 Apr; Fife, max 4 Isle of May 21 Oct; Lothian, max 5 Aberlady 30 Jan, 22 Dec.

***Tengmalm's Owl** *Aegolius funereus* One: Orkney, 1 Egilsay 31 May-1 Jun (Mrs EH, RG), dead Glims Holm 25 Jun (RGA, SRA).

***Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Breeding: Strathclyde, 1st Arran 1 Jun, 4-5 churring males Brodick, 1 churring male Bute 18 Jun, 13 Jul; Dumf & Gall, down to 1 male at one site 6 Jun-20 Jul Stewartry Dist, 3 males present at one site Nithsdale, 2 young reared at one nest. Others: Borders, singles Kelso 26-30 Jun, Foulden 17 Aug.

Swift *Apus apus* Breeding: Borders, 20 prs Kelso; Strathclyde, 41 prs at 4 sites. Counts/passages: Shetland, 13 May-27 Aug, max 30 Fair Isle 26 Jun; Orkney 1st Finstown 10 May; Highland, 1st Thurso 5 May, 400+S An Dun 25 Jun, late birds Thurso 27 Sep, Mallaig 1 Oct; Grampian, 600 Strathbeg 30 Jun, last 11 Kinloss 12 Sep; Tayside, 120 Carsbreck 25 Jul; Fife, 1st Anstruther 1 May, 300 Killoonquhar L 29 Jul, last one Crail 8 Sep; Central, 100 Airthrey L 24 Jun; Lothian, 500 Gladhouse 5 Jul, 230W Aberlady 16 Jul, very late bird Tynninghame 16 Nov; Borders, 250 Portmore 30 May, last one Reston 21 Sep; Strathclyde, 250-300 Martnaham L, Ayr 28 May, last one Ayr 12 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 900 Lochmaben 22 May.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Breeding: Highland, pr bred near Inverness; Fife, pr bred successfully; Lothian, 2 R North Esk 4 Mar-13 Sep probably did not breed; Borders, pr bred Chirside; Strathclyde, 28 prs located Central Strathclyde, 2 prs bred in SW, 3 young reared at one site; Dumf & Gall, successful nest Cumstoun, Stewartry Dist, pr failed Kenmure, 3 prs bred R Nith. Others: 11 records for E Highland/Grampian Regions mostly autumn-winter period; Tayside, singles Montrose Basin late Jul, 15 Sep; Central, singles Airthrey 12 Jan, 9, 15 Dec, Cambus 17 Sep, 1 Oct, Crook of Devon 27 Sep; Strathclyde, singles Tainuill 30 Nov, Connel 8-30 Dec.

***Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* Two: Strathclyde, 1 Lochgoilhead late Jun/Jul (RK, mper RAB); Dumf & Gall, 1 Kirkmahoe 23 May (MW).

***Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* Shetland, singles Dale of Walls 5 Aug, Norwick 13, 21 Sep; Highland, singles Eigg 15 May, Rhue, Arisaig 2 Oct, L Arkaig 3 Oct, Nethybridge 6 Nov; Grampian, singles Wells of Ythan 18 Oct, Johnshaven 20-21 Oct; Tayside, 1 Montrose 26 Oct; Lothian, singles Tynninghame 21 Apr, 3-4 Oct, Gladsmuir 8-10 May, North Berwick 12 Sep; Borders, singles Hallydown 17 Apr, St Abbs 21 Apr, Mansfield Park, Hawick 1 Jul; Strathclyde, 1 Barrhead mid May.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Breeding: Highland, pr bred successfully, at least 3 young fledged; singles at 3 other sites Spey Valley, 1 singing Easter Ross 30 Jun. Passage: an extremely poor showing in every area, Shetland, poor year with only 1 Fair Isle 5 May, 1 Fetlar 16-19 Aug, 2 Fair Isle 26-17 Aug, 1 till 28 Aug, 1 on 15 Sep; Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 27 Aug; West Isles, 1 Northbay, Barra 29 Aug; Grampian, remains found at Merlin plucking post Deeside 20 Sep; Fife, 1 Isle of May 3 May; Lothian, 1 Aberlady 30-31 Aug; Borders, 1 St Abbs Head 7 Sep.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* Breeding: Highland, scarcer Spey Valley, recorded at 7 sites but no nests found; Grampian, pr L Spynie 27 Apr; Tayside, possible slight increase; Fife reported from 14 sites; Lothian, reported at 19 sites in breeding season; Borders, 3 breeding records, up to 39 possible territories at 30 sites reported; Strathclyde, 1 Taynish Jul was well outwith usual area, continued decline in SW, may no longer breed; Dumf & Gall, nos maintained on low ground near coasts, but general decrease.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* Breeding: Fife, still scarce; Lothian/Borders, little change suggested with 42 territories at 30 sites in latter; Strathclyde, no change in SW and Western part Dumf & Gall. Others: Shetland, female Fair Isle 22-25 Apr was only migrant.

***Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* Five: Shetland, singles Fair Isle 5-11 May (MGP,NJR), Skerries 25-29 May (ET,IS,RG), 3-15 Oct (CJMCK-G,NJR), 17-31 Oct, 2 on 20-24 Oct (JND,NJR).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* Breeding: Shetland, 106 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 586 prs reported at 38 sites; Lothian, 36 territories Threipmuir, 33 territories Aberlady; Strathclyde, 345 prs bred L Gruinart reserve. Islay. Counts/passage: Shetland, 750 Fair Isle 12-14 Mar, 400 Sumburgh 4 Nov; Fife, 3000 Fife Ness 9 Feb; Lothian, 1300 Turnhouse 5 Jan, 1000 East Hermiston 23 Feb, 1000 Dirleton 23 Feb; Borders, 120-170W/hr throughout day St Abbs area 8 Mar; Strathclyde, 1200 Gadloch 8 Feb, massive flock of 9000 Prestwick 21 Feb.

***Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* Up to eight birds is a slight improvement on recent showings: Fife, singles St Andrews 28 May, Isle of May 15, 16 Oct; Lothian, male Tynninghame 11 May, 2 from 3 Nov, 3 on 20 Nov, 4 on 28 Dec, 1 Musselburgh 20-31 Dec.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* Breeding: Grampian, 100 prs near Rothes, 50 prs Dorback Burn represents significant increase; Central, 50 prs Barbus; Strathclyde, 225 prs Drumbeg, improvement steady in SW as well as Tayside and

Borders. Counts/passage: Shetland, 30 Apr-15 Sep, max 5 Fair Isle on 12 Jun; Orkney, last one Holm 22 Sep; Highland, 1st Insh Marshes 14 Apr, 200 in May, 200 L Watten early Aug; Grampian, late birds Keith 16 Oct, 2 Bankhead 2, 3 Nov; Fife, 500+ Lindores L 14 Aug; Borders, 1st 2 Reston 19 Apr, last 2 Walkerburn 22 Sep; Dumf & Gall, 1st Lochmaben 30 Mar.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Breeding: Shetland, 3 prs Fetlar; Orkney, at 5 monitored sites, slight reduction to 17 prs, good season with average 7.1 reared/pr; indication of late season and poor success with single broods in South West Scotland. Counts/passage: Shetland, 25 Apr-18 Oct, peaks 150 Hillwell 23 May, 200 Fair Isle 24 May; Orkney, last one Finstown 24 Oct; Highland, 1st Reay/Thurso 25 Apr, 1000 L Watten early Aug, last one Reay 25 Oct; Highland, 1st Insh Marshes 13 Apr, 400 in Aug; Grampian, 1st 4 Boddam 1 Apr, 350 Strathbeg 23 Aug, last one Stoneywood 26 Nov; Fife, late bird Fife Ness 6 Nov; Central, 1st Kippen 13 Apr; Lothian, 100N/hr Pepperside 19 May, late singles Mid Calder 15 Nov, Dunbar 16 Nov, Tynninghame 20 Nov; Borders, early bird Eyemouth 23 Mar, 450 Lees/Paxton 7 May; Strathclyde, 1000 Kilwinning 24 Aug, 1500 Dumbreck 4 Sep, 2500 Barr L 8 Sep, late bird Culzean 25 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 1st 1 Gatehouse 28 Mar, late singles Stranraer 2 Nov, Skyreburn 18 Nov.

House Martin *Delichon urbica* Breeding: Shetland, 2 prs bred Lerwick, both possibly reared 2 broods, pr bred Fair Isle, 4 fledged (1st breeding since 1975 and 1946 respectively); Orkney, 5 prs, pr still feeding 2nd brood 16 Sep; Tayside, reduction to 11 nests Crieff (18 in 1985); Lothian, 46 cliff nests Dunbar; Borders, 32 cliff nests Cove-Peace Bay. Counts/passage: Shetland, 27 Apr-17 Oct, max 150 Fair Isle 28 May; Highland, 200 Insh Aug; Fife, 100+ L Gelly 15 Aug; Lothian, 1st 2 Duddingston 22 Apr, last 2 Bathgate 20 Oct, late bird Dunbar 16 Nov; Borders, 1st Coldingham 20 Apr, 900S Hirsell 7 Sep, 4 Eyemouth 17 Nov, 4 Burnmouth 18 Nov, 2 on 20 Nov; Strathclyde, 200+ Beith 21 Aug; Dumf & Gall, 2 early birds Leswalt 4 Apr.

***Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Three: Shetland, singles Skerries 23 Sep (ARK), Fair Isle 27 Sep-10 Oct (NJR); Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 23 Sep (GCS,KT).

***Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* One: West Isles, 1 St Kilda 20 Jun (PD).

***Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* One: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 1 Nov (NJR).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Breeding: Highland, 9 prs Garten CBC (5 in 1985); Lothian, suggestion of

increase E Lothian Dist; Borders, 19 territories at 14 sites; Strathclyde, 20 territories Arran; continued colonisation of clear-felled areas in SW Scotland, 41 prs Wood of Cree. Counts/passage: Shetland: 21 Apr-13 Oct, max 40 Fair Isle on 15 May; West Isles, 1 at sea 30 miles W of Sula Sgeir 13 Oct; Grampian, 1st Greg Ness 19 Apr; Lothian, 1st Beechraigs 6 Apr, 13 Aberlady 27 Apr; Borders, 1st 2 Eyemouth 10 Apr; Strathclyde, 1st 2 Arran 4 Apr.

***Pechora Pipit** *Anthus gustavi* One: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 10 Oct (DRB, NJR).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* Breeding: Shetland, 29 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 837 prs reported at 40 sites; Lothian, 32 territories Aberlady; Strathclyde, 325 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay, poor season in SW Scotland due to high rainfall. Counts/passage: Shetland, 19 Jan-21 Nov, max 350 Fair Isle on 22, 24 Sep; Highland, 300 Sandside Bay 27 Sep; Grampian, 250 Strathbeg 6 Sep; Fife, 190SW Fife Ness 12 Sep, 142W in 1 hr Anstruther 30 Sep; Central, 200 Glen Lochay 24 Aug; Lothian, 300N in 1 hr Barns Ness 13 Sep; Borders, 660 Mosshill 13 Sep; Strathclyde, 500S in 2 hrs Doonfoot 19 Oct.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* Breeding: Orkney, 14 prs North Hoy reserve; Borders, 11 territories St Abbs; Strathclyde, 15 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay. Counts/passage: Shetland, 110 Fair Isle 28 Mar, 200 on 24 Sep; Orkney, max 85 North Ronaldsay 30 Sep; Highland, 20 Brora 15 Nov; Grampian, 23 Lossiemouth-Coveasa 31 Dec; Lothian, 1 inland Dunsapie 29 Apr; Borders, 1 inland West Water 27 Mar, 20 St Abbs 27 Nov; Strathclyde, 72 L Gruinart reserve, Islay Sep; Dumf & Gall, 30 Mull of Galloway 3 Oct. Scandinavian *littoralis*: Lothian, 1 Barns Ness 25 Jan, 4 on 30 Mar, 2 Apr, 2 Belhaven 25 Mar; Strathclyde, 1 Turnberry Pt 30 Mar.

***Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* Two or three: Tayside, 1 Elliot 1 Jan-5 Apr, 1-2 on 15 Nov-end Dec (JGS et al).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* Breeding: Lothian, pr reared 1 young Barns Ness; Borders, pr bred Lumsdaine, also present Sprouston; Strathclyde, reduction to 3 prs Avondale. Counts/passage *flavissima* or unspecified: Shetland, 5 May-23 Sep, max 3 on 8, 10 May; West Isles, 1 Balranald, North Uist 11 May; Grampian, 9 birds 2 May-25 Aug; Fife, 5 Fife Ness 5 May; Central, male Skinflats 17 May; Lothian, male Barns Ness 24 Apr, 8 Aberlady 3 May, last one Tynninghame 15 Sep; Borders, 1st 2 Hawick 18 Apr, 10 Eyemouth 6 Oct; Strathclyde, 1 Elvanfoot 23 Apr, 1 L Gruinart, Islay 17 Sep. Blue-headed *flava*: Shetland, male Cunningsburgh 9 May, male Fair Isle 29 May;

Orkney, female Papa Westray 22 May; Highland, 2 Mossedge, Weydale 28 Sep; Lothian, single males Barns Ness 27 Apr, Aberlady 2-3 May, 2 males on 4 May, single males on 17, 25 May, male Tynninghame 8 May; Strathclyde, singles Kiloran Dunes, Colonsay 19 May, Ross of Mull 28 May. Grey-headed *thunbergi*: Shetland, male Fair Isle 20, 31 May, probable single females on 23, 26 May, and 17, 18 Jun; Tayside, pr Elliot 26 Jun.

***Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* One: Shetland, 1st winter Fair Isle 10-16 Sep (SJM, KO).

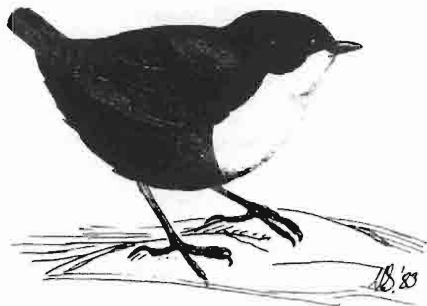
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Breeding: Highland, up to 7 prs reported Caithness Dist, 8 prs Eigg; Borders, 5 prs Melrose, 78 other territories recorded in course of Goosander survey; Strathclyde, 20 prs Arran, 19 prs North Calder Water, better season in SW. Counts/passage: Shetland, 7 singles 24 Mar-2 Nov; Orkney, 2 Binscarth, Firth 13 Sep. singles North Ronaldsay 9, 12 Oct.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* Breeding: Orkney, up to 23 prs reported at 15 sites. Roost counts/passage: Shetland, 16 Mar-28 Sep, max 25 Fair Isle on 26, 28 Aug; Orkney, 100 Kirkwall 24 Sep; Highland, 200 Sandside Bay 27 Sep; Tayside, 150 Perth 12 Feb; Fife, 150 Tayport 21 Aug; Lothian, 440 Duddingston 17 Oct; Borders, 200 Hawick Cricket Ground 24 Sep; Strathclyde, 200 Kilmarnock 17 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 300 Sandside 11 Aug, 200 Cumstoun 10 Sep. White *alba*: Shetland, pr (bred Fair Isle, passage Fair Isle 13 Apr-23 May, 16 Aug-13 Oct, max 14 on 23, 24 Apr; Orkney, 27 Apr-17 Oct, max 7 Rousay end Aug; Highland, 1st Wick R 30 Mar; Grampian, 1st Donmouth 21 Apr, last one Strathbeg 22 Nov; Lothian, 20 Musselburgh 26 Apr, 33 Aberlady 3 May; Strathclyde, 66 Linwood 27 Apr, 47 Chapeldonan, Girvan 28 Apr, 64 Longhaugh Pt 1 May.

Waxwing *Bombicilla garrulus* Very few, with most being at either end of the year, and just the suggestion of an influx towards the end of Dec. Max 24 Dundee, Tayside 5 Apr, but no more than 12 at any other location: 10 Inverness, Highland 9 Mar; 12 Dyce, Grampian 19-26 Jan, 12 Banchory, Grampian 14 Mar. Summary:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	36	31	18	9	1							17
Grampian-Fife	29	26	22	26								
Central-Borders	12	12	2	3								4
Strathclyde/D & G	9	16	9									24

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* Breeding: Fife possibly a slight increase; Lothian, 26 prs R South Esk below Gladhouse, 10 prs Moorfoot Hills above Gladhouse; Borders, 132 territories recorded in



Dipper.

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course of Goosander survey; Strathclyde, 16 territories Mull, 10 prs Arran, 15 prs Endrick/Blane Waters, poor season in SW Scotland. Black-bellied *cinclus*: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 26 Mar.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* Some indication of a drop in breeding population in several areas. Orkney, nos probably slightly down Hoy; Highland, 6 prs Garten CBC (4 in 1985); Tayside, nos down to 15-16 singing males Killiecrankie reserve (27 in 1985); Lothian, 24 prs Duddingston, 19 territories Roslin Glen; Borders, suggestion of sharp drop in population; Strathclyde, 35 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay. Fair Isle *fridariensis*: 22 singing males recorded Fair Isle.

Duncock *Prunella modularis* Breeding: Orkney, 20 prs reported at 8 sites; Lothian, 15 territories Aberlady. Passage: Shetland, influx 14 Apr-16 May, max 50 Fair Isle 22 Apr, 60 on other islands 23 Apr, very scarce in autumn; Fife, 100 Isle of May 17 Apr, few in autumn; Borders, 56 St Abbs 20 Apr.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* Breeding: Orkney, 20 prs at 7 sites, newly fledged juv at one site 29 Sep; Highland, 11 prs Garten CBC (9 in 1985); Lothian, 22 territories Roslin Glen, 11 prs Aberlady (9 in 1985); Dumf & Gall, 48 prs Wood of Cree (78 in 1985). Passage: Shetland, influx 14 Apr-13 May, peaks 900 Fair Isle 22-23 Apr, 750 on 24 Apr, 117 Dunrossness 23 Apr, very few in autumn; Orkney, 1000 North Ronaldsay 23 Apr; Highland, 150 Noss Farm 22

Apr; Fife, 200 Isle of May 17 Apr; Lothian, large fall 16-20 Apr, 100+ Scoughall 19 Apr; Borders, 800 St Abbs 16 Apr, 300 Eyemouth 17 Apr.

***Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* Two: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 20 Aug (DRB,KO,ST); Fife, 1 Isle of May 8 May (IBP,JHBM,GLS).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* Shetland, in spring up to 10 from 20 Apr-21 Jun, perhaps only 13 in autumn 11 Sep-11 Oct, max 3 Fair Isle 9 Oct; Orkney, up to 9 birds 23 Sep-7 Oct, max 6 North Ronaldsay 27 Sep; Highland, 1 Noss Head 8 May; Grampian, singles Fraserburgh 7 May, Rattray 7 May; Fife, singles Isle of May 7, 8 May, Fife Ness 14 Sep. White-spotted *cyaneola*: Fife, 1 Isle of May 11 May.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Winter: Shetland, singles Whalsay 14 Nov-21 Dec, Fair Isle 22-29 Dec; Strathclyde, 1 Arran 15 Feb. Passage: Shetland, 31 Mar-4 Jun, peaks 3 Fair Isle 21-24, 30 Apr, 15 May, 3 Whalsay 18-21 May, 1 Fair Isle 1-2 Jul, in autumn 1-2 birds 8 Oct-20 Nov; Orkney, 22 Apr-15 May, max 3 on 22-24 Apr; Highland, 5 birds Caithness Dist 29 Apr-29 May, 2 Noss Head 9 May; Grampian, singles Johnshaven 6 Apr, Foveran 7 May, Rattray 14-16 Nov; Fife, up to 12 birds in spring 14 Apr-16 Jun, max 4 Fife Ness 4 May, 1 Isle of May 18 Oct; Borders, 4 birds in spring 16-26 Apr, 1 Romannobridge 8 Oct.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Breeding: Highland, 2 prs bred Dunbeath Castle, 6 prs Garten CBC (3 in 1985); Tayside, good season Killiecrankie reserve; Lothian, 7 territories recorded E Lothian Dist; Borders, 63 territories at 34 sites is increase; Dumf & Gall, very good nos N of Newton Stewart. Passage: Shetland, 21 Apr-26 Oct, max 5 Fair Isle 28 Sep; Orkney, 7 May-10 Oct, max 4 on 27, 29 Sep; West Isles, singles 5 Uist 1 May, 5 Oct; Grampian, last one Rattray 28 Oct; Fife, 1st Craill 17 Apr, 8 Isle of May 3 May, last 2 on 13 Oct; Lothian, last one Aberlady 15 Oct; Strathclyde, 1st Coultorsay, Islay 15 Apr; Dumf & Gall, late bird Stranraer 27 Oct.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Breeding: Fife, no change indicated in breeding population; Borders, up to 46 territories recorded; Strathclyde, 10-15 prs bred Colonsay, 12 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay. Passage: Shetland, 2 May-29 Jun, max 14 Fair Isle 10 May, in autumn 4 Aug-25 Oct, max 11 Fair Isle 16 Aug; Orkney, 1-4 birds 3 May-28 Sep; Highland, 1st Noss 28 Apr; Fife, 1st Isle of May 30 Apr, max 9 on 6 May; Lothian, 1st 2 Aberlady 26 Apr; Strathclyde, 1st 2 Heads of Ayr 26 Apr; Dumf & Gall, early bird Leswalt 12 Apr.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* Breeding: Orkney, up to 22 prs recorded, 16 prs North Hoy; West Isles, recovering former nos; Highland, good nos Caithness Dist, 6 prs Eigg, 4 prs Balintore; Grampian, 4 prs Hopeman/Covesea (6 in 1985), inland breeding Dallas was 1st for several years, only 1 breeding record Gordon Dist, pr B/3 Forvie 24 Aug; Fife, pr reared 1 young Fife Ness; still no breeding Lothian/Borders and only 5 records; Strathclyde, 12 prs Colonsay, 9 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay, still a very slow recovery in SW Scotland and virtually absent inland. Passage: Shetland, 3 singles 17 Mar-25 May, 1 Fair Isle 10 Oct.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Breeding: Shetland, 93 prs Fair Isle; Orkney, 53 prs reported at 11 sites; Lothian, 34 prs Moorfoot Hills; Strathclyde, 17 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay; Dumf & Gall, suggestion of decrease. Passage: Shetland, 1st Unst 6 Apr, peaks 105 Fair Isle 27 Apr, 140 on 5 May, 275 on 10 Aug, last one Trondra 2 Nov; Orkney, 1st Sanday 17 Mar, 80 Deerness/Papa Westray 22, 27 Apr, 73 North Ronaldsay 21 Sep; Grampian, 25 Burghead 27 Apr, last one Tullynessle 26 Oct; Fife, peaks 50 Isle of May 3 May, 35 Fife Ness 3 May; Lothian, 1st Aberlady 24 Mar, 42 on 23 Apr, 44 Barns Ness/Tynninghame 4 May; Borders, 60 St Abbs 26 Apr; Strathclyde, 1st Turnberry 15 Mar. Greenland *leocorrhoa*: Shetland, 3 May-12 Jun, max 10 Fair Isle 18 May; Grampian, 1 Rattray 4 May; Lothian, 3 Tynninghame 4 May, singles Aberlady 15 Sep, Barns Ness 21 Sep; Borders, 2 Tweedbank 4 May, 4 on 7 May, 2 Portmore 14 May; Strathclyde, singles Turnberry 27 Apr, Heads of Ayr 3, 8 May.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Breeding: Lothian, 4-5 prs Moorfoot Hills; Strathclyde, 11 prs Coulter Valley, 5 prs Strathblane, continues as a scarce breeder in SW. Migration: Shetland, 1st Ronas Hill 8 Apr, influx 21-27 Apr with max 50 Fair Isle 22 Apr, 45 on 8 Oct, last one on 28 Oct; Orkney, max 90 North Ronaldsay-Sanday 5 Oct; Highland, 1 Glen Affric 19 Oct; Grampian, 1st Glen Dye 29 Mar, last one Ythan 15 Nov; Tayside, 10 Glen Tilt 5 Oct; Fife, 25 Isle of May 5 Oct; Borders, 1st 2 St Abbs 24 Mar were the earliest; Strathclyde, 12 Inversnaid 29 Sep.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* Breeding: Orkney, 52 prs reported from 4 islands, 1st eggs Evie 9 Apr. Migration: Shetland, heavy passage 21-23 Apr with 200 Yell and max 1850 Fair Isle on 23 Apr, autumn nos meagre, 140-180/day Fair Isle 19-22 Oct; Orkney, max 200 North Ronaldsay 18 Oct; Grampian, 115 Rattray-Strathbeg 27 Oct, 300 Dallas 14-24 Dec; Fife, 300 Isle of May 27 Oct.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* Breeding: Highland, pr laid 2 clutches Glenurquhart, pr alarm calling L Laggan but not seen subsequently, 1 Tromiebridge

6 Jun. Summering stragglers were recorded in Fife, Lothian, Borders, Strathclyde in late May-early Jul. Migration: Shetland, influx 21-25 Apr, max 1280 Fair Isle on 23 Apr, singles 2-12 Jun, 22 Jun, poor autumn with max only 280 Fair Isle 28 Oct; Orkney, 1st of autumn North Ronaldsay 3 Aug, max 200 South Ronaldsay 5 Oct; Highland, 500+ Dounreay 26 Jan, 1700 Kingussie 15 Nov, 7500 Ardlach, Nairn Dist 7 Dec; Grampian, 2400SW in 1 hr Glen Muick 30 Nov, 6000 Dallas 14-24 Dec; Tayside, 1000 Harrietfield 6 Apr, 1500 Glen Artney 15 Nov; Fife, max 500 Isle of May and heavy movement Fife Ness 27 Oct; Lothian, 2500 Gullane Jan-8 Feb, 500 Penicuik 22 Nov; Borders, 775 Ormiston 25 Apr, 1 Castlecraig 26 Aug, 800 West Water 2 Nov; Strathclyde, 1200 Skeoch 11 Apr, 7 St Catherine's, Cowal 17 Aug, low autumn nos elsewhere in SW; Dumf & Gall, 1500 Gientrool 14 Nov.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* Breeding: Orkney, up to 15 prs reported from 4 islands, 1st eggs Kirkwall 15 Apr. Migration: Shetland, main passage 16-30 Apr, max 1150 Fair Isle 23 Apr; Grampian, 1345 Girdleness-Rattray 5 Oct; Fife, 200 Isle of May 16 Apr, 1500 on 5 Oct, 350 Fife Ness 5 Oct.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* Breeding: Highland, 38+ males held territories, with 18 prs proved breeding and 7 prs probable Sutherland Dist. elsewhere in Highland 26 sites located with 10 prs proved breeding and 23 singing males/prs. Migration: Shetland, main passage 21-29 Apr, max 600 Fair Isle 23 Apr, 1st Fetlar 13 Sep, main nos from 5 Oct-1 Nov, peaks 2300 Fair Isle 8 Oct, 1900 on 14 Oct; Orkney, large influx 5-18 Oct, peaks 1500 North Ronaldsay 5 Oct, 2000 on 18 Oct; Highland, 1st 2 Weydale 5 Sep, 8000 Insh Marshes 21 Nov, 2500 Ardlach 7 Dec; Grampian, thousands Dallas 14-24 Dec; Fife, 800+ Fife Ness 5 Oct, 5000 Isle of May 27 Oct; Lothian, 600 Barns Ness 5 Oct; Strathclyde, 15 Heights, Arran 3 Sep; Dumf & Gall, up to 1000/day Cree Valley 13-22 Oct when 3000 Wood of Cree reserve.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* Migration and post-breeding flocks: Shetland, strong spring passage with 10 Fair Isle 21 Apr, and 6 Whalsay-Haroldswick 22 Apr; Orkney, 5 Rousay-Graemeshall 22 Apr; Highland, 100 Insh Marshes late Aug; Tayside, 90-100 Rannoch 13 Aug, 60 Killiecrankie mid-Sep; Lothian, 11 Aberlady 7 Mar, 11W/SW North Berwick 11 Mar, 25 Edgelaw 24 Aug; Borders, 47 Robertson 25 Mar, autumn roost counts at Castlecraig peaked at 61 on 18 Aug, 38 Carterhaugh 12 Sep; Strathclyde, 60 Largs 3 Nov.

***Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella certhiola* One: Shetland, 1st winter +trapped Fair Isle 26 Sep (ABR, AR, NJR).

***Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* One: Shetland, 1st winter bird Ctrapped Fair Isle 8 Oct (DPB,IE,NJR).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* Breeding: Highland, single singing males Wick and L Watten 28 Jul-20 Aug; Grampian, singles heard at 3 sites; Fife below average, only 5 singing birds recorded; Lothian/Borders, suggestion of a slightly better year; Strathclyde, 5 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay, up to 16 territories recorded in SW; Dumf & Gall, 5 prs Wood of Cree. Migration: Shetland, up to 7 singles 3 May-17 Sep; Lothian, singles Pefferside, Scoughall 27 Apr; Dumf & Gall, 1st Wood of Cree 29 Apr.

***Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides* One: Shetland, 1 trapped Fair Isle 7 Jun (NJR).

***Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola* One: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 7 Aug (JND).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Breeding: Orkney, up to 77 singing males or prs reported from 18 sites; Highland, 30 prs Eigg, 25+ prs Insh Marshes; Grampian, probable decrease; Lothian, slight increase suggested with 32 prs breeding Duddingston and 29 territories Aberlady; Borders, improvement with 105 territories at 32 sites; Strathclyde, 30 prs Tiree, 22 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay, 21 prs Baron's Haugh, 103 territories in SW. Migration: Shetland, 1st Fair Isle 4 May, influx 18-31 May with max 14 on 24 Apr, last one on 5 Oct; Grampian, 1st Kingston 29 Apr, last one Donmouth 22 Oct; Strathclyde, 1st Heads of Ayr 26 Apr.

***Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* One: Shetland, 1st winter trapped Fair Isle 26 Sep remained till 4 Oct (DRB,JND,NJR)

***Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* Up to 13: Shetland, up to 8 individuals Fair Isle 3-25 Jun were singles except 2 on 10-11, 13, 20 Jun, in autumn 2 on 27 Aug. 1 till 28 Aug, same or another on 30 Aug. 1 on 10 Sep: Orkney. 1 North Ronaldsay 26 Aug.

***Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Shetland, singles Grutness 18 May, Quendale 22 May, Fair Isle 8 Jul, then 4 Aug-23 Sep, peaks 5 Skerries 16 Aug, 3 Fair Isle 16 Aug, 3 Fetlar 17 Aug; Orkney, 1 Hoy Lodge 12 May; Highland, 1 Wick 12 Sep; Fife. 1st yr Rosyth Aug; Borders, singing male Mire Loch 1-26 Jun.

***Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundi-naceus* One: Orkney, 1 trapped North Ronaldsay 11 Jun (MG).

***Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* Four in spring: Shetland, singles Unst 8-9 Jun, Sumburgh

19-25 Jun, Geosetter 26 Jun; Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 28-30 May. 13 in autumn: Shetland, 9 individuals from 12 Aug-27 Sep, max 2 Unst 17 Aug; Orkney, singles North Ronaldsay 25, 26 Aug; Grampian, 1 Strathbeg 3 Aug; Fife, 1 Isle of May 14 Aug.

***Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta* One: Shetland, 1 Toab 3-4 Jul (MSC,AEB).

***Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* Three: Shetland, male Haroldswick-Baltasound 12 May-2 Jun (PB,HL et al), male Fair Isle 3 Jul &(KO,NJR), 1st winter Toab, Dunrossness 23-24 Sep (ND,RE-H et al).

***Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria* Shetland, 2 main periods of passage, 14 Aug-4 Sep and 20 Sep-10 Oct, peaks 4 Fair Isle 19 Aug, 3 on 23 Sep, last one Lerwick 10 Oct; Orkney, ad North Ronaldsay 21 Jun-4 Aug, up to 20 individuals from 5 Aug-3 Oct, max 3 or 4 North Ronaldsay 25-27 Sep; West Isles, singles St Kilda 27 Aug ø, Stilligarry, South Uist 16 Sep; Highland, singles Wick 1 Sep, Staxigeo 21 Sep; Grampian, 1 Rattray 15 Aug; Fife, 1 Isle of May 12-13 Aug; Borders, 1 St Abbs 5 Oct.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* Breeding: Grampian, 3 prs bred Aberdeen; Lothian, up to 16 territories recorded, 2 prs proved breeding; Borders, 6 singing males recorded, 3 prs proved breeding; Strathclyde, 5 prs Central Strathclyde, up to 6 territories recorded in SW, 2-3 prs bred; Dumf & Gall, 2 singing males recorded, may have bred. Migration: Shetland, 1 May-11 Jun, max 7 Fair Isle 8 May, singles 5 Jul, 14-15 Aug, then daily 11 Sep-7 Oct, max 4 on 27 Sep, last 2 on 12 Oct; Orkney, max 4 North Ronaldsay 2 May, 3 on 27 Sep, 1 Papa Westray 2 Jul, 1 probable *blythi* Deerness 25 Oct; Highland, 1 Kiltarlity 1 Jun; Tayside, 5 Usan 5-6 May; Fife, 1st Fife Ness 26 Apr, 50 Isle of May 2 May; 2Strathclyde, 1st Heads of Ayr 28 Apr.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Breeding: Lothian, 17 territories Ormiston railway (22 in 1985); Strathclyde, suggestion of good season with stable nos; Dumf & Gall, increase Wigtown Dist, 15 prs Wood of Cree (7 in 1985). Migration: Shetland, main passage 2 May-1 Jun, max 7 Fair Isle 24 May, 5 Skerries 29 May, scarce in autumn with singles 14 Aug-6 Oct; Fife, 1st Wemyss 1 May, 10 Isle of May 26 May; Borders, last one St Abbs 8 Oct; Strathclyde, 1st 2 Heads of Ayr 29 Apr.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Breeding: Grampian, proved breeding Pluscarden, Moray Dist where definite proof seldom obtainable; Fife, increase noted; Borders, slight improvement; Strathclyde, continues strong in SW with up to 80 territories recorded. Migration: Shetland, scarce in spring 27 Apr-21 Jun, max 3 Fair Isle 3 Jun,

stronger autumn passage 7 Aug-19 Oct, peaks 35 Fair Isle 16 Aug, 20 Fetlar 17 Aug; Orkney, max 7 North Ronaldsay 26, 27 Sep, last one Wideford Burn 25 Oct; Fife, max 9 Isle of May 26 Aug; Strathclyde, 1st Camas Cuin, Mull 24 Apr; Strathclyde, juv Ailsa Craig 24 Sep.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Breeding: Highland, male Egg 17 May-2 Jul; Tayside, 5 or 6 prs Killiecrankie (1 in 1984); Lothian, min 94 territories recorded; Borders, decrease to 29 territories at 17 sites; Strathclyde, min 102 territories recorded in SW. Migration: Shetland, light passage 21 Apr-26 Jun, in autumn 26 Aug-30 Nov, max 7 Fetlar 7 Oct; Orkney, max 9 North Ronaldsay 14 Oct, last 3 Eday 29 Nov; main arrival in S Scotland around 25-27 Apr but Strathclyde, 1st Culzean 16 Apr, 1 Apr 22 Apr. Winter records: monthly breakdown gave Jan (17), Feb (10), Mar (4). Higher nos in Dec (44) showed almost half of records in N Scotland.

***Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* One: Shetland, 1 Skerries 15-16 Aug (ET)Ø. Highland, presumed hybrid Greenish x Willow Warbler L Vaa 8 Jun (RCD, RHD et al)Ø.

***Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* One: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 12-18 Sep (ABa, NJR).



Yellow-browed Warbler.

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***Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Another good autumn with min 130 birds recorded. Shetland, min 73 birds, 1 Unst 13 Sep, influx from 25 Sep-2 Oct, max 14 Fair Isle 27 Sep, second influx 4-15 Oct, max 6 Lerwick 6 Oct; Orkney, min 27 birds 24 Sep-30 Oct, max 5 North Ronaldsay 27 Sep; West Isles, singles 30 miles W of

Sula Sgeir 13 Oct, Stilligarry, South Uist 18-23 Oct, Stornoway 25 Nov; Highland, 9 birds Caithness/ Sutherland Dist 13 Sep-15 Nov; Grampian, 7 birds 4-13 Oct; Tayside, 1 Usan 5-6 Oct; Fife, singles Isle of May 26 Sep, 18 Oct, Fife Ness 28 Sep, 4-5 Oct; Lothian, 1 Barns Ness 14 Oct; Borders, 5-7 birds St Abbs 24 Sep-16 Oct.

***Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatu*s Two: Shetland, 1st winter trapped Fair Isle T14 Nov (MGP, NJR); 1st winter Kergord 15-21 Nov (DRB, MP et al).

***Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli* One: Orkney, 1 trapped Graemeshall, Holm 26 Oct, present till 15 Nov (RGA, ERM).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Breeding: Tayside, good nos; Borders, slight increase to 38 territories at 13 sites; Strathclyde, min 72 territories L Lomondside, 16 territories Arran, up to 35 territories recorded in SW; Dumf & Gall, decrease to 33 prs Wood of Cree. Migration: Shetland, light passage 10-26 May, 19 Aug-16 Oct, max 3 Fair Isle 26 Aug; Orkney, 1st Deerness 5 May; Borders, 1st St Abbs 30 Apr; Strathclyde, 1st Tironan, Mull 29 Apr.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Breeding: no real changes suggested, but good year Borders with 36 territories at 16 sites; Strathclyde, 93 territories recorded in SW, mostly S of Ayr. Migration: Shetland, light passage 18 Apr-15 Jun, 14 Aug-2 Nov, peaks 13 Fair Isle on 23 Apr, 15 Lerwick 15 Oct; Orkney, 1st Hoy 17 Apr, max 15 Holm 22 Apr; Grampian, last one Bridge of Don 19 Nov; Fife, last one Wormiston 15 Nov; Strathclyde, 1st Culzean 28 Mar, late bird Connel 13 Nov. Winter records: monthly breakdown gave Jan (5), Feb (1), Dec (21) with most records (18) in S Scotland.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Breeding: Orkney, 9 prs reported at 5 sites; Highland, suggestion of poor year with 20 prs Garten CBC (22 in 1985) and 153 ringed Drumadrochit Jul-Aug (327 in 1985); Lothian, 38-41 territories Threipmuir, 21 territories Aberlady; Strathclyde, 64 prs bred L Gruinart reserve, Islay, poor season in SW with very few juvs; Dumf & Gall, decrease to 115 prs Wood of Cree. Migration: Shetland, light spring passage 28 Apr-8 Jun, max 14 Fair Isle 11 May, in autumn from 2 Aug-17 Oct, max 50 Fair Isle 28 Aug; Highland, 1st 2 Scrabster 6 Apr, last one Staxigeo 19 Oct; Fife, 50 Isle of May 3 May, last one Fife Ness 24 Oct; Lothian, 1st Dirleton 31 Mar; Borders, 40 St Abbs 4 May, 30 on 19 Aug; Strathclyde, 1st Ardeer 3 Apr although main arrival from mid Apr.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Breeding: populations in Tayside and Borders reported to be well down

on usual. Migration showed lowest nos for many years in both spring and autumn: Shetland, very light passage 18 Mar-24 May; extremely poor in autumn 26 Sep-31 Oct, max 12 Fair Isle 8 Oct; Orkney, influx 21-22 Apr with 42 birds at 4 sites.

***Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus* Only one: Borders, 1 St Abbs 27 May (RDM).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Breeding: Orkney, 2 prs bred; local increases Highland and Grampian, little change suggested in S Scotland, continues to colonise clearfell areas in SW Scotland. Migration: Shetland, 11 May-25 Jun, max 8 Fair Isle 11 Jun, last one Sumburgh 24 Oct; Highland, 1st Roybridge 4 May; Fife, 30 Isle of May 26 May; Lothian, 1st Blackford Pond 5 May; Strathclyde, 2 Lamlash, Arran 1 May; main arrival was later than usual, from around 18-22 May.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* A poor year with four in spring, and only 11 in autumn: Shetland, singles Fair Isle 8-10 May, Whalsay 15 May, 1 Lerwick 8 Oct, 2 on 16 Oct, 2 Kergord 11 Oct, 1 Quendale 2 Nov; Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 10-12 May, 4 singles 27 Sep-25 Oct plus an extraordinary record of one Orphir 9 Dec; Fife, 1 Isle of May 7-8 May.

***Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis* One: Shetland, 1st yr trapped Fair Isle 8 Oct (NJR)Ø.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breeding: Highland, 14 nests Aviemore, mcs 6.1, mbs 4.7, only 1 nest failed; Tayside, 8 prs bred Killiecrankie; Strathclyde, 2 prs bred Inveraray, 12 territories Inversnaid-Cailness 25 May, another good year in SW; Dumf & Gall, good year with 13 nests Wood of Cree. Migration was very poor with few places reporting more than 10; Shetland, small nos in spring 9 May-12 Jun, in autumn 9 Aug-25 Oct, max 11 Fair Isle 28 Aug; West Isles, 2 Grogarry, South Uist 4 Oct, 1 Horgabost, Harris 13 Oct; Borders, 1st St Abbs 3 May.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Breeding: reported as very scarce in E Lothian Dist but this may represent a local decline since Borders nos appear healthier than feared in 1985; Strathclyde, good season Argyll, suggestion of good season in SW. Counts: Strathclyde, c100 in 3 flocks Troon 16 Jan, 60 Brodick 7 Sep, 70+ Culzean Dec.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris* Information on distribution remains scarce, with SE Scotland continuing to be the stronghold. Lothian, 2 Woodhall Dean 10 May; Borders, up to 10 prs reported with min 3 prs Hirsell, most records come from Eyemouth-Coldstream-Melrose areas.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus* Like Marsh Tit, the distribution is local but a bit more widespread,

principally in SW Scotland, records in SE Scotland coming under increasing scrutiny. Strathclyde, single prs reported Jerviswood and Possil L, 3-4 prs probably bred Dalmellington; Dumf & Gall, population stable.

Crested Tit *Parus cristatus* Breeding: Highland, 4 prs Garten CBC (6 in 1985), pr with min 1 young Ardochy 29 Jun, 1 Fort Augustus 10 Feb; Grampian: only 5 prs in boxes Culbin Forest (8-9 most years), good fledging success, ave 5.8 young/pr, 7-8 prs Lossie Forest.

Coal Tit *Parus ater* Migration: no remarkable nos as in 1985 with the only notable records being Orkney, 1 South Ronaldsay 14 Oct; Strathclyde, 4 Ailsa Craig 12 Mar.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* Breeding, a very poor year throughout Scotland with high chick mortality mainly due to bad weather: Grampian, population at low level Culbin Forest where 4 prs in nestboxes (25 in 1985), 6 prs in nestboxes Lossie Forest (19 in 1985), fledging success poor due to cold weather; Tayside, low nos Killiecrankie where 7 prs in nestboxes (30 in 1985); Lothian, 27 territories Roslin CBC; Dumf & Gall, very poor season with many young dead in nestboxes Jun. Migration: Orkney, 1 Kirkwall 5 May.

Great Tit *Parus major* Breeding: Grampian, very poor season Lossie Forest where 19 prs in nestboxes (49 in 1985), high mortality due to bad weather with ave 1.8 fledged young/pr, 7 prs in nestboxes Culbin Forest (11 in 1985); Highland, 8 prs Garten CBC (5 in 1985); Dumf & Gall, poor success Glentroot. Migration: Shetland, 1 Mid Walls 1 May; Orkney, 2 Stromness 8 Feb; Fife, 1 Isle of May 19 Mar.

***Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* Two: Borders, 1 Longformacus 4, 18 Apr (RRE), 1 Kelso 17 Jul (WI)Ø.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* No obvious change in breeding population suggested from few reports.

***Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* Migration: Shetland, singles Mid Yell 7-14 May, 5 Jun, Quarff 9-13 Jun, Fair Isle 11 Jun, Walls 13 Jun; West Isles, 1 North Rona 21 Jun; Borders, 1 St Abbs 10 May, 2 on 14 May, singles Burnmouth 22 May, Ayton 22 May.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* Migration: Shetland, c35 birds from 5 May-13 Jun, main movement early, max 5 Fair Isle 9 May, only 4 in autumn from 25 Aug, last one exceptionally late Fair Isle 4 Nov; Orkney, 5-6 singles 8-13 May, 1 Eday 27 Sep; Highland, singles Wick 8-11 May, 9 May; Grampian, 1 Ythan 15 May; Tayside, 1

Kirriemuir 11 May; Fife, 2 Fife Ness 7-11 May, 1 Isle of May 8 Jul; Borders, 3 singles St Abbs 7-27 May, 1 on 30 Aug; Strathclyde, 1 Endrick Mouth 29 Aug-1 Sep.

***Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor* One: Shetland, 1 Otterswick, Yell 31 May (DP)ø.

***Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor* Another very poor year with only 22 birds recorded: Shetland, singles Fair Isle 21-23 Apr, Norwick 24 Apr, Fair Isle 6-13 Oct, 2 on 13 Oct, Eswick 16 Nov; Orkney, 2 North Ronaldsay 22 Feb, singles Auskerry 21 Apr, Eday 30 Apr, North Ronaldsay 5-11 Oct, Eday 10-11 Oct; Highland, singles L Garten 23-25 Jan, Dorback 26 Jan, Eskadale 27 Apr, Kilfinan 24 Oct, Torlundy 26 Oct, Fortrose 6 Dec; Fife, 1 Ceres 18 Jan; Borders, 1 Hoardweel 21 Apr; Strathclyde, singles Lennox Forest 1-9 Mar, Aird Meadows 14-15 Nov; Dumf & Gall, 1 Hensol, L Ken 22 Nov-Dec.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Two: Strathclyde, juv Ailsa Craig 25-26 Sep (BZ); Dumf & Gall, ad female Lorg, Ken Valley at least 23 Jul-17 Aug (MK,ADW et al)ø.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Breeding: continues to do well in parts of Tayside, SW Strathclyde and Dumf & Gall; expansion reported Borders, and Lorn area of Strathclyde. Elsewhere: Grampian, 1 Craigellachie mid-Apr; Lothian, singles Tynninghame 21 Jul, 6 Sep.

Magpie *Pica pica* Breeding: still increasing in some areas e.g. Fife, and possibly Borders, but has not made any progress in E Lothian Dist and still absent in much of SW Strathclyde, but 36 nests located in NS35. Elsewhere: Highland, pr Mey all year, 1 Thurso 7 Apr, Lochinver 15 Apr; Grampian, 34 Kirkhill Forest 27 Dec; Fife, 1 Isle of May 9 May was 1st record for island; Central, 35 Upper Kinneil 16 Nov.

Chough *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* Strathclyde, no breeding details but Islay flock counts included 50-60 Kilchoman 15 Mar, 48 L Gorm 16 Mar. 1 Tirez during winter 1985-86, 2 in Jun.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* Status uncertain Shetland where no evidence of breeding; Orkney, 44 nests at 3 sites. Counts: Highland, 7000 Aviemore 18 Dec; Strathclyde, 7000 Symington, Clydesdale Dist 21 Dec, 8000 Barochan Moss 26 Dec. Migration: Shetland, peak 11 Sumburgh and 13 Fleck 25 Oct. Birds showing characteristics of Scandinavian *monedula*: Strathclyde, 8 birds in SW 2 Jan-13 Mar, 4-13 Dec.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* Breeding: Shetland, sample 30 nests Kergord gave mbs 2.1; Orkney,

182 nests at 6 sites; Lothian, sample area Midlothian Dist showed 2.9% increase in nests; Borders, 1192 nests at 19 sites; Strathclyde, 1383 prs Monklands and East Kilbride Dist, total survey of SW (Ayrshire) gave 24,054 nests at 311 sites. Counts: Highland, 2500 Thurso 10 Feb, 4000 Aviemore 18 Dec; Strathclyde, 18,000 Symington, Clydesdale Dist 21 Dec, 15,500 Barochan Moss 26 Dec. Migration: Shetland, most from 9 Mar-29 May, max 7 Fair Isle 9 May, 2 on 2 Sep; Strathclyde, influx of 56 birds Mull Oct-Nov.

Carriion Crow *Corvus corone* Counts: Highland, 227 L Mallachie 12 Oct; Grampian, 200 Skene 16 Feb, 200 Findhorn 22 Feb; Lothian, 140 Dalmeny 19 Jan; Strathclyde, 163 Doonfoot 12 Aug. Migration: Shetland, more *corone* than usual, main passage May, max 11 Fair Isle 17 May.

Raven *Corvus corax* Breeding: Shetland, good season in most areas but only moderate Fair Isle; Orkney, min 42 prs reported, 14 prs reared 42 young Mainland; Highland, 5 prs Egg, 4 prs reared 15 young; Tayside, 4 prs bred successfully; Central, 6 prs reared 12+ young; Strathclyde, 52 sites located Mull, 10 prs reared ave 3 young/pr Knapdale, 15+ prs Arran reared min 15 young, 5 prs reared 13 young in SW. Counts: Shetland, 100 Skaw, Unst 7 Mar; Orkney, 75 Mainland roost 10 Apr; Lothian, 2 birds at several locations Midlothian Dist 27 Feb-19 Apr were 1st Lothian records since 1981; Strathclyde, 150 Tobermory 30 Jan.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Counts: Orkney, 5000 Graemeshall 18 Aug; Highland, 10,000 Spittal Hill, Caithness Dist 8 Oct; Grampian, 11,000N Inverugie 23 Feb; Fife, 5300 Strathkinnes 9 Feb; Lothian, 5000 Musselburgh 17 Feb; Borders, 8-10,000 St Abbs 26 Feb; Strathclyde, 10-12,000 Heart L, Maybole 23 Oct.

***Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus* One: Shetland, 1st summer male Noss U14-18 Jun, probably same East Burra 23-28 Jun (PVH,DS,RMW,GM).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Highest counts were: Shetland, 220 Fair Isle 22 Sep; Orkney, 648 North Ronaldsay 21 Sep; Highland, 300 Wick 1 Aug.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Breeding: very little information available on breeding distribution, but most were reported using nestboxes Tayside. Counts: Highland, 55 Longman 1 Aug; Grampian, 100 Miltonhill 14 Feb, 70 Clochan 31 Dec; Tayside, 50 L Leven 30 Nov; Fife, 70 Parbroath 25 Feb; Strathclyde, 110 Prestwick area 21 Dec.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Breeding: Shetland, pr bred Kergord, 1st since 1973; Highland, 46 prs Garten CBC (21 in 1985); Grampian, 17 prs Clochan census area: Lothian, 35 prs Scoughall (30 in 1985). Few really large flocks counted, most being in the 300-800 range, but some persisted into breeding season, perhaps a sign of the poor weather: Shetland, max 250 Fair Isle 22 Apr; Highland, 3000 Bonar Bridge Jan; Grampian, 1000 Craigie 25 Jan; Tayside, 1000 Pitlochry 7, 24 Jan.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Summer: Highland, single males at 2 sites early May; Borders, male St Abbs 2 Aug. Winter/spring: Shetland, large movement 21 Apr-1 May, peaks 85 Skerries 21 Apr, 725 Fair Isle 23 Apr; Orkney, 80 Lyness 22 Apr; Highland, 200 Embo 23 Feb, 200 Redcastle 25 Feb; Grampian, 100 Miltonhill Feb; Tayside 150 Carnoustie 8 Feb; Fife, 250 Parbroath 16 Feb; Central, 300 Standburn, Falkirk 28 Jan, 400 Arnprior 9 Mar; Lothian, 400 Bothwell Farm, Lammermuirs 18 Jan, 800 East Hermiston 23 Feb; Borders, 650 Denholm 30 Jan, 550 Kilbucho 9 Feb; Strathclyde, 800 Cranley 26 Jan, 1000 Logoch 26 Mar, low nos in SW. Autumn: Shetland, 1st 15 Fair Isle 23 Sep, max 600 on 5 Oct, 150 Fetlar 14 Oct; Orkney, 201 North Ronaldsay 16 Oct; Highland, 200 Drumnadrochit late Oct; Fife, 700 Isle of May 5 Oct; Lothian, 800 Moorfoot Farm 7 Dec; Borders, 1st St Abbs 24 Sep, 300 Portmore 14 Dec; low nos in SW.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* Counts: Highland, 500+ Olrig 2 Feb; Grampian, 250 Gilston 9 Jan, 600 Collieston 2-3 Mar; Strathclyde, 500 Ladykirk, Prestwick 21 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 300+ Stranraer 14 Dec; many other winter flocks of 100-200 reported mostly from S Scotland.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Counts: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 19-20 May, 3 on 25-26 Oct, 1 Lerwick 19-21 Nov (this species is very scarce in Shetland); West Isles, male Berneray, North Uist 7 Feb; Fife, 48 Lower Largo 9 Sep; Lothian, 50 Aberlady Aug; Borders, 200+ Ruberslaw 2 Feb; Strathclyde, 120 L. Gruinart reserve, Islay Sep, 60 Cumnock 22 Sep; Dumf & Gall, flocks totalling a few hundred Carsluith 20 Sep.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* Breeding: Highland, 6 prs Garten CBC (11 in 1985); SW Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall, poor success with few remaining due to failure of cone crop. This may partly explain the widespread reports of birds visiting gardens in much higher nos than usual, as well as remaining into summer in some. Counts: West Isles, 2 Stornoway 12 May; Highland, large nos in spring when c600 birds caught Golspie, influx Scourie Apr-May; Highland, 130 Bruichnain 12 Jan; Grampian, 200+ caught in Aberdeen gardens Feb-Apr; high spring nos Tayside, Lothian, Borders, and most of SW Scotland with many wandering

summer birds in this area; Central, 100 Stronend 16 Sep.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* Counts: Orkney, 80 Stenness 9 Sep; West Isles, 5 Clachan Farm, North Uist 1 Jul; Grampian, 500 Inverugie 4 Jan, 700 Collieston 2-3 Mar; Lothian, 2000 East Craigie 27 Feb, 1000 Musselburgh Sep; Strathclyde, 650 Thankerton 21 Dec.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* Breeding: Orkney, min 41 prs reported at 17 sites; Strathclyde, 30-40 Ailsa Craig mid Aug were mostly juvs. Counts: Shetland, 370 Fair Isle 27 Sep, 500 Quendale 31 Nov; West Isles, 647 North Uist 18 Feb; Highland, 450+ Janetstown 30 Dec, 600 in 2 flocks Bonar Bridge Dec; Grampian, 215 Glenlivet 8 Apr; Fife, 300 Parbroath 25 Feb. Many counts of winter flocks of 100-150 in area to SW of Midlothian Dist, remains scarce in SE Scotland.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* Breeding: Dumf & Gall, poor season with low nos Glentroot. Counts: Highland, 100 Kyllachy 19 Oct; Grampian, 100 Aberdeen 26 Dec; Borders, 350 Reston 2-5 Mar; Strathclyde, 150-200N Mealdarroch Jan. Mealy Redpoll *C. flammea*: Shetland, max 20 Fair Isle 23 Apr; Grampian, 3 St Combs 25 Jan, 3 Drums 5 Oct; Lothian, 50 Gladhouse 1 Jan; Strathclyde, 5 Ayr 5 Jan, 6 Connel 17 Feb.

***Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni* Two: West Isles, 1 Stilligarry, South Uist 9 Dec (TJD); Highland, 1 L Hope 10-20 Apr (PB, KBS).

***Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera* Two: Shetland, male trapped Fair Isle 1 Sep (JH, NJR); Strathclyde, female from 1985 Carron Valley to at least 31 Mar 9(per PBr).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* Breeding: SW Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall, poor season Glentroot due to failure of cone crop, indications that very few bred. Counts: Shetland, small influx Jun, max 6 Kergord 3 Jun; Orkney, 15 Hoy 1 Mar, 20 in Jul, 30 Finstown 3 Jul; West Isles, 30 Stornoway Woods 1 Jul, several Garynahine, Lewis 22 Nov; Grampian, 50 Strathbeg 27 Jun; Tayside, 43 Killiecrankie Jun; Central, 150 Carron Valley 29 Mar; Lothian, 150 Crosswood 5-6 Mar; Borders, 50 Glentress 29 Mar, 50 Shieldgreen 19 May.

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* Breeding: Highland, 4 prs Garten CBC (3 in 1985), 30+ juvs on 12 Jun; Grampian, male with 2 juvs Milltown 21 Jun. Counts: Grampian, 38 Glen Tanar 5 May.

***Parrot Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* One: Shetland, male Fair Isle 13 Oct (NJR)Ø.

***Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* 16 in spring, 35+ in autumn: Shetland, 8 singles 8 May-

24 Jun, min 24 birds 14 Aug-11 Oct, max 7 Fair Isle 24 Sep; Orkney, 5 singles 20 May-27 Jun, 8 birds 16 Aug-8 Oct, max 3 North Ronaldsay 24, 27 Sep; Highland, 2 singing males at different sites mid Jun-Jul, 1 Sandside Burn 18 Jun, 2 Wick 12-13 Sep, 1 on 14, 21 Sep; Grampian, 1 Rattray 25 Oct.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Migration/counts: Shetland, only 5 in year, max 3 Fair Isle 15 Nov; West Isles, 1 Stornoway 22 Dec; Grampian, 50 Dallas 14-24 Dec; Tayside, 53 Killiecrankie 25 Jan; Lothian, 30 Hopes 13 Feb.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Breeding: Tayside, prs bred Killiecrankie and Scone where max 9 on 8 Mar, reports from 4 other sites; Central, pr Lochearnhead, 2-3 Dunblane 15 Feb, 4 Doune 19 Feb; Lothian, max 6 Botanic Gdns, Edinburgh 4 Apr; Borders, pr B/4 Hirsell 8 Jul, singles at 2 other sites. Migration: Shetland, up to 16 birds 19 Apr-26 May, max 4 Unst 3-21 May, 1 Kergord 19-27 Oct; Orkney, 17 birds 23 Apr-16 Jun; Highland, singles Wick 23-28 Apr, Ackergill 26 Apr, Langwell 17 May; Grampian, 1 Aboyne 31 May-1 Jun; Fife, singles Glenrothes 11 Apr, Isle of May 24-25 Jun; Borders, 1 St Abbs 2 May; Strathclyde, 4 Gruinart, Islay 23 Feb; Dumf & Gall, 1 Laurieston 14 Dec.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* Winter/spring: Shetland, 9 birds 17 Mar-3 Jun; Orkney, singles Deerness 26 Feb, North Ronaldsay 26-27 May; Grampian, 3 Greg Ness 22 Feb; Tayside, singles Arbroath 19 Jan, Elliot 6 Apr; Fife, max 17 Fife Ness 3 Jan; Lothian, 17 Aberlady 1 Jan, 1 on 2-4 May; Strathclyde, singles Glasgow airport 26 Jan, Calderbank 22 Feb. Autumn: Shetland, 2 Sep-11 Nov, peaks 5 Skerries 2 Sep, 9 Fair Isle 14 Sep; Orkney, max 5 North Ronaldsay 27 Sep; West Isles, male 30 miles W of Sula Sgeir 13 Oct; Highland, 1 Tarbatness 8 Oct; Grampian, 9 Cruden Bay 30 Nov; Fife, singles Isle of May 29 Sep, 16 Oct; Central, 1 Kinneil 25 Oct; Lothian, 15 Aberlady 16 Nov, 5 Musselburgh 26, 28 Dec; Borders, max 31 Eyemouth 29 Dec; Strathclyde, 1 dead Skerryvore 2 Dec; Dumf & Gall, 3W Mull of Galloway 3 Oct.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Breeding: Highland/Grampian, c13 sites held potential breeding birds, 8 or 9 prs proved breeding. Migration/counts: good nos in N Scotland, and many areas of SE Scotland: Shetland, from 3 Sep Fair Isle, max 400 on 11 Nov; Orkney, 450 Stenness 31 Dec; Highland, 1-2000 Kinbeachie 7-12 Feb, 800 Reay 16 Nov; Grampian, 750 Collieston 2 Mar; Central, 150 Spout of Ballochlean 17 Dec; Lothian, 200 Threipmuir 11 Feb, 155 Musselburgh 27 Nov-6 Dec; Strathclyde, c50 Beinn a' Bhuiridh 8-9 Nov.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* Breeding: Grampian, decline to 10 prs Clochan census area (20 in 1985). Migration/counts: Shetland, fewer than 4 in spring, none in autumn; Orkney, 5 singles 15 Mar-3 May; Grampian, 100 Ordie 2 Feb, 300 Miltonhill 14 Feb; Fife, 120 Parbroath 16 Feb.

***Oortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* A very poor year with only four in spring, two in autumn: Shetland, male Fair Isle 15 May, female on 21 May, male on 23 May, male on 26-28 May, 1 on 2 Sep, 1 Skerries 19 Oct.

***Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* Four: Shetland, female Fair Isle 15 May (NJR)♂, male on 19-21 Jun (KO, NJR), 1 on 21-22 Oct (MGP, NJR); Grampian, 1 Drums 5 Oct 7 (GMC, WNH).

***Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* Up to 10: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 8-13 Sep (MGP, NJR), 1 on 5-9 Oct (DRB, NJR), 1 Whalsay 8-12 Oct (BM)♂, 1 Fair Isle 21-25 Oct (MGP, NJR), 1 on 22-24 Oct (DRB et al); Orkney, 1 St Ola 11 May (Mrs N & WH), 1 North Ronaldsay 24-27 Sep (CMcG, KFW), 1 on 25-28 Sep (RJS, CMcG); Highland, male Longman dump 15 Jan-9 Feb (SJA, RHD et al), another male Tarradale 18 Feb-27 Apr, perhaps from 31 Jan (SJA, MKMcD).

****Chestnut Bunting** *Emberiza rutila* One: Shetland, 1st summer male Fair Isle 15-16 Jun (KO, AW, NJR).

***Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola* Seven: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 14-16 Sep (SJMGP, NJR), 1 on 16 Sep (JH, NJR), 1 on 21 Sep (DS et al), 1 Virkie 21 Sep (CJMCK G), 1 Fair Isle 23-27 Sep (GKG, PVH, DS), 1 on 27-28 Sep (GKG, MGP), 1 on 5-7 Oct (DRB, NJR).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Breeding: Shetland, 2 prs bred Fetlar; Orkney, min 302 prs reported; Lothian, 32 prs Aberlady, 20-23 prs Threipmuir; Borders, 45 territories at 25 sites; Strathclyde, 20-25 prs Tiree. Migration/counts: Shetland, main passage 21 Apr-23 May, 5-29 Oct, peaks 36 Fair Isle 23 Apr, 30 on 6, 9 Oct; Orkney, 70 North Ronaldsay 23 Sep; Highland, 70 L Winless 2 Mar, 70 Tannoch 28-29 Dec; Grampian, 80 Collieston 23 Feb-3 Mar; Strathclyde, 65 L Gruinart reserve, Islay Jan.

***Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* Two: Shetland, male Virkie 23-29 Jun (IS, DC), male Fair Isle 3 Jul (WM, KO, AW).

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* Breeding: Orkney, 5 singing males Sanday; Highland, no records Caithness Dist, and continued decline Tarbatness; Grampian, 20 singing males located Moray Dist;

population said to remain unchanged E Fife; Central, 3 territories Bo'ness; now fewer than 10 territories recorded in Lothian and SW Strathclyde and at a low ebb Dumf & Gall. Migration/counts: Orkney, 20 Parigo 8 Feb; Grampian, 100 St Combs 25 Jan, 300 Sand L/Collieston 2 Mar; Tayside, 60

Lunan Bay 26 Jan; Fife, 60 Anstruther 1 Mar; Lothian, 25 Drem 19 Jan.

***Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* One: Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 29 Sep-2 Oct (PVH,NJR) is 2nd Scottish record.

Additional BBRC decisions

The following records have all been accepted by BBRC: 1982 **Blue-winged Teal** Lothian, male shot Newliston 29 Sep; 1983 **Crane** Highland, 1 Lothbeg 14 May; 1984 **Ring-necked Duck** Shetland, male Sandness/Norby 20 Nov to at least 7 Jul 1985; **Killdeer** Strathclyde, 1 Colonsay 7-8 Jan; **Arctic Redpoll** Shetland, 25 Fair Isle between 19 Oct and 19 Nov, 1 West Burra 16-18 Nov, 2 on 18 Nov, Highland, 1 Melvich 29 Sep; **Black-headed Bunting** Orkney, male Westray 14 Jul; 1985 **Pied-billed Grebe** West Isles, 1 L na Liana Moire, South Uist till 22 Aug; **Surf Scoter** Highland, male L Gairloch 23 May; **Crane** Dumf & Gall, 1 Caerlaverock end Aug-30 Dec; **Long-billed Dowitcher** Tayside, 1 Port Allen 13-17 Aug; **Wilson's Phalarope** Highland, 1st winter Inverness 3-4 Sep; **Ring-billed Gull** Lothian, 1st winter Musselburgh 23 Feb additional to other 1985 bird; **Little Swift** Fife, 1 St Andrew's 29 May (ACWilson) is 1st record for Scotland; **Desert Wheatear** Highland, male Freswick till 13 Jan; **Subalpine Warbler** Shetland, female/1st winter Sumburgh 23-24 Aug; **Arctic Warbler** Shetland, 1st winter Fair Isle 3 Sep, another on 11 Sep; **Arctic Redpoll** Shetland, singles Fair Isle 4-14 May, 25-26 May, Lothian, 1 Whiteadder Res 2-19 Jan; **Little Bunting** Shetland, additional singles Fair Isle 23-25 Sep, 23-26 Oct; **Yellow-breasted Bunting** Shetland, 1 Fair Isle 7-10 Oct, Orkney, 1 North Ronaldsay 22-24 Sep; **Chestnut Bunting** Fife, 1st year Isle of May 11 Jun (Cat D). The following record has been rejected after review:- 1972 **Two-barred Crossbill** Shetland, male Kergord 6-13 Jul.

Corrections to 1985 SBR

Additions: **Grey Heron** Borders, 13 sites held 130 nests; **Mute Swan** Borders, 36 prs and 18 non-breeding prs, 16 nests produced 62 juvs; **Smew** Borders, female Hirsell 16 Mar; **Moorhen** Borders, 40 prs, 23 broods totalled 54 juvs; **Coot** 7 Borders, 145 prs, 79 broods totalled 209 juvs; **Corncrake** Borders, 1 summered near West Linton; **Grey Phalarope** Borders, 1 Eyemouth Bay 16 Nov; **Long-tailed Skua** Highland, singles Chanony Pt 6 Oct, 10 Nov, 14 Nov; **Garden Warbler** Borders, 17 singing males represented decline (49 in 1984); **Golden Oriole** Grampian, pr Deeside during summer; **Hawfinch** Borders, pr Hendersyde, Kelso all year. Amendments: **Red-throated Diver** Borders, date for record should read 30 Jul-1 Nov; **Great Northern Diver** L Muick is in Grampian; **Fulmar** Aberlour is in Grampian; **Pink-footed Goose** Carsebreck is in Tayside; **Greylag Goose** Borders, 6350 Dowlaw should read 6350 Hoselaw; **Nearctic Teal** Orkney, correct dates are L of Isbister 5-14 Jan; **Surf Scoter** Lothian, correct dates of male Gosford Bay are 21-22 Mar, 12-17 Apr; **Coot** Carsebreck is in Tayside; **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Orkney, correct date is Papa Westray 21 Sep; **Whimbrel** Borders, max count was 35W Eyemouth 5 Sep; **Common Tern** Strathclyde, 200 prs Port Olmsa, Colonsay should read 20 prs; **Rock Dove** count for Central refers to ferals; **Stock Dove** Vane Farm is in Tayside; **Sand Martin** L Leven is in Tayside; **Black Redstart** Strathclyde, 1 Troon till 26 May should read till 26 Mar; **Reed Warbler** Tayside, 1 Errol 3-9 Aug should read singles on 3 Aug and 9 Aug; **Firecrest** Borders, correct date at St Abbs is 8 Apr; **Ortolan Bunting** Fife, single Fife Ness 19 May was rejected by SBRC; **Little Bunting** Orkney, Torness is in North Ronaldsay.

Rarity Descriptions

Bobolink on Fair Isle

The bird was seen by several observers on the morning of 29 September 1986, but all had thought it was just a very bright Yellow-breasted Bunting! At about 1 p.m. PH phoned to say there was a Bobolink at Springfield. It was at Skerryholm when we arrived, but very flighty. It flew briefly on to a fence, then up into the sky, high towards Orkney in the company of Skylarks, before turning back and heading north over the island and out of sight. My view of features was virtually nil, but I was surprised that it could have been confused with Yellow-breasted Bunting because its underparts were a bright (almost orange-) yellow, and because in bulk it was not far removed from Skylark with some of that species' broadness of wing. The bird was not relocated till 1 October. At lunchtime D. Bird announced that he had brief views of what was almost certainly the Bobolink in the oat crop at Bull's Park. After lunch we all trooped up and saw it, but it frequently fled in cover. By concentrating on different features each time it flew, an 'identikit' picture of plumage details was built up. The following day was windier, and better views were obtained by NJR as it sat on a fence, then on some turnips.

Description: Size and shape: hardly smaller than a Skylark on first view. I would estimate that it was about the same size and bulk as a male Corn Bunting. The tail looked long and narrow, and appeared very ragged at the tip (almost as if wet — though both bird and weather dry when seen). The bill looked disproportionately large and long in comparison with buntings. Wings seemed rather broad, particularly the basal part.

Head pattern: very distinctive. Boldly marked (somewhat similar to, but without the ear-covert pattern of a Yellow-breasted Bunting). A very broad brown-black lateral crown stripe ran from base of bill to hind crown where it seemed to taper slightly at end. Central crown stripe fairly narrow but well demarcated, pale yellow. Broad pale yellow supercilium, running same length as lateral crown stripe, underlined by thickish dark brown eyestripe running backwards from eye, straight and ending

relatively square above rear of ear coverts. Ear-coverts pale brown with slight hint of yellowish, fairly plain but slightly flecked darker. Lores looked dull grey (no colour discernible).

Upperparts: nape rather pale brown appearing virtually unstreaked (some very subtle fine streaking apparent when on fence). Mantle by contrast heavily streaked. General background tone pale yellowish-brown but with a fairly heavy dark brown streaking. Mantle dominated by two obvious off-white or yellowish white braces, running parallel at either side of mantle from upper mantle towards scapulars — broadening downwards slightly. No view of back/rump area but uppertail coverts heavily streaked dark brown (at least ones on sides). Uppertail dark brown with buffy fringes to individual feathers (including uppertail coverts). Tail looked ragged (or spiky) at tip.

Upperwing: not taken in too well during views. However, not as heavily streaked as mantle, looking pale brown with some buff fringing. Thin median covert wing bar off-white (nothing like as marked as in Yellow-breasted Bunting), no obvious bar on greater coverts (other than perhaps pencil line). Fairly indistinct yellowish-buff wing panel (tertiary or secondary edgings?) noted.

Underparts: looked really quite bright, rich yellow in flight. Perched, the overall tone was a pale golden yellow, richer than brightest Yellow-breasted Bunting. The yellow was strongest on chin, throat and upper breast. Lower breast/belly was markedly paler though still with no buffy tones. There was an area of buff-brown wash projecting from the sides of the breast. This was overlaid by some short diffuse mid-brown streaks. Stronger, darker brown streaking was evident on the flanks, comprising rather randomly distributed shortish rain drop marks (i.e. not showing as a series of lines) — fairly sparsely marked, but denser on lowest flanks immediately below uppertail coverts.

Bare parts: bill long, wedge shaped, culmen apparently straight or virtually so. Pale horn, perhaps slightly darker on upper mandible (not a feature I took in too well during the views).

Eye dark. Legs fairly pale straw-brown.

Call: heard a few times, a solitary or twice-uttered wheezy "plink," not terribly noisy or far-carrying.

This is the second Scottish record of Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, the first being on the Out Skerries on 18 September 1975. A record of one on St Kilda on 28 September 1986 is currently in circulation with BBRC.

Paul V. Harvey and Nick J. Riddiford

Greater Sand Plover at Aberlady Bay

On 24 June 1982, at 17.00 hrs, whilst examining the smaller waders roosting at the edge of the saltmarsh at Aberlady Bay, PRG found a large *Charadrius* plover. It was clearly one of the Sand Plovers, with which he was unfamiliar, and after taking a brief description of the bird, he left to summon other observers. On return an hour later, the bird was relocated further out on the mudflats and was seen at ranges down to 25 metres by about 9 observers, including AB, who was able to photograph it. Particular attention was paid to the bill, known to be a critical feature in separating Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers (*C. leschenaultii* and *C. mongolus*), and all observers agreed with the identification of the bird as Greater Sand Plover. It was under observation until 21.00 hrs, by which time it had moved out to feed in the middle of the bay. It was not seen subsequently. The following description was compiled from the notes of AB and PRG.

Description: From the side, it appeared to be only slightly longer than Ringed Plovers *C. hiaticula* of the nominate race which were alongside, but it was noticeably deeper-chested and, when viewed head-on, decidedly broad-chested. It was chunky-headed and had a flattish crown, a large eye, and the bill compared to Ringed Plovers was obviously longer and thicker. The length of the bill was greater than the distance between the base of the bill and the rear of the eye by about the width of the eye, or perhaps slightly less. The bill was more or less parallel-sided with a sub-distal swelling before ending in a blunt tip. The legs were obviously much longer than those of Ringed Plover, held flexed, and set well back on the body. giving the bird a front-heavy appearance with a short rear end. The end of the wing-tips appeared to be level with the tip of the tail.

Plumage: Crown and mantle sandy brown, separated by a warmer brownish-cinnamon shawl on on the neck. PRG noted a paler transverse bar extending from eye to eye across the top of the head. Wings darker brown with pale panel formed by buffy white edgings to wing coverts. Lores dirty buffish white, continuing behind eye to merge into shawl. Blackish mask around and behind eye on to ear coverts. Lower cheeks white. All underparts from chin to under tail coverts white except for a complete, well defined breast band. This consisted of broad pectoral patches at the sides of the breast joined together by a much

narrower strip. The central strip was very bright cinnamon, becoming a paler brownish cinnamon at the sides and merging into the shawl on the neck. In flight the upperwing showed an obvious but diffuse white wingbar, almost the whole length of the wing, and the dark upper tail showed clear white outer tail feathers. Underwing showed off white flight feathers and pure white coverts.

Bare parts: Bill and eye black. Legs dark olive (PRG), dirty brownish grey (AB).

Behaviour: Fed like Ringed Plovers, making a short run, picking up food, then standing still and staring. Silent.

Discussion

Although the bird was bigger than Ringed Plover, we would not have estimated it to be as much as 25% bigger, as was estimated for the first British record at Pagham. It was identified as Greater Sand Plover primarily on the basis of the bill and, to a lesser extent, on the length of the wingbar and the white outer tail feathers. Research of literature suggested that the bird was probably a first summer male. This record is the second for Scotland, the first being at Sandside Bay, Orkney during the period 9-14 June 1979.

Alan Brown and Peter R. Gordon

Little Swift at St Andrews

During the morning of 29 May 1985 ACW was walking on to The Scores in St Andrews when he noticed a small group of Swifts. A flash of white on one bird caught his eye and at first this was thought to have been merely a flash of light reflected from this particular bird's plumage. However, the bird came round again and, on closer approach, it was clear that it had a white, rather square rump patch, reminiscent of a House Martin. Its dimensions were similar, but not identical to the accompanying Swifts. After 15 minutes ACW was back with binoculars and note paper, and watched the bird at ranges between 9 and 30 metres in strong sunlight. Its flight was similar to Swift, but with shallower, faster wingbeats. After a further 45 minutes comparison with both House Martin and Swallow could also be made.

In contrast, the House Martin showed a white belly, throat and vent, as well as a distinctly notched tail. The bird was last seen just after 10.00 a.m., having been seen for a period of about one hour. It was searched for later that day, but it was not rediscovered.

Description: Plumage:- obvious broad rump-patch extending slightly on to sides of the body. The patch was square, symmetrical and extended roughly half the distance between the trailing p edge of the wings and the tail tip. Possibly contained some grey flecking just as it merged into the darker plumage of the rear flanks. Large pale throat patch, similar to that of Swift. Pale feathering on the forehead merging into the dark grey crown giving the appearance of pale face. Dark area round and including eye. The upper surfaces of the wings were dark and seemed to contain less brown than Swift. In comparison they also appeared more reflective or slightly paler, particularly so on the primaries and secondaries. Lower surfaces of wings similarly dark. Belly, breast, lower-rump and tail very dark brown or black. Back, mantle and scapulars darkest of all, again lacking the chocolate tone of Swift.

Structure: tail clearly blunter than Swift, the feathers being proportionally shorter. Usually appeared square except when in power flight, causing it to narrow slightly in a streamlined fashion, or when turning,

when it played out more. Clearly not notched or needle-like. Wings similar to Swift but stouter and with slightly less tapering tips. Approximately same length as bill to tail tip length. Body quite robust, and head broad; very Swift-like. Length of body similar to accompanying Swallow.

Bare parts: Eye dark, bill dark, legs not visible.

Habits: fed with Swift, often swooping lower, very close to road. Actively chased Swift individuals, allowing good comparison. Wing beats shallower and faster, spreading wings and tail more broadly than Swift when banking. Wings constantly held rigidly outwards. No call heard from any of swifts present.

Discussion

The bird was identified as *Little Swift* *Apus affinis* and this constitutes the first Scottish record of the species. Great care was taken with the identification, the elimination of aberrant Swifts being a pitfall which the observer was aware of. In addition, close attention was paid to both the symmetry of the rump, and the tail structure. Although the former is not so important, the latter feature displayed the square shape, lacking even a notched appearance, typical of the species.

Angus C. Wilson



Razorbills.

R. Tulloch

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Region (District/s)

- Dumfries & Galloway**
(Nithsdale, Annandale & Eskdale).
- Dumfries & Galloway** (Stewartry & Wigtown).
- Strathclyde** (Kyle & Carrick, Cumnock & Doon
Valley, Kilmarnock & Loudoun, Cunninghame).
- Strathclyde** (Dumbarton, Clydebank, Bearsden &
Milngavie, Stirling (Clyde drainage area),
Inverclyde, Renfrew, Eastwood, City of Glasgow,
Strathkelvin, Cumbernauld & Kilsyth, Monklands,
Hamilton, Motherwell, East Kilbride, Clydesdale).
- Strathclyde** (Arran, Bute, Cumbraes).
- Strathclyde** (Argyll & Bute — except Bute).
- Borders** (Berwickshire, Ettrick & Lauderdale,
Roxburgh, Tweeddale).
- Lothian** (East Lothian — except Musselburgh
lagoons).
- Lothian** (Midlothian, City of Edinburgh, W. Lothian,
Forth islands, East Lothian (Musselburgh lagoons)).
- Central** (Clackmannan, Falkirk, Stirling
(Forth drainage area))
- Fife** (Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, N.E. Fife).
- Fife** (Isle of May).
- Tayside** (Perth & Kinross).
- Tayside** (Angus, City of Dundee).
- Grampian** (all, except Moray).
- Grampian/Highland** (Moray/Nairn).
- Highland** (Badenoch & Strathspey, Inverness,
Lochaber, Ross & Cromarty, Skye & Lochalsh,
Sutherland).
- Highland** (Caithness).
- Western Isles**.
- Orkney**.
- Shetland** (Fair Isle).
- Shetland** (except Fair Isle).

November publication



Antarctic Skua
after Wilson

The SKUAS

by Robert W. Furness

The full classification of skuas is still debated but on current knowledge and his own studies the author, Dr Furness, of the Applied Ornithology Unit, Glasgow University, favours six species and five subspecies.

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