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# Scottish Bird Report 1987

EDITED BY  
ANGUS HOGG

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CLUB



# Scottish Bird Report 1987

## The Journal of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club

**Editor:** Angus Hogg

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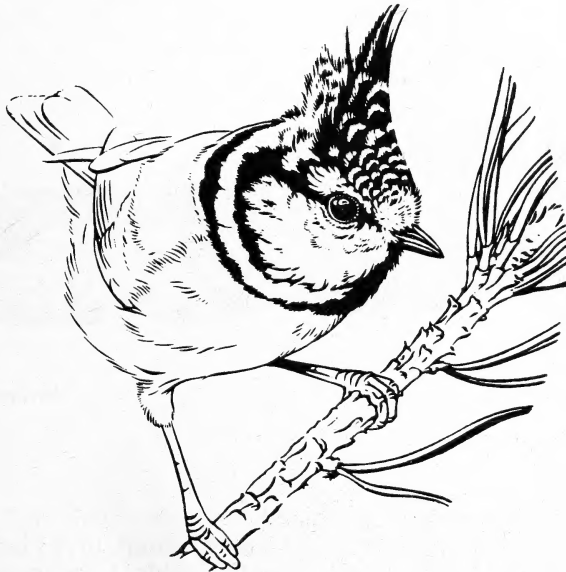
# SCOTTISH BIRD REPORT

1987

Edited by Angus Hogg  
Kirklea, Crosshill, Maybole, Ayrshire KA19 7RJ

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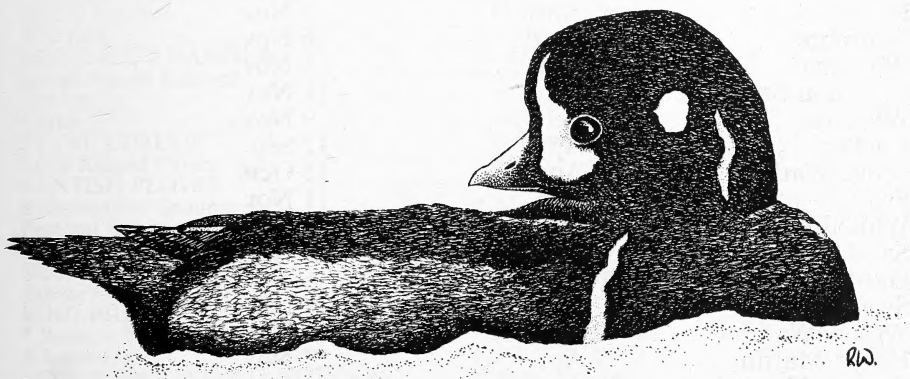
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## INTRODUCTION

### 1987 - The Year's Events

320 species were recorded in Scotland during 1987, and the year provided four firsts, for the Scottish list - Green-backed Heron, sadly found dead at Tynningame, Lesser Crested Tern, very much alive and managing to elude many birders at Musselburgh, Savannah Sparrow on Fair Isle, and Yellow-headed Blackbird in various parts of Shetland. In addition, some BBRC decisions for 1985 have added four more species to the Scottish list; three of them new for Britain and Ireland. These are Brown Shrike, Daurian Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, and Chestnut-sided Warbler. Other major highlights of 1987, in what was an equally eventful year, included a big influx of Night Herons during the spring, the arrival of *two* Harlequin Ducks, the first Lesser Kestrel this century, a *live* Brunnich's Guillemot (and a dead one!), and amazing numbers of Red-rumped Swallows, Olive-backed Pipits, Greenish Warblers, and Two-barred Crossbills.



*Harlequin Duck Shetland*

R. Woodley

Other migrant "goodies" included American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked, and Ferruginous Ducks, Black, and Red Kites, an unspecified Pratincole, American Golden Plover, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Ross's Gull, Gull-billed Tern, a load of Richard's Pipits, several Siberian Stonechats, Eye-browed, and Black-throated Thrushes, Paddyfield, Blyth's Reed, Great Reed, Subalpine, Arctic, Pallas's, Radde's, and Dusky Warblers, Rose-coloured Starling, 2 White-throated Sparrows, 4 Pine Buntings, and a bundle of Rustic, Little, and Yellow-breasted Buntings. The spread of records for these species meant that most twitchers experienced at least some pleasure during the year!

On the breeding front, 2 pairs of White-tailed Eagles bred successfully, and Ospreys reached the magical 50 breeding pairs. Corncrakes gave some indication of population stability, but time will tell! Both Wood Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint bred again, but Nightjar numbers continued to slide. Many of the commoner migrants appeared in good numbers e.g Sand Martin, Redstart, and Whitethroat, while the high-tops provided a good season for Dotterel and Snow Buntings. Chough (soon to become the slightly more logical Red-billed Chough?) appeared at one or two other places apart from Islay - wouldn't it be good to see this aerobic corvid recolonise some of the mainland again? Finally, spare a thought for one of our *forgotten* species, the Mandarin. The Perth population mysteriously crashed during 1987, and must give some cause for concern about its future as a breeding species in Scotland.

*Arrivals and last dates for summer visitors*

	Arrival	Last date
Osprey	10 Mar	28 Oct
Redstart	5 Apr	3 Nov
Whimbrel	1 Mar	6 Nov
Whinchat	4 Apr	6 Nov
Common Sandpiper	7 Feb	21 Nov
Wheatear	27 Feb	9 Nov
Cuckoo	17 Apr	12 Sep
Sedge Warbler	19 Apr	15 Oct
Swift	14 Apr	11 Nov
Whitethroat	23 Apr	31 Oct
Sand Martin	30 Mar	18 Nov
Garden Warbler	20 Apr	6 Nov
Swallow	27 Mar	28 Nov
Willow Warbler	3 Apr	4 Nov
House Martin	7 Apr	27 Nov
Spotted Flycatcher	19 Apr	25 Oct
Tree Pipit	1 Apr	14 Nov

## 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. From 1988 onwards both Crane and Ring-billed Gull have been removed from the BBRC list, and will be assessed by SBRC, although local recorders are asked to refer records of the former to local panels. In addition, the list of species has been lengthened by the addition of **Balearic Shearwater, and Water Pipit**. It would be appreciated if, in all instances, observers submit SBRC forms firstly to their local recorder to allow them to keep a proper record. Our thanks are again due to all local recorders for the high degree of co-operation received during the year. All SBRC forms should be sent to *Ron Forrester, 1 Kirkdene Grove, Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire G77 5RW*.

### SBRC LIST 1988

#### CORY'S SHEARWATER

Great Shearwater  
Balearic 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

Buff-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

Water Pipit

Nightingale

#### CETTI'S WARBLER

SAVY'S WARBLER

#### AQUATIC WARBLER

\* Marsh Warbler (trapped preferably)

\* Icterine Warbler

#### MELODIOUS WARBLER

#### DARTFORD WARBLER

\* Barred Warbler

\* Yellow-browed Warbler

\* Firecrest

\* Red-breasted Flycatcher

#### NUTHATCH

† Marsh Tit

† Willow Tit

† Crested Tit

Bearded Tit

† Chough

#### SERIN

\* Scarlet Rosefinch

#### CIRL BUNTING

Ortolan Bunting

**KEY BLOCK CAPITALS:** all records to be submitted to SBRC.

\* : only records away from East coast to be submitted.

‡ : only records away from Northern isles to be submitted.

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

### LOCAL REPORTS

Since most recording areas in Scotland now publish a local report and since, by necessity, SBR only covers the most significant ornithological events in a Scottish context, it has been decided to publish a full list of local reports (along with contents and price) at the back of SBR, so that observers may obtain a fuller local picture if they wish. Most of these reports are available from the SOC Bookshop, or from the address shown. It is hoped that this addition to SBR will be seen as helpful to those planning a visit to a particular part of Scotland, or perhaps as a source of information on local projects or studies.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many Scottish and visiting birders have contributed to this year's SBR, and the prompt submission of records is greatly appreciated. As always, my thanks are due to the network of local recorders for all their hard work, and for their patience in handling 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 I'm grateful this year to the following for their kind assistance:- S.M.D. Alexander, A. Dowell, J.G. Steele, A. Stevenson, M. Woike, R. Woodley, and B. Zonfrillo. Departing local recorders include Arthur Jennings, Euan Cameron, Mike Innes, and Dennis Coutts; their unflagging assistance has been greatly valued. They have handed their posts on to Mike Madders, Wendy Mattingley, Ken Shaw, and Nick Dymond respectively - welcome to the fold! A full list of local recorders and their recording areas appears at the back of this issue.

## **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 contact your local recorder if in doubt.



## SPECIES LIST

### Abbreviations and symbols used in the text

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

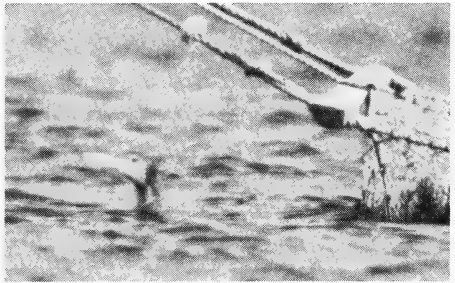
**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata* Best success in the North, but patchy in places. Breeding: **Shetland** had an average season, but poor on Fetlar; **Orkney** 60 pairs on Hoy, of which 42 were successful, 12 young were reared at the monitored sites on Mainland; **Highland** 14 sites were successful on Rhum, and 4 young were reared at 3 sites in Caithness District; **Central** a pair reared 1 young at one site; **Strathclyde** poor success on Arran where 5 pairs attempted, but a pair bred successfully in the South. Peak counts/passage: **Grampian** large autumn build-ups with 208 at Blackdog on 14 Sep, and 621 in Spey Bay on 23 Oct; **Tayside** up to 100 in Lunan Bay on 15 Feb; **Lothian** the highest count was 147 at Gullane on 11 Mar; **Strathclyde** 62 offshore from Tiree on 24 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** the L Ryan peak was 46 on 1 Nov.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica* Not much change suggested in breeding success from main areas: **West Isles** 7 pairs bred on Lewis (5 other pairs possible); **Central** a pair lost 2 eggs at one site; **Strathclyde** still poor success in Argyll, and a pair failed in the SW. Peak counts/passage: no high spring counts but perhaps a slight increase in the Forth; **Fife** 30 in Largo Bay on 2 Apr; **Lothian** also showed a slight increase during winter-spring period, with 5 at Belhaven on 31 Jan; **Strathclyde** 23 between Girvan and Ballantrae on 26 Apr.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer* Winter-spring peaks: highest numbers in the North where **Shetland** had 39 at South Nesting on 15 Jan; **Orkney** 40 off Rendall on 12 Mar; **Highland** 28 in Dunnet Bay on 8 Apr; **Grampian** 37 off Peterhead during May; **Strathclyde** 55 between Kennacraig and Port Askaig on 13 Mar. Summer records included singles in **Shetland**, **Highland**, and **Lothian**, with 1 on two inland lochs in **Tayside** from 22 Jul-5 Aug. Autumn numbers were low e.g. **Lothian** 3N at Barns Ness on 21 Nov.



*White-billed Diver Dunnet Bay Aug. 1986*



*M. Woike*

\* **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* **Shetland** adult at Whalsay Ferry from 1 Jan-27 Mar, and again on 8 Dec (BM,NDP,WS et al), 1st winter off Hascosay, Yell on 14 Jan (PVH,MH), slightly oiled adult in Dury Voe, Mainland from 7-15 Feb (DLC,PME,PVH), and an adult at Bluemull on 30 Oct (PME); **Orkney** adult off Papa Westray from 7-17 May (IPR); **Highland** adult found oiled in Dornoch Firth between 7 and 14 Mar was humanely destroyed (SRDdaP,ESdaP), adult in Sinclair's Bay on 14 Mar (EWEM,JS) and 1st summer found dead there on 19 Jul (KB et al); **Strathclyde** 2nd summer in L Sween from 21-24 Apr, and again from 4-6 Jul (Mr & Mrs JH,IMcG,RWJS et al). For additional BBRC records from previous years, see section at back of report.

\* **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Lochmaben from 24-25 Apr (NA,D & SS,RTS et al).

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Breeding: in the North, **Orkney** had no proven breeding; **Central** 5 pairs reared 20 young from 9 broods at Airthrey; **Lothian** 9 sites held up to 24 pairs; **Borders** 21 sites held 23 pairs and 7 singles, with 7 broods seen; **Strathclyde** 80 pairs were reported from 43 sites. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1 at Fair Isle on 6 Nov was unusual; **Strathclyde** 47 between Wandel and Crookboat on the R Clyde on 11 Jan.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Breeding: **Grampian** a pair successfully reared 2 young again in Moray District, and another pair reared 3 at Sand Loch; **Lothian** 4 sites held up to 17 pairs; **Borders** 11 sites held 12 pairs and 3 singles with 2 broods seen; **Strathclyde** 23 sites held 43 pairs; **Dumf & Gall** poor success in L Ken/R Dee area. Counts/passage: more northern records with **Shetland** having 4 records of singles from Jan-Apr, and Dec, and **Orkney** having singles on 30 Jan, 23 Mar, and 8 Oct; **Highland** had 3 singles with 2 in the Jan-Feb. period and a juvenile at Scrabster from 29 Oct-18 Nov; in the South the Forth had 400 at Kinneil. **Central** on 29 Sep, and the **Lothian** peak counts were 251 between Cramond and Newhaven on 11 Jan, and 215 at Musselburgh on 9 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** the autumn build-up in L Ryan reached 111 on 1 Nov.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* More than usual in the South-west in the winter-spring period: **Highland** had singles at Achnahaird Bay on 19 Jan, Dalcross on 15 Feb, and Dunnet Bay from 18 Feb-11 Apr; **Grampian** 1 was found dead at Forvie on 29 Jan; **Tayside** 1 at Carnoustie on 27 Jan; good numbers were seen in the Forth with **Fife** having 20 in Largo Bay on 11 Apr, and **Lothian** returning 50 at Gosford on 20 Feb, and 35 at Gullane on 12 Apr; **Strathclyde** 7-8 individuals were recorded between 17 Jan and 18 Apr, with most in Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** 1 in L Ryan on 13 Feb with 2 there on 13 Apr. A summering individual again appeared inland in **Borders/Lothian** on 22 Jun and 6 Jul and 2 were at Gullane. **Lothian** on 16 Jun. Autumn: **Shetland** had exceptional numbers with 5 birds from 7 Oct-30 Nov; **Grampian** singles at Strathbeg from 27 Aug-5 Sep, and between Hopeman and Findhorn from 19-24 Oct; **Fife** 1 on Cameron Res on 12 Jul; **Lothian** the Forth peak reached 35 at Gosford on 5 and 16 Sep; **Strathclyde** singles at Dunure on 14 Nov, and Stevenston on 26 Dec.

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* Breeding: no breeding figures available, but little change suggested. Counts/passage: some high counts were made in the South, with the Forth and Islay figures being notable. **Shetland** Tresta Voe had 20 on 19 Feb, and about 38 individuals appeared in autumn from 5 Oct; **Orkney** 12 on L of Harray in Mar; **Lothian** the Gosford peak was 125 on 15 Feb; **Borders** a single was again present at several inland sites during the summer; **Strathclyde** 40+ at L Indaal, Islay on 16 Feb; **Dumf & Gall** 6 in L Ryan on 1 Nov.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* Breeding: in **Central Scotland** 2 pairs reared 2 young at one site, and a pair attempted twice at another site, hatching young on both occasions, the 1st brood perishing in Jun, the second brood of 2 during Jul. Counts/passage: unusual records from the North included 1 in **West Isles** at West L Ollay, S Uist on 23 Jan, and in **Highland** 1 at Salachan Pt on 24 Feb; **Lothian** had singles at Musselburgh from 21 Feb-1 Mar, and 6-7 Apr; **Borders** 1 at an inland site on 21 and 13 Jun; **Strathclyde** singles at Gadloch on 4 May, and Baron's Haugh between 23 Aug and 16 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** L Ryan only had 4 on 1 Nov.

\* **Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris* **Shetland** the Hermaness bird was present from 16 Feb-2 Jul, an earlier arrival and departure than usual (perJND).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* Breeding: a series of accurate colony counts showed marked increases in some Northern areas. **Shetland** productivity at monitored sites on Fair Isle was 0.53 chicks/nest, 46,800 sites were counted on Foula, and an increase averaging 3.2% since 1978 was noted at monitored sites elsewhere; **Orkney** increases were noted at monitored sites by as much as 10.7% on individuals counted; **Highland** the Seabird Colony Register count gave a total of 8611 apparently occupied sites at 7 locations in Caithness District, and 589 sites were counted on Rhum; **Grampian** 186 AOSs between Hopeman and Coveasa showed a 19% increase on 1986; **Fife** 268 pairs were found between St Andrews and Kinkell Braes, and 92 chicks were reared on the Isle of May; **Lothian** 500 sites were recorded at Inchkeith, and 522 at Tantallon, inland 3 colonies held a total of 89 sites; **Borders** 1242 AOSs on the coast; **Strathclyde** 1419 AOSs on Tiree, but the South-west still showed poor success. Blue-phase birds: most were recorded in the North with 15 at Wats Ness. **Shetland** on 22 May, and 26 off Peterhead, **Grampian** during May. Passage peaks: **Shetland** 1200/hr past Sumburgh Head on 4 Oct; **Highland** 2000W/hour at Sandside Head on 14 Sep; **Grampian** 10,200N in 2 hours at Peterhead on 21 May.

\* **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* 3 birds were recorded: **Orkney** 1 off Mull Head, Papa Westray on 29 Jun (IPR); **Fife** 1 at Anstruther on 15 Jun (A-MS); **Strathclyde** 1N at Turnberry Point on 26 Aug (RHH).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* Recorded between 7 Feb and 24 Dec with high numbers in Northern waters. Max counts/passage: **Shetland** Sumburgh Head peak was 63 on 5 Sep; **Orkney** 1st off North Ronaldsay on 26 May, Aug peak was 350N on 31st, and Sep brought large movements of 350E in 5 mins at Brough of Birsay on the 9th, and 270N off North Ronaldsay on the 11th, the last bird appearing on 13 Oct; **Highland** 16W at Sandside Head on 14 Sep; **Grampian** 103 seen off Peterhead during Aug, and 1 very late bird there on 24 Dec; **Tayside** 1 was found dead at Elliot on the unusual date of 7 Feb, and an equally early bird was seen off Arbroath on 21 Apr, 21 birds between Arbroath and Usan from 13 Jul-30 Sep; **Fife** 23N at Fife Ness on 23 Aug; **Borders** 176 seen between 19 Jul and 28 Sep with a peak of 73N at St Abbs on 27 Aug; **Strathclyde** 8 between Kennacraig and Islay on 14 Aug.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* Breeding: **Highland** arrived back at Canna and Rhum on 16 Mar. Counts/passage: **Orkney** an early bird was seen off Hoy on 21 Mar; **Fife** 880W at Aberdour on 20 Aug; **Lothian** a late bird appeared at Hound Pt on 1 Nov; **Strathclyde** 7000 between Coll and Tiree on 16 Apr, 2500 off Doonfoot on 14 Aug. **Balearic mauretanicus**: **Highland** 1W at Sandside Head on 1 Jul; **Grampian** 1 off Peterhead on 28 Aug, 2 on 29 Aug; **Lothian** 2S at Barns Ness on 23 Aug, 1 from m.v. Gardyloo in Forth estuary on 8 Sep; **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 13 Jul and 19 Sep; **Strathclyde** 1S at Turnberry Point on 31 Jul.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus* Breeding: **Shetland** feral cats caused some mortality on Fetlar and Foula, birds ashore at night on Fair Isle from 18 Jun-11 Sep. Tape-luring: **Highland** 362 were tape-lured at Noss Head from late Jul-early Aug; **Grampian** 190 were caught at Collieston during Jul and Aug; **Fife** 21 were controlled on Isle of May on 18-19 Aug; **Strathclyde** c53 birds were ringed on Ailsa Craig in Aug. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1 at Bluemull on 2 Nov was late; **Orkney** 102 in 90 mins off Papa Westray on 9 Aug; **Grampian** 114 were seen from Peterhead during Jul; **Tayside** dead birds outside the normal date range occurred at Montrose on 14 Apr, and L Tay at end Nov; **Strathclyde** 1 was found dead on Islay on 26 Nov.

**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Counts/passage: the gales in mid-Sep brought very high numbers to the South-west. **Shetland** 7 were caught at night at a breeding area on Foula in Aug; **Orkney** 4 off Brough of Birsay on 14 Sep; **Highland** 5 singles in Sandside/Noss/Thurso area between 2 May and 13 Sep, 2W at Sandside Head on 14 Sep, 1 on Rhum on 31 Aug, 2 at Ardgour on 13 Sep, and 1 at Achnasheen on 13 Sep was released on the coast; **Grampian** singles off Peterhead on 27 Jul and 9 Aug, 1 tape-lured at Collieston on 3 Aug; **Strathclyde** unprecedented numbers in Ayrshire during the period 9-18 Sep, with maxima 170+S at Troon on 14 Sep, and 141S in 2 hours at Ayr on 15 Sep, 1 at Tighnabruaich on 13 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 34S at Corsewall Point on 13 Sep.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana* Breeding: **Shetland** Fair Isle's breeding population increased to 304 nests with productivity in monitored nests 0.48 chicks/nest, 124 nests on Foula (cf 3 in 1976); **West Isles** 200+ pairs on the Flannan Isles; **Lothian** continued expansion at Bass Rock; **Dumf & Gall** increase to 830 nests on the Scare Rocks. Counts/passage: **Grampian** monthly peak was 8073 at Peterhead during Oct; **Tayside** 800N/hour off Usan on 20 Sep; **Lothian** 1250N/hour at Barns Ness on 11 Apr.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Breeding: **Shetland** 382 nests at 7 sites (cf 361 in 1986); **Orkney** 212 nests were counted at Calf of Eday, and 66 nests at Seal Skerry, North Ronaldsay; **Lothian** 347 nests counted on 4 Forth islands included 137 on Carr Craig; **Borders** 41 nests were counted on the coast; **Dumf & Gall** 211 nests counted at 4 colonies included an increase at one. Counts: winter totals included **Grampian** with 142 at Strathbeg on 2 Jan, **Fife** with 300 at Tayport on 25 Jan, **Central** with 262 on the Forth estuary on 20 Dec, and **Strathclyde** with 280 in the Clyde estuary on 15 Feb and 355 there on 22 Nov.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Breeding: indications of a good season in the North and an increase in the Forth. **Shetland** a Foula census produced 2400 nests (3357 in 1976), but the breeding season was better than average; breeding productivity at monitored nests on Fair Isle was 1.2 chicks/nest; **Highland** Canna numbers were back up to 1592 nests; **Fife** increase to 1916 nests on Isle of May; **Lothian** 6 Forth islands held 975 nests, including 465 on Craigleith; **Borders** 660 nests were counted on the coast; **Strathclyde** 364 nests were counted on McCormaig Isles; **Dumf & Gall**

decrease to 81 nests on the Scare Rocks. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 843 at Bluemull on 18 Feb; **Orkney** 450 in Widewall Bay on 1 Dec; **Grampian** 2385N off Peterhead on 27 Mar; **Fife** 4000W at Fife Ness on 12 Dec; **Strathclyde** 500 at Blackwaterfoot, Arran on 25 Sep.

\* **Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris* 3 birds were seen during the year. **Shetland** an emaciated ♀ captured at Clumlie on 19 Oct was taken into care and released at Leighton Moss, Lancashire (DRB.PMEJDO); **Grampian** 1 was found dead at Ythan estuary on 29 Jan (RD); **Lothian** 1 at Duddingston on 18 Feb had stayed from 1986 (LLJV et al).

\* **Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* An outstanding year, with a remarkable surge of spring records. **Shetland** 4 singles comprised a 1st summer bird at Rae Wick, Mainland from 18-30 Apr (NAL.PMP), an adult at Brow from 27 Apr-12 May later found dead on 10 Aug (perJND), a 2nd summer bird in the Haroldswick-Baltasound area from 15-30 May (MS.ETH et al), and an adult at Baltasound from 31 May-15 Jun (CC.JND.CEV); **West Isles** singles a 2nd summer bird at Howbeg, S Uist from 26-30 Apr (TJD.WMcL et al); **Highland** 1 found dead on Canna on 23 Apr (RLS); **Lothian** adult at Drem from 30 May-1 Jun (AB.GDB et al); **Borders** a 2nd summer at St Abbs on 30 Apr was found dead at Coldingham on 4 May (KJR et al); **Strathclyde** an adult on Tiree on 20 Apr (MG.ACK) perhaps the same on Coll from 21 Apr-6 Jun (RM.GMdeM et al), and an adult at Douglas Water from 16-18 Jun (IE.AWAY et al). Edinburgh Zoo's feral colony held 18 birds on 21 Sep, of which 16 were adults, and 9 of those were ringed.



**Green-backed Heron Tynningame Oct. 1987** **B. Zonfrillo**

\* **Green-backed Heron** *Butorides striatus* **Lothian** a first-winter bird found dead at Tynningame on 25 Oct (DC, per PRG) had been recently killed by a predator. It showed characters associated with the North American race *B s virescens*. This constitutes the first Scottish record of this species.

\* **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* **West Isles** 1 between Benbecula and Grimsay from 12-17 Nov (PRB, JJG, TDJ).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* **Breeding: Orkney** 9 nests were found and at least 5 young fledged; **Highland** 32 occupied nests on Eilein Shona (52 in 1986); little overall change was suggested in the South, where **Strathclyde** had 148 pairs in 22 heronries. The only high count was in **Strathclyde** with 44 at Hunterston on 4 Feb.

\* **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* **Orkney** the 1986 bird was still present in the Holm area until 10 Jan (BB); **Grampian** the 1986 Strathbeg bird was found dead in Jan (per JD).

† \* **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* Escaped individuals were recorded in **Highland, Tayside, Lothian, Strathclyde, and Dumf & Gall.**

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* **Breeding:** generally a good season, especially in the South. **Orkney** at least 54 pairs were counted holding territory or nesting; **Grampian** 14 pairs reared at least 33 young; **Fife** 41 young were reared from 10 pairs; **Lothian** 106-110 young fledged from 32 pairs; **Borders** 58 pairs were recorded of which 30 were territorial, good breeding success with 26 broods producing 123 juveniles; **Strathclyde** 67 pairs were recorded in Ayrshire and inner Clyde area with a good success rate in Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** also had a good season in Stewartry District. Counts: **Orkney** 456 on L of Harray on 11 Dec included 109 juveniles; **Grampian** 187 on Strathbeg on 14 Aug; **Tayside** peaks included 302 at Montrose Basin in Jul. and 165 on L Leven on 13 Sep; **Strathclyde** 103 on Tیره on 17 Sep, and 101 on Clyde estuary on 25 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 118 on Carlingwark L on 13 Dec.

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus* Low numbers during the winter-spring period; **Grampian** 9 on Ythan estuary on 3 Jan; **Tayside** 1 on L Leven on 2 Jan; **Lothian** 1 in Drem area from 1986 till 10 Jan, 2 on 8 Jan; **Strathclyde** 5-7 birds in Carnwath area from Jan-14 Mar, 1 at Inchinnan from 10-11 Feb; **Dumf & Gall** Caerlaverock peak was 16 on 20, and 30 Jan, last 3 there on 15 Mar. Autumn numbers higher: **Shetland** 1 in Spiggie/Scatness area from 14 Nov-end Dec; **Grampian** 2 at L Fleming from 2-3 Dec; **Tayside** up to 40 at L Leven in Nov; **Fife** 8 at Ballo Res on 21 Nov; **Central** 4 on L Watston on 15 Nov, 3 at Thornhill on 21 Nov; **Borders** 8 at the Hirsell on 20 Dec; **Strathclyde** 3 in Carnwath area from 21 Nov-27 Dec, 2 at Inchinnan on 10 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** 1st back Caerlaverock was on 14 Nov.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* **Breeding:** in **Strathclyde** 3 feral pairs were present at Endrick Mouth, and 1 pair reared 4 young. Summering birds were present in **Shetland** (3-4), **West Isles** (3), **Orkney** (6), **Highland** (11), **Tayside** (1), **Lothian** (1), and **Strathclyde** (13). Winter-spring: **Orkney** 108 on L of Harray on 12 Feb; **Grampian** 136 at Strathbeg on 3 Jan; **Central** 116 at Thornhill on 21 Jan; **Borders** peaks were 136 on Tweed Haugh on 1 Feb, and 120 on Teviot Haugh on 10 Mar; **Strathclyde** 101 on Tیره on 24 Jan, and 120 on Stanely Res on 28 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** 120 between Wigtown Bay and Whauphill on 18 Jan. Caerlaverock peak was 220 on 22 Feb. Autumn arrival started on 25 Sep in **Orkney** and **Strathclyde**, although 7 were seen at L of Wester. **Highland** on the unusual date of 10 Aug. **Shetland** 338 were counted on 8 Nov, with the proportion of juveniles being 28.7%; **Orkney** large nos on L of Harray peaked at 485 on 11 Dec; **Highland** 363 at Invergordon on 22 Oct. Tarradale had 300 on 10 Nov, and Hallum held 566 on 14 Nov; **Grampian** 202 at Strathbeg on 19 Oct; **Tayside** the L Leven peak was 260 on 21 Nov; **Borders** peaks were 296 at Ruthven on 18 Dec, and 230+ at the Hirsell on 20 Dec; **Strathclyde** peaks of 100 Islay on 10 Oct, and 189 at Inchinnan on 15 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** 61 on L Connell on 10 Oct.

**Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis* **Winter: West Isles** 30 near Stornoway on 2 May, rose to 93 at Arnol on 9 May; **Central/Strathclyde** the Carron Valley flock peaked at 112 on 12 Feb; **Dumf & Gall** Castle Douglas had 5-10 birds on 13 Feb. Autumn: **Shetland** 1 at Gulberswick on 1 Nov; **Grampian** 2 at Findhorn Bay on 4 Oct, 1 on Ythan estuary on 19 Dec; **Tayside** 1 at Montrose Basin on 31 Oct; **Strathclyde/Central** Carron Valley was again the most important area with autumn arrival from 16 Sep when 9 were present, this was up to 60 on 27 Sep and peaked at 122 nearby on 5 Dec.

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* The winter-spring build-up reached its peak in most areas during the end of Apr, especially in the North. **Highland** 4000 at Tarradale on 26 Apr, and 8800 at Nigg Bay on 27 Apr; **Grampian** 11,350 at Strathbeg on 27 Apr; **Central** 5070 at L of Menteith on 23 Apr; **Borders** 6400 roosted at West Water on 21 Mar; **Strathclyde** 7500 at Rigside from 10-17 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** high numbers with 4000 at Auchencairn on 21 Jan, and 5000 at

Lochmaben on 15 Feb. A few birds summered and autumn arrival started in the period from 11-18 Sep in most areas. Autumn counts: **Highland** 631SE over Sandside Bay on 18 Sep; **Grampian** Strathbeg held 28,500 on 29 Sep; **Tayside** main roost held 23,000 (possibly up to 35,000) on 27 Sep, while Montrose Basin held between 35-40,000 in mid-Nov; **Fife** 9SW at Kinshaldy on 11 Sep; **Lothian** peak counts were 11,500 at Fala Flow on 4 Oct, and 15,100 at Aberlady on 30 Oct; **Borders** 1st on Hule Moss on 11 Sep, and West Water held 22,400 on 13 Dec; **Strathclyde** 10,700 at Dunsyre on 18 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** Caerlaverock peak was 3450 during Dec.

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons* Winter-spring: **Orkney** 79 at The Loons on 1 Apr; **Highland** 164 at Westfield on 1 Feb; **Strathclyde** 230 at Endrick Mouth in Feb; **Dumf & Gall** 710 at West Freugh in Mar, and 300 at L Ken on 19 Mar were the highest counts. Autumn: **Orkney** 54 on Stronsay on 2 Dec; **West Isles** 2 flocks totalled 41 from Oct; **Highland** 1st seen on 19 Sep over Reay, 180 at Westfield on 29 Nov; **Strathclyde** a Dec count on Islay revealed 7200-7300 with 22% young, and Endrick Mouth had 240 by mid-Dec; **Dumf & Gall** arrival of 107 L Ken on 10 Oct rose to peak of 370 on 18 Dec. **Eurasian albifrons**: **Grampian** 1-2 in Strathbeg area from 25 Jan-29 Apr, another on 30 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at Dirleton on 8 Jan, and 2 at West Fenton on 16 Dec; **Strathclyde** 2 near Carnwath on 26 Dec.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* Breeding: successful nesting was again recorded on both **Shetland** and **Orkney**; in **Highland** breeding pairs were noted at Insh marshes, L Lurgain, and on Eigg; **Strathclyde** estimates gave 30 pairs on Coll and 20 pairs on Tiree. Winter-spring: **West Isles** census on 5-7 Feb gave a total 1424 for the Uists and Benbecula; **Grampian** 6250 at Strathbeg on 2 Feb; **Tayside** 4360 at Carsebreck on 1 Feb; **Fife** 2500 in Lomond Hills area on 22 Feb; **Strathclyde** had lower numbers than usual due to the mild winter, and the peak counts were 2500 at Rigside from 10-24 Jan, and 1250 near Maybole on 6 Mar; **Dumf & Gall** 2500 at West Freugh on 13 Feb, and the main departure was on 13 Apr. In the autumn **Shetland** had the first back on 25 Aug on Fair Isle and at Gulberswick; **Orkney** 1301 were counted on 14-15 Nov; **Highland** 16,500 at L Eye on 25 Oct, and 12,000 at Munloch on 16 Nov; **Grampian** peak count at L Spynie was 10,400 on 23 Oct, while Skene held 12,250 and Davan 12,800 in Oct; **Tayside** 5900 on Drummond Pond on 1 Nov; **Borders** peaks included 2000 at the Hirsell on 11 Nov, and 1900 at Dowlaw on 15 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** 1017 at Lochmaben in Nov.

† \* **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus* Escapes appeared in **West Isles** at Stornoway from 29 Aug-end Dec. **Highland** at Loch of Wester on 13 Jun, and **Strathclyde** on Islay on 14 Jan.

† \* **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens* A good scatter of records no doubt included some genuine migrants: **Orkney** 4 at War Ness, Eday on 18 Sep were unusual; **Highland** 2 at Torridon on 29 Apr; **Grampian** 7 records in Ythan-Strathbeg area during Jan-May included 2 blue-phase birds from 10-17 May, and up to 3 birds were recorded from 22 Sep-21 Oct; **Tayside** singles at L Leven on 22 Mar and 23 Nov, Perth on 27 Sep and 4 Oct, Carsebreck from 11-25 Oct, Longforgan from Oct-Dec, and Montrose on 20 Oct rising to 3 on 30 Oct-22 Nov and 1 till end Dec; **Lothian** 3SE Ormiston Hall on 16 Nov; **Borders** 2 at West Water from 26 Sep-Dec; **Strathclyde** 1 at Rigside from 7-11 Jan, the usual moult-flock on Mull reached 22 on 6 Jul, 2 on Islay in Feb and Dec, a single at Holy L on 1 Oct and early Dec, and 1 between Girvan and Ardrrossan from 1 Aug-11 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** 1 near Kirkcudbright on 6 Dec.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* Breeding: an increase was noted in **Dumf & Gall** in Stewartry District. English moult migration: the Beauly Firth, **Highland** flock peaked at 350 on 20 Jul. Counts/passage (mostly in association with moult migration): **Shetland** flock of 10 on Fair Isle from 4-10 Apr; **Orkney** 16 flew over Kirkwall on 20 Jul; **West Isles** 1 at Broadbay, Lewis on 24 Jan; **Tayside** 43E at Montrose on 14 Aug, and 60S over Killiecrankie on 18 Aug; **Lothian** 38 at Tynninghame on 23 Jun; **Strathclyde** single *B c minima* birds on Islay from 24 Mar-19 Apr, and 9-30 Oct. *B c hutchinsi* type on Islay from 9-13 Oct, and again on 29 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** Caerlaverock peak was 323 on 6 Aug, a small-medium sized bird at L Ken from 6 Jan-25 Mar may have been *B c parvipes*.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis* **Solway flock**: Caerlaverock held 10,500 during winter 1986/87, 9340 had returned by 29 Sep and the peak for winter 1987/88 was 11,400; **Islay flock**: peak count was 22,000 in Nov with a breeding success rate showing lower than normal at 12.0%; **Scapa Flow**, **Orkney flock**: peaked at 380-400 on 29 Mar-14 Apr, a small flock was present on South Ronaldsay on 18 Sep, and the autumn peak was reached on Switha with 620 on 9 Nov; **West Isles** census on 5-7 Feb gave a total of 1146 in the Sound of Harris/Uists area; **Highland** 220 on Eilean Hoan on 26 Jan; in **Strathclyde** 46 at Hyndford Bridge on 14 Feb may have been Solway birds. Autumn



passage commenced from 26 Sep in **Tayside: Shetland** 47 on Fair Isle on 30 Sep; **Grampian** 58 at Strathbeg on 7 Nov; the passage in **Lothian** was light and prolonged, with a peak of 150 at Gladhouse on 13 Oct.

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla* **D**=dark-bellied *B b bernicla*, **P**=pale-bellied *B b hrota*. Summary of year's records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Shetland-Highland</b>	4	4	2	96	54	1			6	7	2	
<b>Grampian-Fife</b>	291	26	59	3					18	51	11	4
<b>Central-Borders</b>	14	4	2	3	2	2			6	5	5	19
<b>Strathclyde/D&amp;G</b>	3	1	1	65	22				132	5	4	12

Peak counts included: **West Isles** 45P at Kildonan on 26 Apr; **Highland** 50 between Canna and Skye from 28 Apr-13 May; **Grampian** 37P at Nairn Bar on 11 Jan, 132 on Ythan estuary on 18 Jan; **Fife** 42 at Eden estuary on 27 Jan, and 40 at Anstruther on 29 Oct; **Strathclyde** 54P on Coll on 28 Apr, 125P at L Gruinart, Islay on 4 Sep.

†\* **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* An escaped pair of adults wandered between Lossiemouth and Auldearn, **Highland/Grampian** in Apr-May, and 1 appeared at Endrick Mouth, **Strathclyde** on 30 Nov.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* Breeding: no great changes were indicated by the following results:- **Orkney** up to 55 pairs were counted; **Grampian** 29 adults and 49 juveniles on Ythan estuary on 12 Jul; **Lothian** 57 young were counted at Tynninghame on 23 Jul; **Strathclyde** a good season in the SW with 9 pairs rearing 54 young on Arran. Counts: **Highland** 172 at Munloch on 22 Jan, and 208 at Nigg Bay on 30 Dec; **Grampian** Findhorn Bay held 245 on 12 Apr; **Tayside** 457 in Montrose Basin in Nov; **Fife** 1238 on Eden estuary on 15 Feb; **Central** 1264 at Kinneil on 6 Aug; **Strathclyde** 241 in L Gruinart, Islay in Feb, and 599 on the Clyde estuary on 15 Feb; **Dumf & Gall** the Caerlaverock peak was 400 on 15 Mar.

†\* **Mandarin Aix** *galericulata* A decline in the **Tayside** population seems to have occurred with only one brood of 3 reported from Perth and a maximum count of only 14; elsewhere records included **Lothian** ♂ at Musselburgh from 12 Apr-15 Jun; **Borders** ♀ at Reston in Apr, and ♂ and 2 ♀♀ at Hawick on 20 Nov-21 Dec.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope* Breeding: **Borders** a survey of Ettrick Forest revealed 39 pairs, with 12 pairs producing 55 young. Counts/passage: **Orkney** the L of Harray peak was 4604 on 11 Dec; **Highland** 2500 in Udale Bay on 2 Oct, and 1710 in the Longman-Alturlie areas on 20 Dec; **Grampian** 1322 at Findhorn Bay on 18 Jan; **Tayside** 5000 in Montrose Basin on 10 Jan, 6000 on 25 Oct; **Fife** 1548 on Eden estuary in Feb; **Lothian** the Tynninghame peak was 720 on 23 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** L Ryan had 800 on 25 Oct.

\* **American Wigeon** *Anas americana* Orkney ♂ at The Loons, Birsay on 27 Jun (ERM,SCFP,BS); **Highland** ♂ between Loch of Mey and St John's Loch from 4-10 Oct (ML,EWEM et al); **Highland** the ♂ from 1986 was still at Nairn Bar till 11 Jan (RW,MM,PTH); **Fife** ♂ at Eden estuary from 28-31 Jan (NE et al); **Dumf & Gall** ♂ at Caerlaverock on 10-12 Apr (JD et al).

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera* Breeding: information scanty, but the species bred on **Orkney** where 3 broods on North Ronaldsay. **Fife** where pairs bred at a minimum of 2 sites, and **Strathclyde** where 2 ♀♀ seen with broods of 3 and 6 on Tiree. No high counts were recorded, most records being of 1-4 birds, the maxima being **Strathclyde** 7 near Ayr from 12-20 Dec, and **Dumf & Gall** the Caerlaverock peak was 8 in Nov-Dec.

**Teal** *Anas crecca* Breeding: **Borders** 29 pairs recorded, 12 broods totalled 24+ young. Counts: **Highland** 563 in the Longman-Alturlie areas on 25 Oct; **Grampian** the Strathbeg peak was 1200 on 19 Oct; **Tayside** 1400 on L Leven on 13 Sep; **Fife** 665 at Eden estuary on 20 Dec; **Central** 817 at Kinneil on 20 Dec; **Strathclyde** 690 on Tiree on 24 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** the Caerlaverock peak was 1493 in Oct. **Nearctic carolinensis**: Shetland ♂ on Tingwall Loch from 6-15 Jun (DRB,DS); **West Isles** ♂ on West L Ollay, S Uist on 2 Dec (TJD,JJG), perhaps same on St Kilda on 4 Dec (JJG); **Tayside** ♂ at Kinkell Bridge from 20 Mar-24 Apr (WTA et al); **Fife** ♂ at Eden estuary from 27 Feb-12 Apr (NE,JGS,GR et al).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Breeding: **Shetland** 1st ducklings were seen on 17 Apr; **Borders** a minimum of 291 recorded broods held 1432+ juveniles at varying stages of growth; **Strathclyde** a good breeding season was indicated in SW Scotland. Counts: **West Isles** 250 on Loch na h-Aibhne Ruaidhe. Lewis in Jul were of doubtful origin; **Grampian** 3450 at Strathbeg on 13 Dec; **Tayside** 1600 in Montrose Basin, and 1500 in outer Tay in Feb. 1060 on L Leven on 27 Sep; **Borders** 2137 were counted on river system during Goosander Census work on 28-31 Mar; **Strathclyde** 922 in Strathclyde Park on 25 Jan, and 870 on Gadloch on 8 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** Caerlaverock held 2100 in Sep.



**Pintail** Hogganfield Loch Jan. 1987

B. Zonfrillo

**Pintail** *Anas acuta* The species remains a very scarce breeding bird, with the **West Isles** having 2 pairs at one site on 26 Apr. **Orkney** up to 10 pairs breeding at 4 sites. **Highland** a pair possibly breeding, and **Strathclyde** 4 ♀♀ with young at one site during Jun. Counts/passage: **Highland** 125 in Nigg Bay on 30 Dec; **Tayside** 74 in Montrose Basin on 14 Feb; **Fife** 41 at Eden estuary on 11 Feb; **Central** the Kinneil flock peaked at 48 on 15 Feb; **Dumf & Gall** Carse Bay held 823 on 25 Oct, and Caerlaverock peaked at 524 in Dec.

\* **Garganey** *Anas querquedula* An extremely poor year with only 12 spring birds: Shetland ♂ at Hillwell from 24-27 May; **Orkney** ♂ on North Ronaldsay on 12 May; **West Isles** ♂ at Balranald on 26 Mar; **Central** ♂ on Cambus Pool on 22 Apr; **Lothian** ♂ at Aberlady on 21 and 28 May; **Strathclyde** ♂ at Highfield, Prestwick from 17-18 Apr, a pair on Logan Resr on 30 Apr, and a pair near Drongan on 20 May; **Dumf & Gall** a pair at L Ken on 3 May.

\* **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* **West Isles** ♂ at Balranald, N Uist from 16-19 Apr (TJD, JV et al).



**Shoveler**

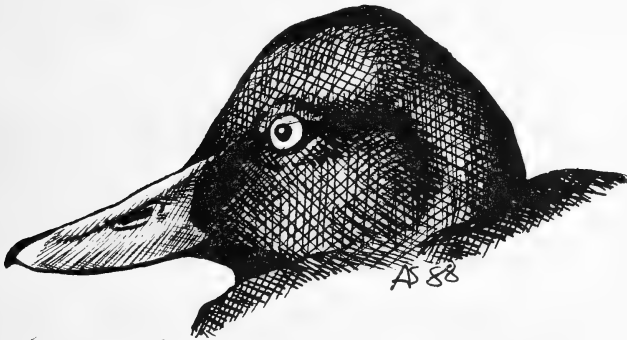
A. Dowell

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* Breeding: **Orkney** up to 9 pairs bred, with up to 13 pairs probable at 9 other sites; **Borders** 9 pairs bred, from which 4 broods produced 19 juveniles; **Strathclyde** 3-4 pairs bred at New Cunnock, single pairs bred at 3 other sites; 1-2 pairs bred in **Highland**, **Grampian**, and **Tayside**. Counts: **Tayside** 350 at Perth on 24 Oct, c400 on L Leven in Nov; **Borders** the Hirsell had 153 in Oct; **Strathclyde** 32 at Baron's Haugh on 18 Oct and 5 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** 93 at Annan Waterfoot on 22 Nov.

\* **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* Three birds were recorded: **Orkney** ♀ on L of Harray from 1-11 Jan; **West Isles** ♂ on West L Ollay, S Uist on 2 Dec; **Strathclyde** ♂ at Balgray Res on 6 Dec.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina* Very few breeding records for this species: 2 pairs probably bred in **Grampian**, and the Hirsell, **Borders** held 3 broods totalling 15 on 3 Jul. Counts were generally lower, especially in the SW: **Orkney** the L of Boardhouse peak was 3755 on 23 Oct; **Highland** 281 on St John's Loch on 17 Oct; **Tayside** 703 on L Leven on 28 Nov; **Fife** 311 on L Gelly on 29 Nov; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** both recorded low numbers with a peak of 176 at Strathclyde Park on 13 Dec.

\* **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* **Dumf & Gall** ♂ on L Ken on 11 Dec (RGH).



**Ferruginous Duck**

A. Stevenson

\* **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* **Strathclyde** 1st year ♂ at Kilmarnock from 21-26 Oct (WAD et al).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* Breeding reports indicated patchy success: **Grampian** had a complete failure at Strathbeg, while **Tayside** had a good season in the South of the region; **Central** 9 prs bred at Airthrey, and 43 fledged from 8 broods; **Borders** a minimum of 93 pairs were recorded, and 28 broods with 153 juveniles showed a good survival rate. Counts: **Orkney** the L of Stenness peak was 1280 on 18 Jan; **Highland** 1060 at Kessock Narrows on 16 Jan; **Tayside** 720 in the outer Tay in Jan, and 2600 on L Leven on 30 Aug; **Lothian** 453 at Leith Docks on 11 Jan; **Strathclyde** 534 at Strathclyde Park on 12 Dec.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila* Summer birds included 7 in **Orkney**, and 4 in **Strathclyde**. Counts: **Orkney** 119 on L of Harray on 12 Feb; **Highland** 330 at Meikle Ferry on 13 Apr; **Fife** 950 at Leven in Feb; **Lothian** 127 in Gosford Bay on 14 Feb was the largest flock since 1982; **Strathclyde** 100 at West Ferry on 31 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** the Carsethorn flock increased further to 1890 on 13 Oct.

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima* A mixed breeding season was indicated in most regions, e.g. **Grampian** where the Forvie population was estimated at 5500, with 1200 breeding pairs producing a mean clutch size of 3.38, but only 25 chicks fledged due to disturbance from windsurfers and predation from foxes, and **Tayside** where 200+ pairs at Barry Buddon suffered a high rate of predation. Some areas experienced better fortunes: **Fife** saw an increase to c500 pairs on Isle of May; **Lothian** Dalmeny had a high count of 450 juveniles on 19 Jun, while Aberlady held an estimated 580 pairs; **Strathclyde** 134 young on Tiree in Jun. Counts: **Grampian** 1831 on Ythan estuary on 17 Oct; **Tayside** 2772 in Montrose Basin in Feb; **Fife** c20,000 at Tay estuary from 4-21 Nov; **Lothian** peak count was 4000 between Yellowcraig and Gullane on 5 Jul; **Strathclyde** 3000 at Troon on 20 Jul, and a record peak of 4325 in Clyde estuary on 13 Sep.

\* **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* **Shetland** at least 3♂♂ and 1 ♀ as follows:- 2nd winter ♂ at Linga on 14 Jan, also in Yell Sound on 14-23 Feb and at Eswick on 30 Apr-19 Jun (PVH,JND,DC et al), adult ♂ at Rea Wick/Sand Sound from 31 Jan-21 Jun (JND et al), a 2nd winter ♂ at Leebiton on 20 Feb, and possibly the same at Quendale Bay on 5-27 Jun, and at Sumburgh Head on 6 Jul-10 Aug (JND,CEV,DC et al), adult ♀ at Lunna Ness on 23 Feb (JND,CEV), adult ♂ on Whalsay on 3-7 Nov was possibly the same as the Linga/Yell Sound/Eswick individual, and the adult ♂ returned to Rea Wick Sound/Tresta area from 16 Dec-end Dec (JND et al); **Highland** adult ♂ at Golspie from 1 Jan-25 Feb, and again on 30 Dec (SJA,AHJH et al), 1st winter ♂ in Wick Harbour from 25 Jan-26 Feb (EWEM et al), adult ♂ at Scrabster from 25-30 Mar (GH & Mrs KF); **Grampian** adult ♂ N at Peterhead on 28 Apr (MI), then at Ythan estuary from 29 Apr-20 Jun (RDS,AW,AL,SA); **Fife** adult ♂ at Lucky Scalp, Tay estuary from 6 Oct-21 Nov (KB,RB et al).

\* **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* **Shetland** a 1st winter ♂ in Sullom Voe from 16 Jan-25 Feb was the first British record since 1965 (JND,MH et al); **Strathclyde** incredibly a second bird, a ♀, turned up at Claggain Bay, Islay from 20-31 Oct (CB,MP,MAO).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* Summer records included a pair in **Shetland**, and 1-2 birds in **Highland**, **Lothian**, **Strathclyde**, and **Dumf & Gall**. Counts: **Shetland** the Bluemull peak was 519 on 18 Feb; **Orkney** 874 were counted in the Wide Firth-Gairsay Sound-Rousay Sound area on 21 Feb; **Grampian** 3000 in Burghhead Bay roost on 7 Mar, and 1330 at Findhorn on 3 Nov; **Fife** 440 at Kinshaldy on 8 Nov; **Lothian's** autumn arrival was from 19 Sep, and Gosford held a peak of 315 on 17 Jan.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* Breeding reports coming from the usual areas included: **Shetland** 3 pairs hatched a total of 9, but only 2 fledged; **Highland** pairs were recorded from 3 lochs; **Tayside** pairs bred at the usual site with a brood of 6 on 4 Jul and a brood of 4 at another loch on 11 Jul; **Strathclyde** a pair plus 2♂♂ were present on L Lomond but no young were seen. Counts were low, with a shift into the St Andrews, **Fife** area: **Grampian** 947+ off Culbin Bar in Feb, and 890 in Blackdog/Ythan area on 14 Sep; **Tayside** 300 in Lunan Bay in Feb; **Fife** 3300 from Tentsmuir-St Andrews on 24 Jan; **Strathclyde** 178 in L Indaal, Islay in Mar; **Dumf & Gall** 300 in Luce Bay on 15 Feb. **Black Scoter** *M n americana*: **Lothian** a ♂ in Gosford Bay on 31 Dec (AB).

\* **Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* **Shetland** a 1st winter ♂ on Bressay from 23 Jan-27 May, also at Catfirth on 29 May (DRB,PD,PVH et al); **Grampian** a 2nd winter bird ♂ in Balmedie Bay on 7 Nov, perhaps same at Rattray from 8-21 Nov (ALY,GMC,JSN,WNH), 1 off Culbin Bar on 26-29 Nov (BE,CC,AE)⊃; **Tayside** a ♂ in Lunan Bay on 10 Aug (RY); **Fife** 2♂♂ and ♀ in Largo Bay from 20 Mar-1 May, 3♂♂ and 2♀♀ on 11 Apr, ♂ on 7 Nov (CCMcG,JSN,JGS et al), a ♂ in St Andrews Bay from 14 Oct-14 Nov, with 2♂♂ from 17-24 Oct (NM,SR et al) - *the Fife and Lothian birds are obviously the same individuals, and the exact dates and numbers are complicated by the birds moving around in the area*; **Lothian** 2 ♂♂ and ♀ in Gosford Bay on 16 Feb (KC,PRG), and a ♂ on 3-4 Sep (AG,MG,PRG).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca* Counts again showed an increase in numbers in **Fife**: **Grampian** low numbers at main areas with 271 in Burghhead Bay in Apr, and 163 at Blackdog on 7 Nov; **Tayside** 250 between Lunan Bay and Montrose from 9-15 Aug; **Fife** 1400 in St Andrews Bay on 28 Nov; **Lothian** Gosford peak was 124 on 20 Dec.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* Breeding: in **Northern Scotland** 77 nests were occupied in main area - 35 broods hatched a total of 320 ducklings, 3 pairs nested outside this area. A small number of non-breeders summered. Counts: **Shetland** 278 in Spiggie/Easter L/Snarravoe area on 15 Nov; **Highland** 1568 at Ness on 6 Feb; **Grampian** 325 at Girdle Ness on 22 Jan; **Tayside** 400 at Broughty Ferry in Jan; **Fife** 1100 at Leven on 18 Jan; **Lothian** a high count of 636 at Musselburgh on 14 Feb; **Strathclyde** 354 at Doonfoot on 20 Jan, and a record count of 864 in Clyde estuary on 15 Feb. In **Highland** the ♂ Smew hybrid was again present at Ness Mouth between 24 and 27 Dec.

**Smew** *Mergus albellus* A summary of the year's records shows only a few birds at the start of a mild 1987-88 winter, while in **Strathclyde** the loch in Strathclyde Park held up to 12 birds from 1-8 Feb, and up to 5 birds in mid-Dec.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Shetland-Highland</b>	4	3	1	1	1						1	1
<b>Grampian-Fife</b>	6	6	6	2						1	1	
<b>Central-Borders</b>	7	6	8	1							1	3
<b>Strathclyde/D&amp;G</b>	7	13	12	1	1						6	8

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* Breeding: **Orkney** up to 28 pairs were recorded and 17 broods counted. Counts: **Orkney** 106 on L Stenness on 15 Feb; **Highland** 300 at Avoch on 28 Mar, and 500 in Inverness Firth on 3 Dec; **Tayside** 300-400 in Montrose Bay on 12 Jun; **Fife** 1100 at Kinshaldy on 8 Nov; **Strathclyde** 170 were offshore on Tiree on 24 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** L Ryan had a high count of 460 on 10 Oct.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser* Breeding: **Borders** a total of 34 broods with 191 juveniles were found during the Goosander Census; **Central/Strathclyde** 14 broods totalled 73 young on L Lomond in Jul; **Dumf & Gall** 25 ♂♂ and 27-31 ♀♀ were recorded, but the post breeding flock on L Ken was only 51. Counts: **West Isles** 9 on L Mor, Barvas, Lewis on 19 Feb; **Highland** the Beaully Firth peak reached 1520 on 30 Dec; **Grampian** the Speymouth moult-flock reached 148 on 30 Aug; **Tayside** the Monifieth moult-flock held 140 on 26 Aug; **Fife** 225 at Tayport on 6 Sep; **Borders** 446 on the river system on 28 Mar, and 147 at the Hirsell on 22 Nov; **Strathclyde** 132 in Strathclyde Park on 12 Dec, and 59 on Martnaham Loch, Ayr on 20 Dec was a much higher count than usual; **Dumf & Gall** 120 at Lochmaben in Dec.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* Breeding: **Tayside** no breeding information from Kinnordy, but up to 8 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ were present, and a ♂ with 4 juveniles was seen on Dun's Dish on 25 Jul; **Strathclyde** a pair bred at Aird Meadow, but the brood of 2 disappeared soon after 23 Jul. Others included a ♂ at Hillwell, **Shetland** on 3-5 May, a ♂ in Lewis, **West Isles** on 4 May (1st record), a pair in the Meikle-Cotehill area, **Grampian** from 10 May-18 Aug, 5 on L Leven, **Tayside** from Nov-5 Dec, 3 on Kilconquhar L, **Fife** from 8 Apr-7 Aug, and 1-2 birds in the **South-west** of Scotland.

**Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* **Orkney** 1 flew over Papa Westray on 29 Apr; **Highland** 1, probably the same bird, between Reay and Thurso on 13-14 Jun, and 1 over Aviemore on 10 Sep; **Fife** 1 on the Isle of May on 20 Oct; **Borders** 1 over Reston on 16 Sep.

\* **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Lochanhead, Stewartry Distict on 28 Aug (GRo) had been feeding on a dead rabbit by the roadside.

\* **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* **Strathclyde** an immature bird near Crosshill, Maybole on 20 May (RHH).

\* **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* The re-introduction programme reached another milestone, with 2 pairs breeding, 1 pair rearing 2 chicks and the other rearing 1. Wandering birds included the following:- **Orkney** immature between Stronsay and Deerness from 15 Jan-16 Feb, also sightings of immatures on Hoy on 23 Apr and 6 Jul; **West Isles** 5 records between 2 Jan and 29 Aug including a wing-tagged immature; **Highland** singles on Eigg on 26 Mar, and in Glen Meanie on 30 Sep.

\* **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* 17 in spring, and only 5 in autumn; **Shetland** ♀/immature at Norwick from 7-12 May; **Orkney** single ♀♀ on Westray on 19 Apr, and Holm on 3 May; **Grampian** singles at Strathbeg on 10 May, and Glenfiddich on 15 May; **Highland** 1 at Insh Marshes from 5-16 Jun, with 2 on 8 Jun, other singles from 4 Jul-7 Aug, and 11 Aug-18 Sep; **Tayside** 1 at Montrose



**Marsh Harrier**

**A. Hogg**

Basin on 9 Aug; **File** singles on the Isle of May on 27 and 28 Apr, and at Dunbog on 24 Aug; **Lothian** singles at North Berwick on 8 May, Gladhouse on 8 May, and Tailend Moss on 3 Sep; **Borders** singles on Coldingham Moor on 19 Apr-3 May, another on 8 May, 1 at Kelso on 7 May, and 1 off the sea at St Abbs on 9 May; **Strathclyde** 1 on Islay on 24 Apr; **Dumf & Gall** ♀ at L Ken on 11-12 May.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* Breeding: in **Orkney** 45 nests were found on 2 islands, 15 successful nests producing 40 young; **Lothian/Borders** had 3 confirmed breeding reports with 2 more possible; **Strathclyde** produced a good year on Islay, but poor on Arran and Ayrshire with only 1 pair out of 10 succeeding; **Dumf & Gall** was poor with about half of 14 known sites not breeding, and only 2 successful nests found. Migrants/etc: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 29 Apr-1 May; **West Isles** ♀ at Barvas, Lewis on 29 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** more remained on high ground during winter 1987-88, peak roost count was 16 in Dec.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis* Breeding: in **Northern Scotland** some success was achieved at 2 or 3 sites, but disappointing in one area; in **Central and Southern Scotland** a pair reared 2 young at one site, and there was some suggestion of consolidation in another area.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* Breeding: in **Orkney** 6 pairs were recorded, and 4 were successful; in the **Grampian W Moray** study area 11 pairs failed, but productivity was good with 17 pairs rearing 71 young. Migrants: **Shetland** had up to 3 at Kergord during Jan-Mar and again from 9 Sep-25 Dec, and spring passage on Fair Isle occurred from 2 Apr-31 May probably involving about 10 birds, the autumn passage running from 1 Sep-26 Nov with 1-3 birds on many dates.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* Breeding: in **Orkney** a pair laid 3 eggs and reared 1 young; **Highland** had a very good year in Lochaber; in the **Grampian W Moray** study area 23 sites were occupied, 18 pairs laid and all hatched but poor weather in early Jun resulted in only 15 broods fledging at an average of 1.8 young/successful pair; in **Lothian/Borders** stability was suggested in Borders Region, and a pair bred again in Lothian; in **Strathclyde** Arran's population dropped to 17 pairs; but **Dumf & Gall** had a good season. Migrants: **Shetland** 1 on Fetlar from 11-12 Apr.

\* **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus* Very few records with only about 6 birds involved; **Shetland** 1 in Spiggie/Fitful Head area from mid Oct-end Dec; **West Isles** singles at Tigharry, N Uist on 24 Jan, and Sollas, N Uist on 24 Sep; **File** 1 found moribund at Pitlessie on 25 Nov; **Strathclyde** singles on Islay on 12 Oct, and Mull on 17 Oct.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* Breeding: in **West Isles** continued harassment of adults and young was recorded; in **North-east Scotland** a good success rate saw up to 18 young fledge; in **Strathclyde** in the long-standing Argyll study, 8 pairs reared 9 young from 12 pairs which laid eggs, 1 pair reared 2 young on Arran; and in **SW Scotland** 3 pairs each laid 2 eggs and a total of 2 young fledged.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* Breeding: 50 pairs had nests in Scotland, 44 pairs laid, and 30 successful pairs reared 56 young. Arrival was from 10 Mar, and some late individuals were reported. Migrants: **Shetland** singles on Unst from 7-10 May, and Fair Isle on 18 May; **Orkney** 1 over Keelylang, Orphir/Firth on 16 May; **Highland** late singles were seen on Rhum on 30 Sep, and at Lochindorb on 28 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** singles in 3 areas from 10 Mar.

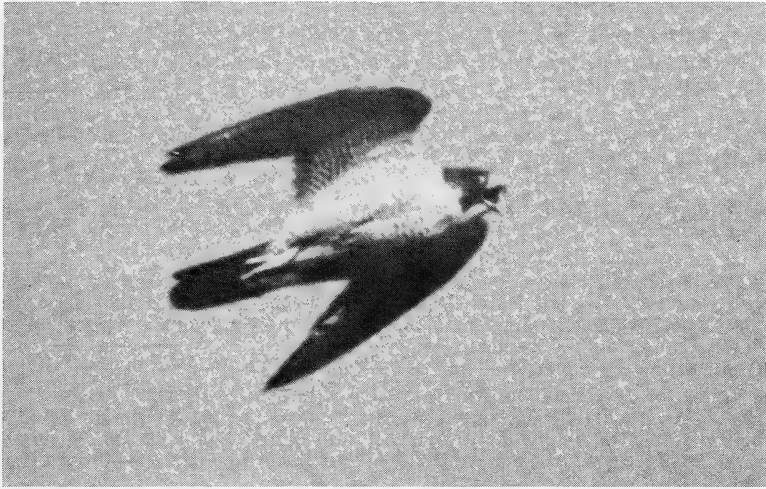
\* **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* **Shetland** a ♂ on Fair Isle on 23 Jun (AGP.NJR) was the first record of this species in Scotland this century.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Breeding: in **Orkney** up to 14 pairs were recorded; in **Strathclyde** recovery occurred in Ayrshire from 1986 with an average year in which 3.6 young were produced per successful pair.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Breeding: in **Shetland** 22 pairs nested, 16 pairs successfully rearing 52 young; in **Orkney** 8 pairs nested, 7 pairs rearing 21 young; **North-east Scotland** had a poor year in W Moray, but better elsewhere with 75 young fledging and 42 territories holding a pair, the average number of young being 3/successful nest; in **South Scotland** poor weather caused problems in some areas, but 31 successful nests produced 94+ young. Migrants: **Shetland** autumn passage on Fair Isle ran from 22 Aug-25 Nov with a peak of 3 birds on 12 and 17 Oct.



\* **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* Up to 9 birds recorded: **Shetland** 1 at Eshaness on 23 Jun, and 1 on Fair Isle on 5 Jul; **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay on 14 Sep; **Highland** 1 at Boat of Garten on 20 Jul, and 2 at Insh Marshes between 24 Aug and 29 Sep; **Grampian** 1 at Inverkeithny on 15 Jul; **Fife** singles at Tentsmuir Pt on 7 Sep, and Fife Ness on 13 Oct.



*Peregrine adult Strathclyde*

A. Hogg

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus* Breeding: some areas reported a better year with improved numbers, e.g. **West Isles**. In Scotland 309 home ranges had birds present, and 158 successful pairs reared a total of 337 young.

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus* As usual, the best returns came from the East of Scotland. **Grampian** a good year in Upper Moray with shooting bags well up on several estates, similarly good numbers recorded after an early breeding season in the northern half of area, but both lower Deeside and Stonehaven study area showed low numbers; **Lothian/Borders** a better year with decreased chick mortality; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** continues generally scarce.

**Ptarmigan** *Lagopus mutus* In **Grampian** the species had another bad year in Moray with heavy chick losses due to poor summer weather, but the spring stock in both the Cairnwell hills and Cairngorms was high, and breeding was both early and good, with some losses in May-Jun snowstorms; in **Strathclyde** 3 pairs probably bred on Arran.

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix* Numbers seem most stable in the Central and Eastern Highlands. **Grampian** increase noted in Forest of Birse where 40-60 on 17 Jan, numbers stable in Glen Tanar, and breeding success was said to be fair; **Tayside** apparent increase in E Perthshire, and up to 90 ♂♂ and 19 ♀♀ at 12 leks in N Perthshire; **SW Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** decrease continues in parts of the SW.

**Capercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus* Numbers still appear to be low in many areas. **Highland** 28 in North Abernethy on 10 Jan; **Grampian** increase in sightings in Darnaway area, but another poor year elsewhere.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa* (most records of this species refer to Red-leg x Chukar hybrids) The following areas reported an increase in sightings and releases: **Highland/Grampian/Fife/Borders**; in **Strathclyde** releases on Islay included at least 1 pure-bred **Chukar** (*A chukar*).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix* Breeding success varied greatly, with the best success in the East: **Highland** an increase in reports from Caithness District included a pair with 11 young at Dunnet; **Grampian** low success in Moray District, but increasing at Strathbeg; **Tayside/Fife** good season suggested in many areas; **Dumf & Gall** decline continues almost everywhere.

\* **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* Up to 18 birds reported: **Shetland** singles on Fetlar from 10-12 Jul, and on Fair Isle on 26 Aug; **Orkney** 1 found dead at Firth on 6 Jun; **West Isles** 1-3 at Balranald on 14 Aug; **Highland** 1 at Reiss on 21 Jun; **Tayside** 1 at Errol on 9 May; **Fife** 1 near Kirkcaldy from 9-13 Aug; **Lothian** 5 recorded between 10 May and 28 Aug; **Borders** 1 at Auchencrow during Jun, also a report of birds released at Bowhill; **Strathclyde** 1 near Prestwick from 14-19 Jul, with 2 on 15 Jul; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Cairnmore of Fleet NNR on 28 May.

† **Reeve's Pheasant** *Syrnaticus reevesii* **Lothian** 2 ♂♂ at Archerfield during the year were thought to have been released in 1985.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* **Lothian** 15 territories at Aberlady is an increase on 1986; **Dumf & Gall** 6500 released at Hensol.

† **Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus* **Strathclyde** a small feral population persists on Mull; **Dumf & Gall** now scarce in main areas. 1 at Moffat on 14 Oct was outwith normal area.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* Breeding: **Orkney** a pair bred for the first time since 1968 on North Ronaldsay; **Strathclyde** 17+ pairs were recorded from 10 sites. Migrants: **Shetland** singles were noted on Fair Isle up to 12 May, and from 8 Oct-8 Dec, with 2 on 13 Nov, elsewhere on Shetland singles were reported from 8 locations mainly in Nov.

\* **Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana* A better year, with up to 13 birds reported; **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 4 May, Out Skerries on 5 Oct, and Fair Isle from 13-14 Oct; **Orkney** 1 found dead on Sanday on 4 Oct; **West Isles** 1 at Askernish, S Uist from 24 Apr-2 Jul; **Highland** 5-7 singing birds were heard on Insh Marshes between 26 May and 6 Jul; **Strathclyde** 1 at Aird Meadow from 14-21 May; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at L Ken on 10 Jun.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex* Breeding numbers showed signs of stability in the Northern and Western Isles: **Orkney** more reports, with up to 21 calling birds and 1 nest found - 1st heard on 20 Apr; **West Isles** population apparently showed no change in 1987 - 1st in S Uist on 24 Apr, last bird at Uig, Lewis on 3 Oct; **Strathclyde** a minimum of 98 calling birds on Tiree, and 20 on Coll. Other records (mostly calling birds or migrants): **Shetland** calling singles at Haroldswick from 31 May-13 Jul, and Baltasound from 8-30 Jun, migrant birds at Fair Isle on 23 Jun, 6, and 13-14 Oct, and at Quendale from 20-21 Oct; **Highland** about 10 individuals reported from Caithness District between 28 May and 26 Jun; **Grampian** singles at Glen Clunie on 25 May, and Tillylodge on 20 Sep; **Borders** 1 at Hassington from 5-6 Jun; **Strathclyde** 2-3 called at Shiskine, Arran from 28 May-27 Jul, and breeding may have occurred, singles near Drongan on 20-24 May, Tarbolton in mid-May, and near Drymen from end May-early Jun; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Stranraer on 11 Aug.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Breeding: **West Isles** a juvenile on Lewis on 12 Aug was unusual since the species was thought to be extinct in the area; **Borders** 22 broods produced 56 juveniles; **Strathclyde** 110-116 pairs were recorded from 18 sites in the inner Clyde area. Counts/passage: **Orkney** 40 on Crantit Ponds on 16 Jan; **Tayside** 79 on Forfar L in Jan; **Strathclyde** 52 at Baron's Haugh on 6 Sep.

**Coot** *Fulica atra* Breeding: **Borders** 207 pairs found, with 72 broods producing 230 young. Counts: **Orkney** peak count was 393 Loch of Stenness on 17 Jan; **West Isles** 1 on Lewis on 20 May was also unusual since it was regarded as extinct here; **Highland** 260+ on L Scarclate on 29 Sep; **Grampian** 550 at Strathbeg on 12 Sep; **Tayside** 960 on Forfar L at end-Aug, 1180 on L Leven on 11 Oct; **Fife** 520 on Kilconquhar L on 22 Sep; **Central** 342 on L of Menteith on 15 Nov; **Lothian** 618 at Linlithgow on 13 Dec; **Borders** 519 at Yetholm on 13 Dec; **Strathclyde** 420 on Hogganfield L on 24 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** 330 on L Ken in Dec.

\* **Crane** *Grus grus* **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 4 Jun (MrsCT), and Exnaboe, Mainland on 5 Jun (RLH); **Orkney** a pair at L of Boardhouse, Birsay from 27 Apr-2 May (GC.BS et al); **Highland** a pair at Insh Marshes from 3-9 May (ZB)ø; **Grampian** 2 frequented the Strypes-Teindland area from 25 May-9 Jun (MJHC.MB.RHH), 1N at Newburgh on 12 Sep (KD.AJL et al)ø; **Borders** 2 at Reston from 8-15 May were seen flying N at St Abbs on 16 May (AB.DG.KJR); **Strathclyde** adult near Trabboch from 15-25 Oct (DBG.WR); **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Cummertrees/Priestside Bank from 27 Oct-21 Nov (perADW) may have been the Strathclyde bird.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* Breeding: **Shetland** only 50 pairs located on Fair Isle; **Orkney** over 830 pairs or nests recorded; **Highland** 104 pairs on Eigg had a very successful season; **Strathclyde** estimates gave 300 pairs on Tiree, and 100 pairs on Coll. Counts/passage: **Highland/Grampian** peak counts were 2586 in Findhorn Bay, and 2537 at Nairn-Culbin Bars on 18 Jan, and 4527 in Cromarty and Inverness Firths on 20 Dec; **Tayside** 4200 in Montrose Basin in Feb; **Fife** 4100 at Eden estuary on 17 Jan; **Lothian** Musselburgh held 2270 in Nov; **Strathclyde** 3596 in Clyde estuary on 15 Feb; **Dumf & Gall** high counts included 17,000 at Caerlaverock on 22 Nov, and 6900 at Southerness on 25 Nov.

\* **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* **Grampian** 1 at Cults from 24-31 Oct (BJS et al); **Lothian** 1N at Barns Ness on 8 Apr (MP), same at Tynninghame from 9-13 Apr (IJA, MG et al), and 2 at Aberlady on 2 May (MG, BDG, PRG, GLS).

\* **Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus* **Grampian** 1 at Dunphail from 4-7 Jun (ST).

\* **Pratincole** sp *Glareola pratincola/G nordmanni* **Shetland** 1 near Uyeasound, Unst on 25 May (IS).

\* **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* In **Central Scotland** 2 birds were seen at one site between 6 May and 28 Jun, breeding not proven but distraction display given, area was bulldozed later.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* Breeding: **Shetland** had a good season; **Orkney** up to 63 pairs recorded; **Lothian** 27 pairs bred at Aberlady; **Strathclyde** estimates gave 200 pairs on Tiree, 20-30 pairs on Coll, and 61 pairs at 19 inland sites in the inner Clyde area. Counts/passage: **Grampian** very heavy passage with a peak of 1500 in Findhorn Bay on 8 May; **Fife** 700 at Tayport on 19 May; **Dumf & Gall** 800 at Newbie on 13 May.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* Breeding: **Highland/Grampian** snowfalls in Jun killed many chicks in Northern part of area, but success was higher in the South. Migrants: **Shetland** an exceptional year with 3 on 13 May and 1 on 24 May, in the autumn 1 on Yell on 6 Aug preceded 7 at Uyeasound on 27 Aug. Fair Isle records comprised 3 on 11 Aug, and 1 on 28 Aug; **Orkney** 3 at Deerness on 16 May, 2 other singles between 20-30 May, and 1 on 17 Aug; **West Isles** 7 at Rangehead, S Uist on 2 May; 06 Highland 1 on Cairngorm on 30 Apr; **Borders** had trips of 4 on 5 May, 6 on 25 May and 2 on 29 May; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** had a good spring with 5 in Glen Etive on 30 Apr, 2 on Islay on 13 May, and 5 at High Auchneel on 5 May.

\* **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 28 Sep-11 Oct (ABA, NB, BR et al).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* Breeding: **Orkney** 52 pairs were recorded; **Strathclyde** 42 pairs were recorded at 6 sites in the SE; **Dumf & Gall** shows signs of decrease except perhaps on highest ground. Counts/passage peaks included **Orkney** 2000 on Stronsay from Nov-Dec; **Highland** 1050 at Killimster on 17 Oct; **Grampian** 1300 at Oldmeldrum on 12 Sep; **Fife** 1400 at Fife Ness on 1 Sep; **Lothian** the mild winter saw flocks of 200 on Braid Hills on 5 and 22 Dec and at Gilmerton on 26 Dec; **Strathclyde** 1000 on Tiree from Jan-mid Apr, 3200 near Carnwath on 20 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 1050 at Caerlaverock on 28 Dec.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* **West Isles** 114 at South Ford in Jan; **Grampian** Ythan peak was 43 on 11 Oct; **Fife** 480 at Eden estuary on 15 Feb; **Lothian** a record regional count of 510 was recorded at Aberlady on 18 Mar; **Strathclyde** 28 on coast of Tiree on 25-26 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** 80 at Caerlaverock on 4 Jan.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* Breeding: **Orkney** over 490 pairs were recorded; **Lothian** decline at 4 sites from 71-73 pairs in 1986 to 46-52 pairs. Counts/passage: many overwintered into 1988 due to the mild weather; **Orkney** 1500 on St Ola on 30 Dec; **Tayside** 3050 at L Leven on 11 Oct; **Central** 1172 on Forth estuary on 20 Dec; **Lothian** the highest flock count was 2000 at Braid Hills on 5 Dec; **Borders** 2500 at Redden on 27 Aug; **Strathclyde** 11,750 between Lamington and Hyndford Bridge on 5 Sep, 5498 on Clyde estuary on 22 Nov.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus* **Shetland** autumn passage began on 11 Jul; **Tayside** 2000 in Montrose Basin in Jan; **Fife** 2000 at Largo Bay on 8 Jan, and 1400 at Eden estuary on 17 Jan; **Central** 4045 at Kinneil on 20 Dec; **Lothian** Aberlady held 3950 on 28 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** 4000 in Gillfoot Bay, and 1300 at Southerness on 15 Nov.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* Winter-spring: **Grampian** 69 between Blackdog and Ythan on 14 Mar: **Tayside** 400 in the outer Tay area in Feb: **Fife** 260 at Tentsmuir Pt on 15 Feb: **Lothian** 151 at Aberlady on 31 May: **Strathclyde** 353 on coast of Tiree on 25-26 Jan. Autumn: **Shetland** passage began on 14 Jul: **Orkney** the peak count was 384 on North Ronaldsay on 7 Sep: **Tayside** 450 in the outer Tay on 17 Dec: **Lothian** the Tynninghame peak was 160 on 22 Jul.

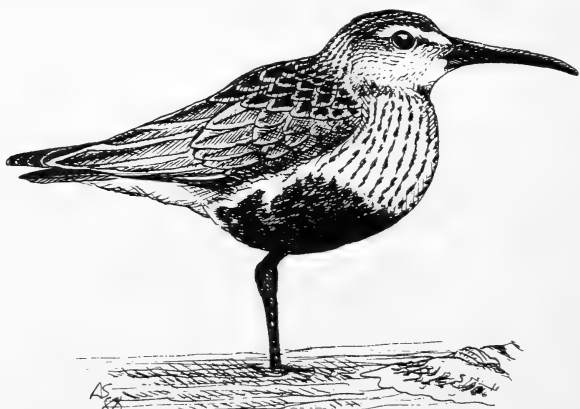
**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* Spring: **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 5, and 7 May: **Fife** 1 at Anstruther on 3 May: **Lothian** 2 at Musselburgh from 14-16 Jun: **Strathclyde** 3 on Tiree on 10 Jun. Autumn passage was again poor and numbers in most areas were low: **Shetland** 1-3 on Fair Isle on 11 dates from 13 Aug-22 Sep, and 1 at Virkie on 14 Aug followed by 1-5 from 5 locations on Mainland and Unst, the last being on Virkie on 9 Oct: **Orkney** scarce with only 4-5 birds between 19 Aug and 7 Oct: **West Isles** 20+ at Borve, Benbecula on 13 Aug, 10 at Luskentyre, Harris on 18 Aug: **Highland** had 2 between 11 and 29 Sep: **Grampian** Lossiemouth had 4 on 15 Aug, 19 and 27 Sep, and Culbin Bar had 7 on 31 Aug, Peterhead-St Fergus held 10 on 22 Sep: **Tayside** had a late bird at Carsebreck on 31 Oct: **Lothian** passage began on 20 Jul, but peaks were only 3 at Aberlady on 25-30 Aug, and 3 Pepperside on 30 Aug: **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** 2 at L Indaal, Islay on 16-17 Sep, and 10 birds in SW between 19 Aug and 15 Sep.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* Breeding: 4 broods were seen in usual area. Migrants: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 25-26 May, 2 at Baltasound from 27-28 May: **Tayside** 1 at Kinkell Bridge on 1 Jun: **Central** 1 at L Tay on 12 Jul: **Lothian** 1 at Musselburgh on 24 Jun.

\* **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* **Highland** 1 at Sandside Bay on 7 Oct: **Central** 1 at Cambus from 24-25 May, and 1 at Kinneil Kerse on 8 Sep: **Lothian** a juvenile at Musselburgh on 4-5 Sep: **Strathclyde** 1 An Fhaodail on 17 Sep, and 1 near Carnwath from 30 Sep-3 Oct.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* Spring: **Orkney** 1 at L of Tankerness on 13 Jun: **Grampian** 1 at Findhorn Bay on 19 Apr, 1 at Meikle from 23-25 May, and 5 on the Ythan on 25 May: **Central** 1 at Skinflats on 17 May: **Lothian** 1 at Aberlady from 24-25 Apr: **Strathclyde** 1 at Bogside on 26 May. Autumn passage was generally poor with low numbers in most areas: **Shetland** 1 at Virkie on 18 Jul, but only 13 other birds up to 25 Oct: **Orkney** had 9-12 birds between 12 Aug and 16 Oct: **Highland** 3 on Wick River on 4 Sep, and 4 more singles from 5 Sep-3 Oct: **Tayside** had c9 birds between 28 Jul and 11 Oct: **Grampian** 3 in Findhorn Bay on 13 Aug, then 10 on 20 Sep, and 14 on the Ythan on 30 Aug: **Fife** had 12 birds between 8 Aug and 27 Sep: **Central** up to 5 at Kinneil between 30 Sep and 18 Oct: **Lothian's** peak was only 3 Aberlady on 18 Aug: **Strathclyde** had c9 birds between 5 Sep and 3 Oct, with a late bird at Westport on 7 Nov.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima* Counts/passages: **Shetland** 1st back on Fair Isle was on 14 Jul, 80 at Sandness on 13 Nov: **Orkney** recorded a high total of 1222 on Sanday on 25-27 Jan: **Highland** 1 at Mey on 9 Jul, autumn peak was 90 at Sandside on 29 Dec: **Grampian** 224 at Buckie on 14 Feb, 344 between Fraserburgh and Rosehearty on 15 Apr: **Tayside** 200 at Arbroath on 4 Jan: **Lothian** Gullane-North Berwick held 155 in Feb: **Strathclyde** 288 on the coast of Tiree on 25-26 Jan, 125 at Girvan on 16 Apr: **Dumf & Gall** 32 at Southernness on 25 Oct.



Dunlin

A. Stevenson

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* Breeding: **Orkney** up to 53 pairs were recorded; **Lothian** a pair failed at Musselburgh, but 2 young were seen at Tynninghame on 20 Jun; **Borders** up to 7 pairs were seen at 3 sites; **Strathclyde** estimates gave 250-300 pairs on Tiree, and 20 pairs on Coll. Counts/passages: **Orkney** 1394 on Sanday from 25-27 Jan; **Highland/Grampian** 1150 at Redcastle on 17 Jan, and 1921 at Nairn-Culbin Bars on 18 Jan; **Tayside** 2500 in outer Tay area in Feb, and 2500 in Montrose Basin in Dec; **Fife** 1800 at Eden estuary on 17 Jan; **Central** 4614 in Forth estuary on 20 Dec; **Lothian** the Aberlady peak was 1900 on 15 Feb, while Dalmeny held 2100 in Dec; **Strathclyde** 964 on Clyde estuary on 18 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** peak count was 5350 at Caerlaverock on 11 Nov.

\* **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* **Shetland** 1 at Urafirth, Mainland on 26 May (JND).

\* **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* **Strathclyde** 1 at Killean, Kintyre on 20 Jun (AJR).

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* Winter: in the North **Orkney** had 2 at Tankerness on 4 Jan, **Grampian** 1 at Nairn on 8 Jan, **Fife** singles at Eden estuary on 2 Jan, and Inverkeithing on 16 Jan and 8 Mar, **Lothian** 2 at Prestonpans in Feb-Mar, and **Dumf & Gall** 4 singles from Feb-Apr. Spring passage was good and included singles on Lewis and Balranald, **West Isles** between 25 May and 3 Jun, 3 at Noss Head **Highland** on 3 Jun, a peak of 19 at Strathbeg, **Grampian** on 19 Apr, and 7 near Maybole, **Strathclyde** from 16-19 Apr. By contrast the autumn was very poor with the highest numbers being 19 at Shebster, **Highland** on 13 Sep, 11 at Meikle, **Grampian** on 12 Sep, 11 at West Haven, **Tayside** on 21 Aug, 11 at Eden estuary, **Fife** on 13 Aug, 39 at Bogside, **Strathclyde** on 19 Sep, and 37 near Carnwath, **Strathclyde** on 20 Sep. Wintering birds included 1 at Gosford, **Lothian** on 30 Nov, and 2 at Ruthwell, **Strathclyde** on 27 Dec.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus* Generally low numbers, the highest counts being a peak of 8 on Fair Isle, **Shetland** on 29 Sep, 9 on North Ronaldsay, **Orkney** in Oct, 6 at Kinneil, **Central** on 17 Jan, and 14 at Paisley Moss, **Strathclyde** on 23 Nov. Autumn arrival was from 15 Sep on Fair Isle, **Shetland**.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Breeding: **Shetland** 21 drumming birds counted on Fair Isle; **Strathclyde** up to 500-1000 pairs estimated on Tiree, and 200-400 pairs on Coll. Counts/passages: **Shetland** 100 at Spiggie/Brow on 13 Oct; **Orkney** 225 on North Ronaldsay on 8 Oct; **Strathclyde** 200 at New Cumnock on 16 Aug.

\* **Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* **Shetland** at least 4 birds on Fair Isle with 1 on 26-27 Aug (SJA,NJR), 1 from 15-18 Sep (RJA,NJR), 1 from 17-24 Oct (NJR,STh,JW), and 1 from 4-6 Nov (SJA et al).

\* **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* **Highland** an adult near Arisaig on 23 Jul (GFJB).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* Counts/passages: **Shetland** the spring passage peak on Fair Isle was 10 on 11 Apr, autumn passage started on 30 Sep with peaks of 25 on 21 Oct and 100 on 9 Nov; **Grampian** had a poor autumn passage, and low autumn numbers were reported from most other areas.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* Breeding: **Shetland** 1 pair reared 2 young at usual site; **Tayside** pairs at 2 sites but no evidence of nesting. Counts/passages: **Orkney** 50 over Widewall Bay, South Ronaldsay on 5 Jul; **Highland** 24 at Longman on 16 Oct, and 24 at Lentrana on 25 Oct; **Grampian** had a high count of 26 in Findhorn Bay on 15 Sep; **Fife** the Eden estuary peak was 146 on 10 Apr; **Strathclyde** 30 at L Bhassapol, Tiree on 21 Apr; **Dumf & Gall** numbers on the Nith were low.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* Counts/passages: **Orkney** 601 on Sanday between 25 and 27 Jan; **Highland/Grampian** 1860 at Nairn-Culbin Bars on 15 Feb, and an unusual record of 800NE at Glenfintaig on 28 Feb; **Tayside** 1500 in the outer Tay in Oct; **Fife** 1800 at Eden estuary on 17 Jan, and 1500 at Tayport on 17 Feb; **Lothian** the Aberlady peak was 2300 on 15 Feb; **Dumf & Gall** 950 at Gillfoot on 22 Nov.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Breeding: **Shetland** had a poor year with most pairs on suboptimal habitat failing to rear young; **Orkney** had between 7 and 10 pairs breeding or attempting. Spring passage began with a very early bird at Eden estuary, **Fife** on 1 Mar. Passage figures included:

**Shetland** with peaks on Fair Isle of 12 on 9 May and 14 on 26 Jul, and a late bird on 11 Oct; **Grampian** with an early bird in the Fraserburgh area on 21 Mar, 15S at Peterhead on 16 Aug, and a late bird at Foveran on 23 Oct; **Fife** with 30 on Isle of May on 30 Aug, and a late bird there on 19 Oct; **Lothian** where the 1st bird was on 12 Apr, Tynninghame with 34 on 22 Jul, and a late single on 31 Oct; **Borders** with 122 birds recorded between 27 Jun and 3 Oct; and **Strathclyde** where a heavy spring passage involved 47 at Martnaham Loch on 5-6 May, and 100+ on Tiree on 11 May, the last autumn bird was seen on Islay on 6 Nov.

**Curlew *Numenius arquata*** Counts/passage: **Orkney** 1500 at Work Skerry on 23 Oct; **Grampian** 1354 at Ythan estuary on 16 Aug; **Central** 953 in Forth estuary on 15 Feb; **Strathclyde** 2300 near Carnwath on 20 Sep, 1027 at Greenan, Ayr on 12 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 3300 at Caerlaverock on 20 Aug.

**Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*** Winter-spring: **Shetland** 2 in the Spiggie/Wirkie/Hillwell area from 30 Apr-6 May, another on Unst on 16 May; **West Isles** 2-4 singles on Benbecula and Harris between 2 Jan and 1 Apr; **Grampian** 1 in Findhorn Bay on 10 May; **Tayside** 1 in Montrose Basin on 12 Apr; **Fife** 1 at Eden estuary on 26 Apr; **Central** 1 at Cambus Pool on 1 Jun; **Lothian** 1 at Tynninghame on 14, and 18 Apr; **Strathclyde** singles at Cardross from 2-17 Jan, and at Doonfoot on 12 Mar. Autumn summary:

	end-Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Shetland-Highland</b>	2	2	6	10	4	1	1
<b>Grampian-Fife</b>		1	9	22	12	3	
<b>Central-Borders</b>		2	8	18	8		1
<b>Strathclyde/Dumf &amp; Gall</b>		1	6	8			1

Max count was 5 at Cramond, **Lothian** on 20 Sep.

**Redshank *Tringa totanus*** Breeding: **Shetland** had a good season. Counts/passage: **Orkney** Sanday peak was 725 on 25-27 Jan; **Highland** 864 at Longman on 20 Dec; **Grampian** peaks of 900 at Findhorn Bay on 18 Apr, and 1277 on the Ythan on 16 Aug; **Tayside** 3250 in outer Tay in Oct; **Fife** 800 at Eden estuary on 21 Dec; **Central** 2104 in Forth estuary on 20 Dec; **Lothian** Cramond peak was 600 on 30 Aug; **Strathclyde** 3205 on Clyde estuary on 13 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** peak count was 900 in Carse Bay on 13 Sep.

**Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*** Breeding: **Shetland** sites not checked although young seen at 3 locations; **Highland** birds present at 6 potential breeding sites in Caithness District. Counts/passage: **Grampian** 17 in Findhorn Bay on 19 Aug; **Fife** 13 at Eden estuary on 24 Sep; **Central** max 15 at Kinneil on 13 Aug; **Lothian** higher numbers than usual with 16 at Aberlady on 15 and 31 Aug, and 18 at Tynninghame on 6 Sep; **Strathclyde** autumn peaks included 22 between Lamington and Hyndford Bridge on 30 Aug, and 19 from Woodhall-Cardross on 25 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 11 at Caerlaverock on 3 Sep. Wintering birds: **Highland** 1 wintered in Caithness District in Feb and Dec, elsewhere 7 in Jan, 4 in Dec; **Grampian** winter maxima were 6 in Jan, and 8 in Dec; **Fife** had 3 in Jan, and 1 in Dec; **Lothian** 3 at Tynninghame from Jan-9 Apr, 4-5 birds in Nov-Dec; **Borders** 3 at Tweedbank on 7 Nov, and 1 at Hule Moss on 26 Dec; **Strathclyde** 4 or 5 wintered on Tiree and Mull (Jan, Dec), 5-6 birds wintered in SW in Jan, and up to 17 in Dec.

**Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*** Winter-spring: **Shetland** 10 birds between 23 Apr and 27 May; **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay on 2 May; **West Isles** 1 at Liniclate, Benbecula on 18 Jun; **Grampian** 1 at Don on 10 May; **Tayside** 1 near Barry Buddon on 18-19 Apr; **Lothian** 1 at Tynninghame on 13 Mar; **Strathclyde** wintering singles were found in Jan at Erskine harbour, and Barr L, with 2 at Coulter, passage singles appeared at Barr L from 24-27 Apr, and on Islay on 17 May. A good autumn passage involved about 136 birds, with 25 in **Grampian**, 17 in **Lothian**, and 23 in **Strathclyde**. Passage in autumn spanned the dates from 23 Jun-31 Oct. Winter: **Borders** 1 on Oxnam Water from 7 Nov; **Strathclyde** 1 at Balfron on 9 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Caerlaverock on 21 Dec.

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*** Breeding: **Highland** at one site from 7 May-10 Jul, one brood on 10 Jun and probable second brood on 10 Jul, pair with young at another site on 26 Jun, and singles at another site on 22 and 24 May, with 2 on 7 Jun. Passage birds: **Shetland** up to 9 birds between 17 May and 5 Jun, in autumn up to 13 birds between 18 Jul and 6 Sep, with a very late individual at Catfirth from 23 Oct-8 Nov; **Orkney** singles on Sanday on 30 Apr and North Ronaldsay on 4-6 Jun, 1 at The Loons on 29-30 Sep; **West Isles** singles at Vatersay on 20 May, and





*Green Sandpiper Strathclyde*

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Balranald on 2 Jun; **Grampian** 3 singles between 10 and 29 May, 4 in autumn between 2 Aug and 11 Oct; **Tayside** singles at Kinkell Bridge from 5-17 May and 2 Sep, Montrose Basin on 10 Aug, Kinnaber on 27 Aug, and L Leven in mid Sep; **Fife** 1 on Isle of May on 18 Jul, 3 on 19 Jul, 1 on 21 Jul; **Lothian** a good year with up to 12 birds, an early 1 at Aberlady on 27 Apr was followed by 2 on 13 May, and 20 May; **Borders** 2 at St Abbs on 16 Aug, and 1 on 23 Aug; **Strathclyde** a good year in SW with up to 10 birds, 1 on Tiree on 21-22 Jun; **Dumf & Gall** 1S at Corsewall Pt on 13 Sep.

\* **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* **Orkney** 1 at L of Tankerness from 5-8 Jun (MG.ERM et al).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Breeding: **Orkney** 9-10 pairs located; **Borders** 339 territories recorded on river system; **Strathclyde** 118 pairs were recorded from 22 sites in inner Clyde area. Spring arrival: early birds noted in **Grampian** where 1 at the Ythan on 7 Feb, **Borders** where 1 at Tushielaw on 29 Mar, Mull **Strathclyde** with 1 on 5 Apr, and **Shetland** with 1 on Fair Isle on 6 Apr. Counts: **Shetland** peak of 15 on Fair Isle on 20 Jul; **Lothian** 1 at Musselburgh on 13 Apr, peak of 20 at Tynninghame on 9 Jul; **Strathclyde** 27 at Bogside on 27 Jul. Late singles: Oct birds were seen in **Shetland, Orkney, Grampian, Tayside, Fife,** and **Lothian**, while 1 at Cambus, **Central** on 21 Nov was exceptionally late.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Counts: **Shetland** spring passage peak of 350 on Fair Isle on 28 Mar; **Orkney** Sanday peak was 1309 on 25-27 Jan; **Grampian** 743 between Fraserburgh and Rosehearty on 15 Apr; **Tayside** 500+ between Carnoustie and Elliot in Dec; **Lothian** Musselburgh held 930 on 29 Apr, and Gullane-Tynninghame had 710 in Nov; **Strathclyde** 1196 on coast of Tiree on 25-26 Jan.

\* **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* **Grampian** a juvenile in Findhorn Bay from 8-13 Sep (RAM.RP); **Lothian** 1 at Aberlady and Musselburgh on 29 Aug was presumed to be the same bird (AAG.PRG.LLJV).

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* Breeding: **Shetland**, arrival on Fetlar on 22 May, 12 broods located, and 2 pairs nested at another site, last 1 on Fetlar was on 1 Aug; no breeding recorded on **West Isles**; **Strathclyde** 3 birds present at 1 site in Jun. Passage: **Orkney** ♀ on Westray on 14 Jun; **West Isles** ♀ on St Kilda from 2-22 Jun.

\* **Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* **Shetland** 1 at Grutness on 13 Sep; **West Isles** large nos in Sep gales, 11 in Uists and Benbecula between 6 and 29 Sep, another on 22 Oct, 5 in Minch on 14 Sep; **Highland** 1 off Sandside Head on 31 Jan; **Borders** 1 at Mayfield on 18 Oct.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* An overwintering bird appeared in **Grampian** off Lossiemouth on 29 Dec. Spring: **Shetland** 1 off Unst on 20 May, then 11 at Wats Ness on 21-22 May, 1 off Sumburgh on 26 May; **West Isles** 936 passed N Uist between 10 and 19 May; **Strathclyde** a few flocks on Tobermory-Coll crossing totalled 140 on 12 May. Autumn passage: **Orkney** 7 between 26 Jul and 28 Sep; **Highland** 5 at Dunnet Bay on 8 Sep, 1 at Chanonry on 20 Nov; **Grampian** peaks included 8N at Newtonhill on 8 Aug, and 6 at Buckie on 26 Aug; **Tayside** 7 between 7 Aug and 8 Oct; **Fife** only 10 seen between 26 Aug and 17 Nov; **Central** 2 at Kinneil on 4 Oct; **Lothian** peak counts were 10S at Barns Ness on 26 Aug, and 14W at Hound Pt on 23 Nov; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** an outstanding autumn in SW with up to 16 birds between 2 Aug and 20 Sep.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* Breeding: **Shetland** increase to 23 nests at Hermaness, but decline noted on Noss, and poor season on Fetlar, 95 pairs on Fair Isle; **Orkney** 310 pairs located with 1st eggs on 14 May; **Highland** 18-22 pairs were located at 9 sites in Caithness District; **Strathclyde** a survey revealed 47-52 pairs on Coll, and 45-50 pairs on Jura. Wintering birds: **Lothian** singles were noted at Musselburgh on 2, and 12 Jan. Migration: **Shetland** last 1 at Sumburgh on 8 Nov; **Orkney** seen from 12 Apr, large movement of 80-100E in 30 minutes at Scapa on 3 Sep; **Grampian** 76N and 75S in 4 hours at Peterhead on 7 Aug; **Fife** 35S at Fife Ness on 23 Aug; **Lothian** 123S Barns Ness on 26 Aug; **Borders** heavy movement of 88S at Eyemouth on 22 Aug, 1 at Roxburgh on 11-18 Nov died later; **Strathclyde** autumn peaks in SW were 15 on 5 Sep, and 9 Sep.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* **Shetland** 2 at Wats Ness on 20 May preceded 51 there on 21 May, singles off Fair Isle on 17 May and 7 Aug, 1 dead at Eshaness on 3 Nov; **Orkney** 6NE at Scapa Flow on 12 May, singles off Evie on 13 Jun, Papa Westray on 10 Aug, and North Ronaldsay on 31 Aug; **West Isles** 105 passed N Uist between 10 and 19 May; **Fife** juvenile at Aberdour on 20 Sep; **Lothian** singles at Musselburgh on 13 Aug, Barns Ness on 27 Aug, with another on 4 Oct; **Borders** 1 at St Abbs on 27 Jul; **Strathclyde** 2 between Tobermory and Coll on 12 May, and 2 off Tiree on 13 May.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua* Breeding: **Shetland** 850 pairs at Hermaness colony, 72 pairs on Fair Isle; **Orkney** up to 280 pairs located; **West Isles** 40-47 pairs on Hirta; **Highland** 4 pairs were found at 2 sites in Caithness District. Winter: **Fife** 1N at Fife Ness on 6 Dec; **Lothian** 6 records of Jan birds included 2 at Musselburgh on 13 Jan. Migration: **Shetland** arrival at Fetlar on 24 Mar, last 7 in Yell Sound on 1 Nov; **Orkney** last bird was seen on 13 Nov; **Grampian** 91N and 10S in 4 hours at Peterhead on 7 Aug; **Tayside** 35 between Scurdie Ness and Usan on 23 Aug; **Fife** 29N and 2S at Fife Ness on 23 Aug; **Lothian** 29S at Barns Ness on 26 Aug; **Borders** peak of 35N at St Abbs on 27 Aug; **Strathclyde** low peak in SW of 12 on 10 Sep, 3 at Hillend Res on 22 Oct were unusual; **Dumf & Gall** 14 at Caerlaverock on 21 Sep.

\* **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus* **Grampian** adult at Girdle Ness on 1 Jan and 18 Mar, a 2nd winter bird at Peterhead on 11 Mar, and a 2nd summer bird at Girdle Ness on 5 Jul; **Tayside** adult at Broughty Ferry on 11 Jan; **Strathclyde** single adults at Doonfoot on 25-28 Jan, and 18 Sep.

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus* Summary of records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland					2	1	2	2	3	3		2
Grampian-Fife	2		20	61	1	10	955	635	14	12	114	8
Central-Borders	3						15	30	3	17	21	
Strathclyde/D & G	1		1	1	3	2	5	4	3		1	

Peaks: **Tayside** the main concentrations during Jul-Aug were at the usual spots with 300 at Arbroath on 17 Jul, 400 at Carnoustie on 23 Jul, and 200 in Monifieth area on 31 Jul; **Fife** the Kilconquhar L peak reached 211 on 14 Aug, and 80 flew N at Fife Ness on 7 Nov; **Lothian** 19 at Hound Pt on 24 Nov; **Borders** 11N at St Abbs on 24 Jul.

\* **Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini* An excellent year with a much larger than usual autumn passage concentrated mainly between 12 and 14 Sep; **Shetland** juvenile off Sumburgh Head on 21 Sep; **West Isles** 3 adults off Ardvule on 14 Sep; **Grampian** juvenile S at Peterhead on 17 Sep, another at

Girdle Ness on 26 Sep, adult at Rattray on 22 Oct; **Lothian** adult seen at Musselburgh, and from m.v. Gardyloo between 19 Aug and 20 Sep; **Strathclyde** a juvenile flying south at Troon on 13 Sep was followed by 2 more on 14 Sep, and an adult at Ayr on 21 Sep, a juvenile at Fannyside L on 27 Sep was unusual; **Dumf & Galloway** a juvenile flying S at Corsewall Pt on 6 Sep was followed by 5 juvs on 12 Sep, and 1 on 13 Sep.

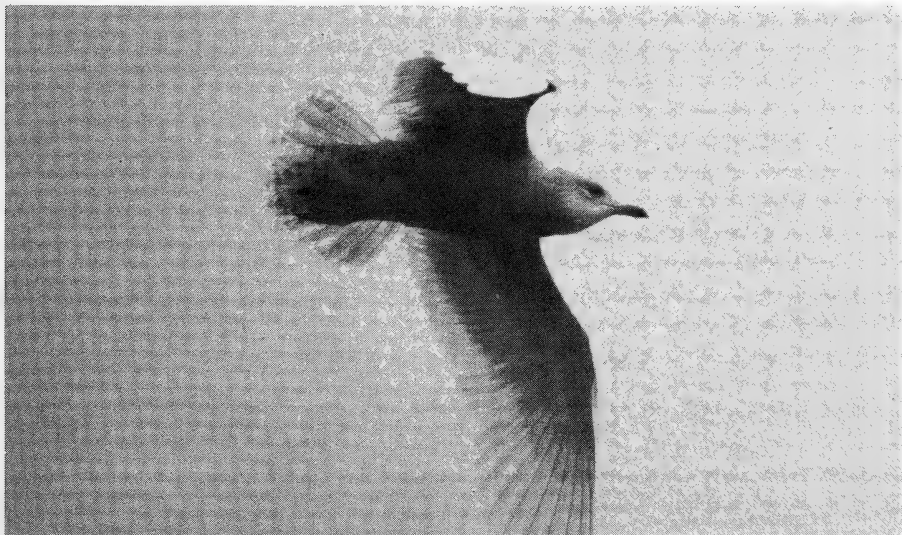
\* **Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia* **Shetland** a 1st summer bird at Spiggie on 23 May (JND).

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* Breeding: **Orkney** 2580 pairs were recorded; **Grampian** a good year at Forvie where 571 pairs reared c.1.0 young/pair; **Lothian** 1350-1500 pairs at Bavelaw had a successful season; **Borders** a minimum of 13,679 nests were counted, with 11,600 at Bemersyde; **Strathclyde** 1485 pairs were counted at 20 sites. Counts: **Grampian** Skene held 34,000 on 7 Nov; **Fife** 6000 at Leven on 8 Jan; **Lothian** 5000 at Musselburgh on 25 Jan; **Strathclyde** 27,000 were roosting in the Clyde estuary on 15 Feb

\* **Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* **Shetland** a 1st summer bird at Hillwell from 27 Apr-9 May (PVH et al); **Strathclyde** adult at Doonfoot from 19 Jan-28 Feb (RHH et al), and a 1st winter bird at Ardnave, Islay on 21 Apr (SHJS).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus* Breeding: **Orkney** 1177 pairs were recorded; **Grampian** 600-700 pairs at Mortlach; **Strathclyde** 350 pairs reared at least 200 young at L. Thom. Counts: **Shetland** passage on Fair Isle from 12 Apr-1 May with a peak of 70 on 20 Apr, in autumn 210 on 13 Aug; **Lothian** 5000 at Musselburgh on 1 Feb; **Strathclyde** 15,000 at Doonfoot from early-mid Oct.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* Breeding: **Orkney** had up to 250 pairs; **Highland** 70 pairs on Rhum; **Lothian** 3663 nests were counted on the Forth islands; **Strathclyde** 1500 nests were estimated on Ailsa Craig, 129 pairs on Tiree, up to 152 pairs on Coll, and an increase in roof-top nesting was noticed in Dumbarton, Cumbernauld, and elsewhere; **Dumf & Galloway** 1500 nests were counted at Almorness Pt. Counts/passage: **Shetland** late arrival of 6 on Fair Isle on 9 Apr, post breeding influx of 165 on 10 Jul; **Highland** 1 at L. Garten on 25 Jan; **Lothian** 260 in 2 hours at Barns Ness on 29 Mar; **Strathclyde** a huge roost of 4500 at Strathclyde Park on 9 Sep. Winter: usual small nos in South Scotland Jan/Dec, but 95 at Balgray, **Strathclyde** on 23 Dec may have been due to milder winter weather. Other races: **L f fuscus** 11 birds were recorded in Northern Scotland between 18 Mar and 29 May. **L f intermedium**: 44 birds were recorded between 13 Mar and 7 May, and on 28 Dec, mostly in Northern Scotland.



Iceland Gull 1st winter Ayr Jan. 1986

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**Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*** Breeding: **Highland** a big increase on Canna to 1373 pairs; **Grampian** complete failure at Strathbeg; **Lothian** 8746 nests were counted on the Forth islands; **Borders** decline continues with 1429 nests recorded; **Strathclyde** Ailsa Craig held an estimated 2000 nests, 1170 pairs on Tiree, and 1026-1143 pairs on Coll. Counts: **Tayside** 6000 at Arbroath on 4 Mar; **Lothian** 8000 at Musselburgh on 18 Jan; **Central** 5000 at Kinneil on 24 Jan; **Strathclyde** 5-8000 at Doonfoot from early-mid Oct, 9500 in Strathclyde Park on 22 Nov. Yellow-legged individuals, perhaps **Scandinavian *L. a. omissus***: 1 at Doonfoot, **Strathclyde** on 9 Jan, and another at Hogganfield L, **Strathclyde** on 24 Jan.

**Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*** Summary of year's records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Shetland-Highland</b>	14	17	22	16	14	3	1			5	10	19
<b>Grampian-Fife</b>	4	2	5	7	5						1	6
<b>Central-Borders</b>		1	2					1				1
<b>Strathclyde/D &amp; G</b>	2	1	3	1	1				1		2	

**Kumlien's *Lg. kumlieni***: **Grampian** the Banff adult was present between 22 Jan and 5 Apr, and from 27 Dec to the end of the year (GMC.RP.JGS et al).

**Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*** Summary of year's records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Shetland-Highland</b>	19	11	11	8	5	1	2	3	1	11	6	20
<b>Grampian-Fife</b>	20	15	14	12	9	3			1	9	15	7
<b>Central-Borders</b>	7	6	4	4	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	1
<b>Strathclyde/D &amp; G</b>	10	4	4	2	6	1		1	2	4	4	4

Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrids: **Tayside** 1 between Arbroath and Carnoustie from 18 Jan-25 Sep; **Lothian** 1 at Musselburgh on 3 Oct.

**Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*** Breeding: **Strathclyde** 45 pairs on Tiree, 219-232 pairs on Coll, and 35 pairs on Ailsa Craig. Counts: **Shetland** 180 at Spiggie on 16 Feb; **Orkney** 700 at Aikerness, Westray on 8 Jul; **Grampian** 500 at Lossiemouth on 26 Apr, 1370 at Strathbeg on 17 Oct; **Fife** 900 on Isle of May on 7 Oct.

\* **Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*** **Grampian** adult at Girdle Ness from 26-28 Sep (KAS.KDS et al).

**Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*** Breeding: **Shetland** 4350 nests were found on Foula (a decrease of 22% since 1977), decline also noted on North Unst where 4243 nests (4367 in 1981), productivity at monitored sites on Fair Isle produced 1.00 chicks/nest, but gales resulted in much higher than average post-fledging mortality; **Orkney** 5210 pairs on Rousay, increase in nests of 11.6% at monitored sites; **Highland** 3646 nests were counted at 3 sites in Caithness District, and 2213 nests were found on Rhum; **Grampian** both Moray colonies showed increases; **Fife** 6765 nests (highest ever number) on Isle of May suffered massive chick mortality in early Aug; **Lothian** over 4000 nests were counted on 5 Forth islands, 495 pairs at Dunbar showed a productivity rate of 1.41 large young/nest; **Borders** increase to 23,094 nests mostly at St Abbs; **Strathclyde** 2988 nests were counted on Ailsa Craig, but success rate was very low; **Dumf & Gall** 66 nests on Scare Rocks on 14 Jun. Counts/passages: **Orkney** 6000/hour off Mull Head, Papa Westray on 13 Jul; **Grampian** 14,600N and 860S in 2 hours at Peterhead on 27 Sep; **Central** 60W at Kinneil on 21 Mar.

\* **Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*** **West Isles** 1 at Drimdsale, S Uist from 3-6 May (TJD.AH.DBJ).

\* **Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*** **Shetland** 1N off Fair Isle on 29 May (SJA).

\* **Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*** **Lothian** an adult in non-breeding plumage at Musselburgh on 21-22 Aug (MRL.IJA et al). This is the first Scottish record of this species.

**Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*** Breeding: **Grampian** 1082 pairs at Forvie reared 0.99 young/pair, but Strathbeg produced only 9 young from 130 pairs; **Lothian** 655 nests on Inchmickery. Winter: **Highland/Grampian** 1 off Peterhead on 13 Feb, and 1 at Nairn on 15 and 22 Feb was possibly the same bird. Counts/passages: **Orkney** seen from 30 Mar-6 Nov; **West Isles** 15 sightings from Jul-Sep; **Grampian** 1N at Peterhead on 19 Mar, 337 at Lossiemouth on 13 Aug; **Fife** 1500+ at

Tentsmuir Pt on 3 Aug, a late bird at Anstruther on 31 Oct; **Lothian** peak count was 420 at Aberlady in Jul, late singles at Gullane Pt on 28 and 29 Nov; **Strathclyde** 1 near Girvan on 29 Mar.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* Breeding: **Lothian** 20 nests were found on Inchmickery. Counts/passage: **West Isles** 1 off Benbecula on 12 May; **Grampian** 1 at Balmedie on 1 Aug; **Fife** 14 at Burntisland on 9 Aug; **Strathclyde** 2 off Coll on 18 May.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* Breeding: **Shetland** a poor season with few fledged young, similarly 37 pairs on Fair Isle experienced complete failure of later chicks and eggs; **Grampian** 163 pairs at Forvie reared c1 young/pair, and 78 pairs at Strathbeg reared 28 young, 75-100 pairs nested on Kinloss airfield; **Fife** 62 chicks were ringed on Isle of May; **Lothian** 210 nests on Inchmickery, 382 nests at Leith Docks, and 73 pairs reared at least 107 young at 2 other coastal sites; **Strathclyde** all major Argyll islands were surveyed, revealing 1028-1033 pairs, Hunterston held at least 94 nests, but chick mortality was high due to bad weather; **Dumf & Gall** 29 nests of *Common/Arctic* on Murray's Isle on 5 Jul. Counts/passage: **Grampian** a late bird was at Peterhead on 18 Oct; **Lothian** 4, Comms, at Dalmeny on 8 Apr, and a late bird at Hound Pt on 15 Nov; **Strathclyde** a late bird was at Doonfoot on 18 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 1 in New England Bay on 11 Apr.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* Breeding: **Shetland** out of 120 colonies checked, only 1 fledged chick was found, and an increase to 211 nests on Fair Isle saw poor weather virtually wipe out all fledging success; **Orkney** better success than in 1986 with 1440 pairs on Westray, and 1000 pairs on North Ronaldsay; **Grampian** 49 pairs at Forvie reared c1 young/pair; **Fife** 67 chicks were ringed and fledging success was reasonable on Isle of May; **Lothian** 73 pairs at 2 coastal sites reared only 18 young; **Strathclyde** Argyll island survey revealed a total of 1650-1690 pairs. Counts/passage: arrival in **Lothian** and **Orkney** was on 21 Apr, while in **Shetland** a late bird was seen on 27 Oct.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons* Breeding: **Highland** 9 pairs at 1 site in Caithness, where only 2 chicks fledged in poor weather; **Grampian** a poor year with only 2 young from 27 pairs at Forvie, and failure at St Cyrus; **Tayside** 11 juveniles seen at Barry Buddon; **Lothian** 20 pairs at 2 sites reared 13 young; **Strathclyde** Argyll survey revealed 91-102 pairs, all on Coll, Tiree, and Islay. Counts/passage: arrival in **Lothian** was on 18 Apr, while in **Highland** a late bird was seen at Thurso on 24 Sep.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* 5 in spring: **Shetland** 1 at sea near Skeld on 14 Jun; **Orkney** 1 on Westray on 22 Apr; **Highland** 1 early bird at Boat of Garten on 19 Apr; **Strathclyde** 2 early birds at Martnaham Loch on 20-21 Apr. Autumn: **Orkney** 2 at Brough of Birsay on 10 Sep, 1 on North Ronaldsay from 13-14 Sep; **Highland** 1 at Sandside on 4 Sep, another on 24 Sep, with 2 on 25 Sep; **Grampian** singles at Peterhead from 3-19 Sep, Newtonhill on 23 Sep, and Girdle Ness on 26 Sep; **Tayside** 1 on Forfar L on 19-20 Jul; **Fife** singles at Fife Ness on 14 Aug, and Tayport on 24 Sep; **Central** 1 at Kinneil on 1 Aug; **Lothian/Borders** 15 birds were recorded between 14 Jul and 21 Sep; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** 6 birds were recorded between 19 Jul and 22 Oct.



**Lesser Crested Tern**

A. Hogg

\* **White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* **Grampian** 1 at Meikle L from 23-26 May (AW et al).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge* Breeding: **Shetland** had a good breeding season, Foula census recorded 37,500 birds on ledges (cf 60,021 in 1976), and a census of Fair Isle's breeding population produced 32,437 individuals, with good fledging success in first half of Jul; **Orkney** showed an increase of 10% at 5 monitored sites; **Highland** 6266 were counted at 4 sites in Caithness District; **Lothian** 2700 birds on cliffs of Bass Rock on 30 May; **Borders** showed an increase to 29,394 birds on nesting ledges along the coast; **Strathclyde** 4788 nests were counted on Ailsa Craig; **Dumf & Galloway** 3000 birds on the Scare Rocks on 14 Jun. Counts: **Shetland** tens of thousands remained in voes during late autumn and winter feeding on small fish; **Orkney** 1750/hr in Burra Sound on 13 Sep; **Highland** 3000 in Kessock Narrows on 30 Nov and 7 Dec; **Grampian** 12,300N in 2 hours off Peterhead on 6 Apr.

\* **Brunnich's Guillemot** *Uria lomvia* **Shetland** 1 at Hamnavoe, Burra from 3-7 Feb (CDRH et al), and another found nearby freshly dead on 7 Feb (DC et al).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda* Breeding: **Shetland** had a good breeding season with Foula census recording 6200 birds (cf 10,576 in 1976), also good fledging success on Fair Isle; **Orkney** showed an overall increase of 26.3% at 5 colonies from 1986; **Highland** 1116 at 4 sites in Caithness District; **Fife** 1200 pairs on Isle of May; **Lothian** 326 birds were counted on 5 Forth islands during late May-early Jul; **Borders** 1168 apparently occupied nests along the coast is an increase; **Strathclyde** 700 nests were counted on Ailsa Craig; **Dumf & Galloway** 22 nests on the Scare Rocks.

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle* Breeding: **Highland** Rhum census produced 107 birds; **Grampian** a pair reared 1 young at Portknockie; **Strathclyde** signs of continued expansion in SW. Counts: **Shetland** 564 in Bluemull area on 18 Feb, and pre-breeding counts at monitoring sites produced 4440 adults; **Borders** 2 at St Abbs on 30 Aug.

**Little Auk** *Alle alle* **Shetland** scarce in early part of year with peak of only 4 in Yell Sound on 3 Jan, but good numbers in autumn with 1535 in 1 hour at Sumburgh Head on 15 Nov; **Orkney** 57 in 30 minutes off North Ronaldsay on 26 Nov; **West Isles** an exceptionally early bird was seen near Stornoway on 6 Aug; **Highland** huge Nov influx with 1185 at Chanonry on 29 Nov, 400 on 30 Nov, and 500 on 2 Dec; **Grampian** large numbers in late Nov-early Dec, peaks included 968W in 2 hours Lossiemouth on 29 Nov, 758W in 1 hour on 3 Dec, 475 birds were seen at Peterhead during this period; **Fife** 7 in Largo Bay on 4 Apr, large influx with 666 past Fife Ness on 8 Nov, and 554NE at Anstruther on 23 Nov; **Lothian** largest ever autumn influx in region with 376 at Hound Pt on 23 Nov, 320 at Yellowcraig on 6 Dec, and 1000 at Tynninghame on 13 Dec; **Borders** big autumn influx with 200 off St Abbs in mid Nov; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Galloway** had a few in the Oct-Dec period with 2 in Islay on 20 Oct, 4 on L. Ken on 24 Nov, 4N at Turnberry Point on 6 Dec, and up to 7 other scattered singles.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica* Breeding: **Shetland** overall a poor season was suggested due to shortage of sandeels. Hermaness census indicated a breeding population of between 22,960-27,866 pairs, on Foula 48,000 occupied burrows were counted (a 32% decrease since 1976), a sample of 93 nests on Fair Isle produced 0.7 chicks/nest; **West Isles** 1st back on St Kilda was on 6 Apr; **Highland** 1401 at 4 sites in Caithness District; **Lothian** 1165 birds on Craighleith on 13 Jun.

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* Counts: **Shetland** 200 at Geosetter on 21 Oct; **Orkney** 300 on Burray on 24 Jan; **Highland** 150 at Tannach on 29 Jan; **Lothian** 360 at West Fenton on 2 Jan; **Strathclyde** 350 at Prestwick on 27 Jul.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas* Breeding: **Dumf & Galloway** long-term decline continues. Counts: **Shetland** 1 at Sandwick on 3 Apr; **Lothian** a very high count of 250 at Dalmeny on 10 Feb.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus* Counts: **Grampian** 2500 at Ludquharn on 14 Jan; **Fife** 2500S over R Tay on 11 Jan; **Central** 5000 at Lecropt on 17 Jan; **Lothian** 6000 at Fenton Barns on 19 Jan, and 3000 at Whittinghame-Papple on 15 May were above average counts; **Strathclyde** 3000 at Monkton from 31 Jan-3 Feb.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decacto* Breeding: **Strathclyde** 27+ pairs estimated for Arran. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 3 during May on Fetlar, and 5 from late Jun-early Jul on Foula; **Orkney** highest count was 47 at Crantit, St Ola in May and Nov; **Highland** 41 at Scrabster on 14 Nov; **Lothian** 86 at Turnhouse on 11 Sep; **Strathclyde** 70 at Auchincruive, Arran on 7 Jan.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* Migrants: **Shetland** 1 on Fetlar on 16 May, with 2 on 18 May, 3 other May singles elsewhere, and 2 at Helendale on 17 Jun, up to 1-5 daily on Fair Isle between 2-18 Jun, only a few singles in autumn with late birds on Fair Isle on 15 Oct, and Strand on 13 Dec; **Orkney** passage from 28 Apr-30 Jun with 8+ birds, 4 in autumn between 20 Sep and 3 Oct; **West Isles** singles on St Kilda in Jun, and Jul, singles on N Uist in May, Jun, and Oct; **Highland** singles at Kiltarlity on 4 Jun, Noss Farm on 7 Jun, 1-2 birds on Rhum from 1-7 Jul, and 1 at Ackergill Drive on 23 Oct; **Grampian** singles at Ludquharn from 19-21 May, and in Aberdeen on 24 Jul; **Fife** 7 birds between 24 May and 1 Jul, and a late bird at Fife Ness from 21-25 Oct; **Central** 1 at Skinflats on 13 Jul; **Lothian** 1 at Aberlady on 29 May, and 2 at Drem on 30 May; **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 10 Jun, and Reston on 8 Aug; **Strathclyde** 8 birds in Argyll between 24 Apr and 17 Jun, also 1 at Lamington on 30 Aug; **Dumf & Gall** 2 near Mull of Galloway on 25 Apr.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* Counts/passage: **Shetland** early arrival on Fair Isle on 17 Apr, influx with 8 sightings in North isles on 15-17 Aug, last record was a juvenile on Unst on 12 Sep; **Orkney** last seen on 7 Sep; **Highland/West Isles/Grampian-Borders/Dumf & Gall** most arrivals from 18 Apr.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* Breeding: **Grampian** 2 pairs bred in Moray with birds at 2 other sites; **Borders** reported from 28 localities; **Strathclyde** an increase in reports, with 5 pairs rearing 10 young on Islay, a good year partly due to a peak in the vole population in the SW and Arran - similarly, **Dumf & Gall** had a very good season with mean brood size of 3.88 from 40 successful nests.

\* **Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca* **Shetland** 2♀♀ on Fetlar from Jan-26 Apr, perhaps up to 30 Aug, and at least 1 till end Dec, 1 laid an infertile clutch, 1 at Uyeasound, Unst from 26 Apr-1 Oct; **Orkney** a single ♂ was seen at three locations between 6 Mar and 6 Apr; **Highland/Grampian** a ♀ was present on the Cairngorm plateau from 21 Jun-4 Sep.

\* **Little Owl** *Athene noctua* **Lothian** a pair was present at a site occupied in 1986 and may have bred; **Borders** singles noted at Kelso on 1-12 Feb, and Maxton on 1-13 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** pair bred in usual area, rearing 2, one of which was killed by a car in Aug.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* Breeding: most areas reported a successful breeding season.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* Breeding: **Strathclyde** 20 pairs were reported from 14 sites in the centre of the region. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 8 at Gott on 4 Feb, but low numbers on Fair Isle with 5 singles; **Orkney** Berstane Wood held 13 in Jan, and 14 in Feb; **West Isles** 1 in Stornoway Woods on 2 Jul; **Lothian** proven breeding at 2 sites; **Strathclyde** 8 roosted at Cumbernauld during Dec; **Dumf & Gall** 14 roosted together at Cairnhead on 26 Jul.

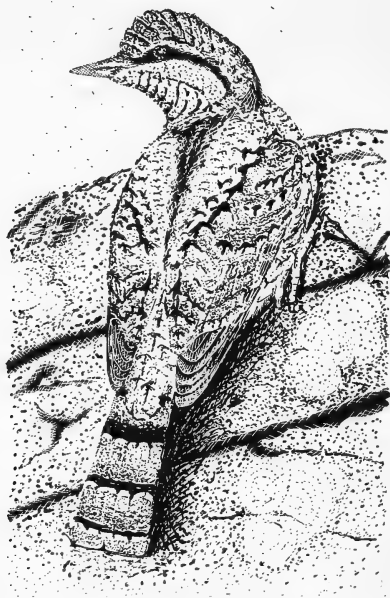
**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* Breeding: **Lothian** a very poor year in the Lammermuirs, but **Dumf & Gall** had a good season except in Glentroul. Counts/passage: **Shetland** autumn peak on Fair Isle was 7 on 16-17 Oct, and Sumburgh Head held 3 from 14-22 Oct; **Lothian** Tailend Moss had a roost of 18 on 17 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** good numbers remained in upland areas in winter 1987-88 due to high numbers of voles.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Breeding: **Strathclyde** 3-4 pairs at Brodick, Arran suggests a continued decline, singles were heard at 2 other sites for one day only, elsewhere in the region 2 were heard churring in Glenan Forest in Aug, and a single at Portavadie on 22 Jun, and 21-22 Jul; **Dumf & Gall** only 2 churring at site near Dumfries, 1-2 at New Galloway in Jun-Jul, 2 other new areas in Wigtown District held single birds in Jun and Jul.

**Swift** *Apus apus* Counts/passage: **Shetland** early singles at Mavis Grind on 30 Apr and Sumburgh Head on 1 May, peak on Fair Isle was 24 on 20 Jul, the last bird being seen on 21 Sep; **Grampian/Tayside** early birds were seen on 14 Apr and 19 Apr; **Lothian** late birds were seen at East Linton on 22 and 24 Oct; **Borders** had a huge autumn passage of 6000S/hour over Eyemouth on 19 Jul; **Strathclyde** a very early bird was on Colonsay on 16 Apr, 500 were at Barron's Haugh in mid-Jun, and a very late bird was seen at Condorrat on 11 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** 800 at Lochmaben on 1 Jul was a high count.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* Breeding: **Tayside** had 2 breeding records; **Strathclyde** 20 pairs were reported from the inner Clyde area, and more reports came from the SW including 2 successful nests; **Dumf & Gall** had a good season. Others: **Orkney** 1 on Birsay from 19 Oct-17 Nov; **Highland/Grampian** 1 at Tarradale from 22 Jan-13 Feb, and 1 at Findhorn Bay from 1986 was last seen on 24 Feb, 1 at Inverness on 23 Mar.

\* **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* **Shetland** singles on Bressay on 29 Apr, and Kergord/Whiteness on 19-23 Oct; **Orkney** singles on Stronsay on 4-5 Apr, and Westray on 27 Apr; **West Isles** 1 at Balivanich from 19-22 Apr; **Highland** 1 at Auldearn from 29-30 Apr; **Grampian** 1 at Wells of Ythan from 12-14 Oct; **Fife** 1N at North Queensferry on 13 Sep, and 1 at Shell Bay on 25 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at West Barns on 17 Apr; **Borders** 1 at St Abbs from 9-10 May; **Strathclyde** 1 at Lamlash, Arran from 4-5 Sep.



**Wryneck**

**J.G. Steele**

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* Breeding: **Highland** up to 4 singing birds, but no proven breeding. Passage: **Shetland** had a poor year with only 3 spring singles from 21-27 May, 7 individuals in autumn between 15 Aug and 22 Sep, on Fair Isle 2 singles from 25-26 Apr and 26-31 May were followed by up to 10 autumn records, with a maximum of 4 on 21 Sep; **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay on 25 Apr, and up to 5 between 23 Aug and 22 Sep; **Tayside** 1 at Broughty Ferry on 6 Sep; **Fife** singles at Fife Ness on 25 May, and from 28 Aug-1 Sep, then 1 on Isle of May from 21-24 Sep, and another at St Andrews on 16 Oct; **Lothian** singles at Tailend Moss on 1 May, and Barns Ness from 29 Aug-1 Sep; **Borders** 2 at St Abbs on 28 Aug, 1 till 30 Aug; **Strathclyde** 1 on Sanda on 6 Oct.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* Breeding: **Grampian** still largely confined to Deeside; **Fife** expansion of range indicated; **Central** stated to be common along Ochil scarp; **Lothian** more breeding reports from fewer sites than in 1986; **Borders** 32 territories were reported; **Dumf & Galloway** continues widespread in small numbers in hardwoods.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* Breeding: **Lothian** had the highest number of potential breeding sites yet reported in the region. Others: **Highland** 1 on Eigg from 28 Nov-17 Dec was a first record for the island.

\* **Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 29 May (SJA), 1 at Scatness on 28 Sep (CFMcK), and another at Grutness on 6 Oct (JDO); **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay from 2-3 May (MGP,KFW).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* Breeding: **Shetland** early young were seen at Camb on 14 May; **Lothian** 45 territories were found at Aberlady. Counts/passage: **Shetland** good passage on Fair Isle from 10-26 Mar with 300+ on 12 Mar, autumn influxes on 20 Sep and 8, 14 Oct with 250+ on each date; **Highland** 500 at Murkle on 15 Feb; **Grampian** 200+S/hour at Muchalls on 11 Jan; **Fife** 4000+



arrived at Fife Ness on 24 Oct; **Lothian** 800 at Musselburgh on 18 Jan; **Strathclyde** huge movement of 2500S/hour over Doonfoot on 13 Jan, and 2500 at Rigside on 17 and 18 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** a large movement in mid Jan included 1000+ over Kirriereoch on 20 Jan.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* **Shetland** spring singles on Fair Isle on 28 Apr and 3-4 May, 1 at Noss on 14 Jun, and 1 on Fair Isle on 19 Oct was only autumn record; **Orkney** 1 at Evie on 9 Apr; **Tayside** 3 at Montrose on 24 Mar; **Lothian** 1 at Musselburgh till 18 Jan, 4 at Tynninghame early in Jan increased to 6 from 23 Jan-28 Feb, with last 3 on 8 Mar, 2 at Aberlady from 10-18 Jan and 13-17 Mar, with 1 till 18 Apr, in the autumn 1 at Tynninghame on 19 Oct rose to 6 from 26 Dec to the end of the year.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* Breeding: **Grampian** further increase noted; **Tayside** 1052 pairs located in Angus District, while a survey in Perth & Kinross District located 1246 pairs (the latter a 43% increase on 1986); **Central** 362 nests at Barbush; **Lothian** however, showed no evidence of resurgence in numbers; **Borders** recovery with 63 colonies holding 2405 burrows; **Strathclyde** 3483 occupied burrows were reported from the inner Clyde area, and increases were noted elsewhere as well as in **Dumf & Gall**. Counts/passage: **Shetland/Orkney** records ran from 21 Apr-29 Sep; **Grampian** 500 were at Davan on 4 May; **Fife** an extremely late bird was seen at St Andrews on 18 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** arrival from 30 Mar, peak count was 1100 at roost Lochmaben on 8 Jul.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Breeding: **Shetland** a pair reared 4 young on Foula. Counts/passage: **Shetland** highest numbers on Fair Isle were from 29 May-5 Jun with 50 on 1 Jun; **Highland** 600 at Loch Watten on 19 Aug; **Grampian** last 1 at Lossiemouth on 22 Nov; **Fife** last 2 at Tayport on 18 Nov; **Borders** 1600 roosted at Pot Loch on 6 Sep; **Strathclyde** 3500 roosted at Bishop L, Glasgow on 13 Aug, 2 late juveniles were at Turnberry on 28 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** arrival was on 27 Mar, 1500 at Cumstoun, Kirkcudbright on 30 Aug.

\* **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica* An amazing run of records for this South European species: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 24 Oct (SJA), 1 at Clickimin on 31 Oct (MH et al), and 2 at Holmsgarth on 3-8 Nov (DC.IS et al); **Grampian** 1 at Nigg on 16 May (AJL); **Tayside** a 1st winter bird at Broughty Ferry from 7-8 Nov (RDG.SG et al); **Lothian** 3 at Cammo Park, Edinburgh on 6 Nov (KH).

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica* Breeding: **Shetland** 2 fledged at Baliasta, Unst; **Orkney** 10 nests were built at 2 sites; **Tayside** 500+ cliff-nesting pairs were located between Arbroath and Lunan Bay; **Lothian** 133 cliff nests were recorded at 3 sites; **Strathclyde** a late nest at Dronang still had young on 28 Sep. Counts/passage: **Shetland** early singles on Fair Isle and at Eshaness on 19 Apr, peak of 30 on Fair Isle on 1 Jun, with the last 2 at Holmsgarth on 7 Nov; **Fife** 3 at St Andrews on 18 Nov; **Borders** an early bird was at Hawick on 9 Apr, but **Strathclyde** had 1 at Prestwick on 7 Apr, late records included 4 at Whiting Bay, Arran on 14 Nov, 5 at Connel on 17 Nov, and 1 at Culzean on 27 Nov.

\* **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* A large autumn influx ran from 21 Sep to 24 Nov, and involved some 27+ birds. **Shetland** large numbers arrived on the Northern isles, and Fair Isle had a strong passage from 21 Sep-20 Oct with a maximum of 6 on 1 Oct, further arrivals occurred with 1 on 30 Oct and 1-3 birds from 4-10 Nov (per JND.NJR et al), outside Fair Isle the Out Skerries had 2 on 22 Sep, 1 staying till 24 Sep, and singles on Whalsay on 4 Oct, and Norby on 8 Nov; **Orkney** singles on Holm from 27-28 Sep (ERM/PD), North Ronaldsay on 5 Oct (REI/CB), another from 15-16 Oct (EJW), 3 on Stronsay on 19 Oct, with 1 till 23 Oct, other singles on 2 Nov and 24 Nov (JFH); **Highland** 1 at Tarbatness on 3 Oct (RHD); **Grampian** singles at Foveran, and Drums on 21 Oct (RDS.JAS.MH.JL), and Netherton, Findhorn Bay from 4-9 Oct (RHD et al); **Fife** 1 near Fife Ness from 14-16 Nov (AH.GF.DT); **Borders** 1 at St Abbs on 4 Oct (DJB/RHH).

\* **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 2-7 May, another on 29 Oct-7 Nov (per NJR); **Grampian** 1 at Foveran from 24-25 Oct (RDS.JAS.AGS.GS).

\* **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* Another quite outstanding influx, involving between 8 and 11 birds. **Shetland** 1 at Grutness/Sumburgh from 29 Sep-3 Oct (JND.CFMcK), and exceptional numbers on Fair Isle with 1 from 2-20 Oct (PHA.SJA et al), another from 14-20 Oct (SJA.KO), another 3 on 15 Oct (KB.CD et al), at least 5 to at least 20 Oct, 2 till 22 Oct, and 1 till 23 Oct (JND.NJR et al), another on 22 Oct (SJA), another from 28 Oct-1 Nov (KO et al), and yet another from 30-31 Oct (SJA); **Orkney** singles on North Ronaldsay from 5-9 Oct (MGP.KFW et al), and 30 Oct-6 Nov (AED.MGP et al).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* Breeding: **Dumf & Gall** good numbers are now into clearfells. Counts/passages: **Shetland** peaks on Fair Isle were 12 on 18 and 26 May, with 10 on 1 Oct. the last one being at Toab on 14 Nov; **West Isles** 2 on St Kilda on 21 May, 1 at Stilligarry on 10 Sep; **Highland** a very early bird at Glencripesdale on 1 Apr; **Lothian** singles at Aberlady and Craigielaw on 13 Apr, and in **Strathclyde** arrival started on 9 Apr.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* Counts/passages: **Shetland** peak numbers on Fair Isle lasted from 9 Apr-9 May, with a maximum of 250 on 8 May, in the autumn the peak was 600 on 28 Aug; **Orkney** 275 on North Ronaldsay on 20 Sep; **Lothian** 500N/hour at Barns Ness on 9 Apr; **Strathclyde** a massive northwards passage along Ayrshire coast peaked at 4000/hour at Doonfoot during 6 Apr.

\* **Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 28 Aug (SJA et al).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus* Counts/passages: **Orkney** 57 on North Ronaldsay in Jan. indication of passage with 73 on 24 Sep. **Scandinavian littoralis**: **Highland** 1 at Latheronwheel on 14 Apr; **Lothian** far more birds of this subspecies are being picked up on spring passage, and a peak of 22 was recorded at Barns Ness on 28 Mar; **Borders** 1 at Burnmouth on 10 Jan, 4 on 22 Mar, and 2 on 29 Mar; **Strathclyde** 1 at Heads of Ayr on 7 Apr.

\* **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* **Tayside** 1 at Elliot Burn from 18 Jan-6 Apr (JGS et al).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Breeding: **Shetland** a pair considered to be *thunbergi* reared 3 young near Hillwell; **Grampian** a pair reared 5 young at Durris; **Lothian** 4 pairs bred, rearing up to 8 young; **Borders** a minimum of 18 territories was recorded; **Strathclyde** 7 pairs were found in Avondale, and 5 pairs near Carnwath. Counts/passages *flavissima* or unspecified: **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 18 May and 7 Jun, in autumn 2 eastern, grey-morph birds on 2 Oct, and a very late bird at Seafield on 23 Oct; **Orkney** a very late bird on Sanday on 13 Nov; **Tayside** 1 at Kinross on 10 Oct; **Fife** 1-2 birds on Isle of May between 28 and 30 May, 1 on 5-6 Sep; **Borders** singles at Birgham and Reston on 18 Apr; **Strathclyde** 1 on Islay on 16 Oct. **Blue-headed flava**:



**Water Pipit**

J.G. Steele

**Shetland** 3 on Fair Isle between 28 Apr-3 Jun, and up to 5 elsewhere on 1-2 Jun, 1 at Eswick on 25 Aug; **Orkney** 1 on Papa Westray on 22 Apr; **Grampian** singles at Strathbeg on 4 May, and Rattray on 15 and 17 Jul; **Lothian** 4 birds at Aberlady between 20 and 25 Apr, another at Barns Ness on 25 Apr. **Grey-headed thunbergi**: **Shetland** 1 on Fetlar on 19 May, 2 on Fair Isle between 28-31 May; **West Isles** 1 on St Kilda from 2-9 Jun; **Highland** singles at L. Mhor on 24 May, and Tarbatness on 26 May; **Lothian** 2 in Jun.

\* **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* **Shetland** a 1st winter bird on Fair Isle from 1-2 Sep (SJA et al); **Orkney** 1 at Deerness on 4 Oct (EJW,JBR et al).

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* Breeding: **Borders** 153 territories were recorded. Counts/passage: **Orkney** singles on Evie on 1 Apr, and Harray on 29 Apr; **West Isles** 1 at North Bay, S Uist on 11 Oct.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* Roost counts/passage: **Highland** 250 at Wick River roost on 18 Aug; **Grampian** 600 at Dyce roost on 29 Sep, 450 at Forres on 2 Oct; **Strathclyde** 600 at Inchinnan on 22 Jul, and 500 at Lamington on 30 Aug; **Dumf & Gall** 519 at Sandside, Kirkcudbright on 23 Sep. **White alba**: **Shetland** main passage on Fair Isle was from 30 Apr-13 May with a maximum of 20 on 10 May, and from 23 Aug-11 Oct with a maximum of 65 on 28 Aug; **Orkney** passage between 4 Apr and 26 May, peak of 30 Papa Westray on 8 May; **Lothian** 49 at Barns Ness on 18 Apr; **Borders** 1 noticed nest building at Hoselaw on 28 Jun is unusual; **Strathclyde** 30 on Colonsay on 24 Apr.



**Waxwing Aberdeen March 1987**

**S.M.D. Alexander**

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* Summary of year's records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Shetland-Highland</b>	130	41	80	69							1	3
<b>Grampian-Fife</b>	143	85	71	16								2
<b>Central-Borders</b>	43	8	12	11								
<b>Strathclyde/D &amp; G</b>	28	7	12									

The largest group was 43 in Aberdeen. **Grampian** on 5 Apr.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus* Breeding: **Borders** up to 178 territories were recorded largely due to Goosander Census work; **Strathclyde** 75+ pairs were recorded on the R Clyde catchment up to Lamington. **Black-bellied cinclus**: **Fife** 1 at Crail from 3-8 Apr carried a Swedish ring (TCS).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Fair Isle **fridariensis**: successful breeding was confirmed at 9 sites, with singing ♂♂ at 15 other sites unlikely to have bred, at 9 other sites the outcome was unknown - 34 young fledged from the 9 successful sites. Elsewhere: **Shetland** 19 pairs bred on Noss, and 2 pairs nested for first time on Out Skerries; local increases were noted in **Lothian**, and a recovery in numbers in **Dumf & Gall**.

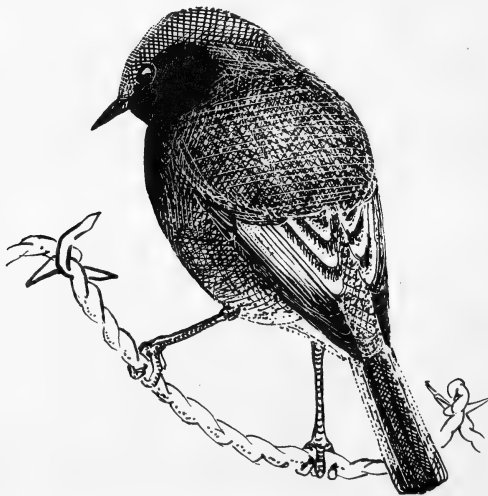
**Duncock** *Prunella modularis* Passage: **Shetland** peak on Fair Isle from 4-12 Apr with 200 on 5 Apr, when 80 on Out Skerries; **Borders** 110 at St Abbs on 20 Sep.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* Breeding: **Dumf & Gall** a big decrease was noted at Wood of Cree where 19 pairs compared to 46 pairs in 1986. Passage: **Shetland** main passage on Fair Isle ran from 4-14 Apr with a maximum of 250 on 5-6 Apr, 100 on Out Skerries on 10 Apr, in autumn the peak occurred on 20-23 Oct with 150 on Fair Isle, and 135 on Whalsay; **Orkney** had an autumn fall of over 250 birds on 20-21 Oct; **Highland** 50 at Noss on 20 Oct; **Lothian** 70+ at Barns Ness on 20 Oct.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* **Shetland** 1 at Virkie on 26 Apr (PME, JDO et al). **Nightingale sp** *Luscinia sp* **Fife** 1 on Isle of May on 22 May was probably *L. megarhynchos*.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica* **Shetland** 7 spring records from 25 May-1 Jun, and 9 in autumn from 19 Sep-1 Nov, on Fair Isle seen daily from 23 May-1 Jun with a maximum 12 on 26 May, another on 4-5 Jun, and 1 on 8 Jul was unusual, autumn singles comprised 1 on 26 Aug, 21 Sep and 29-30 Oct; **Orkney** at least 19 records with 6 in spring and 4 on North Ronaldsay from 1-4 Oct, plus a very late bird on 16 Nov; **West Isles** ♂ at Askernish, S Uist on 2 Oct; **Highland** singles at Burn of Brims on 23 May, Noss Head on 23-24 May, Portmahomack on 23 May, Boat of Garten on 23 May, 2 at Tarbatness on 26 May, and 1 at Wilkham on 27 May - the remains of 1 were found on Cairn Lochain on 23 May; **Grampian** singles at Fraserburgh on 23 May, Newburgh on 24 May, Newtonhill on 26 May, and Miltonduff in late May; **Fife** influx of 25 on the Isle of May on 22 May dwindled to 3 on 27 May, by contrast only 2 at Fife Ness on 23 May, and 1 on 3 Oct; **Lothian** singles at Skateraw on 26 May, and Musselburgh on 30 May; **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 22 May, 24 May and 27 May.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* Winter: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle till 8 Jan; **Lothian** 1 at Cramond from 3-7 Jan; **Strathclyde** 1 at Stevenston Point from 31 Jan-29 Mar, and 1 at Saltcoats from 12-end Dec. Passage: **Shetland** on main islands 36 in spring from 24 Mar-23 Apr, with peak of 10 on 29 Mar, on Fair Isle 1 on 12 Mar was followed by 1-5 birds between 23 Mar-13 Apr and 1-2 birds on 15 dates from 25 Apr-31 May, singles on 8 Jun and 2-4 Jul preceded autumn passage from 23 Sep-9 Nov when a peak of 5 was reached on 20 Oct, on main islands 37 birds from 17 Oct-



**Black Redstart**

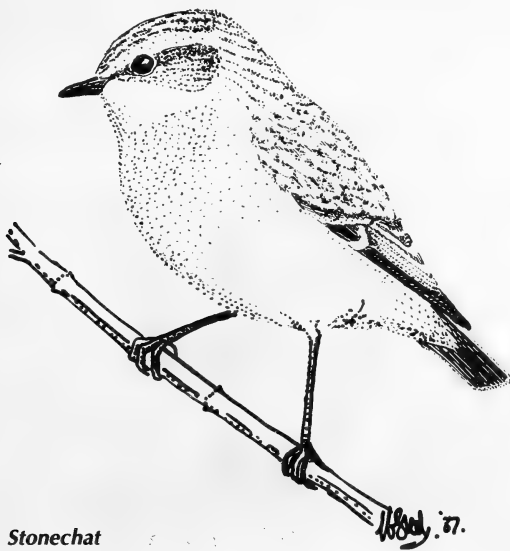
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11 Nov with a peak of 13 on 23 Oct; **Orkney** 6 birds between 31 Mar and 3 Jun, minimum 16 in autumn between 16 Oct and 9 Nov; **West Isles** singles on St Kilda on 25 Apr, Kilphedar, S Uist on 27 Apr, and L Hallan on 31 Oct; **Highland** singles at Noss Farm on 1 May, Noss Head on 19 Oct, Eigg on 3 Nov, and Ryvoan Pass on 18 Dec; **Grampian** 1 at Kingston on 8 Apr; **Tayside** 1 at Arbroath on 21 Oct, 6 at Kinnaber on 22 Oct; **Fife** 12 birds from 5 Apr-19 Jul, then Oct influx on Isle of May with a peak of 20 on 21 Oct, last 2 at Fife Ness on 24 Oct; **Lothian** 3 birds between 4 and 7 Apr, another 9 from 20 Oct-24 Nov; **Borders** up to 5 at St Abbs between 6 and 25 Apr, 1 on 14 Jun, 1 near Hawick on 30 Jul was unusual, then 3 birds at St Abbs between 3 and 24 Oct; **Strathclyde** singles at Dunure on 25 Mar, Castle Sween on 28 Mar, Ailsa Craig on 21 Apr, and Islay on 26 Oct.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Breeding: **Highland** very high numbers in Glenurquhart with twice the normal nestboxes occupied; **Central** 54 pairs at Trossachs nestbox colony, 279 young fledged; **Borders** 121 territories were recorded suggesting that the species is more numerous than previously thought; **Dumf & Gall** good numbers bred. Passage: **Shetland** autumn peak of 12 on Fair Isle on 21 Sep was mirrored by peak of 34 on main islands on 22 Sep, last 1 at Cunningsburgh on 1 Nov; **Orkney** last bird on 3 Nov; **West Isles** ♀ on St Kilda on 2 Jun, 1 at Newton Ferry, N Uist on 20 Oct; **Grampian** a spring fall between 5 and 12 Apr involved 8 birds, while a larger autumn fall between 5 and 29 Oct brought in around 27 birds; **Fife** 40 on Isle of May on 2 Oct; generally arrival in the South was around 18-20 Apr.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* Breeding: **Strathclyde** at least 30 pairs on Arran. Passage: **Shetland** migration peaks on Fair Isle were 8 on 27 May and 24 on 5 Sep, autumn peak on main islands was 60 on 6 Sep; **Orkney** a late bird on North Ronaldsay on 6 Nov; **Tayside** early bird at Aberfeldy on 7 Apr; **Lothian** a late bird was seen at Barns Ness on 28 Oct; **Strathclyde** an early bird was seen at Cumbernauld on 4 Apr.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* Breeding: **Orkney** increase on Hoy with up to 29 pairs; **Grampian** still 4 pairs between Hopeman and Covesea, and 1 pair bred at Forvie; **Strathclyde** numbers appear stable on Argyll islands and Arran, but little or no sign of increase following 1982 crash in Ayrshire population; **Dumf & Gall** slight increase suggested at some coastal sites but otherwise a decline inland. Passage: **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 28 Apr, 19-30 Aug, and 9-22 Oct included a juvenile-plumaged bird on the middle dates. **Eastern S t maura/stejnegeri**: **Shetland** ♀/immature at Quendale on 27 Sep (AFT & GJF), a ♂, and up to 4♀/immatures on Fair Isle on 29 Sep, 2 till 30 Sep, and 1 till 4 Oct (SJA,RP,NJR et al), and 2♀/immatures on 29 Oct, 1 till 1 Nov (SJA,NJR et al), ♀/immature at Bridge of Walls from 2-6 Oct (CM), 1 on Whalsay on 23 Oct (BM); **Orkney** singles on Stronsay from 20-21 Oct, and 1-4 Nov (JFH); **Highland** 1 at Noss Head on 3 Oct (KWB,SAMM); **Fife** ♀/immature at Balcomie on 3 Oct (JGS,JSN).



**Eastern Stonechat**

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**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* Passage: **Shetland** arrival of 2 on Fair Isle on 28 Mar and a peak of 180 on 24 Apr; **Orkney** peak counts were 120 on North Ronaldsay on 25 Apr. and 200 on North Ronaldsay and Sanday on 4 Sep. last bird on 9 Nov; **West Isles** 1st bird at Stoneybridge, S Uist on 25 Mar; **Highland** 41 at Delnies on 18 Aug; **Grampian** 2 at Greg Ness on 20 Mar; **Borders** an extremely early bird was at Eyemouth on 27 Feb. 40 at St Abbs on 18 Apr; **Strathclyde** another early bird on Ailsa Craig on 10 Mar. **Greenland leucorrhoa**: the usual scatter of records included **Orkney** 12 on Sanday on 4 Sep. and **Strathclyde** up to 30 on Colonsay on 24 Apr.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* Breeding: **Strathclyde** 5 sites on Mull, and 52 pairs found in Clydesdale District; **Dumf & Gall** had low numbers. Migration: **Shetland** first bird was at Sumburgh Head on 29 Mar, large numbers on Fair Isle in autumn with 125 on 14 Oct, last bird on 3 Nov; **Orkney** 89 on Hoy and North Ronaldsay on 13-14 Oct; **West Isles** ♂ on St Kilda on 2 Jun; **Highland** 1 on Rhum on 27 Mar; **Fife** 20 on Isle of May on 15 Oct; **Strathclyde** extraordinary record of a ♂ at Killearn on 13 Jan must have involved overwintering, 1 near New Cumnock on 23 Mar, and last 1 on Mull on 2 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** a late bird was seen on 4 Nov.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Migration: **Shetland** unusual arrival of 100 on Fair Isle on 15-16 Jan, spring passage was poor but autumn maximum reached 1000 at South Nesting on 25 Oct, and 800 on Fair Isle on 30 Oct; **Orkney** a fall on 13-14 Oct produced 150 on North Ronaldsay and over 850 on 6 islands on 19-21 Oct; **Grampian** a fall on 19-21 Oct provided up to 300 birds at 3 locations; **Fife** 4500 on Isle of May on 21 Oct; **Lothian** 300 at Barns Ness on 20 Oct, and 300 at Ormiston in early Nov; **Strathclyde** hundreds on Islay in last few days of Oct.

\* **Eye-browed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus* **Shetland** a 1st winter bird on Fair Isle from 7-15 Oct (K.O.NJR et al).

\* **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis* **Shetland** adult ♂ at Bigton, Mainland on 30 Oct (DRB et al).

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* Breeding: **Highland** a pair bred but both clutches proved infertile. Summering stragglers: **Lothian** 1 at Harperrig from 12-17 Jul; **Borders** 2 at separate locations, one of which showed some signs of territorial behaviour. Migration: **Shetland** spring peak on Fair Isle was 290 on 10 Apr. 1 unusual migrant on 20 Jul, 2 on 1 Sep. an exceptionally heavy passage in autumn between 20-28 Oct, up to 1,000,000 estimated on the islands with 21 Oct producing 10,000 at Dunrossness and 6600 elsewhere. on 27 Oct c60,000 were counted between Tingwall and Eshaness. Fair Isle had 5-6000 each day from 21-23 Oct; **Orkney** a massive arrival on 20-21 Oct with 20,000+ on 6 islands; **West Isles** immense numbers on Lewis on 22 Oct; **Highland** 3000+ in Strath of Watten on 28 Oct; **Borders** early arrival in autumn at St Abbs with 1 on 1 Sep; **Strathclyde** large numbers in SW during 1-3 Nov when 900 on Arran, 1000+ at New Cumnock, and 1500 at Kilwinning; **Dumf & Gall** first 7 at Anwoth were on 20 Aug, 1000 at Killantringan on 16 Nov.



Song Thrush

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**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* Migration: **Shetland** strong autumn influxes on Fair Isle on 14 Oct when 2500, and 21-23 Oct when 1000-1200, with 500 at Dunrossness on 21 Oct; **Orkney** influx of 1500 on North Ronaldsay on 14 Oct and 750 on 19 Oct; **Highland** 2-3000 through Noss between 19 and 23 Oct; **Fife** peak of 8000 on the Isle of May on 21 Oct.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* Breeding: **Shetland** a singing ♂ was seen at Upper Kergord on 2 Jul; **Highland** no details from main areas, but probably bred at Shebster; **Tayside** 1 in song in W Perthshire on 28 May. Migration: **Shetland** large falls on Fair Isle between 13-31 Oct with 8000 on 14 and 22 Oct, on main islands 10,200 were counted on 21 Oct; **Orkney** large falls on 14 Oct when 5450 on 4 islands, followed by 17,500 on 4 islands on 20-21 Oct; **West Isles** immense numbers on Lewis on 22 Oct; **Tayside** 600W in 2 hours in Glen Quach on 24 Oct; **Fife** 1000's at Fife Ness on 20 Oct, and 2500 on the Isle of May on 21 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at Ormiston on 23 Aug, 1000+ at Barns Ness on 20 Oct; **Borders** 650N at Jedburgh on 26 Mar, autumn passage concentrated mostly to 14-21 Oct; **Strathclyde** 1200+ in Garnock Valley on 27 Oct, 1500 L na Keal, Mull on 2 Nov.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* Migration and post-breeding flocks: **Shetland** a large flock of 23 on Fair Isle on 4 Apr; **Grampian** an exceptional flock of 84 at L Spynie on 11 Sep; **Tayside** 60 at Rannoch on 29 Aug; **Lothian** 50 at Pefferside on 11 Oct; **Borders** roost of 52 Craigurd on 26 Sep; **Strathclyde** 49 in Ayr on 25 Sep.

\* **Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* **Shetland** singles at Scatness on 17 Sep (DRB,PME,PVH), and on Fair Isle on 19 Sep (PM,KO), 20 Sep (PM,NJR,WU), and 26 Sep (HJ,NJR).

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia* Breeding: **Lothian** had its best numbers since 1978, while in **Strathclyde** 105 pairs or territories were recorded in the inner Clyde and Ayrshire areas. Migration: **Shetland** singles on Fetlar from 26-28 Apr, Fair Isle on 26 Apr, 17 May, 6-7 Sep, 23 Sep, and Fetlar on 22-27 Sep; **West Isles** 1 at Garynahine, Lewis on 28 May; arrival was generally widespread on 23 Apr but **Strathclyde** and **Borders** had 1-2 on 21 Apr, while **Tayside** had a late bird at Killiecrankie on 3 Oct.

\* **Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola* **Shetland** 1 on Foula from 15-22 Aug (RWGC, JND,CEV)ø.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Breeding: **Lothian** had an increase in numbers at most sites; **Borders** a total of 258 territories was recorded; **Strathclyde** numbers were stable or slightly up in SW, with 150+ pairs at Lochwinnoch; **Dumf & Gall** also showed an improvement. Migration: **Shetland** arrival on Fair Isle on 19 Apr, late singles on 14 Oct, and at Quendale on 15 Oct; **Central** 50 at roost Kinneil in early Aug.

\* **Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 22 Sep (SJMGBR,NJR et al).

\* **Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 27-29 Sep (SJA,NJR).

\* **Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* **Shetland** a poor spring with an early one on Fetlar on 28 Apr, another at Kergord on 25 May, and 1 on Fair Isle on 26 Jun, singles there in autumn on 20 Aug and 20 Sep; **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay on 18 Jun.

\* **Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* **Shetland** 6 singles in spring between 31 May and 30 Jun, in autumn about 29 birds between 17 Aug and 28 Oct, and 1-4 birds noted regularly on Fair Isle from 22 Aug-30 Oct with 5 on 20 Oct; **Orkney** best ever year with 15 birds, 2 in spring and 8 between 20-29 Oct; **Highland** 1 at Wick River on 19-23 Oct; **Grampian** spring singles at Rattray on 6 Jun, and Strathbeg from 11-25 Jun, were followed by singles at Rattray on 22 Oct, and Drums on 23 Oct; **Tayside** 2 at Powgavie on 21 Jul, 1 till 30 Jul; **Fife** 1 on the Isle of May on 29 Apr, 1 at Fife Ness on 27 Aug, and 1 on the Isle of May on 14 Oct with a peak of 4 on 15 Oct, 1 at Kinshaldy on 23 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at Barns Ness on 20 Oct; **Borders** 2 at St Abbs from 24 Oct-2 Nov.

\* **Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* **Shetland** 1 at Frakkafeld from 13-27 Jun (DC,AN et al); **Orkney** 1 on Papa Westray on 29 Apr (IPR et al).

\* **Booted Warbler** *Hippolais caligata* **Shetland** 1 at Lerwick on 8 Oct (CFM).

\* **Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* Only one spring bird. **Shetland** 1 at Grutness on 11 Jun. In autumn, **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 14, 20, and 22 Aug, 1-2 daily between 25 and 31 Aug, 1 on 5 Sep, 2 on 6 Sep and 1 on 20 Sep; **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay from 19-23 Sep, and 2 on Stronsay on 23 Sep; **Fife** singles on the Isle of May on 26 Jun and from 18-21 Jul.

\* **Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta* **Shetland** 1 at Scatness from 23-24 Sep (PME,PVH et al)ø.

\* **Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* **Shetland** ♂ on Fair Isle on 28 Apr (SJA et al), another ♂ on 29 May (SJA et al), ♂ at Cunningsburgh on 21 Jul (PME,JN et al), ♂ on Whalsay from 31 Jul-1 Aug (DRB,AS,DS); **West Isles** ♂ at Brevig, Barra on 19 May (JSA,KH,SHR); **Grampian** ♀/immature ♂ at Rattray on 28 May (GMC); **Lothian** a 1st winter ♂ at Tynninghame on 1 Oct (GJC).



**Barred Warbler**

**J.G. Steele**

\* **Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria* **Shetland** there were 2 main influxes on Fair Isle, one between 22-26 Aug with maximum of 4 on 25 Aug, and 4-21 Sep with peak of 3 on 16 and 20 Sep, 1 also on 4-6 Oct, 7 other records on main islands during Aug-Sep; **Orkney** scarce with up to 6 on North Ronaldsay between 20 Sep and 2 Oct, another on Stronsay on 9 Oct; **West Isles** a juvenile on St Kilda from 6-7 Sep; **Fife** singles at Fife Ness on 27 Aug and from 12-19 Oct, 3 on the Isle of May on 4 Oct.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* **Breeding: Highland** 3 singing ♂♂ in Speyside during Jun; **Grampian** ♀ with brood patch noted in Aberdeen; **Fife** 1 pair bred; **Lothian** good numbers reported from potential breeding sites; **Strathclyde** 3 pairs bred successfully, and another 6-7 singing ♂♂ were located. **Migration: Shetland** an early single was on Fair Isle on 28 Apr, spring peak was 7 on 25 May, influx on main islands on 21-28 Sep involved 12 birds, late bird at Toab on 18 Nov; **Orkney** influxes on 20-23 Sep and 27-29 Sep with 5 birds on each occasion, last seen on North Ronaldsay on 12 Nov; **West Isles** singles at Borve, Berneray on 23 May, and St Kilda on 13 Jun; **Highland** 1 at Reay on 9 Jun, and a late bird at Scrabster on 1 Nov; **Fife** 5 on the Isle of May on 4 Oct; **Strathclyde** arrival at Heads of Ayr on 24 Apr.



**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* Breeding: **Highland** 76 pairs on Rhum represents a 50% increase on 1986; **Grampian** a marked increase was noted in Moray; **Strathclyde** numbers appeared stable in SW. Migration: **Shetland** spring influx of c15 birds between 26 May and 11 Jun, last bird on Whalsay on 22 Oct; **West Isles** singles at Liniolate and South Lochboisdale on 3 Oct; **Fife** a very late bird was seen at Fife Ness on 31 Oct; **Lothian** a late bird seen at Barns Ness on 20 Oct; **Strathclyde** arrival was from 23 Apr.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* Breeding: **Lothian** good numbers were reported; **Borders** an increase to 96 singing ♂♂ was recorded; **Strathclyde** numbers were stable in S Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** 23 pairs at Wood of Cree. Migration: **Shetland** an early arrival on Unst on 20 Apr, with main arrival from 25 May-18 Jun with about 30 birds, spring peak on Fair Isle was 9 on 25 May, autumn passage from 11 Aug-17 Oct reached its peak with 25 on 28 Aug, the last bird on 6 Nov; **Orkney** peak of 10 on North Ronaldsay on 21 Sep, and the last one on 6 Nov; **West Isles** 1 on St Kilda on 6 Sep; **Borders/Strathclyde** generally arrival was from 28-29 Apr, but an early bird at was at Culzean, **Strathclyde** on 20 Apr.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* Breeding: **Shetland** a pair at Kergord rearing 3 young was the first breeding this century; **Borders** an improvement to 65 territories was reported; **Strathclyde** 182 pairs or territories were reported from the inner Clyde and Ayrshire areas. Migration: **Shetland** Oct passage on Fair Isle provided peaks of 250 on 14 Oct and 75 on 20 Oct; **Orkney** peak of 140 on North Ronaldsay on 14 Oct; **West Isles** had large numbers on all islands in Oct; **Fife** 200 on the Isle of May on 16 and 21 Oct; **Strathclyde** earliest arrival was on 11 Apr in Culzean. Winter records: a summary of birds occurring during this period gave 91 from Jan-Mar, and 37 in Dec.

\* **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 26-27 Jun (SJA,KO,NJR), 1-2 at Geosetter from 13-15 Aug, 1 till 17 Aug (JND,PVH,JDO), 1 on Foula on 15 Aug (JND,JDO,MAP), 1 on Fetlar on 19 Aug (MAP), 1 at Catfirth on 9 Sep (AG,JDO), and a 1st winter bird on Fair Isle on 24-25 Aug (NJR,ADWa); **Borders** 1 at St Abbs on 29 Aug (IJA,MG,DT); **Strathclyde** a 1st winter bird on Sanda on 31 Jul (WE,IL,JM).

\* **Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* **Shetland** 1 at Norwick from 7-10 Sep (GP,IS), and 1 on Fair Isle on 12 Sep (ALJR,NJR); **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay on 20 Sep (RJS,BCS).

\* **Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* **Shetland** 1 at Grutness from 2-3 Oct (GJF)♂, 1 on Whalsay on 3 Oct (BM)♂, another at Grutness from 20 Oct-1 Nov (PME,GWP)♂, 1 on Fair Isle on 20 Oct (JND), and 3 on 30 Oct (JRA,SJA,NJR), and 1 at Kergord from 31 Oct-1 Nov (DRB,JND,PVH)♂; **Fife** 1 at Fife Ness on 15 Oct (JLSC)♂.

\* **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Another good autumn with a minimum of 108 birds recorded. **Shetland** about 35 individuals between 21 Sep and 30 Oct, the main influx was on 1-5 Oct when there were c20 birds at 9 sites, on Fair Isle seen most days from 26 Sep-30 Oct, with peaks of 6 on 13 Oct, and 5 on 2-3 and 14 Oct; **Orkney** about 30 birds between 22 Sep and 30 Oct, up to 8 on North Ronaldsay between 30 Sep and 7 Oct; **West Isles** 1 at South Lochboisdale on 17 Oct; **Highland** singles at Noss Farm on 13 Oct, and Wick River on 19 Oct; **Grampian** 4 birds between 2 and 15 Oct; **Tayside** singles at East Haven on 8 Oct, and Arbroath on 21 Oct; **Fife** up to 16 birds between 2 Sep and 17 Oct, peak of 7 on the Isle of May on 4 Sep; **Lothian** 5 birds between 3 Oct and 24 Oct; **Borders** 6-7 birds at St Abbs between 20 Sep and 21 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 1 caught and ringed at Gatehouse on 3 Nov.

\* **Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 2 Oct (ABa,NJR), and 1 at Scatness on 3 Oct (PDD,JND,CFMCK).

\* **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 14 Oct (JRA,JND,NJR), 1 at Dale of Walls on 30 Oct (CFMCK), and another on Fair Isle on 6 Nov (SJA,NJR); **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay on 3 Oct (CB).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Breeding: **Highland** 1 observed carrying food at Langwell, Caithness District on 7 Jun, and well above usual numbers in Glenurquhart; **Strathclyde** a good year reported from most of the region. Migration: **Shetland** Fair Isle's maximum was 4 on 26 Aug, while the main islands had 18 birds between 15 Aug and 17 Oct; **West Isles** 4 were recorded from May-Sep; **Strathclyde/Central** arrival noted from 23 Apr, but an early one was seen at Wood of Cree. **Dumf & Gall**, on 9 Apr.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* Breeding: **Grampian** 18 singing ♂♂ were found at 14 sites in Moray. Migration: **Shetland** the main spring passage on Fair Isle was between 24-27 Apr when up to 20 birds were present, in autumn the main passage lay between 1 Oct and 12 Nov with 25 on 2 Oct; **Orkney** an influx on 19-21 Oct produced 24 birds on 3 islands; **Lothian** a coastal influx from 4-31 Oct gave rise to several Northern race birds; **Dumf & Gall** had 1 at Craiggaffie on 3 Apr. Winter records: a summary of birds occurring during this period gave 24 from Jan-Mar, and 26 in Dec.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Breeding: **Highland** a drop in numbers was noted at both L Garten (31 pairs), and on Eigg (33% reduction from 1987); **Central** a transect survey carried out by Stirling SOC showed a substantial drop in numbers compared to previous surveys in R Devon area; but a possible increase was reported in central **Strathclyde** and **Dumf & Gall**. Migration: **Shetland** a poor spring on Fair Isle, but 90 were present on 26 Aug; **Orkney** the last 1 on North Ronaldsay was on 4 Nov; **Fife** 150 on the Isle of May on 31 Aug; **Borders/Strathclyde** 1st arrivals were on 3 Apr, but main arrival was still early from 10-18 Apr.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* Breeding: **Dumf & Gall** noted an increase. Migration: **Shetland** poor passage with only 28 on Fair Isle on 4 Apr, but strong evidence of passage during Nov in Calderglen Country Park, **Strathclyde**.

\* **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus* **West Isles** 1 at Keose, Lewis on 26 Oct; **Fife** 1 at Fife Ness on 6 Apr; **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 20 Sep and 10 Oct.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* Breeding: **Orkney** 3 pairs were seen with fledged young; **Strathclyde** an excellent year in SW. Migration: **Shetland** low numbers on Fair Isle with a peak of 9 on 1 Jun; **Orkney** last 1 on South Ronaldsay on 25 Oct; **West Isles** a pair was on Barra on 14 Jun; **Fife** 50 on Isle of May on 26 May; **Strathclyde** early arrival with 1 at Croy, Ayr on 19 Apr, followed by singles on Arran on 24 and 25 Apr.

\* **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* About 31 individuals were recorded during the year. **Shetland** a ♂ at Seafield on 1 Jun was the only spring record, 5 singles in Sep were followed by 6 more in Oct, with the last at Swining on 24 Oct; **Orkney** spring singles at Holm on 6-7 Jun, and Eday on 11 Jun, 4 on North Ronaldsay between 21 Sep and 2 Oct, 1 remaining till 13 Oct, singles on South Ronaldsay on 22 Sep, and Holm on 5 Oct; **Grampian** 1 at Muchalls on 3 Oct, and 2 there on 4 Oct, 1 at Foveran from 16-17 Oct, and a ♂ at Rattray on 19 Oct; **Tayside** 1 at Arbroath on 9 Oct; **Fife** 1 on Isle of May from 21-22 Sep, another on 1 Oct, and 2 on 2 Oct, 1 till 3 Oct; **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 26 May, 1 Oct and 3-4 Oct.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breeding: **Highland** 10 pairs bred in Aviemore area; **Tayside** 8 pairs reared 35 young at Killiecrankie; **Central** 64 prs at Trossachs nestboxes, 402 young fledged; **Strathclyde** 31 pairs bred at Inversnaid, and the species continued to do well after a recent recovery in SW; **Dumf & Gall** an increase was noted with 21 pairs at Wood of Cree. Migration: **Shetland** 21 individuals between 26 May and 17 Jun, a better autumn with 13 on Fair Isle on 26 Aug, and c30 between 19 and 26 Sep, a late bird was at Sullom Voe on 11 Nov; **Orkney** influx on 21 Sep when c33 at 9 localities; **Borders** arrival was noted on 19 Apr, while in **Dumf & Gall** arrival was from 22 Apr.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* Counts: **Grampian** 45 at L Spynie on 29 Dec; **Tayside** 50-60 at Lethnot on 20 Nov; **Strathclyde** 50 at Inversnaid in Oct.

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris* **Lothian** provided a few scattered records and no confirmed breeding, while **Borders** suggested no great change in status.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus* **Strathclyde** the species almost certainly bred again at Dalmellington, and perhaps also New Cumnock, but 1 at Newton Lochranza, Arran on 16 Jul was well outside its normal range; **Dumf & Gall** had a good breeding season with large numbers of young seen at Moss of Cree.

**Crested Tit** *Parus cristatus* Breeding: **Highland** a pair with young at Bunloit was new for that area, also 6 were seen in Glen Affric on 2 Mar; **Grampian** an excellent season in Culbin Forest where 13 pairs using nestboxes averaged clutches of 5.8, and 5.5 fledged young/pair. Outside the normal area 1 was seen at Kemnay, **Grampian** from 14 Feb-23 May.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater* Migration: **Orkney** 1 at St Margaret's Hope on 22 Oct; **West Isles** 1 in Stornoway Woods in Jun was the first for 5 years.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus* Migration/counts: **Orkney** 1 at Stenness on 2 Oct; **Lothian** an exceptional count of 160 was made at Threipmuir on 29 Aug.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* Migration: **Shetland** 2 on Fair Isle on 4 Apr, 1 till 6 Apr.

\* **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* **Borders** 1-2 at St Abbs between 2 and 21 Apr.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* Migration: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 30 Oct; **Orkney** singles on Stronsay on 25 Oct, and Binscarth from 29 Nov-end Dec, the latter showing characteristics of **Northern C f macrodactyla**.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* Migration provided up to 13 individuals: **Shetland** 2 at Kergord on 24-30 May, with 1 till 16 Jun, a ♂ Unst on 2 Jun, and singles at Garthsness on 2 Jun, and Exnaboe on 9 Jun; **West Isles** single ♂♂ on S Uist on 24 Apr, and St Kilda on 17 Jun; **Grampian** 1 at Forglen on 27 Apr; **Borders** 1 at St Abbs on 29 Apr; **Strathclyde** 2 ♂♂ at Port Askaig, Islay on 15 Apr, 1 on 17 Apr, ♂ on Mull on 15 Apr, and 1 Crossaig, Kintyre in early May.

\* **Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus* **Shetland** 1 at Eswick on 23 Oct (PVH.MH.TR).

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* Migration: **Shetland** at least 24 between 25 May and 23 Jun, singles on Fair Isle on 3-4, and 8 Jul, 11 in autumn between 26 Aug with the last one at Geosetter on 31 Oct; **Orkney** up to 12 or 13 birds between 26 May and 11 Jun, 1 found dead on Hoy in 3rd week of Jul; **West Isles** single ♂♂ on Barra on 4 Jun, and St Kilda on 13 Jun; **Highland** 2 at Noss Farm on 6-7 Jun; **Grampian** 2 at Ythan in mid-Jun, 1 perhaps till 9 Aug, singles in Deeside on 21 Jul, and Girdle Ness on 25 Aug; **Tayside** singles at St Vigeans on 16 Jun, Glen Clova on 30 Jun, and Kinnaber on 26 Jul; **Fife** 4 singles on Isle of May between 22 May and 16 Jun, 1 at Fife Ness on 5 Jun; **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 11 Jun and 20 Sep; **Strathclyde** 1 on Islay on 31 Oct.

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor* A slight improvement with up to 30 individuals recorded. **Shetland** singles at Wester Quarff on 5-6 Apr, and on Fair Isle on 19 Apr, 8-9 birds in autumn between 3 and 26 Oct; **Orkney** singles on North Ronaldsay on 14 Oct, and South Ronaldsay on 23 Oct; **Highland** singles at Abernethy on 2 Jan, Leanachan Forest on 13 Jan, L Garten from 29 Mar-27 Apr, Strathconon on 13 Oct, Brims on 21 Oct, Balavil from 12 Nov-17 Dec, Tomnachrasky on 26 Nov, and Glen Convinth on 5 Dec; **Grampian** singles at Cruden Bay on 23 Oct, and Inverey in Dec; **Fife** singles at Fife Ness from 4-11 Apr and on 20 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at Barns Ness on 2 Oct; **Borders** 1 near Hoselaw on 1 Feb; **Strathclyde** 1 at Ferter, Barrhill on 4-5 Nov perhaps till end Dec; **Dumf & Gall** 1 in L Ken area from 3 Jan-21 Feb, only 2 in autumn with 1 near Big Fleet viaduct on 4-5 Nov, and another Sanquhar on 25 Nov.



**Great Grey Shrike**

J.G. Steele

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* In **Highland** singles were noted at Leanachan on 25 Jan, Speanbridge on 2 Sep, and 1 at Millbuies. **Grampian** in Sep was also notable (it should be noted that this species is still rare in many parts of Northern Scotland, and all reports will be welcomed); **Lothian/Borders** showed a continued increase in numbers and range.

**Magpie** *Pica pica* Breeding: **Grampian** a continued spread was noted; **Strathclyde** showing signs of range expansion in S Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** some increase was indicated. Elsewhere: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 22-25 Apr, and later on Foula was the first record for Shetland; **Orkney** 2 birds on Sanday and North Ronaldsay from 13-21 Apr were the 1st since 1976; **Grampian** 40 at Countesswells on 6 Jan; **Central** 40 at Kinneil Woods on 2 Jan.

**Chough** *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **Strathclyde/SW Scotland** a pair was present on Mull from 23 Jun-1 Nov, and a pre-roost flock of 60 was seen on Islay on 14 Feb, 2 seen at a mainland coastal site in Apr, and possibly up to 3 during Jul-early Aug, also 2 at another site represent the first mainland reports for many years. Elsewhere: 3 were seen on Eigg, **Highland** on 24 Jul.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* Breeding: **West Isles** breeding recorded at Howmore, S Uist was the 1st recorded breeding outside Stornoway. Birds showing characteristics of **Scandinavian monedula**: **Orkney** had 4 on 24 Mar and 1 on 9 Apr.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* Breeding: **Orkney** a survey produced 1419 nests; **West Isles** 200 nests were counted in the Stornoway rookery. Counts: **Shetland** 180 at Gott on 6 Feb; **Grampian** 5500 at Montgarrie on 20 Dec.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* Counts: **Shetland** 200+ *C c cornix* at Sullom Voe on 5 Mar; **Orkney** 260 *C c cornix* at Durkadale on 20 Dec.

**Raven** *Corvus corax* Breeding: **Shetland** 9 pairs on Fetlar, and 3 pairs on Fair Isle; **Orkney** 58 breeding or territorial pairs were reported, 46 young were reared from 18 successful nests on Mainland; **Tayside** 10 successful pairs reared 23+ young; **Borders** 3 pairs were recorded, 2 of which bred successfully; **Central** 13 pairs were successful, and 8 pairs reared 26 young; **Strathclyde** at least 56 occupied nests on Mull, but a decrease to 13 pairs on Arran, 6 successful pairs reared 16 young in Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** stability in inland areas but a continued lack of breeding on the coast. Counts: **Shetland** the highest counts were 40 on Fair Isle on 11 Apr, and 130+ at Rova Head on 2 May.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Counts: **Highland** 15-20,000 at Thurso on 30 Aug; **Grampian** 10,000 at L Spynie on 13 Nov, and 10,000 at Ellon on 30 Nov; **Tayside** 5000 in the Perth roost on 29 Nov; **Lothian** 3000 on Craighleith on 18 Nov; **Strathclyde** 13,000 at Heart Loch, Maybole on 31 Oct, and 11,000 roosted on Glasgow bridge on 20 Dec.

\* **Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus* **Grampian** adult at Glen Rinnes from 13 Jun-5 Jul (MJHC et al), and another adult at Turriff from 8-10 Aug (ASD); **Strathclyde** an adult at Portnahaven, Islay from 10 Aug-3 Sep (MGC,MAO).

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* **Shetland** the post-breeding population on Fair Isle stood at 340 on 4 Sep; **Orkney** a high count of 550 on North Ronaldsay on 4 Oct seems notable; **Strathclyde** 360 were counted at Cumbernauld on 28 Jul.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* Breeding: **Highland** 5-10 pairs nested on Canna. Counts: **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 9-11 May, another till 14 May, and 1 on 25 May; **Grampian** 60 at Milton Brodie on 22 Nov; **Tayside** up to 100 at Carnoustie early in year; **Fife** 80 at Freuchie on 10 Aug; **Lothian** Aberlady had 120 on 24 Nov; **Borders** 130 at Reston from 1 Nov-15 Dec; **Strathclyde** 120 at Inchinnan on 16 Jan.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* Counts: **Shetland** the highest numbers on Fair Isle were between 2 and 21 Apr, with the peak of 150 on 9 Apr, a large passage on the main islands from 12 Oct-early Nov had a peak of 280 on 19 Oct; **Orkney** the peak count on North Ronaldsay was 250 on 19 Oct; **Grampian** 800 at Mill of Cammie on 6 Dec; **Tayside** 900 in Glen Quaich on 28 Sep, and 1000 at Braco on 7 Nov; **Borders** the highest count was 1200 Lochurd on 13 Dec; **Strathclyde** 1200 at Blanefield on 8 Nov, and 1000 in Glen Afton on 14 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** had the only exceptional flock of 3500 at Challoch, Wigtown District in mid-Dec.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* Summer: **Shetland** had 1 on Fair Isle on 3-8 Jul. Winter/spring: **Shetland** a heavy passage from 14-24 Oct with a peak of 260 on 19 Oct; **Grampian** 300 at Bridge of Don on 17 Jan; **Tayside** 200 at Madderty on 1 Feb, and 300 at Muir of Orchill on 22 Mar; **Fife** 250 near Elie on 18 Jan; **Lothian** peaks were 700 at Silverburn on 15 Feb, and 600 at Mount Lothian on 4 Mar; **Borders** 2000 at East Loch from 29 Jan-11 Feb; **Strathclyde** 1000 at Dunsyre on 4 Apr, and the last report was on 28 Apr; **Dumf & Gall** a huge flock of 5000 was at Southernness on 11 Jan. Autumn: **Shetland** main passage on Fair Isle from 13-30 Oct, maximum 120 on 14 and 19 Oct; **Orkney** the peak count was 100 on North Ronaldsay on 20 Oct; **Fife** 300 on the Isle of May on 19 Oct; **Borders** 700 at Kilbucho on 29 Nov; elsewhere numbers were low.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* Counts: **Grampian** 500 at Aboyne in late Oct, and 450 at Rothes on 30 Dec; **Tayside** 400 at Braco on 19 Dec; **Fife** 800 at Anstruther on 18 Jan; **Borders** 420 at Duns on 9 Feb; **Strathclyde** 800+ at Ladykirk on 10 Jan; counts of 300 were returned from **Highland**, and **Lothian**.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* Breeding: **Grampian** had good numbers and a successful breeding season. Counts: **Shetland** had a good year, with an unusual flock of 8 on Fair Isle on 1 Nov; **Grampian** 40 at Spey Bay on 7 Jan was also unusual; **Tayside** 50 at Scone on 6 Apr; **Lothian** 120 at Aberlady on 19 Sep; **Strathclyde** 60 at Kingscross, Arran on 28 Sep, and 60 at Calderbank on 17 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** 150 at Earlstoun on 24 Oct.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* Breeding: **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** numbers were fairly low, but early nesting occurred in some cases. Counts: **Shetland** autumn maxima were 45 at Skaw, Unst on 15 Oct, and 40 on Fair Isle on 19 Oct; **Tayside** 200 at Killiecrankie in Dec; **Fife** 120 on the Isle of May on 12 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 150 at Laurieston on 26 Oct; counts of 100 were returned from **Grampian**, **Lothian**, and 2 areas in **Strathclyde**.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* Counts: **Orkney** 200 at Crantit, St Ola on 27 Sep; **Lothian** Musselburgh held 680 on 2 Sep; **Central** 900 at Kinneil on 17 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** large flocks were reported including 1000 at L Ken on 10 Jan, 1000 in the Cree Valley on 13 Mar, and 1500 at Challoch on 25 Dec.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris* Breeding: **Strathclyde** Southern Upland sightings continued with a ♂ at Wandel on 25 May, and a pair in the Crawford area. Counts: **Shetland** the highest counts were 380 at Toab on 7 Feb, 340 on Fair Isle on 12 Sep, and 300+ on Fetlar on 31 Oct; **Orkney** 480 on Sanday on 18 Dec; **Highland** 500 at Glengolly on 30 Dec; **Tayside** had a huge flock of 1200 at Braco on 19 Dec; **Lothian** 200-270 at Gladhouse till 28 Mar; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** had low numbers, especially in autumn.

**Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* Counts: **Highland** 100 at Tarradale on 8 Nov; **Central** 100 at Doune in Oct; **Lothian** 100 at Peffers in Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 150 at L Ken on 19 Sep. **Mealy Redpoll** *C f flammea*: **Shetland** a scatter of Fair Isle records involved 2 on 1 Jan, 1-3 between 11 Apr and 17 Jun, and 1-2 between 7 Oct and 2 Nov; **Grampian** 6 at Donmouth on 16 Jan; **Tayside** 2 at Vane Farm on 12 Jan; **Lothian** 2-3 at Aberlady on 10 Jan, and 5 at Gladhouse on 7 Mar; **Strathclyde** 1 on Islay on 13 Feb, 4 at East Kilbride on 12 Nov.

\* **Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni* **Shetland** 1 on Foula on 23 Apr (RWGC), another on Whalsay from 30 Apr-1 May (JLL,BM), 1 on Fair Isle from 25 Sep-2 Oct (KO,NJR), with another on 12 Oct (SJA et al).

\* **Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera* **Shetland** an unprecedented influx to the Northern isles brought the following records (all juveniles unless specified):- 1 on Out Skerries on 9 Aug (ET)♂, adult ♀ killed by a cat on Fetlar on 9 Aug (per MAP)♂, 1 found dead at Wester Quarff on 10 Aug (JND,DBP)♂, 1 at Bigton from 11-19 Aug (JM et al), 2 at Basta, Yell from 11-13 Aug (T & VL)♂, Foula had an incredible count of 12, with 3 on 11 Aug, 10 on 15 Aug 2 on 16 Aug, and 1 on 18 Aug (RWGC,JDO,MAP)♂ 3 at Voe on 13 Aug (MSC)♂, and 4 from 14-18 Aug (MAP et al)♂. Fair Isle had 3 on 15 Aug, 2 till 16 Aug, and a ♀ on 28 Aug (per NJR)♂; **Orkney** a juvenile on North Ronaldsay on 13 Aug, and 2 at Finstown 22 Aug (MR,MGP)♂.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* Breeding: **Highland** moderate numbers bred in Glengarry in Mar-Apr, with good numbers in the Great Glen spruces in Jul-Oct period; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** low-moderate numbers early in year, but more with the good cone crop later in the year, and late nesting. Counts/migrants: **Shetland** only 4 individuals were recorded between 31 May and 22 Aug; **Central** 90 in the Achray Forest on 6 Dec; **Lothian** had poor numbers; **Dumf & Gall** 52 at Merton Hall Moss on 3 Nov.

**Scottish Crossbill** *Loxia scotica* No data was received on breeding. Counts: **Highland** 25 in Glen Affric on 13 Feb, 50 at L Garten on 27 Feb, and 60 at Coylumbidge on 22 Aug were the highest counts; **Grampian** the highest count was 20 in Glen Tanar on 8 Aug.

\* **Parrot Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* **Highland** ♂ at L Garten from 11-22 Mar (RHD,RP).

\* **Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* A good year with about 52 individuals. **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 23 May preceded 4 on 25 May, and 1-3 birds between 31 May and 14 Jun. 1 on 13 Jul was joined by another on 20-21 Jul, 1 staying till 22 Jul, on main islands c18 birds were recorded between 24 May and 21 Jun, 9 birds were seen in autumn between 21 Aug and 10 Oct, while Fair Isle produced 1-2 on 26 Aug-10 Sep, and 16-30 Sep with 3 on 20 Sep, the last 1 being on 7 Oct; **Orkney** 4 spring singles between 31 May and 3 Jun, and 2 singles in autumn on Hoy on 8 Aug, and Holm on 4 Nov; **Highland** single singing ♂♂ at different sites during early-mid Jun; **Grampian** 1 at Rattray from 3-4 Sep; **Fife** singles on the Isle of May on 14 Jul, 10 Oct (see below), and 19 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at Pefferside on 11 Oct had been ringed on Isle of May on 10 Oct.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Breeding: **West Isles** an increase was noted in Stornoway. Migration/counts: **Shetland** had a good spring passage with 18 birds at 5 locations on 3-16 Apr and 5 on Fair Isle on 6-8 Apr; **West Isles** 1 on Taransay on 26 Oct; **Highland** 1 Northern race bird at Noss Farm on 22-24 Oct.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Breeding: **Tayside** the species was recorded breeding at Pitlochry and St Phillans with other reports of birds in surrounding area from Aberfeldy-Blaigowrie; **Lothian** 1-2 at the usual sites in Feb-May. Migration: **Shetland** 10 singles were recorded between 27 Mar and 9 Jun; **Orkney** 1 on Sanday on 4 Apr; **Fife** 1 near Lindores on 21 Nov; **Strathclyde** 1 at Giffnock on 19 Mar.

\* **Savannah Sparrow** *Ammodramus sandwichensis* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 30 Sep-1 Oct was the first record of this species for Scotland (PJE,NJR et al).

\* **White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* **Shetland** 1 at Norwick from 13-15 May (GG,MSi,IS), and another at Kergord on 16 Jun (C & DKL).

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus* Winter/spring: **Orkney** 1 on North Ronaldsay on 21 May; **West Isles** 1 at Balranald on 3 Apr; **Central** 4 at Kinneil on 10 Jan; **Lothian** a peak of 48 at Musselburgh dropped to 4 by 8 Apr; **Borders** 30 at Eyemouth on 9 Jan. Autumn: **Shetland** 1st bird on Unst was on 26 Sep, then good numbers on Fair Isle with peaks of 70 on 11 Sep, 35 on 22 Sep, and 25 on 3 Oct; **Orkney** 1st on Stronsay on 3 Sep, with a peak of 40 on North Ronaldsay on 28-29 Sep; **West Isles** 1 on St Kilda on 9 Sep; **Lothian** Aberlady had 55 on 28 Nov; **Borders** 27 at Eyemouth on 19 Dec; **Strathclyde** 14 at Kilchoman, Islay on 31 Oct, and an unusual record of 1 at Cumbernauld on 2 Nov.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* Breeding: **Highland/Grampian** high numbers were reported from the Cairngorms plateau, 13 juveniles seen at one site on 25 Jul. Migration/counts: **Shetland** a large autumn arrival on Fair Isle on 7 Nov with 320 birds, Yell had 240 on 1 Nov, while Fetlar held 200 on 3 Nov, and Gulberwick had 200 on 8 Nov; **Orkney** peaks included 400 at Sandwick on 1 Jan, 500 at Deerness on 17 Feb, and 500 on Eday on 16 Nov. 1st of autumn on North Ronaldsay was on 10 Sep; **Highland** 1000-1500 at Bardnaclavan on 29 Mar, and 900 at Glengolly on 31 Dec were the highest Caithness counts; **Grampian** 1000 at Cairmorrie in Jan, 500 at Gask on 18 Feb; in the South numbers were lower, with 100-150 at a few sites, while in **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Upper Craigenbay, Stewartry District on 5 May was very late for SW Scotland.

\* **Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalus* **Shetland** a ♂ on Fair Isle from 11-20 Oct (RJ & SJA,KO,NJR), preceded a ♀/immature on 22 Oct (SJA), and perhaps the same from 29 Oct-13 Nov (SJA,NJR); **Orkney** a 1st winter ♂ on North Ronaldsay from 19-20 Oct (AED,MGP et al), and another 1st winter ♂ from 3-9 Nov (MGP et al).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* Breeding: **Dumf & Gall** noted a reduction in numbers in recent years. Migration/counts: **Orkney** 2 singles on 4-6 Apr, another on 20 Oct; **West Isles** singles on St Kilda from 21-23 Apr, and Ardvule on 25 Apr; the largest flocks were in **Central** with 150 at Gartmorn on 15 Feb, and **Strathclyde** with 150 at Linwood on 18 Jan.

\* **Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* 9 individuals were recorded. **Shetland** ♀ on Fair Isle on 29 May, and 2 ♂♂ on 30 May were the only spring records, 3 singles in autumn on 7, 10, and 12-15 Sep, also singles were seen at Toab on 22 Sep, and Fetlar on 2-4 Oct; **Orkney** 1 on Papa Westray on 19 Jun.

\* **Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 22 May (JRA,PATC,NJR), a ♂ at Quendale on 26 May (DRB,DS)♂, a ♂ on Fair Isle from 4-5 Jun (JRA,SJA,NJR), a ♀ from 8-9 Jun (JRA,NJR), a ♂ on Foula on 11 Jun (RWGC)♂, 1 on Fair Isle from 23-24 Sep (MC,NJR), and another on 2 Oct (BR,NJR), 1 on Out Skerries from 3-21 Oct (BM,ET), and 1 on Whalsay from 8-10 Oct (CFM,BM)♂; **Orkney** ♂ on Stronsay on 21 Oct (JFH,DP); **Lothian** ♀ at Skateraw on 26 May (GA,AB,PRG); **Strathclyde** ♂ on Tيرة on 4 Jun (MJE,MG,AK et al).

\* **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* **Shetland** 6 singles on main islands as follows:- Out Skerries on 22-23 Sep (CFMcK et al), another from 1-13 Oct (BM,ET), and another from 8-23 Oct (E & MT), singles on Whalsay from 20-22 Oct (BM)♂, at Grutness on 24 Oct (DRB,DS et al)♂, and Quendale on 30 Oct (DRB)♂, up to 9 on Fair Isle as follows:- 21 Sep (MrsSMJ), 21-27 Sep (SJA,KO,NJR), 1-4 Oct (SJA,JRD), 2-5 Oct (NJR et al), 2-9 Oct (SJA et al), 4-7 Oct (SJA,NJR), 12-20 Oct (NJR et al), 29 Oct-1 Nov (JRA,SJA), and 31 Oct (JRA,SJA); **Orkney** singles near Wideford Burn on 22 Sep (RJW), 4 on North Ronaldsay with 1 from 2-7 Oct (PAG,JY), and others at Stenness from 5-12 Oct (AMH,REI), at Twingness on 29 Oct (MGP,KFW), perhaps the same at Holland House on 3 Nov (MGP), and at North Manse from 7-16 Nov (AED,CCMcG,JJS).

\* **Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola* **Shetland** single ♀/immatures on Fair Isle on 27-28 Aug (SJA), 2 Sep (SJA,MO'R), 15-16 Sep (DRWG,JPH,RJM), 16 Sep (JND,SJMG), and 20 Sep (RJA,NJR), 1 at Scatness on 21 Sep (DRB,PME)♂; **Orkney** adult ♂ on South Ronaldsay on 25 Apr (KH)♂.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Migration/counts: **Shetland** a strong passage on Fair Isle from 13 Oct-13 Nov with a maximum of 15 on 20 Oct; **Highland** high counts of 200 were recorded at Hastigrow on 3 Jan, and Brabsterdoran on 5 Jan; **Strathclyde** 150 roosted at New Cumnock on 18 Oct.



**Reed Bunting**

**A. Stevenson**

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra* Breeding: **Shetland** perhaps still breeds with records from 2 former haunts; **Orkney** 7 singing  $\sigma\sigma$  noted; **Grampian** a survey revealed 23 singing  $\sigma\sigma$  in Moray District; **Fife** no apparent change in stable population; **Central** only 4 recorded between Jan and May; **Lothian** no confirmed breeding but at least 8 singing  $\sigma\sigma$  as in 1986; **Strathclyde** regular breeding in Argyll now only on Tiree, and down to c6 territories in Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** now close to extinction as a breeding bird in Galloway. Migration/counts: **Orkney** 24 on Stronsay from Oct-Nov was the highest count there.

\* **Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* **Shetland** a  $\sigma$  at Norwick on 10 May was also seen at Mid Yell on 13 May, Burrafirth on 11-12 May, and Cullivoe on 12 May (DC.RD.CMG et al). While there must be a possibility of escape with this species, it is currently under consideration for upgrading to Category A.



### Additional BBRC decisions

The following records have all been accepted by BBRC:- **White-billed Diver** 1983 **Shetland** 1 on Whalsay from 5 Jan-16 Mar, adult from 22 Apr-5 May is now presumed the same; **1984 Shetland** adult in Bluemull Sound on 6 Nov also seen on Unst on 6 Dec; **1985 Shetland** 1st summer bird at Burraeoe from 13 May-16 Aug, and adult in Colgrave Sound on 15 Oct, also on 24 Dec; **1986 Shetland** adult on Whalsay from 15 Nov into 1986 till 3 May, then from 12 Dec-1987, and probable adult on Unst on 23 Dec; **1986 Highland** two 1st summer birds and another of uncertain age in Dunnet Bay from 17 Aug-27 Sep; **1986 Strathclyde** adult at Turnberry Point on 20 Apr. **Great White Egret** **1986 Strathclyde** 1 on Gruinart Flats, Islay on 15 Jun. **Lesser White-fronted Goose** **1986 Strathclyde** ♂ on Islay was from 11-15 Mar. **American Wigeon** **1986 Highland** ♂ at L Loy and Culbin Bar from 9 Nov-11 Jan 1987. **Nearctic Teal** **1984 Shetland** ♂ at Sandwater, Mainland at least till 20 Mar. **Ring-necked Duck** **1986 Shetland** ♂ at Tingwall was seen on 7 Jun only. **King Eider** **1982 Shetland** ♂ at Holm of Heogland on 24 Nov, also in Colgrave Sound on 28 Jan 1983 was presumed to have wintered in Bluemull; **1983 Shetland** ♀ in Lerwick harbour from 20 Jan-26 Feb was presumed the returning bird of 31 Jan-8 Apr 1981; **1984 Shetland** ♀ in Bluemull Sound on 20 Jan was still present on 12 Feb and 17 Apr; **1986 Shetland** ♂ in Sand Voe from 25 May-7 Jun, also in 1987, a 1st year ♂ at Sumburgh from 4 Jul-at least 7 Sep, another from 8 Jul-at least 10 Sep, both to 22 Sep. **1986 Highland** ♂ in L Fleet from 11 Jan-27 Apr, 2 on 15 Apr. **Surf Scoter** **1986 Fife** 2♂♂ and ♀ in Largo Bay from 19-28 Mar, ♂ and ♀ on 12 Apr; **1986 Grampian** ♂ at Burghhead from 15 Oct only till 1 Nov; **1986 Tayside** 2♂♂ at least on 14 Sep, were present from 8-21 Sep, possibly another at Kinnaber on 8 Sep. **Crane** **1985 Shetland** 1 at Hillswick from 11-13 May is presumed to be Fair Isle bird of 5 May; **1986 Strathclyde** 1 at Ballinaby, Islay from 13-25 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper** **1986 Western Isles** 1 in Village Bay, St Kilda on 9 Oct. **Baird's Sandpiper** **1986 Western Isles** 1 in Village Bay, St Kilda from 16-21 Sep. **Greater Yellowlegs** **1985 Strathclyde** 1 at Glenegeedale, Islay on 25 Oct. **Kumlien's Gull** **1986 Grampian** adult at Banff from 25-26 Dec. **Ross's Gull** **1985 Highland** adult at Thurso at least 7 Jan, also on 19 Jan. **Brunnich's Guillemot** **1980 Shetland** a dead bird at Burrafirth on 24 Feb. **Snowy Owl** **1983 Shetland** an immature on Fetlar from 16 Nov-10 Feb 1984, along with 3 other birds, was considered a new bird to the island's stock. **Thrush Nightingale** **1985 Shetland** adult trapped on Bressay on 16 Aug, and a 1st winter bird on Noss on 20 Aug. **Subalpine Warbler** **1986 Shetland** ♂ at Bigton from 24 May-24 Jun, and a 1st winter ♂ at Dunrossness on 23 Sep. **Greenish Warbler** **1986 Shetland** 1 on Out Skerries from 15-16 Aug. **Arctic Warbler** **1985 Highland** 1 at Wick from 30 Sep-2 Oct. **Collared Flycatcher** **1986 Shetland** a 1st winter bird trapped on Fair Isle on 8 Oct. **BROWN SHRIKE** **1985 Shetland** adult at Sumburgh from 30 Sep-2 Oct is the 1st record of this species for Britain. **Woodchat Shrike** **1986 Dumf & Galloway** ♀ at Lorg from 23 Jul-17 Aug. **DAURIAN STARLING** **1985 Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 7-28 May is the 1st record of this species for Britain. **Rose-coloured Starling** **1985 Highland** adult at Watten Mains on 25 Sep; **1986 Shetland** possibly 1st summer on Noss from 14-18 Jun, and a 1st summer bird at East Burra from 23-29 Jun were considered the same. **RED-EYED VIREO** **1985 Highland** a 1st winter bird at Wick from 13-16 Oct is the 1st record of this species for Scotland. **Two-barred Crossbill** **1986 Central** ♀ at Carron Valley was seen on 19 Apr. **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** **1985 Shetland** a 1st year bird on Fetlar on 20 Sep is the 1st record of this species for Britain. **Little Bunting** **1986 Shetland** 1 on Whalsay from 8-12 Oct. **Bobolink** **1986 Western Isles** 1 on St Kilda on 28 Sep is the 2nd Scottish record, preceding the 1986 Fair Isle bird by one day.

The following record has been rejected by BBRC:- Gyrfalcon 1986 Shetland 1 on Fair Isle on 20 Feb.

The following corrections and additions to the 1986 SBR should be made:- **King Eider** **Fife** the first date for the R Tay individual should be 12 Jan; **Greenish Warbler** **Highland** the observers of the presumed hybrid Greenish x Willow Warbler at L Vaa should be DED and RHD.

**Blackpoll Warbler on Whalsay**

7.10pm on 30 Sep 1985 JIrvine arrived at the house of BM with a bird in a bird bag. It had been caught in a heligoland trap a little earlier, but had been seen since 11.00am that day. When it was removed BM realised that it was an American species, and thought immediately of Blackpoll Warbler. It was examined, ringed, and roosted overnight, being released at first light on the following morning. It remained in the area of the trap till the afternoon of 3 Oct.

**Description:** (in the hand and in artificial light which affected the colour tones slightly) Crown, nape, mantle, back, rump, upper tail coverts, and scapulars were dull olive green (possibly even greyish olive green). The crown was faintly streaked darker, and the nape was unstreaked. On the mantle some feathers with blackish centres gave prominent darker streaks. The scapulars were similar to the mantle. Only very faint streaking was suggested on the back. The streaking on the rump and upper tail coverts was intermediate in density between mantle and back. The upper tail coverts were very long - longest tail feathers projected only 13mm beyond them. The outer tail feathers were longer than the inner ones by 4mm. Tail feathers were blackish, all pointed, and had pale fringes to all webs. The outer two tail feathers had white on the inner webs. A poorly defined buff supercilium did not reach the base of the bill and became extremely narrow above the orbital ring. It extended to the width of the eye behind the eye where it merged into the crown. A faint dark line ran from the front of the eye to the lores. There was a more pronounced dark olive line behind the eye along the lower border of the supercilium. The ear coverts were dull olive green with a few buffish feathers admixed. The lesser coverts appeared similar to the scapulars, but more greyish olive with black subterminal crescents and some black shaft streaks. The median coverts were blackish with broad white tips up to 3mm wide. The alula was blackish, the feathers having very narrow faint olive fringes to the outer webs. The greater coverts were as the medians, but with even broader white tips (4-5mm), and a white fringe on the outer web extending further proximally. The primary coverts were blackish. All except the first and second primaries, and all secondaries were blackish. The first and second primaries had had pale tips to the outer web and very fine olive fringes. The chin was buffish with a yellow cast, and the throat faint yellow with a greyish wash. The upper breast was yellower than the throat, and had diffuse greyish streaks. The belly was yellowish buff. The area from the legs to the vent was white with a faint yellow wash, and the flanks were streaked greyish with a little yellow admixed. The bill was fairly strong with a dagger-like tip. The upper mandible was greyish horn, and the lower was similar at the extreme tip, but becoming rapidly paler towards the gape, by which area pinkish yellow with just a trace of greyish white could be seen along the cutting edge. The iris was blackish, and the orbital ring incomplete but forming a pale buffish arc above and below the eye. The legs were brownish anteriorly, pinkish at the rear, and the soles were flesh.

When BM saw the bird in bright sunlight in the field on 2 Oct, it looked much brighter. It fed actively, perching on fence posts and walls with its tail slightly cocked, before dropping to the ground to pick up food items. The legs appeared yellowish when seen from behind, and light brown from the sides, while the feet were quite bright yellow. The upperparts were a brighter olive, with fine dark streaks on the mantle. The underparts showed bright yellow with a hint of green, the chin and centre breast were free of dark streaks, while the sides of the breast had fine dark streaks. The flank streaking looked finer and well defined. The under tail coverts were white, and the supercilium seemed brighter and more yellow, though still narrow. The white areas in the tail, wing bars and tertial edges were all obvious.

**Brian Marshall**

## BIRD REPORTS

- Angus and Dundee Bird Report 1985-86** (44 pp) R D Goater (ed) 1986 £3.50.
- Argyll Bird Report 1987** (80-90 pp) C Galbraith & A R Jennings (eds) 1988 c£3.50. Includes Survey of Corncrakes on Islay 1986, Management of Upland Commercial Forests for Birds and Mammals, and Upland Bird Communities and Forestry in Argyll
- Arran Bird Report 1987** (14 pp) Margaret H Dunn (ed) 1988 £1. Includes checklist.
- Ayrshire Bird Report 1987** (48 pp) Angus Hogg (ed) 1988 £2. Includes Beached Bird Survey Results 1975-1987, Leach's Petrels in Ayrshire Autumn 1987, and Wildfowl and Wader Counts 1986-1987.
- Borders Bird Report 1987** (80 pp) R D Murray (ed) 1988 £3. Includes 1987 Sawbill and River System Census, and Ringing Report.
- Caithness Bird Report 1987** (52 pp) Eric Maughan (ed) 1988 £2.30 from local recorder. Includes ringing report.
- Dumfries and Galloway Bird Report 1987** (20 pp) A D Watson (ed) 1988 £1.75 from local recorder. Includes Dippers in S W Scotland.
- Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report 1987** (70 pp) N Riddiford (ed) 1988 £2.50 + postage. Includes Guillemot Studies on Fair Isle, Fluctuating Fortunes of Fair Isle Wrens, and Starling Studies on Fair Isle.
- Fife and Kinross Bird Report 1987** (40 pp) D E Dickson (ed) 1988 £2.20. Includes First Documented Report of Richard's Pipit in Fife, Birdwatching on the Eden Estuary, American Wigeon on the Eden Estuary, and RSPCA Bird Cleaning Centre, Middlebank Farm, Fife.
- Highland Bird Report 1987** (28 pp) R H Dennis (ed) 1988 .50p to subscribers.
- Lothian Bird Report 1987** (92 pp) I J Andrews (ed) 1988 £3.30. Includes Influx of Little Auks Autumn 1987, and a Checklist of the Birds of Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve.
- Moray and Nairn Bird Report 1987** (47 pp) M J H Cook (ed) 1988 £1. Includes Little Auks off Moray in 1987.
- North-east Scotland Bird Report 1987** (50-60 pp) M L Tasker (ed) 1988 £2. Includes Wintering Shorebirds of Coastal North-east Scotland, Wintering Wildfowl at Loch of Skene, and Ross's Gull at Girdle Ness.
- Orkney Bird Report 1987** (78 pp) C Booth, M Cuthbert, E Meek (eds) 1988 £2. Includes Observations of Breeding Lapwing, Great Skuas Killing Guillemot Chicks on the Sea, The Status of Swallow on Orkney, Orkney Rookery Survey in 1987, and North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory.
- Shetland Bird Report 1987** (72 pp) P M Ellis (ed) 1988 £2.50. Includes Use of Re-seeds and Established Pastures during the pre-laying period by Whimbrel.

A Bird Report for the **Outer Hebrides 1987** is available from the local recorder, price .75p as an off-print. An updated **Clyde Area Bird Report** will be available soon. Also planned for next year is a bird report for **Perthshire**, and the **Isle of May Report**, for some time a feature of Scottish Birds, is in process of updating from 1985 onwards, with a combined edition available during 1989.

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Wheatear

A. Stevenson

## LOCAL RECORDERS

### Local Recorder

**Dr E C Fellowes**, West Isle, Islesteps,  
Dumfries, DG2 8ES.  
**A D Watson**, 54 Main Street, Dalry,  
Castle Douglas, Kirkcud. DG9 3UW.  
**A Hogg**, Kirklea, Crosshill, Maybole,  
Ayrshire KA19 7RJ.

**I P Gibson**, c/o Wood,  
47 Kilbowie Road, South Carbrain,  
Cumbernauld, G67 2PZ.

**I Hopkins**, 2 Eden Place, High Street,  
Rothesay, Bute.

**Mike Madders**, Smithy Cottage,  
Lochdon, Craignure, Mull, Argyll  
PA64 6AP.

**R D Murray**, 143 Eskhill, Penicuik,  
Midlothian EH26 8DE.

**P R Gordon**, 4 Craigiellaw,  
Longniddry, East Lothian EH32 OPY.

**I J Andrews**, 15 The Parsonage,  
Musselburgh, Midlothian EH21 7SW.

**Dr C J Henty**, 7 Coneyhill Road,  
Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire FK9 4EL.

**D E Dickson**, 45 Hawthorn Terrace,  
Thornton, Fife KY1 4DZ.

**B Zonfrillo**, 28 Brodie Road,  
Balornock East, Glasgow G21 3SB.  
**W Mattingley**, Cluny House, Aberfeldy,  
Perthshire PH15 2JT.

**R Goater**, 4 Dunrossie Crescent,  
Tayock, Montrose, Angus DD10 9LT.

**K Shaw**, 4 Headland Court, Newtonhill,  
nr Stonehaven, Kincardine AB3 5JD.

**M J H Cook**, Rowanbrae, Clochan,  
Buckie, Banffshire, AB5 2EQ.

**R H Dennis**, Inchdryne, Nethybridge,  
Inverness-shire PH25 3EF.

**E W E Maughan**, Burnside,  
Harbour Road, Reay, Thurso, Caithness  
KW14 7RG.

**W A J Cunningham**, 10 Barony Square,  
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis PA87 2TQ.

**C J Booth**, 34 High Street, Kirkwall,  
Orkney KW15 1AZ.

**N J Riddiford**, Bird Observatory,  
Fair Isle, Shetland ZE2 9JU.

**J N Dymond**, Easthouse,  
South Whiteness, Shetland ZE2 9LL.

### 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)



**Barn Owl**

**A. Stevenson**







