



Scottish Bird Report 1988

EDITED BY
ANGUS HOGG

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THE SCOTTISH
ORNITHOLOGISTS'
CLUB



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Scottish Bird Report 1988

The Journal of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Editor: Angus Hogg

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SCOTTISH BIRD REPORT

1988

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Kirklea, Crosshill, Maybole, Ayrshire KA19 7RJ
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INTRODUCTION

1988 – The Year's Events

323 species were recorded in Scotland during 1988, and the year provided up to 7 potential new candidates for the Scottish list. The Caspian Plover at Aberlady caught many unawares, and did not stay long enough to be seen by all the local hopefuls. Similarly, the Hudsonian Godwit near Cruden Bay evaded all but a couple of alert birders, while the Blyth's Pipit stayed on Fair Isle long enough for the small but dedicated band of twitchers to make the long haul north. A real surprise was the arrival of a superb Daurian Redstart on the Isle of May, and North Ronaldsay firmly established itself as a birding 'hot spot' with both Spanish Sparrow, and Pallas's Rosefinch. Fair Isle, not to be outdone, responded in the autumn with our first Blackburnian Warbler.

Of course, the year had other, more mundane happenings! Surf Scoters became almost uncountable in the Forth, both Pacific and American Golden Plovers put in appearances, a much sought-after Least Sandpiper stayed long enough to satisfy most 'listers' and the Northern Isles provided another fine selection with Needle-tailed Swift and the pipit brigade weighing in with Olive-backed, Pechora and Red-throated. Pied, and Desert Wheatears graced Orkney and Shetland, while rare warblers included Pallas's Grasshopper (or is it PG-tips?), Lanceolated, Paddyfield, Great Reed, Booted, and a flood of Subalpines. A good year for shrikes too, and second-ever appearances of Red-eyed Vireo and Northern Oriole – 1988 can hardly be blamed for not giving us a chance to at least ogle at one rarity.

Less rare, but no less spectacular was the host of Red Kites around early in the year – did they know the RSPB was looking for conscripts? There was also a much better showing for Marsh Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, and Long-tailed Skua. Autumn saw a very large influx of both Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers, while the Waxwing invasion everyone had been anticipating for some years, finally happened, and Long-tailed Tits also 'invaded' the Northern Isles. Quail was proved to have bred, but our raptors stole the show again with both Osprey and the reintroduced White-tailed Eagle making considerable progress. Meanwhile the Perth population of Mandarins continued at a low ebb, while other rare breeders like Wood Sandpiper, Wryneck, Redwing and Brambling persisted in low numbers.

Arrivals and last dates for summer visitors

	Arrival	Last Date
Osprey	5 Mar	20 Nov
Whimbrel	27 Feb*	23 Nov*
Common Sandpiper	3 Feb*	23 Nov*

Cuckoo	5 Apr	3 Oct
Swift	22 Apr	31 Oct
Sand Martin	19 Mar	23 Oct
Swallow	27 Mar	20 Nov
House Martin	3 Apr	18 Nov
Tree Pipit	1 Apr	26 Oct
Redstart	1 Apr	11 Nov
Whinchat	23 Mar	13 Nov
Wheatear	19 Feb	5 Nov
Sedge Warbler	20 Apr	18 Oct
Whitethroat	19 Apr	22 Oct
Garden Warbler	22 Apr	10 Nov
Willow Warbler	27 Mar	20 Nov
Spotted Flycatcher	29 Apr	27 Oct

* Records may well have involved overwintering birds.

REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

With effect from 1990 one member of SBRC will retire annually, with nominations being invited from SOC members to fill the vacancy. Roger Broad, who has given excellent service to the committee since its inception in 1984, will retire from it in November 1990. The committee at present consists of Bernard Zonfrillo (chairman), Roger Broad, Alan Brown, Roy Dennis, Angus Hogg (SBR editor), Brian Marshall, and Ron Forrester (secretary). An announcement regarding this forthcoming vacancy will appear in Scottish Bird News.

Two species, Great Shearwater and Rough-legged Buzzard continue to pose problems for observers, and a high rate of submitted records are rejected. The committee would like to see the description of all Scottish records of these two species, and therefore both have accordingly been placed in 'block capitals' below.

The updated list of species on the SBRC list appears below. It would be appreciated if, in all instances, observers would submit records via the appropriate local recorder. Apart from those records listed below which SBRC would prefer to see, the committee is always willing to examine records of species not on the list below. Such records may be particularly unusual, or difficult to evaluate, but in all cases, the committee will advise the local recorder of its decision, and this can then be passed on to the observer. All correspondence for SBRC should be addressed to *Ron Forrester, 1 Kirkdene Grove, Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire G77 5RW.*

SBRC LIST 1989

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
SAVI'S WARBLER
AQUATIC WARBLER
*Marsh Warbler (trapped preferably)
*Icterine Warbler
MELODIOUS WARBLER
DARTFORD WARBLER
*Barred Warbler
*Yellow-browed Warbler
*Firecrest
*Red-breasted Flycatcher
NUTHATCH
† Marsh Tit
† Willow Tit
† Crested Tit
Bearded Tit
† Chough
SERIN
*Scarlet Rosefinch
CIRL BUNTING
Ortolan Bunting

- KEY BLOCK CAPITALS :** SBRC would like all records to be submitted. All other species to be submitted at the discretion of the local recorder.
- * : East coast and Northern Isles records to be judged locally. Elsewhere, to be submitted at the discretion of the local recorder.
 - ‡ : Northern Isles records to be judged locally. Elsewhere, to be submitted at the discretion of the local recorder.
 - † : Records from normal breeding range to be judged locally. Elsewhere, to be submitted at the discretion of the local recorder.

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, a list of local reports appears at the back of SBR. These reports would prove invaluable to anyone carrying out research on a more local level, or simply wishing to visit a particular region of Scotland. Most of these reports are available from the SOC at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, or from the address shown. Please write or phone for report prices.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many Scottish and visiting birders have contributed to this year's SBR, and the prompt submission of records is greatly appreciated. This year I've been fortunate to have the able assistance of Malcolm J Ware as assistant compiler, and he kindly handled the second half of the systematic list. 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. Thanks also to Ron Forrester of SBRC for his help with the Scottish "rarities". In addition, many other local Scottish clubs with the same broad aims as SOC have contributed material and particular thanks must go to Shetland Bird Club, Fife Bird Club, and Argyll Bird Club members, as well as members of many local RSPB branches. Photographs and drawings are always welcome, and I'm grateful this year to the following for their kind assistance: – Sam Alexander, John Busby, Mark Darling, Tim Marshall, Eric Maughan, Andrew Stevenson, and Bernie Zonfrillo.

Departing local recorders include Alan Brown, Ian Andrews, Nick Dymond and Nick Riddiford who deserve long service medals for their efforts. Nick Riddiford has passed on the Fair Isle recorder's job to Paul Harvey, Nick Dymond has handed on to David Suddaby, Alan Brown has handed over to Peter Gordon, and Ian Andrews has left the rest of Lothian in the capable hands of Mike Leven. The Western Isles, for many years the sole domain of Peter Cunningham, has now received an extra pair of willing hands to assist with recording. Tim Dix has agreed to deal with the Uists, while Peter continues to govern his northern fastnesses – welcome to your respective hot-seats! Finally, welcome back to Tony Mainwood, who has kindly stepped in to help with the recording work for Sutherland. 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
- AOS's apparently occupied sites

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* Breeding: **Shetland** had a poor year with monitored sites showing 50% below average success rate, 12 breeding attempts produced only 5 young on Hermaness; **Orkney** breeding success was down on Hoy, while 13 young were reared on Mainland monitored lochs; **Highland** 2 young were reared at sites in Caithness District, a poor year on Rhum where only 3 young from 13 prs; **Tayside** pairs were present on 2 lochs; **Central** a pair reared 2 young at one site; **Strathclyde** the success rate was poor in Kintyre and mid Argyll where only 9 out of 33 sites produced young to fledging, also poor on Arran where no successful breeding, and 2-3 prs in Clyde area but none in Renfrewshire. Peak counts/passage: **Highland** 142 at Chanonry on 12 Jan; **Grampian** peaks were 129 at Blackdog/Ythan on 18 Sep, and 235 in Spey Bay in Oct; **Fife** had a passage of 35S at Fife Ness on 23 Sep; **Lothian** the highest count was 72 at Gullane on 21 Mar; **Strathclyde** 40 between Ballantrae and Turnberry on 20 Mar, and 43 in L Indaal Islay on 21 Nov. An albinistic bird was noted off St Abbs, **Borders** on 19 Nov.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* Still experiencing poor success and little change suggested: **Highland** 4 sites were located in Caithness District and 2 young produced, a pair produced 1 young from an artificial island site; **Tayside** 3 pairs bred, producing 3 young; **Central** a pair lost 2 eggs at one site; **Strathclyde** 6 sites with eggs failed in Argyll, but a pair reared 2 in the SW. Peak counts/passage: **Orkney** 13 off Stronsay on 17 Sep; **Highland** an extraordinary count of 80 was recorded in Sinclair's Bay on 5 Apr; **Grampian** 15 were in Burghead Bay on 4 Oct; **Fife** 30 in Largo Bay on 2 Apr; **Strathclyde** 22 in Turnberry Bay on 9 Apr.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* Winter-spring peaks: highest numbers in the North where **Shetland** had 33 at Quendale on 25 Apr; **Highland** 27 in Dunnet Bay on 27 Apr; **Grampian** had low numbers with a maximum of 7 at Rattray on 24 Apr; **Strathclyde** 42 around Gigha from 31 Mar-4 Apr. Summer records included singles in **West Isles**. Autumn: **Orkney** Scapa Flow count gave 49 in Oct and 107 in Nov.

* **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* **Shetland** adult at Whalsay Ferry from 1 Jan-12 Apr, and again from 3 Nov (BM, NDP, WS et al); **Highland** adult at Achnahaird Bay from 31 May-4 Jun (DMR, DH et al); **Grampian** adult N at Peterhead on 9 Oct (MI); **Lothian** adult at Gullane Pt-Yellowcraig from 19 Mar-17 Apr (MG, IJA, PRG et al).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Breeding: now believed extinct as a breeding species in **West Isles**; **Grampian/Highland** Moray and Nairn Districts had a good year with 21 prs recorded on 15 waters; **Tayside** had 22 prs at 8 sites; **Central** 5 prs reared only 11 young from 11 nesting attempts at Airthrey; **Lothian** 9 sites held up to 24 prs; **Borders** 16 sites held 10 prs and 7 singles, with 6 broods (totalling 13) seen; **Strathclyde** 16 prs were reported from mid-Clyde Haughs, elsewhere in SW 24 prs were reported from 17 sites. Counts/passage: in **Shetland** Spiggie held a maximum of 4 on 5 Nov; **Lothian** had 22 at Gladhouse on 31 Aug.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Breeding: **Grampian** the Moray District pair failed, but another pair probably reared 2 at Sand Loch, with a further pair present at Strathbeg; **Tayside** a good year at L Leven, but poor elsewhere; **Lothian** 5 sites held up to 24 prs; **Borders** 7 sites held 6 prs and 2 singles with 1 brood seen; **Strathclyde** 10 prs at Lochwinnoch, in SW 3 sites held 6 prs; **Dumf & Gall** up to 21 prs recorded at 6 sites. Counts/passage; **Shetland** 1 off Fair Isle on 14 Apr; **Orkney** had singles on L of Harray from 29 Sep-2 Oct, and on Burray on 27 Nov; **Highland** singles in Inverness area in Feb, and Oct-Dec; **Tayside** 96 in Lunan Bay on 22 Aug, and 168 on L Leven on 17 Sep; the Forth estuary in **Central** had 693 on 17 Jan, and the **Lothian** peak count was 150 at Silverknowes on 4 Jan and 27 Sep; **Strathclyde** 2 in L Indaal, Islay on 23 Feb were unusual; **Dumf & Gall** 69 between Heston Is and the mainland on 12 Dec.



Great Crested Grebe Threipmuir

M. Darling

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Winter-spring period; **Shetland** 1 on Bressay on 9 Mar; **Grampian** 1N at Peterhead on 2 Jan; good numbers were seen in the Forth with **Lothian** returning 68 from Greencraig-Gullane on 21 Mar; **Strathclyde** 3 in Ayrshire between 4 Jan and 3 Apr. 4 appeared in summer, on 25 Jun, at Gosford, **Lothian**. Autumn: **Shetland** had another single in Bressay Sound on 2-3 Nov; **Orkney** 1 between Echnaloch and Scapa Flow from 13 Oct-end Dec; **Highland** singles in Sandside Bay on 24 Sep, Dunnet Bay on 8 Oct, Harrow harbour from 16-30 Oct, Fortrose-Avoch on 4 Nov, Kilmuir on 24 Nov, and Jemimaville on 25-27 Nov; **Highland/Grampian** singles at Findhorn Bay on 4 Sep and Nairn Bar on 14 Nov; **Tayside** singles on L Leven on 11 Sep, and at Broughty ferry on 26 Dec; **Fife** 6 in Largo Bay on 16 Oct; **Central** 1 at Kinneil on 18 Aug; **Lothian** the Forth peak reached 19 at Gosford on 18 Aug; **Strathclyde** 1 off Ayr on 15 Nov.

*** See Additions and Corrections section at back.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Breeding: in **Northern Scotland** the area south of the Great Glen held 27 prs, with 24-25 prs breeding and rearing 24 young; in **Badenoch & Strathspey** 7 prs reared 14+ young. Counts/passage: **Shetland** had low numbers; **Orkney** Scapa Flow had 18 in Oct, building to 43 in Dec; **Lothian** the Gosford peak was 43 on 20 Feb, and an adult was seen on 3 lochs from 21 Apr-11 Aug; **Borders** a single was also present at inland sites during the summer; **Strathclyde** 35 in L Indaal, Islay on 13 Mar, but low numbers in SW with 7-8 in mid-Clyde area, Ayrshire and Arran, and only 2 on L Ryan, **Dumf & Gall**.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Breeding: at L of Kinnordy, **Tayside** a pair reared 2, and elsewhere in **Central Scotland** 2 prs each had 2 juvs in Aug, with 2 further sites tenanted by single prs for at least part of the summer. Counts/passage: **Grampian** 1 at Meikle on 21 May; **Tayside** 1 on L Leven from 9-16 Oct; **Lothian** had 3 singles between Gullane and Musselburgh, 1 in Feb, the others in Oct and Dec; **Strathclyde** had 1 at Cuil Bay, Argyll on 28 Jan, 2 at Ardmore on 30 Jan, 1 there on 12 Mar, and 1 at Largymore, Arran on 5 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** L Ryan had 6 on 7 Oct.

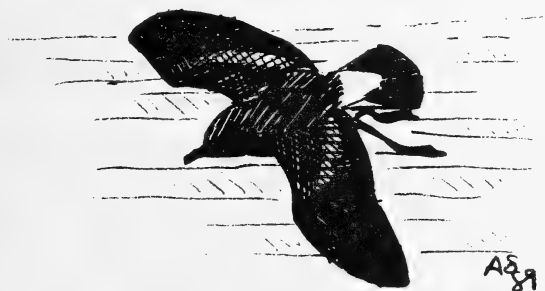
Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* Breeding: **Shetland** productivity at monitored sites on Fair Isle was 0.38 chicks/nest; **Orkney** a count of individuals at 5 colonies showed an overall decrease of 1.8%; **Grampian** 239 prs at St Cyrus indicates an increase, while 177 AOSs between Hopeman and Covesea showed a slight drop; **Fife** 316 AOSs were found at St Andrews, while the Isle of May had a poor year with only 60 young counted in early Aug; **Lothian** 845 sites were recorded at 7 coastal locations, and 55 at inland ones; **Borders** 344 AOSs at St Abbs was a slight increase (338 in 1987); **Strathclyde** 259 AOSs on Arran which, like Ayrshire, showed a very poor success rate. Blue-phase birds: most were recorded in the North with 8 at Sumburgh Head **Shetland** on 20 Oct, and good numbers in **Grampian** at peak passage times. Passage peaks: **Shetland** 1200/hr past Sumburgh Head on 13

Feb, 1800/hr on 30 Aug; **Highland** 2000W/hr at Sandside Head on 14 Sep; **Grampian** 3300N in 2 hrs at Peterhead on 9 Jun. An inland record of 3SW over East Kilbride, **Strathclyde** on 17 Aug was unusual.

* **Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis* **Strathclyde** 1 between Coll and Tیره on 18 May (DP). * **Large Shearwater** (Cory's/Great) *C diomedea/P gravis* **Strathclyde** 1N at Troon on 27 Aug.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* Recorded between 2 Mar and 19 Nov. Max counts/passage: **Shetland** Sumburgh Head peak was 63 on 5 Sep; **Orkney** 1st off North Ronaldsay on 13 Jul, and a passage rate of 228N/hour on 24 Aug, 500 off Sanday on 26 Aug, last 1 was off North Ronaldsay on 27 Oct; **Grampian** an early individual was off Peterhead on 2 Mar, but numbers were generally low, with 26 off Lossiemouth on 24 Sep, and 33-34 recorded off Peterhead in Sep and Oct, a late bird flew N at Rattray on 19 Nov; **Fife** c70 birds were recorded, the maximum being 35N from the Isle of May on 14 Sep; very few records in **Lothian** and **Borders**; **Strathclyde** the highest count was 70 between Coll and Mull on 19 Sep, 12 in Ayrshire from 17 Jul-3 Sep.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* Breeding: **Shetland** 3 occupied burrows were found at small Yell colony; **Orkney** 3 calling birds at one site and c20 at another between 30 Jul and 6 Aug; **Highland** first ashore Eigg and Rhum on 18 Mar - seemed to be fewer at former site. Counts/passage: **Highland** 1200 in L Snizort on 5 Sep, 2 at Drumnadrochit on 13 Sep; **Grampian** early singles appeared off Peterhead on 17 Jan and 30 Mar; **Fife** 600 seen from Isle of May on 5 Oct; late singles (perhaps same) appeared in **Fife**, **Lothian**, and **Borders** on 20-21 Nov; **Strathclyde** summer peak in the Clyde was 3000+ off Troon on 24 Jul, while 1400 flew S in 2½ hrs off Western Islay on 27 Jul. **Balearic mauretanicus**: **Orkney** 1 off North Ronaldsay on 28 Sep; **Grampian** 1 off Peterhead on 28 Aug, 2 on 29 Aug; **Tayside** 1N Arbroath on 21 Jul; **Borders** 2S at St Abbs on 9 Aug; **Strathclyde** singles were noted at Troon on 14 Aug, perhaps the same later on 14 Aug at Turnberry Pt, another S there on 26 Sep, and a late individual there on 8 Oct.



Storm Petrel

A. Stevenson

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* Tape-luring: **Orkney** 47 tape-lured on North Ronaldsay on 10 Aug; **Highland** 114 were tape-lured at Noss Head during Jul/Aug; **Grampian** 15 were caught at Collieston during Jul and Aug; **Fife** 21 were controlled on Isle of May on 18-19 Aug; **Borders** 2 caught at Dunglass on 21 Aug; **Strathclyde** c53 birds were ringed on Ailsa Craig in Aug. Counts/passage: **Highland** a large movement averaged 60/hr at Back of Keppoch on 28 Jul, 1 in Glencripesdale on 15 Oct; **Grampian** 93 were seen off Peterhead over three dates in Jul; **Strathclyde** highest count in the Clyde was 149S in 1½ hours past Ayr on 26 Jul.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Counts/passage: **Shetland** singles were caught on Whalsay on 5 Aug and 4 Sep; **Orkney** 5 recorded between 18 Aug (when 1 tape-lured on North Ronaldsay) and 8 Nov; **Highland** singles off Eigg on 19 Jul, off Mallaig on 26 Jul, trapped at Noss on 13 Aug, at Chanonry on 16 Aug, 3 in Dunnet Bay on 29 Sep, and 1 at Castlehill on 29 Sep; **Grampian** 1 was tape-lured at Collieston on 19 Jul, 2 singles were seen at Fraserburgh and Aberdeen on 9 Oct, the latter being found dead on 17 Oct; **Tayside** 1 was found dead at Wester Kinloch, Blairgowrie on 8 Oct; **Lothian** 1S at Barns Ness on 12 Oct; **Strathclyde** 69 in Ayrshire between 3 Sep and 9 Oct, with the peak reached on 9 Oct when 28S past Turnberry Pt, 1 died after a Magpie attack in Rutherglen on 9 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 3 Sep and 9 Oct were also peak passage dates with 11, and 10S respectively at Corsewall Point.

Gannet *Sula bassana* Breeding: **Shetland** 488 nests on Fair Isle represented a 60% increase and breeding productivity at monitored sites was 0.78/nest; **Lothian** continued expansion at Bass Rock; **Dumf & Gall** increase to 830 nests on the Scare Rocks. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1200/hr at Sumburgh Head on 13 Feb; **Orkney** "thousands" on passage in Bu Sound on 19 Oct; **Highland** 1200W off Duncansby on 18 Sep, and 1800N at South Head on 20 Oct; **Grampian** monthly peak was 8927 at Peterhead during Jun, and 3110 passed N there on 8 Oct; **Strathclyde** many more than usual were reported from Inner Clyde in Sep, 9000N in 1 hour past Whiting Bay, Arran on 15 Sep.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Breeding: **Shetland** 356 nests at 7 sites had an average brood size of 3.0 chicks/nest; **Lothian** 371 nests counted on 4 Forth islands included 137 on Carr Craig; **Borders** 29-32 nests were counted near Fast Castle; **Strathclyde** 55 nests on Corr Eilean, McCormag Isles, up to 97 nests at Ayrshire colonies; **Dumf & Gall** 431 nests were counted at 4 colonies. Counts: **Shetland** 165 in the Sullom Voe/South Yell Sound area on 27 Nov; **Orkney** 118 in Scapa Flow in Nov; **Highland** 850 at Munloch on 7 Jan; **Grampian** 156 at Strathbeg on 27 Feb, and 120 at Speymouth on 23 Oct; **Tayside** 106 at L Leven on 6 Feb, **Fife** 420 at Wormit on 13 Jan, **Central** 230 at Kennetpans on 30 Dec, **Strathclyde**, 270 at Greenock roost on 3 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 246 at Caerlaverock on 9 Dec.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Breeding: **Shetland** 11 areas in southern Shetland held 1380 nests compared to the 1985/86 total of 1117 nests, but while success at Sumburgh was high with 1.44 young fledged/pair, a count at sites in Hermaness suggested a drop of up to 60% since 1974, breeding productivity on Fair Isle was 1.3 chicks/nest; **Highland** Canna showed a slight decrease to 1447 nests; **Fife** 89 adults and 549 pulli were ringed on Isle of May; **Lothian** 8 Forth locations held 922 nests; **Strathclyde** 217 nests were counted on McCormag Isles. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1070 in the Sullom Voe/South Yell Sound area on 27 Nov; **Orkney** the Scapa Flow count gave 2195 in Nov; **Fife** 2000N in 1 hour at Anstruther on 21 Nov; **Strathclyde** increase noted in Inner Clyde in autumn, 1 appeared on Hogganfield L on 18 Sep, and 1000 between Kildonan and Bennan, Arran on 14 Dec.

* **Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*** 5 birds were seen during the year. **Highland** 1 near L Gaineimh from 29 Nov-6 Dec and at Houstry on 20 Dec, died on 21 Dec (SAMM); **Grampian** 1 was at Strathbeg on 4 Oct (GE), and another was found dead near Banchory in Dec (CS); **Lothian** 1 at Duddingston on 18 Feb had stayed from 1986 (LLJV et al); **Strathclyde** 1 on Aird Meadow on 6 Nov (JR).

† * **Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*** **Lothian** Edinburgh Zoo's feral colony held 29 birds on 21-22 Nov, of which 23 were adults, and 18 birds were colour-ringed.

* **Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*** **Shetland** 1 at Spiggie on 6 Apr (AS); **Strathclyde** 1 near Ayr on 9 Jun (AST), 1 at L Craignish from 10 Jun-10 Sep (NH, RP, RAB).

* **Great White Egret *Egretta alba*** **Strathclyde** 1 Ballachuan L, Seil on 29 Apr (DD, DG et al).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Breeding: **Orkney** 9 nests were found with most eggs hatched by 6 May; **Highland** Altnaharra had 9 occupied nests, 7 nests at L an Tioram, and 4 prs had 12 young at Inverewe; **Tayside** 3 sites held 18 nests; little overall change was suggested in the South, where **Lothian** had 34-38 prs at 11 sites, **Borders** had a high return of 151 nests, **Strathclyde** c72-77 nests were recorded in Argyll, and elsewhere 133 prs were counted in 20 heronries. The only high counts included 26 at Hulma Water, **Shetland** on 23 Dec, while **Orkney** had 33 in Scapa Flow in Nov; **Tayside** had 32 at Montrose Basin on 3 Aug; and **Lothian** had 35 at Tynninghame on 23 Aug.

† * **Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*** **Shetland** 1 at Virkie on 27 May (LM et al) stayed till 31 May. Its origin remains unknown.

† * **Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*** **Strathclyde** 1 at Irvine on 23-24 May.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* Breeding: **Tayside** 19 prs were recorded at 14 sites; **Lothian** 110-112 young fledged from 34 prs; **Borders** 30 sites held 33 prs, 25 prs bred, producing 19 broods with 86 young fledging; **Strathclyde** a minimum of 29 prs attempted breeding in Argyll, and 23 prs were recorded in Ayrshire with a good success rate; **Dumf & Gall** had a mixed season in Stewartry District. Counts: **Orkney** 598 on L of Harray on 27 Nov included 149 juvs; **West Isles** 2 adults on L Ordais, Lewis on 29 Oct were unusual; **Highland** 117 on L Scarmclate on 20 Jan; **Grampian** 200 on Strathbeg on 3 Sep; **Tayside** peaks included 191 on L Leven on 3 Jul; **Borders** 268 on the Tweed estuary in Jan; **Strathclyde** 139 in the Clyde estuary on 10 Aug; **Dumf & Gall** 100 on Carlingwark L on 17 Jan.

* **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus* Low numbers during the winter-spring period: **Shetland** the Scatness bird from 1987 stayed till 6 Feb; **Tayside** 1 on L Leven on 2 Jan; **Central** 2 at Drip 7 Feb; **Strathclyde** 1 in the Libberton area on 4-9 Jan. 1 in L Indaal, Islay on 22 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** the Caerlaverock peak was only 6 on 28 Jan, with the last 1 there on 19 Mar. Autumn numbers: **Tayside** 2 near Cleish on 28 Oct rose to 15 by 3 Dec, 6 at Mid-Cambushinnie on 6 Nov, and 15 flew SW over Carsebreck on 13 Nov; **Fife** 8 at Ballo Res on 21 Nov; **Central** 4 on L Watston on 15 Nov, 3 at Thornhill on 21 Nov; **Lothian** 2SW at Seafield Pond on 29 Oct; **Borders** 2 at Lees on 19 Nov, then at the Hirsell on 6 Dec, with 16 there on 11 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** 2 were back at Caerlaverock on 26 Oct, staying till at least 7 Dec.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* Summering birds were present in **Shetland** (3), **Orkney** (3), **Highland** (6), **Tayside** (1), **Strathclyde** (9), **Dumf & Gall** (3). Winter-spring: **Orkney** 384 on L of Harray on 7 Mar; **Highland** 196 at Insh on 1 Apr; **Central** 116 at Thornhill on 21 Jan; **Strathclyde** 115 at Inchinnan on 14 Jan, 101 on Tيرة on 24 Jan, and 120 on Staneley Res on 28 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** the Caerlaverock peak was 159 on 4 Feb, with the main departure from 29 Mar-4 Apr. Autumn arrival started on 25 Sep in **Shetland** and **Orkney**, although a juv appeared at Alva, **Central** on 13 Sep, and **Lothian** had 3 at Seafield Pond on the same day. **Shetland** 240 were counted on 6 Nov, with the proportion of juveniles being 21% and the m.b.s. 2.2; **Orkney** exceptional nos on L of Harray peaked at 1010 on 30 Dec, while the flock held 475 adults and 54 juvs on 27 Nov; **Highland** 258 at L Eye on 16 Oct, 200+ at Shalmstry on 17 Oct; **Grampian** 305 at Strathbeg on 4 Nov, and 116 at L of Skene on 23 Dec; **Tayside** Cleish had a maximum of 185 on 11 Nov; **Central** 152 at Drip on 5 Nov; **Borders** peak was 316 at the Hirsell in Nov; **Strathclyde** 136 (inc 32 juvs) on Tيرة on 9 Nov, 205 at Inchinnan (inc 27 juvs) on 27 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** arrived back at Caerlaverock on 25 Sep, with 218 there on 13 Nov, 130 at Leswalt on 23 Nov.

* **Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis* Winter: **Highland** singles at Longman Bay on 5 Jan and Tarradale on 21 Feb; **Tayside** 1 near Methven on 27 Feb; **Central/Strathclyde** the Carron Valley flock peaked at 105 on 5 and 21 Feb. Autumn: **Shetland** 1 at Scatness on 3 Dec; **Orkney** 2 on North Ronaldsay from 23-28 Oct; **West Isles** 2 on South Uist on 15 Nov; **Highland** 26+ at St John's Loch on 22 Oct; **Tayside** 3 appeared between Carsebreck and Greenloaning on 2 Oct; **Fife** 7 flew SW at Fife Ness on 18 Sep; **Strathclyde/Central** Carron Valley had 56 on 16 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** had singles at Kinmount on 15 Sep, and Lochmaben on 16 Oct.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* **Highland** 3500 at Udale on 23 Apr, 4000 at Tarradale on 26 Apr, and 8800 at Nigg Bay on 27 Apr; **Grampian** very high numbers with 21,650 on the Ythan on 17 Apr, and 20,850 at Strathbeg on 20 Apr, with another 3000 at L Spynie on 22 Apr; **Tayside** the Carsebreck peak was 6250 on 13 Mar, and the main roost held 6900 on 19 Mar; **Central** 5000 at L of Menteith on 5 Apr; **Borders** 12,070 at West Water, and 5000 at Hule Moss on 17 Jan; **Strathclyde** 5000 at Wiston on 16 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** high numbers again with 6800 in the Annan-Caerlaverock area on 19 Feb, and 5720 in Wigtown Bay on 20 Mar. A few birds summered, including up to 22 at Cults L, **Dumf & Gall** on 11 Jun, and autumn arrival started mostly in the period from 8-16 Sep in most areas, although 6 appeared at Scatness, **Shetland** on 16 Aug. Autumn counts: **Highland** 631SE over Sandside Bay on 18 Sep; **Grampian** Strathbeg had its highest numbers yet with 30,200 on 7 Oct; **Tayside** the main roost held 40,000 on 8 Oct, while the National Count on 12/13 Nov produced a total of 42,260; **Fife** 17 over Kirkcaldy on 8 Sep, and Cameron Res held 10,000 on 29 Oct; **Central** 6500 over L Mahaick on 12 Nov; **Lothian** peak counts were 11,000 at Fala Flow on 11 Oct and 11,000 at Aberlady on 24 Oct; **Borders** West Water held a record 40,000 on 8 Oct; **Strathclyde** 8500 at Carmichael on 22 Oct.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* Winter-spring: **Orkney** 60 at The Loons on 18 Jan; **Highland** 160 at Broubster on 4 Jan, and 200 flew NW over Dounreay on 19 Apr; **Strathclyde** 150N over Dunure on 5 Apr, 899 NNW over Tيرة on 19 Apr; **Dumf & Gall** 310 at L Ken on 26 Jan was the highest count. Autumn: **Shetland** a small flock at Sullom Voe (19 birds on 24 Oct) looks like becoming a regular feature; **Orkney** 24 at The Loons on 1 Oct rose to 73 on 6 Nov; **West Isles** 2 flocks totalled 96 from 17 Oct; **Highland** 1st seen on 18 Sep at Barrock, 182 at L Heilen on 23 Nov; **Strathclyde** 330 at Endrick Mouth on 20 Nov, complete counts on Islay gave totals of 7558 on 6-7 Feb, and 7800 on 7 Nov indicated a good breeding season with over 20% young; on 9 Nov Tيرة had 518-543 birds and Coll had 526-534; **Dumf & Gall** arrival of 22 at L Ken on 8 Oct, with a peak of 340 on 6 Dec, 400+ in the West Freugh area on 17-18 Dec. **Eurasian albifrons**: **Shetland** 1 at Muness from 9-14 Apr; **Grampian** 2 at St Fergus on 21 Feb and 19 Mar; **Tayside** 2 near Tibbermore on 8 Apr; **Lothian** up to 7 at West Fenton from 2-23 Jan, 1 there on 22 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** 2 at Kinmount on 26 Jan, and another at Mersehead on 16 Apr.

† * **Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus* **Strathclyde** 1 on Islay on 2 Nov carried leg rings suggesting escaped origin.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* **Breeding**: successful nesting was again recorded on both **Shetland** where 2 prs reared at least 11 young on Unst, and **Orkney** where 1 pair was almost certainly feral; in **West Isles** the species is increasing in Lewis/Harris, and 1409 were counted on Uists; **Highland** the resident Egg flock now numbers 28, increasing in Speyside also with 12 at Boat of Garten on 15 Aug; **Tayside** the feral population seems to be declining in the Tummel area, but L Leven produced 48 young; **Dumf & Gall** a complete count gave 1469 birds in Jun. Winter-spring: **Highland** Caithness District held 5000 in Mar; **Grampian** 9700 at Strathbeg in Feb; **Fife** 2500 in Lomond Hills area on 22 Feb; **Strathclyde** 1500 at Endrick Mouth on 7-8 Jan, and 1000 at Tarbolton on 23 Feb were the highest counts in mild winter conditions; **Dumf & Gall** 1000 at Kenmure on 3 Jan, and 1435 at Lochmaben on 3 Mar again reflects the low numbers in the SW. In the autumn **Highland** had 16,500 at L Eye on 25 Oct, and 12,000 at Munloch on 16 Nov; **Grampian** showed a big increase in numbers with the peak count at L Spynie being 13,070 on 22 Oct, while Skene held 15,000 and the Dinnet lochs held 25,342 in Nov; **Tayside** the National Count on 12/13 Nov produced a total of 15,566 and 7200 were on Drummond Pond on 18 Dec; **Fife** 4000 near Cupar on 6 Nov; **Lothian** the Whiteadder peak was 1500 in Nov; **Borders** 3600 at Hoselaw L in mid-Nov.

† * **Bar-headed Goose** *anser indicus* Escapes appeared in **West Isles** at Stornoway from 1987 till Mar, in the Drem area, **Lothian** in Dec, and at Lochinch, **Dumf & Gall** in Jun and Sep.

† * **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens* **Strathclyde** 13 nests were counted on Haunn, Mull, but a high level of predation was encountered. The usual pattern of records no doubt included some genuine migrants: **Shetland** 1 at Spiggie from 21-26 Oct; **West Isles** 2 in South Uist 25 Apr; **Grampian** up to 9 birds were recorded in the region in the Jan-Jun period, and a further 6 during Sep-Dec; **Tayside** had singles at Montrose on 1 Apr, 24 Oct and 30 Dec, with 2 at Balgavies L on 8 Nov, and 1 at Strathearn from 19 Nov-4 Dec; **Fife** 1 near Cupar from 5-10 Nov; **Lothian** 4NW at Barns Ness on 5 May, and an adult Greater in the Congalton/Aberlady area from 11-13 Dec; **Borders** 3N over St Abbs on 7 May, and 1 at Greenlaw on 12-15 Oct; **Strathclyde** 2 on Islay from 1987 stayed till 21 Apr, 2 back on Islay from 8 Sep-end Dec, 50 were counted on Coll on 21-28 Mar; **Dumf & Gall** 1 in Wigtown Bay on 20 Mar, and 2 at L Ken on 16 Aug rose to 3 later in the month.

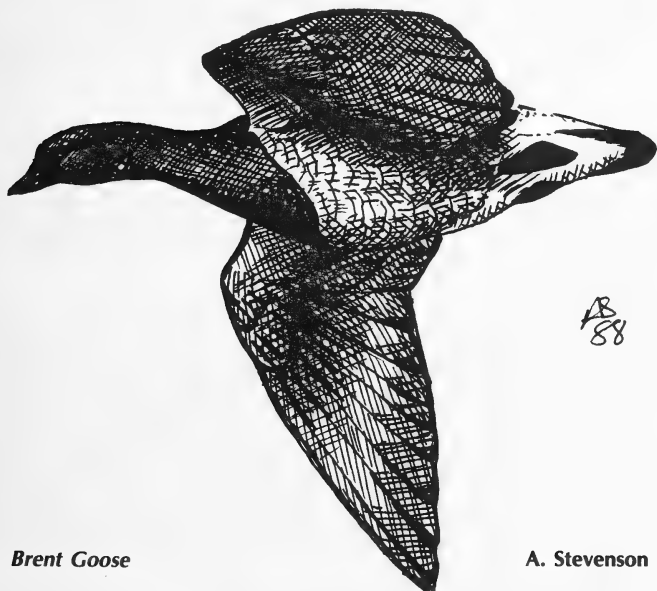
Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* **Breeding**: **Highland** 7 adults and 5 young were seen at Skibo on 21 May; **Strathclyde** 39 ads and 14 young were counted on Colonsay, still breeds at Barcraigs/Rowbank where B/5 on 21 Aug; **Dumf & Gall** a complete count gave 362 in Jun, and 609 in Sep, with breeding becoming more widespread. English moult migration: the Beaully Firth, **Highland** flock peaked at 369 on 21 Jun. Counts/passage: **Orkney** 1 on Stronsay from 23 May-18 Nov; **Grampian** a "small" race bird was at Kinord on 14 Jan, and Lossiemouth had a bird showing characters of either *B c parvipes* or *B c hutchinsii* on 16 Apr; **Tayside** had a local flock peak of 128 at Kercock on 5 Oct; **Fife** 36 at the Eden estuary on 7 Jun; **Lothian** 46 at Tynninghame on 17 Aug; **Strathclyde** 2 small-race birds on Islay from 1 Jan-9 Apr, and up to 3 were present from 10 Oct-end Dec.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* **Solway flock**: Caerlaverock held 11,500 during winter 1987/88, 88 had returned by 25 Sep and the peak for winter 1988/89 was 12,100 with 12% young; **Islay flock**: peak count was 20,230 on 28-29 Mar, with a major departure on 19 Apr, first 5 back on 22 Sep, and a complete count on 5 Dec gave 20,870, with the flock indicating a poor breeding season and only 12% young; the Scapa Flow, **Orkney** flock peaked at 600 on Switha on 11 Feb, while the highest autumn count was 800 on South Walls on 19 Nov; **Grampian** had 100N over Peterhead on 30 Apr, and 100S at Rattray on 23 Oct; **Tayside** the Carsbreck peak was 20 on 20 Nov. Autumn passage commenced from 21 Sep in **Shetland**, 102 on Fair Isle on 2 Oct; **Grampian** 58 at Strathbeg on 7 Nov; on 25 Sep a steady passage in **Lothian** and **Borders** brought 447 over the area from Tynninghame-Musselburgh, with a further 46 at Balgray Res and 59 over Troon, **Strathclyde**.

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
Shetland-Highland		3		23	15	2		4	219	68	45	2
Grampian-Fife		2	2		1	1		4	87	185	21	15
Central-Borders		2	1	1		1			42	43	14	1
Strathclyde/D&G		7	7	7	108	1	1		253	72	2	8

Peak counts included: **Highland** 86 in L Ewe on 22 Sep, 33 at Longman on 22 Sep, and 23 in Thurso Bay on 22 Sep; **Grampian** had 25P and 1D at Lossiemouth on 20 Sep; **Tayside** 117 on R South Esk on 12 Oct; **Fife** 26 at the Eden estuary on 25 Sep; **Strathclyde** 39P on Tthree from 17-22 Apr, 60P at Ardrossan on 22 Apr, 95P in L Gruinart, Islay on 8 Sep, 108P on 22 Sep.



Brent Goose

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† * **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* **Highland/Grampian** had a rash of records with 4 at Balmedie on 7 Aug, and 2 at Strathbeg on 16 Aug. 2 were again in the Mosstodloch-Lhanbryde area from 3 Sep-early Oct, and 4 appeared between Rashierieve and Middlemuir on 27-28 Sep, with 1 till 18 Dec; **Tayside** a ♀ appeared at Montrose Basin on 15 Jul.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* Breeding: **Shetland** generally poor; **Grampian** 20 adults and 43 ducklings on the Ythan on 17 Jul; **Strathclyde** a good season was suggested in the SW. Counts: **Highland** 184 in Munloch Bay on 12 Jan, and 247 in the Dornoch-L Fleet area on 27 Jan; **Grampian** Findhorn Bay held 140 in May, showing a considerable decline in recent years; **Tayside** 310 at Montrose Basin on 7 Nov; **Fife** 842 on Eden estuary on 17 Jan; **Central** 2400 in Kinneil moult flock on 16 Aug; **Strathclyde** 174 in L Gruinart, Islay on 20 Apr; **Dumf & Gall** Wigtown Bay held 385 on 21 Feb, while the Caerlaverock peak was 570 on 21 Oct.

† * **Mandarin** *Aix galericulata* The decline in the **Tayside** population seems to be continuing with the maximum count being only 5 on 13 Nov, outside the normal Perth area a pair appeared at Rossie Hill on 27 Mar; in **Borders** the 1st confirmed breeding occurred with up to 4 prs on the Eye Water: elsewhere records included **Orkney** 2 ♂♂ on North Ronaldsay from 13 May-8 Jun, with 1 till 10 Jun; **Grampian** ♂ at L Davan on 21 Jun.

Wigeon *Anas penelope* Breeding: **Highland** only 3 records of breeding were submitted in Caithness District; **Highland/Grampian** 9 lochs held single prs in Moray and Nairn Districts; **Tayside** breeding was proved at 6 lochs and a good season was suggested; **Borders** had a poorer year, with fewer broods seen; **Dumf & Gall** a ♀ with 8 young was seen on L Ken on 14 Jun. Counts/passage: **Orkney** the L of Harray peak was 7455 on 30 Dec; **Highland** 3430 in Nigg/Munloch areas on 17 Jan, 9924 in Cromarty/Longman areas on 16 Oct, and 4000 at Edderton on 6 Nov; **Grampian** 1400 at L Spynie in Jan, and Strathbeg held 830 in Nov; **Tayside** 5030 in Montrose Basin on 11 Dec; **Fife** 971 on the Eden estuary on 17 Jan; **Lothian** the Tynninghame peak was 933 on 25 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** peak counts were 1000 at L Milton on 6 Feb, and 1896 at Caerlaverock on 9 Oct.

* **American Wigeon** *Anas americana* **Tayside** ♂ at L Leven from 13 Nov-end Dec (JS) ♀; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Caerlaverock on 5 Oct awaits details (Wildfowl Tr) ♀.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* Breeding: information scanty, but the species bred on **Orkney** where 1 nest on North Ronaldsay; **Highland** a pair reared 5 young at one site; **Tayside** 7 prs reared 20 young at L of Kinnordy; **Fife** where prs bred at a minimum of 2 sites, and **Strathclyde** where 5 young were reared at Baron's Haugh, and 2 ♀♀ were seen with broods of 3 and 6 on Tiree. Counts were mostly of low numbers but L Leven, **Tayside** had 154 on 17 Sep; elsewhere the maxima included 11 on L of Harray, **Orkney**, on 7 Mar, 7 at Newburgh, **Grampian** on 10 Apr, 14 at L Gelly, **Fife** on 25 Aug, 7 near Ayr, **Strathclyde** on 8 Jan, while the Caerlaverock, **Dumf & Gall** peak was 10 in Feb-Mar.

Teal *Anas crecca* Breeding: **Borders** 29 prs were recorded, 12 broods totalled 24+ young; **Dumf & Gall** suggestion of decline in numbers, with poor success. Counts: **Shetland** 200 at Sullom Voe on 1-2 Jan was exceptional; **Highland** 611 at Alturlie on 17 Jan; **Grampian** the Strathbeg peak was 2350 on 2 Nov; **Tayside** 500 on L Leven on 17 Sep; **Fife** 462 at the Eden estuary on 17 Jan; **Central** 1843 on the Forth estuary on 8 Sep; **Strathclyde** 430 at Baron's Haugh on 20 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** the Caerlaverock peak was 1130 on 9 Oct. **Nearctic carolinensis**: **Fife** ♂ at the Eden estuary on 16 Feb (NE).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Breeding: **Shetland** 1st ducklings were seen on 14 May; **Borders** 66 recorded broods held 386+ juveniles; **Strathclyde** 31 broods totalled 242 young in the SW, and a good success rate was indicated. Counts: **Highland** 900 at L Fleet on 27 Jan; **Grampian** 3300 at Strathbeg in Dec; **Tayside** 1100 on L Leven on 17 Sep, and 893 on Perth Bridge-Almondmouth stretch on 17 Dec; **Central** 1563 on the Forth estuary on 8 Sep; **Borders** 973 on Tweed Haugh in Oct; **Strathclyde** 760 at Gadloch on 13 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** Caerlaverock held 2100 in Sep.

Pintail *Anas acuta* The species remains a very scarce breeding bird, with **Orkney** having up to 10 prs breeding, and **Strathclyde** having 4 prs breeding in Argyll. Counts/passage: **Highland** 74 in Nigg Bay on 17 Jan, and 76 at Longman on 16 Oct; **Tayside** 87 at Montrose Basin on 21 Feb; **Fife** 35 at the Eden estuary on 14 Dec; **Central** the Skinflats/Kinneil flock peaked at 61 on 11 and 29 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** peaks included 350 at Southwick and 300 at Carsethorn on 9 Oct, while Wigtown Bay held 325 on 16 Oct.

* **Garganey** *Anas querquedula* Up to 22 birds in spring, and 3 in autumn: **Shetland** ♂ at Hillwell from 21-23 May; **Orkney** ♂ and 2 ♀♀ on Stronsay on 10 May and 2 Jun, another ♂ on Stronsay on 26 Jun; **West Isles** 2 at Balrinald on 28 May; **Highland** ♂ in Dunnet Bay on 25 Apr, ♀ at Boat of Garten on 28 Jul; **Grampian** a pair at Cults on 16 May, a ♂ at Cotehill on 23-24 May, and 2 prs at Rattray from 24-29 May; **Tayside** a pair at Montrose Basin on 24 Apr; **Fife** singles at Kilconquhar L on 27 Jul, and at L Gelly from 12-15 Aug; **Lothian** ♂ at Aberlady on 21 and 28 May; **Strathclyde** ♂ at Endrick Mouth on 28 Mar, 2 ♂♂ on 29-30 Mar; **Dumf & Gall** ♂ at Caerlaverock on 15 and 24 Apr, and another ♂ at Kildrochat on 3-4 May.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Breeding: **Shetland** a pair bred at Hillwell; **Orkney** up to 23 prs noted on 6 islands; **Tayside** recorded breeding at 3 sites; prs also recorded breeding in Caithness District, **Highland** (4), **Lothian** (1-2), **Borders** (1-2); **Strathclyde** up to 6 prs bred at New Cumnock, 5 prs on Tiree, 2 prs at both Lochwinnoch and Baron's Haugh, and a slight improvement in **Dumf & Gall** where up to 2 broods seen on L Ken. Counts: **Tayside** 200 at one location on 20 Sep, and 300-400 on L Leven in Sep; **Fife** 62 on Kilconquhar L on 27 Oct; **Borders** the Hirsell had 116 on 25 Sep; **Strathclyde** 14S at Turnberry Pt on 4 Sep, 51 at Baron's Haugh on 28 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 69 at Caerlaverock on 2 Oct.

* **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* 2 birds were recorded: **West Isles** ♂ on the Monachs during Nov, but on South Uist on 24 Nov; **Central** ♂ at Gartmorn Dam on 10 Jan.

Pochard *Aythya ferina* Very few breeding records for this species: **Highland** ♀ with B/1 on St John's Loch on 17 Jul was the first proven record for Caithness District for 30 years; **Fife** 3 broods totalled 16 at Kilconquhar L; **Borders** a pair with B/2 at the Hirsell on 24 Jun. Counts: **Orkney** the L of Boardhouse peak was 758 on 18 Jan, and L of Harray held 1372 on 30 Dec; **Highland** 470 on L Scarmlate on 14 Feb, 410 on St John's Loch on 27 Nov, and 237 on L Eye on 11 Dec; **Tayside** 1270 on L Leven on 10 Jan and 820 there on 19 Nov; **Fife** a very high count was recorded with 1009 at L Gelly on 18 Sep; **Strathclyde** 334 at Strathclyde Country Park on 14 Feb; **Dumf & Gall** recorded low numbers with a peak of 75 on L Ken in mid Nov.

* **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* **Shetland** 1st w ♀ at Easter L from 2-6 Nov (CFM et al); **Orkney** juv/1st w on L of Harray on 11-13 Oct (ERM); **Highland** ♂ on L Insh from 2 Oct-5 Nov, also at L Morlich on 5-6 Nov (ZB, RW et al).

* **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* **Lothian** adult ♂ at Edgelaw Res on 29-30 Oct (LLJV).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Breeding reports indicated patchy success: **Grampian/Highland** proved breeding at 6 lochs in Moray and Nairn Districts, while **Tayside** had a good season with 36 broods at Carsebreck; **Central** 9 prs bred at Airthrey, and 43 fledged from 8 broods; **Borders** 67 prs were recorded, and 17 broods held a total of 80 juveniles; **Strathclyde** a slight improvement in success rate was suggested in SW. Counts: **Orkney** the L of Harray peak was 1920 on 30 Dec; **West Isles** ♂ on St Kilda on 25 Apr; **Highland** 500 at Longman on 17 Jan; **Tayside** 3180 on L Leven on 17 Sep; **Strathclyde** 360 at Strathclyde Country Park on 24 Jan.

Scaup *Aythya marila* Breeding: **Highland** a ♀ with B/4 in Jul was the first confirmed breeding since 1939. Summer birds included 5 in **Shetland**, 5 in **Orkney**, 2 in **Highland**, 2 in **Tayside**, 1 in **Borders**, and up to 20 in **Strathclyde**. Counts: **Orkney** 137 on L of Harray on 7 Mar; **Highland** 185 at Udale on 14 Nov; **Fife** 460 at Leven on 24 Jan; **Lothian** an extremely low peak of 19 was reached at Musselburgh on 4 Nov; **Strathclyde** 1230 in L Indaal on 16 Dec; **Dumf & Galloway** the Carsethorn flock increased greatly to 4000 on 16 Feb, and L Ryan had 600 on 20 Feb.

Eider *Somateria molissima* **Grampian** another poor year at Forvie where 1500 prs produced only 40 young. Despite a good hatch in Jun, bad weather in Jul was associated with a decline in chick numbers; **Tayside** c200 prs at Barry Buddon. Some areas experienced better fortunes: **Fife** the estimated Isle of May breeding population was put at 600-700 nests, with a maximum of 171 ducklings seen on 1 Jul; **Lothian** Aberlady held an estimated 443 prs, 68 young being seen on 16 Jun. Counts: **Shetland** a count of birds in moulting areas produced only 7700 (cf 13,811 in 1977); **Grampian** 3467 on Ythan estuary on 5 May; **Tayside/Fife** c10,000 were estimated at the mouth of the Tay in Dec; **Lothian** peak count was 5500 between Yellowcraig and Kilsplindie on 20 Mar.

* **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* **Shetland** adult ♂ at Tresta and Reawick from 1987 was off North Havra on 6 Jul (PVH) and Westerwick on 20 Aug (MH), adult ♂ at Holm of West Sandwick on 25 Apr and Whale Firth from 25 Apr-1 May (PVH, MH, DRB, DS), adult ♂ at Haroldswick on 25 Apr (MS), ♀ in Colgrave Sound on 8 Feb (PVH, MH, RJT), ♀ at Sumburgh Head from 14 Jun-18 Sep (MH et al), ♂ off Fair Isle from 21 Sep-15 Nov (PMP), and ♀ in Ronas Voe from 5-8 Nov (MH et al); **Highland** adult ♂ between Embo and L Fleet from 14 Feb-at least 9 Jun (BB,



King Eider ♂ Ythan May 1988

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JRD et al), and 8 Nov-at least 3 Dec (PGA et al); **Grampian** adult ♂ at Ythan estuary from 17 May-28 Jun (RAS, KDS), also at Balgowrie on 28 Aug, and off Murcar on 20 Sep (MGW, SJA et al); **Fife** adult ♂ at Tayport from 1987 to at least 14 Apr (JSN et al); **Lothian** ♀ at Aberlady from 13-17 Jul (DJB et al).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* Summer records included 1 in **Shetland**, 1-3 birds in **Orkney**, 3 in **Highland**, 2 in **Grampian**, 1 in **Lothian**, and 1 in **Strathclyde**. Counts: **Shetland** the Bluemull peak was 451 on 8 Feb; **Orkney** 837 were counted in Scapa Flow in Nov; **West Isles** noted a large decrease in Broadbay, Lewis wintering flock; **Highland** 286 at Chanonry on 14 Feb; 300 at Avoch on 18 Mar, and 200+ in Dunnet Bay on 21 Oct; **Grampian** a very high estimate of 7000 was made on the Burghhead Bay flock on 14 Nov; **Fife** 650 at Leven on 12 Mar; **Lothian's** autumn arrival was from 25 Sep, and Aberlady-Gullane held a record peak of 770 on 15 Nov; **Strathclyde** c40 Feall Bay, Coll on 8 Nov. More autumn records from inland localities during Oct-Dec were noted in **Highland** and **Grampian** e.g. 6 on L Garten on 21 Oct, and a notable influx occurred in **SW Strathclyde** from end Oct, with at least 30 individuals recorded.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* Breeding reports coming from the usual areas included: **Shetland** a minimum of 5 ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀ were present at the usual sites but only 2 young were reared; **Highland** 12 broods were reported from 36 prs, and at least 2 other lochs held prs; **Tayside** 2 ♀♀ and 3 ♂♂ at the usual site in May; **Strathclyde** 6 prs were recorded at Argyll site in Jun but no young seen. Counts: **Grampian/Highland** had 1500-2000 off Murcar in May, 750 between Collieston and Blackdog in Sep, and 600+ off Nairn/Culbin Bars in Dec; **Fife** 5000 at St Andrews on 3 Feb; **Lothian** 1900 at Gosford on 23 Apr; **Borders** 200 in Pease Bay on 19 Nov; **Strathclyde** 58 in Irvine Bay on 21 Feb, 88 in L Indaal, Islay on 23 Mar, 2 at Langbank from 13-19 Nov were unusual for area; **Dumf & Gall** 100 in Luce Bay on 17 Jul.

* **Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* A somewhat confusing situation surrounds the exact numbers in the Forth: **Orkney** ♂ off Wyre on 29-30 May (SJA, JO); **Highland** ♂ at Dornoch on 3 May (PGA, SJH), ♂ in Talmine Bay from 5-8 Jun (A & BC, PKD), juv/1st winter in L Fleet on 16 Oct (PGA); **Grampian** ♂ in Burghhead Bay from 20-25 Feb, and again on 28 Sep (RP), a ♂ off Murcar on 21 May was followed by 2 ♂♂ on 22 May (RAS, SAR, RDS); **Tayside** 1-2 ♂♂ in Lunan Bay from 21-26 Aug, ♀ on 21 Aug (MSS et al); **Fife** 2 ♂♂ in Largo Bay on 4 Jan, ♂ on 17 Mar, 3 ♂♂ on 3 Apr, ♀ on 17 Mar, 3 Apr, and 1-3 ♂♂ from 18 Nov-28 Dec (DED, MR, JSN, JGS et al); **Lothian** 2 ♂♂ and ♀ at Gosford on 16 Jan-26 Mar, and 9 Apr-12 May, with 3 ♂♂ and ♀ on 23 Apr, and 3 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ on 24-26 Apr, a ♂ on 13-14 May (AB et al), a ♂ on 27 Aug, 2 ♂♂ on 3 Sep, 3 ♂♂ on 24-25 Sep, and ♂ on 5 Nov (PRG, RHH et al).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* Counts: **Grampian** low numbers at main areas with 500 at Blackdog on 28 Aug, and 177 in Burghhead Bay in Dec; **Tayside** 500 in Lunan Bay on 27 Sep; **Fife** 250 in St Andrews Bay on 6 Jan; **Lothian** Gosford peak was 200 on 12 Mar.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Breeding: the best year yet in **Northern Scotland** 87 nests contained 51+ clutches, with 44+ successful broods and 427+ ducklings hatched. A small number of non-breeders summered. Counts: **Highland** 440 at Longman on 17 Jan, 1568 at Ness on 6 Feb; **Grampian** 400 at Girdleness in Jan; **Tayside** 500 at Balmossie on 7 Mar; **Fife** 600 at Leven on 12 Mar; **Strathclyde** 390 at Doonfoot on 4 Jan, and 492 from West Ferry-Woodhall on 20 Mar.

Smew *Mergus albellus* A summary of the year's records shows

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	2	1	1	2							1	1
Grampian-Fife	2	5	1	1						1		1
Central-Borders	2	3	4	1							1	2
Strathclyde/D&G	10	11	6	2	1					1	9	14

As in recent winters, the **Strathclyde** numbers have been higher than elsewhere, with **Strathclyde** Country Park having 6 on 14 Feb, and 3 in Nov and Dec. In **Highland** a hybrid Goldeneye × Smew was again present at Kessock from 7 Jan-27 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* Breeding: **Grampian** 30 prs produced about 20 young on the North Esk; **Strathclyde** good productivity suggested. Counts: **Orkney** Scapa Flow survey found 364 in Nov; **Highland** 2840 at Invergordon on 7 Mar, 329 off Delnies on 19 Sep, 900 at Whiteness on 16 Oct; **Tayside** 200 at Balmossie on 14 Feb; **Fife** 1100 at Kinshaldy on 8 Nov; **Central** 137 on the Forth estuary on 21 Feb; **Lothian** 560 at Musselburgh on 21 Oct; **Strathclyde** 120 were in L Indaal moult flock on 26 Jun.

Goosander *Mergus merganser* Breeding: **Grampian** a good season was suggested; **Tayside** breeding was noted at 11 sites; **Dumf & Gall** persecution appears heavy and poor success was noted in Glenkens, with the post breeding flock on L Ken only 41. Counts: **Highland** the Beauly Firth peak reached 1900 on 17 Jan, with 3000 "sawbills" present there on 21 Nov; **Grampian** 92 on L of Skene in Feb, and the Speymouth moult-flock reached 87 in Aug; **Tayside** 110 at Balmossie on 20 Aug; **Fife** 225 at Tayport on 6 Sep; **Lothian** 59 at Tynninghame on 12, and 22 Aug was a high count for the area; **Borders** 256 were culled by the Tweed Salmon Commission, and the highest number seen was 197 at the Hirsell on 6 Nov; **Strathclyde** 106 in Strathclyde Country Park on 17 Jan, 72 on 30 Nov, 59 on Martnaham L on 4 Dec.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* Breeding: **Tayside** 3 prs bred at L of Kinnordy with 4 young fledging, 3 prs hatched 10 young at Dun's Dish, elsewhere in Region 2 prs were present at a loch in Central Perthshire and 1-2 at 4 other sites in the period spanning Apr-13 Nov, but no evidence of breeding; **Strathclyde** a pair bred at Aird Meadow, but the brood of 2 disappeared soon after 23 Jul. Others included a ♂ at Hillwell, **Shetland** 3-5 May, **Orkney** a ♀ on North Ronaldsay from 3-5 May, up to 9 birds in **Fife** at 4 sites from 3 Feb-12 Nov, and 1 appeared offshore at Kinneil, **Central** on 21 Feb; **Strathclyde** pr at Endrick Mouth on 24 Apr, ♂ on Tiriee from 8-13 May.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle from 25-31 May and 1-9 Jun both died from Fulmar oiling, another from 4-10 Jul survived, and 1 was at Hermaness on 7 Jul; **Orkney** singles noted at Stenness on 9 May, on Westray on 25 May, and between Rendall and Rousay from 7-22 Jul; **West Isles** 1 over South Ford on 30 Apr; **Highland** 1 over Reay on 30 May; **Grampian** 1 over the Cairngorm plateau on 3 Jul; **Fife** 1 on the Isle of May on 20 Oct; **Borders** 1 over Reston on 16 Sep.

* **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* **Shetland**, like Orkney, had an unprecedented spring influx with singles at Virkie on 14 Feb, on Fair Isle from 26 Mar-10 Apr, between Quendale and Sumburgh from 27-31 Mar, and Muckle Roe on 27 Mar; **Orkney** had singles on Sanday on 4 Apr, Shapinsay on 5 and 6 Apr, Finstown and Orphir on 7 Apr, Rendall on 12 Apr, and St Ola on 24 Apr; **Highland** 1 at Calabrian on 30 Apr; **Grampian** 1 at Kemnay from 11-28 May; **Tayside** 1 in the southern end of the Region of 31 Aug; **Borders** 1 over Megget Water on 30 Jun; **Strathclyde** 1 near Hunterston on 2 Nov.

* **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Up to 11 territories were maintained, 6 nesting attempts were made, and one pair successfully reared 2 young. Wandering birds included the following: – **Shetland** an immature bird at Baltasound in late Apr, was probably also on Yell on 24 May; **Orkney** had an immature between Sandwick and Hoy from 30 Mar and 2 Apr; **West Isles** had 4 records possibly involving 2-3 birds; **Strathclyde** singles at Knapdale on 31 Jul, and Taynish in Nov.

* **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* Another good year: **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 5 May and 5-7 May; **Orkney** singles on North Ronaldsay on 20 Apr, Hoy on 26-28 Apr, Westray on 4 Sep, and Evie on 8 Sep; **West Isles** had up to 5 individuals in the Uists between 17 May and 10 Sep; **Highland** 1-3 birds at Insh Marshes from 29 Apr-14 Sep, other singles at Lagganbridge on 7 May, and L Pityoulish on 21 May, Caithness District had up to 6 individuals between 17 Aug and 19 Sep; **Grampian** had up to 5 birds between 24 Apr and 7 Jun, and singles on 10 Jul and 29 Jul; **Tayside** had 1 at Lintrathen on 14 May, and up to 4 at 2 sites between 28 Jul and 14 Sep; **Fife** ♀ at Earlsall on 3 May; **Central** 1 at Tullibody on 2 May; **Lothian** had 5 birds between 19 Apr and 22 May when 2 were at Craigiellaw; **Borders** singles at Drinkstone on 20 Apr, and Dowlaw on 22 May; **Strathclyde** single ♀♀ at Endrick Mouth on 17 Apr, on Islay from 19-24 Apr, Endrick Mouth on 3 May, Arran on 8 May, Coll on 14 May, and Possil Marsh on 27 May, ♂ on Mull on 17 Jul; **Dumf & Gall** single ♂♂ were seen at L Ken on 29 Mar, and at Laurieston on 13 May.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* Breeding: in **Orkney** 38 nests were found on West Mainland, 10 were successful in rearing 20 young, but 7 nests on another island had only 2 successful results with 3 young reared; **Grampian** has become scarce with only 13 sites located, and only 1 chick reared; **Tayside** bred successfully in a number of areas; **Borders** successful at 2 sites with 7 young reared; **Strathclyde** 49 nests were located in an Argyll survey, 39 of these produced a minimum of 101 young mostly in young forestry, but the species had mixed fortunes elsewhere with Arran having 7 prs rear 21 young, and Ayrshire suffering severe persecution and only 3 young reared from 6 prs; **Dumf & Gall** again poor with only 2 out of 7 nests found successful. Migrants/etc: **Shetland** had up to 18 records in the year – the best since 1973; **Dumf & Gall** winter roost counts were low, with the max being 11 in Dec.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* Breeding: in **Northern Scotland** prs or singles seen at up to 8 sites. A pair reared 3 young, and other successes were reported from 2 or 3 sites, but disappointing in one area. In **Central Scotland** a pair was present at one area during the spring and in **Fife** a pair bred but young were taken by falconers. In **Southern Scotland** population growth appeared to be slowing. Migrants: 1 appeared on S Uist, **West Isles** on 27 Oct.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Breeding: in **Orkney** 3 prs were recorded, and 2 were successful; in **Grampian** of 20 sites checked 12 were occupied and eggs laid at 8, of 39 eggs laid 21 chicks fledged, a poorer year than 1987. Migrants: **Shetland** had up to 3 at Kergord during Jan-Apr and again from 2 Oct-end Dec, main autumn passage on Fair Isle ran from 12-22 Oct including 4 on 18 Oct.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Breeding: in **Orkney** a pair reared 2 young; in the **Grampian** W Moray study area 23 sites were occupied, 18 prs 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** a pair reared 2 in Lothian, but fewer seen in **Borders**; in **Strathclyde** Arran's breeding population was estimated at 18 prs; and **Dumf & Gall** showed a continued increase on lower ground. Migrants: **Shetland** singles at Scalloway on 18 Apr, and Eshaness on 1 Jul; **Fife** 1 appeared on the Isle of May on 20 Aug; **Strathclyde** 7S at Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre on 22 Sep.

* **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus* 4 in winter-spring period, 17 in autumn-winter period: **Shetland** 1 in Spiggie/Fitful Head area from 1987 stayed till 3 Apr, 7 singles in autumn comprised birds on Fair Isle on 6 Oct, at Haroldswick/Norwick on 23 Oct, Compass Head/Boddam on 23 Oct, on Fair Isle on 25 Oct, on Skerries on 26-27 Oct – then at Tingwall from 7 Nov-end Dec, Scatness on 28 Oct, and Westing on 19 Nov; **Orkney** an autumn influx brought singles to St Ola on 24 Oct, North Ronaldsay on 28 Oct, Hoy on 5-6 Nov, St Ola on 13 Nov, while 1 was seen between Evie and west Mainland from 3 Nov-end Dec; **Grampian** singles at Buck on 7 Apr, Creag Leek on 10 Apr, Tor of Troup on 29 Jul, Cabrach on 6 Nov, and Forvie on 23 Nov and 11-31 Dec; **Fife** 1 found moribund at Pitlessie on 25 Nov; **Strathclyde** 1 at L Gruinart, Islay on 9 Nov, another at Mull of Oa, Islay on 3 Dec and L Indaal on 5 Dec.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* Breeding: in **N Scotland** 66+ young were reared frn 88-92 attempts; in **S Scotland** the **Strathclyde** study area in Argyll had 9 prs rearing 12 young from 14 sites where eggs laid, another 31-35 prs laid eggs at 20+ sites and 16 prs reared 20+ young, 1 pair reared 1 young on Arran, and 3 prs reared a total of 2 young in the SW. Elsewhere up to 3 immatures were seen on **Orkney** between 4 Jul and 14 Nov.

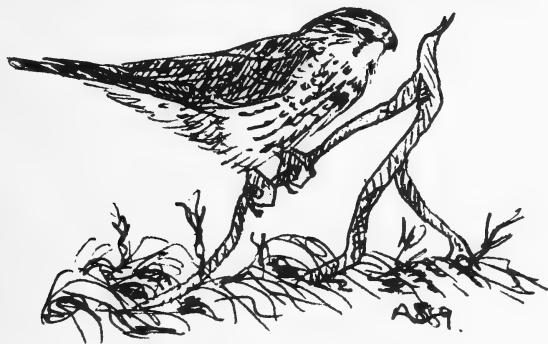


Osprey

A. Stevenson

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Breeding: 53 pairs nested, and 38 successful prs reared 81 young, the highest number so far. Arrival was early on 5 Mar at Speybank, **Highland**, and some late individuals included 1 in the Ballinluig-Strathtay area, **Tayside** till 20 Nov. Migrants: **Orkney** singles noted on North Ronaldsay on 5 and 19 May, Evie on 21 May, Orphir on 25 May, Papa Westray on 27 May, Rousay on 30 May and 30 Jun; **Lothian** had a late bird at Cobbinshaw on 29 Oct; **Strathclyde** 1 over Crosshill on 17 Mar.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Breeding: in **Orkney** up to 16 prs were recorded; a pair stayed at Garynahine, **Lewis** all year; in **Strathclyde** another good year in Ayrshire with 4.3 young produced per successful pair. On **Shetland** Fair Isle migrants included 7 on 3 Sep.



Merlin

A. Stevenson

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Breeding: in **N Scotland** 253+ young were reared from 115 attempts; in **S Scotland** 81+ young were reared from 25+ successful nests. Migrants: **Shetland** a poor autumn passage on Fair Isle ran from 24 Aug-20 Nov with a peak of 4 birds on 2 Nov.

* **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* Up to 14 birds recorded: **Shetland** 1 at Eshaness on 23 Jun, and 1 on Fair Isle on 5 Jul; **Orkney** singles were seen on Sanday on 8 May, Toab on 17 May, near Stromness on 30 May, North Ronaldsay on 7 Jun, and at Deerness on 4 Sep; **Highland** singles at Carrbridge on 10 Jun, Insh House on 15 Aug, Balavil on 20 Aug, and L Garten on 7 Sep; **Lothian** singles at Aberlady on 13 Jul, and Tynninghame on 15 Aug, **Strathclyde** 1 on Sanda on 12 May.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* Breeding: some areas reported continuing problems with egg-collectors, especially in the South, whilst cold weather in Apr may have resulted in egg failure. Overall, in Scotland 269+ young were reared from 202+ attempts.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus* **Orkney** had a good season; **Highland** 1000 at Blackmount, Carrbridge on 11 Feb; **Grampian** showed a large increase in breeding stock in many areas, with a high emigration noted from some moors, but numbers in Upper Moray were down after a succession of wet summers and disease, high counts included 300+ at Lecht on 27 Jan and 1100 in the Cabrach on 11 Feb; **Tayside** and **Borders** reported a good season; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** showed a slight improvement in some parts, 250+ on good Crowberry crop on the Campsies on 30 Oct, but the species continues scarce over most of W.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus* In **Grampian** breeding success was generally lower than in 1987, with highest numbers in E Cairngorms; in **Strathclyde** continues to breed on Arran, and 1 on Jura on 21 May was the first for many years.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* **Highland** 24 ♂♂ at Abriachan lek on 15 Mar, 1 on Rhum on 24 May was the 1st record for the island; **Grampian** 25 in Forest of Birse on 4 Apr; **Tayside** showed an increase on 1987 figures with widespread records; **Strathclyde** a good season was suggested in the SW with some birds coming into forest restocks.

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* Generally, an improvement in breeding success was noted. **Highland** a good season recorded in Abernethy; **Grampian** showed an improvement in breeding success in Glen Tanar for the first time in 5 years, and big broods were reported elsewhere. This may have been due to dry weather in early Jun which increased chick survival rate. In **Tayside** at least one pair bred in Montreathmont Forest, and in **N Fife** 2 birds were seen in Mar-May period.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* (most records of this species refer to Red-leg × Chukar hybrids, and some of pure Chukar — *A chukar*). The following areas reported an increase or continuation in releases: — **Highland/Grampian/Tayside/Fife/Borders/Strathclyde**.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* Breeding showed good success in the East: **Highland** Caithness District appeared to maintain 1987's improvement, and the Inverness area had a good season; **Grampian** a better season in Moray District, and big coveys noted elsewhere; **Tayside** showed increased records, 45 in Glen Quach on 26 Aug; **Lothian** 44 at Straiton on 28 Oct; **Borders** showed a marked improvement; **Dumf & Gall** still reported a decline overall, and numbers/records were also down in Fife.

* **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* At least one breeding attempt was made, and the deserted nest of this species was found at Cornhill, **Grampian**, in Sep. Up to 47 birds reported: **Shetland** up to 10 birds in spring between 15 May and 25 Jul but an autumn bird appeared at Voe on 4 Sep; **Orkney** 2 birds were heard on Stronsay from 29 May till 6 Aug, with 1 seen on 23 Sep; **West Isles** 2 at Balranald during Jul and Aug, also heard at 3 other locations in Uists in Jul; **Highland** 2 at Castle Stuart on 27 Jul; **Grampian** 1 at Tarras on 18 Jun, and another at Knaven on 21 Jun; **Tayside** 1 near Dundee from 25 May-4 Jul; **Fife** 1 on the Isle of May on 16 Jun, and 6 near Leven on 17 Aug; **Lothian** singles at Aberlady on 1 Jun, and at Harlaw on 23 Jun; **Borders** had 5 calling birds between 15 Jun and 10 Aug; **Strathclyde** singles at Port Ellen, and The Oa, Islay on 3 Jun, Shiskine, Arran on 7 Jun, near L Doon on 15 Jun, at Dungavel from 17-31 Jul, and at Thankerton on 28 Aug; **Dumf & Gall** singles at Stoneykirk on 2 Jun, Islesteps from 16-24 Jun, and Moss of Cree on 29 Jun.

† **Reeve's Pheasant** *Syrnaticus reevesii* **Lothian** the 2 ♂♂ at Archerfield were reduced to 1 by a Fox.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* **Shetland** a few sightings followed recent releases at 2 sites, a ♀ was incubating a clutch of 7 eggs at Hillswick on 29 Apr; **Lothian** 13 territories at Aberlady; **Dumf & Gall** 6500 released at Hensol.

† **Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus* **Strathclyde** the feral population on Mull continues to exist with up to 30 birds, mostly ♂♂ reported; **Dumf & Gall** still had a few near Cairnsmore House, but remains very scarce.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* Breeding: **Orkney** a pair again on North Ronaldsay, and 2-3 prs were present at The Loons; **Grampian** present at 4 sites with 5-6 calling at L of Leys; **Fife** reported good numbers with 10 at Rosyth marsh on 13 Mar, and 20 at Lindores in Dec; **Strathclyde** a minimum of 30 prs were recorded from 9 sites. Migrants: **Shetland** 2 early migrants were at Fetlar and Ollaberry on 12-13 Aug and a large Oct-Nov influx brought in singles at 19 sites.

* **Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana* **Shetland** 2 on Fair Isle on 6 Oct; **West Isles** 1 calling in Lewis on 29 May; **Highland** 1 calling on Egg from 13-20 Apr, and 4 calling at Insh Marshes from 1-9 Jun; **Strathclyde** 1 near Maybole on 26 Jun.

Corncrake *Crex crex* Breeding numbers showed signs of little change in the **Western Isles**: **Orkney** a survey found between 26 and 32 calling ♂♂, the last record being from N Ronaldsay on 13 Oct; **Highland** 26 calling birds recorded on Skye, 1-2 on Canna and 1 on Rhum; **Strathclyde** 170-176 birds were recorded in Argyll, with Tیره having 99-103 regularly calling, and Coll, Islay and Colonsay accounting for a further 56-57. Other records (mostly calling birds or migrants): **Shetland** calling singles at Bixter on 16 Apr, on Fair Isle on 15 May, and at Fladdabister from 22 May-26 Jun, 8 late Aug-Sep records were followed by an exceptionally late bird at Baltasound on 9 Dec; **Highland** 1 at Waterloo on 1 May, 1 at Melvich on 21 May, and another at Evelix for several weeks in May-Jun, about 5 individuals reported from Caithness District between 7 Jun and 26 Jul; **Grampian** 1 on the Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen on 19 Sep; **Central** 1 near Denny from 24 Jun-17 Jul; **Strathclyde** 2-3 called on Arran from 6 May-4 Aug, and breeding may have occurred, singles called at Baldernock on 8 May, and Carmunnock in May, while an injured bird was caught in Erskine on 20 Oct and released at Beith on 25 Oct.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Breeding: **Lothian** 28-29 broods were reported but Mink still thought to be a problem; **Borders** 83 recorded prs produced 36 broods totalling 94 young; **Strathclyde** 57+ prs were recorded from mid-Clyde Haughs, and another 27 prs from 13 sites in Ayrshire. Counts/passage: **Orkney** 43 on Crantit Ponds on 4 Dec; **Borders** 49 at Bemersyde on 9 Aug; **Strathclyde** 47 on Bothwell Pool on 13 Nov.

Coot *Fulica atra* Breeding: **Shetland** 2 prs nested at Hillwell, a pair reared at least 3 young; **Central** 27 prs produced 61 young from 35 attempts; **Borders** 155 prs produced 75 broods totalling 206 young; **Strathclyde** 64 prs were recorded on mid-Clyde Haughs, and another 44 prs at 13 sites in Ayrshire. Counts: **Orkney** peak count was 330 on Loch of Harray on 27 Dec; **Highland** 190 on

L Watten on 5 Jan; **Grampian** 360 at Davan/Kinord in Nov; **Tayside** 226 on Drummond Pond on 17 Jan, and 770 on L Leven on 17 Sep; **Fife** 500 on Kilconquhar L on 23 Sep; **Central** 282 on L of Menteith on 14 Jan, and 280 on Gartmorn Dam on 17 Jan; **Lothian** 618 at Linlithgow on 13 Dec; **Borders** 519 at Yetholm on 13 Dec; **Strathclyde** 430 on Bishop L on 17 Sep.

* **Crane** *Grus grus* **Shetland** 1 at Haroldswick from 4-8 Apr (ETh et al); **Orkney** singles on Sanday from 27 Apr-8 May (RT), S Ronaldsay on 17 Jun (J & R McC), and Westray from 16 Jul-2 Aug (JSR); **West Isles** 1 in Lewis in 22 May (per PC); **Highland** 1 near Fort Augustus from 30 Apr-4 May (CRP); **Grampian** 1 between Banff Bay, Strathbeg, and Newburgh from 14 Apr-27 Sep (RDSS et al), another between Longmorn and Llanbryde from 23 Sep-19 Nov (RL, RAS, MJHC); **Tayside** an immature bird near Arbroath from 10-17 May (KH, MT); **Fife** 1 at Cameron Res from 10-20 Apr, then over Markinch on 28 Apr (MR, NE); **Lothian** 1 at Aberlady on 7-8 May, and possibly same on 15 May (BJH, JCH, AM et al); **Borders** 1 near Greenlaw from 14 May-17 Jun (JM).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Breeding: **Shetland** a good season reported, and 51 prs counted on Fair Isle; **Fife** 36 prs were present on the Isle of May, at least 13 chicks fledging. Counts/passage: **Highland/Grampian** peak counts were 1120 at Fort George on 17 Jan, 1600 at L Fleet on 27 Jan, 2352 in Findhorn Bay in Oct, 1888 at Nairn-Culbin Bars in Oct, and 4527 in Cromarty and Inverness Firths on 20 Dec; **Tayside** 2660 at Montrose Basin on 1 Aug; **Fife** 5200 at the Eden estuary on 14 Sep; **Lothian** Musselburgh held 1970 in Jan, and Aberlady held 1960 in Oct; **Strathclyde** 833 in L Indaal, Islay on 23 Mar, 1960 at Erskine on 13 Nov; **Dumf & Gall** high counts included 25,000 at Caerlaverock on 20 Jan, and 20,000 there on 29 Aug.

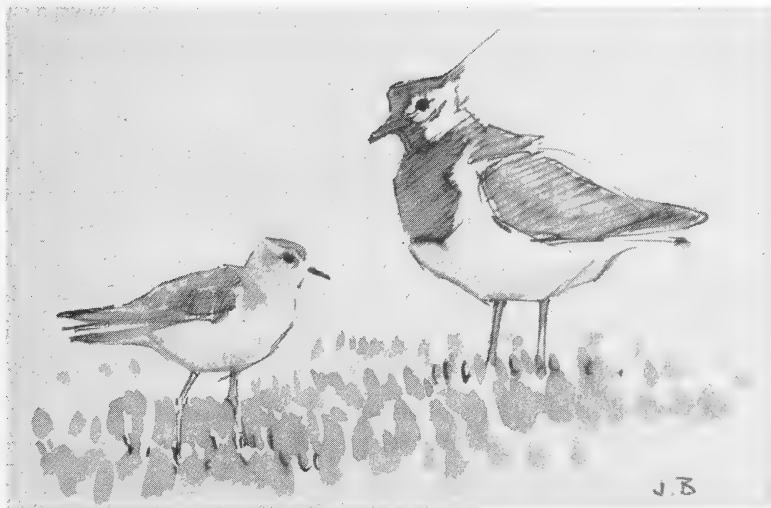
* **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* **Tayside** 2 at Montrose Basin on 1 Aug (per RG); **Strathclyde** 1 at Bogside from 21-23 Apr (BO et al); **Dumf & Gall** 1 near Corsewall on 12 Jun (AMH).

* **Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus* **Lothian** 1 at Barns Ness on 16 Apr (IJA).

* **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* **Central** 1 at Kinneil on 16 Aug (DMB); **Lothian** 1 at Tynninghame from 2-4 May (IJA, MG et al); **Strathclyde** at Baron's Haugh on 23 May (RGN).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Breeding: **Shetland** Noss had a good season, 18 prs on Fair Isle; **Lothian** substantial decrease to 12 prs at Aberlady; **Strathclyde** 25 prs reared 15 young on Arran, but 15 nests containing 49 eggs between Girvan and Ballantrae suffered a high failure rate, at least 23 prs bred on Colonsay. Counts/passage: **Grampian** Findhorn Bay's spring peak was 670 on 15 May, while the Ythan held 359 on 22 May; **Fife** 458 at the Eden estuary on 17 May; **Lothian** 340 at Aberlady on 16 May; **Strathclyde** 300+ on Tiree on 24 May.

* **Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus* **Lothian** an adult at Aberlady on 12-13 Jul (MG et al) was the first for Scotland.



Caspian Plover and Lapwing Aberlady July 1988

J. Busby

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Breeding: **Highland/Grampian** the season was good in the Cairngorms with 89% hatching success and 40% fledging success due largely to improved weather. Migrants: **Shetland** Fair Isle had up to 10 between 7 and 16 May, 1 at Hermaness on 29 May, and 1 on Fair Isle from 29 Aug-4 Sep; **Orkney** an early bird appeared on Hoy on 13 Apr, followed by 3 singles between 20 May and 19 Aug; **West Isles** pair at Balranald on 29 Apr; **Highland** 1 over Dalnawillan Lodge on 20 May; **Grampian** 80 at an autumn gathering site in Cairngorms had largely gone by late Aug, but late singles appeared on the Ythan on 14 Sep, and at Glen Shee from 6-12 Oct; **Lothian** 5 at Widow's Knowe on 7 May, and 1 on Braids GC, Edinburgh on 8 May; **Strathclyde** 2 on Islay on 27 Apr, with singles near New Cumnock on 7 May, and at Logan Res on 29 May; **Dumf & Gall** had 8 on the Galloway hills on 15 May.

* **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* **Shetland** adult at Uyeasound from 6-13 Nov (PME, JAE et al).

* **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* **Shetland** juv on Fair Isle on 21 Sep (PMP), another juv on 22 Sep (PMP, DS); **Orkney** 1 on Stronsay from 24-30 Aug (JFH), juv on N Ronaldsay from 21-25 Sep (AB, KFW).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* Breeding: **Orkney** up to 60 prs or territories were identified at 5 sites; **Highland** the Clunes Hills area had a good season; **Tayside** indicated a decline; **Strathclyde** 23 prs were recorded in Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** shows signs of further decrease. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1050 in the Uyeasound/Baltasound/Haroldswick areas in early Nov; **Orkney** 4500 on Stronsay on 14 Oct; **Grampian** 3000 on the Ythan on 7 Sep; **Fife** 1800 at Crail on 22 Oct; **Lothian** had a peak of 4000 at Aberlady on 26 Oct; **Strathclyde** 4000 at Bogside on 19 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 1270 in Wigtown Bay on 13 Nov.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* **Orkney** 91 on Sanday from 12-15 May; **West Isles** 210 at South Ford on 10 Apr; **Grampian/Highland** Nairn/Culbin Bars had 47 on 20 Oct; **Tayside** 200 at Balmossie on 18 Sep; **Fife** 404 at the Eden estuary on 9 Dec; **Lothian** a record regional count of 575 was recorded at Aberlady on 22 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** 350 at Caerlaverock on 25 Sep.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Breeding: **Grampian** suggested a good season; **Tayside** had a good season; **Lothian** decline at 4 sites from 71-73 prs in 1986 to 46-52 prs; **Strathclyde** 3000-3500 prs bred on Tيرة, at least 350 prs bred at usual site on Colonsay, and 135 prs in the Camps/Midlock valleys in the central belt; **Dumf & Gall** continued decline suggested. Counts/passage: many overwintered from 1987 due to the mild weather; **Shetland** had 600 at Hillwell/Spiggie at this time; **Orkney** had 1000 at Scapa on 3 Jan, and 1000 at Crantit on 27 Dec; **Highland** 1500 at Castletown on 27 Aug; **Grampian** 2000 at Strathbeg on 10 Dec was larger than expected for the time of year; **Fife** 1000 at Leuchars on 27 Sep; **Central** 2315 on the Forth estuary on 8 Sep; **Lothian** 1900 at Aberlady on 22 Oct; **Strathclyde** 2248 at Bothwell Pool on 9 Sep, and 3740 at Bogside on 13 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 1952 in Wigtown Bay on 21 Feb.

Knot *Calidris canutus* **Shetland** autumn passage began on 12 Jul; **Highland/Grampian** 1250 at Fort George on 17 Jan, 1660 at Nairn/Culbin Bars on 11 Mar, and 2000 at Embo on 11 Dec; **Tayside** 1000 at Westhaven on 23 Nov; **Fife** 3000 at Largo Bay on 23 Nov; **Central** 6540 on the Forth estuary on 12 Dec; **Lothian** Aberlady held 3350 on 17 Feb.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Winter-spring: **Orkney** North Ronaldsay's spring peak was 392 on 27 May; **Grampian** 133 on the Ythan on 30 Apr; **Tayside** 600 at Monifeith on 14 Feb; **Fife** 420 at Tayport on 27 Mar; **Lothian** 115 at Aberlady on 27 May; **Strathclyde** 300+ on Tيرة on 31 May. Autumn: **Shetland** autumn passage began on 15 Jul; **Orkney** N Ronaldsay held 400 on 31 Aug; **Tayside** 450 in the outer Tay on 17 Dec; **Strathclyde** 66 at Maidens on 24 Jul; **Dumf & Gall** 60 at L Ryan on 24 Jul.

* **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* **Shetland** an immature at Virkie on 25 Sep (PME, JDD, GWP et al) ϕ .

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Spring: **Shetland** 1 on Fetlar on 27 May; **Orkney** had 6 between 28 May and 26 Jul; **West Isles** 4-5 on St Kilda on 30 May; **Highland** 1 at L Scarmclate on 18 May; **Grampian** singles at Phingask on 20 Apr, and Don from 10-13 May; **Fife** 1 at Anstruther on 3

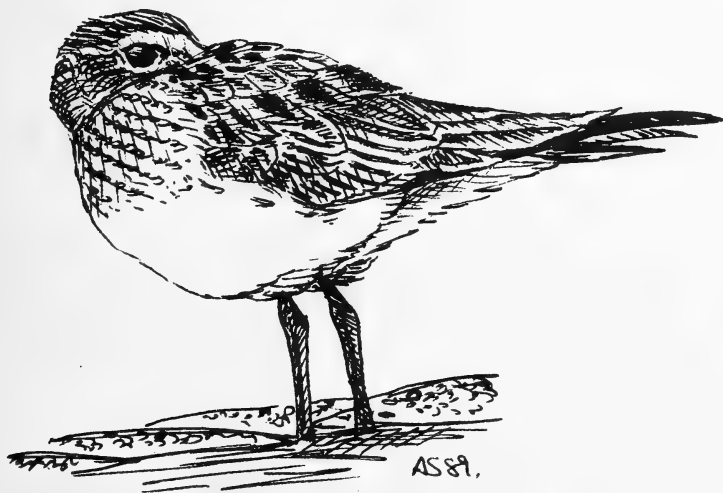
May; **Lothian** had 4 singles at Aberlady and Musselburgh between 8 May and 16 Jun. Autumn passage was exceptional, with a monthly breakdown and peak figs below:-

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	★ ★
Shetland-Highland	5	86	238	5		
Grampian-Fife	2	60	236	2		
Central-Borders	1	14	111			
Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall			48	1		

Shetland had a large influx from 2 Sep with 90 in the South Mainland, and 33 on Fair Isle on 5 Sep; **Orkney's** peak was 49 on N Ronaldsay on 4 Sep; **Highland** had 37 at Udale on 5 Sep; **Grampian** had 51 at Lossiemouth on 5 Sep, with a further 39 at Findhorn Bay on 9 Sep; **Fife** 50 at the Eden estuary on 8 Sep; **Lothian** 63 at Aberlady on 4 Sep; numbers were generally much lower in the SW.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* Breeding: up to 3 birds and one clutch was found at one site in N Scotland. Migrants: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 25-26 May, 2 at Baltasound from 27-28 May; **West Isles** 2 on South Uist on 4 Sep; **Highland** 1 at L More on 23 May; **Tayside** 1 at Kinkell Bridge on 1 Jun; **Lothian** 1 at Aberlady on 16 May and another at Musselburgh on 23 May; **Strathclyde** singles at Endrick Mouth on 28 May and Kilmarnock from 27-29 Jul.

* **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* **Grampian** an adult at Rigifa pond from 31 Jul-4 Aug (JLS, JMCK, KDS) was only the 3rd Scottish record of this species.



White-rumped Sandpiper

A. Stevenson

* **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* **Orkney** probable adult on North Ronaldsay on 21 Sep (DHH, FMcC).

* **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* **Shetland** singles occurred on Foula on 16 Sep, on Fair Isle from 22-30 Sep, at Huxter on 23-24 Sep, on Whalsay on 24-25 Sep, and another on Fair Isle from 16-19 Oct; **Orkney** singles were seen at Deerness on 23 Aug, Harray from 25 Aug-3 Sep, and Deerness again on 5 Oct; **West Isles** up to 7 birds on South Uist between 19 Sep and 5 Oct; **Highland** 1 at Sandside Bay on 7 Oct; **Grampian** 1 at Lossiemouth from 7-11 Sep.



Curlew Sandpiper Aberlady 1988

M. Darling

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Spring: **Orkney** had 6 spring records of 1-2 birds between 5 May and 1 Jun; **Grampian** 1 at Findhorn Bay on 19 Apr, 1 at Meikle from 23-25 May, and 5 on the Ythan on 25 May; **Lothian** 2 at Aberlady on 24 May; **Strathclyde** 1 in Sorobaidh Bay, Tisee on 16 Apr, 1 at Barassie from 29-31 May.

Autumn passage was exceptional with a monthly breakdown and peak figs below:-

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Shetland-Highland	1	157	311	17	
Grampian-Fife	5	152	665	31	
Central-Borders		95	171	1	1
Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall	1	10	218	14	

Shetland had its best ever year with an influx from 2 Sep, and up to 63 on the main islands on 4 Sep, and a further 36 on Fair Isle on 5 Sep; **Orkney's** peak was reached with 59 on N Ronaldsay on 27 Aug; **Highland** the Caithness District peak occurred on 5 Sep with 44, while Udale had 77 on 10 Sep; **Grampian** had huge numbers with 285 at Findhorn Bay on 10-11 Sep, and 57 on the Ythan on 11 Sep; **Tayside** 80 at Montrose Basin on 8 Sep; **Fife** 63 at Guardbridge on 11 Sep; **Central** 80 at Kincardine Bridge on 10 Sep, and a late bird at Skinflats on 12 Nov; **Lothian** 70 at Tynninghame on 4 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 116 at Browhouses on 16 Sep was by far the highest figure recorded from the SW.

** *Figures in the 2 above tables are based on estimates provided.*

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* One site in **North Scotland** had adults present on 10 Jun. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 160 at Sumburgh on 9 Feb; **Orkney** the Sanday shore count produced 509 between 12 and 15 May; **Highland** 123 at Balintore on 7 Mar, 12 at Dunnet Head on 1 Aug were early, and the autumn peak was 120 at Brims Ness on 25 Dec; **Grampian** 230 at Girdleness on 20 Jan, and 230 at Buckie on 7 Feb; **Tayside** 200 at Arbroath on 4 Jan; **Fife** the Isle of May held 120-180 birds during Jul-Aug; **Lothian** Gullane-Tynninghame held 200 in Jan; **Strathclyde** 100+ at Turnberry Pt on 4 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** 50 at Southernness on 18 Jan.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Breeding: **Shetland** 78 prs were noted at 3 sites; **Orkney** up to 45 prs were recorded; **Highland** a minimum of 30 prs nested between L More and Sletill Hill; **Borders** 7 prs were recorded. Counts/passage: **Highland** 1200 at Chanonry on 24 Dec; **Grampian** heavy passage on 14-20 Sep when 710N in 1 hour at Peterhead, and 1144 in Findhorn Bay, which rose to 2100 in Oct; **Tayside** 2500 in outer Tay area in Feb, and 3000 in Montrose Basin on 27 Apr; **Fife** 1506 at the Eden estuary on 9 Dec; **Central** 3017 on the Forth estuary on 12 Dec; **Lothian** Dalmeny held 1550 on 21 Feb; **Strathclyde** 1000 at Barassie on 26 Jul; **Dumf & Gall** Caerlaverock held 6000 on 23 Oct.

* **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* **Shetland** 1 on Whalsay from 18-22 May (BM et al) ϕ ; **Grampian** 1 on The Ythan from 30 May-3 Jun (AGS et al), and an adult at Kingston from 11-14 Jul (MJHC, RHD et al).

* **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* **Orkney** 1 on N Ronaldsay from 3-23 Sep (KFW); **West Isles** 1 on South Uist on 2 Sep; **Lothian** 1 at Musselburgh on 8-9 Oct, and 17-22 Oct (LLJV, IJA et al).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Winter: **Orkney** had 2 at Tankerness on 4 Jan, **Tayside** had 1 at Montrose on 21 Feb, **Fife** had singles at Inverkeithing on 2 Jan-6 Mar, **Lothian** 1-2 birds between Aberlady and Cockenzie in Jan-Feb, and **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Caerlaverock in Jan. Spring passage was poor compared to 1987: e.g. in **Grampian** Meikle had 3 on 18 Jun. A stronger autumn passage than in 1987: **Shetland** had 130 at Catfirth on 3 Sep, with another 30 on Fair Isle on 3 Sep, while **Orkney** had 30 on N Ronaldsay/Stronsay on 2 Sep, with the last 2 at Crantit on 3 Dec; **Highland** 12 at Castle Stuart on 2 Sep, 30 at Longman on 9 Sep, and 13 at L of Mey on 19 Sep, with 1 wintering bird at Barrock on 17 Dec; **Grampian** 48 at Newburgh on 27 Sep, last 2 on the Ythan on 4 Dec; **Tayside** 7 at Williamston on 31 Aug; **Fife** 15 at the Eden estuary on 11 Sep, 1 again at Inverkeithing from 11 Nov-end Dec; **Central** 19 at Grangemouth on 8 Sep; **Lothian** had a peak of 54 at Drem on 10 Sep, and between 4-6 in Aberlady-Cockenzie area in Nov-Dec; lower numbers appeared in most of the SW with **Strathclyde** having 23 at Summerston on 3 Sep, 56 at The Meetings, Carstairs on 10 Sep, 14 on Gruinart Flats, Islay on 11 Sep, and late birds at Castle Semple L on 8 Nov, near Prestwick on 15 Nov, and Baron's Haugh on 4 Dec; while **Dumf & Gall** had 6 at L Connell on 9 Aug, and up to 4 in the Priestside-Dumfries area in Dec.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus* Much the usual pattern of records gave 12 on the main islands of **Shetland** during Jan-Apr and c22 in Oct, while Fair Isle had 10 on 6, 12, and 13 Oct, with 15 on 20 Oct; 9 on North Ronaldsay, **Orkney** in Oct; 1 on the Isle of May, **Fife** on 5 May; **Central** Kinneil held 11 on 10 Dec; **Lothian** had 3 at Tailend Moss on 26 Feb and mid-late Dec; **Strathclyde** had 13 at Paisley Moss on 14 Jan, 8 on Blantyre Muir on 2 Apr, and 8 there again on 15 Oct. Autumn arrival was from 13 Sep, but an unseasonal bird appeared at Culbin Bar, **Grampian** from 13-25 Aug.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* **Strathclyde** estimated minimum of 1200 breeding prs on Tiree. Counts/passage: **Shetland** had a strong autumn passage with 120 on Fair Isle on 2 Sep, 150 at Hillwell on 25 Oct, 150 at Norwick on 27 Oct; **Orkney** 299 on North Ronaldsay on 25 Oct; **Strathclyde** 200+ at Ayr on 16 Oct.

* **Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* **Shetland** 1 on Whalsay on 2 Sep (BM), and 1 on Skerries on 10-11 Sep (ET et al).

* **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* **Shetland** juv on Fetlar on 18 Oct, also at Baltasound on 6 Dec into 1989 (PME, RM, MGP et al); **Strathclyde** adult near Irvine from 26-31 Aug (GM, PMcE, BO et al).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Counts/passage: **Shetland** the spring passage peak ran from 21-30 Mar with 15 at 2 locations on 24 Mar, the main return movement being in mid-late Oct when Fair Isle had 200 on 25 Oct; **Orkney** 23 on N Ronaldsay on 22 Oct; **Fife** 24 arrived on the Isle of May between 19 and 21 Oct while Fife Ness had 8 on 21 Oct; **Borders** 6 at St Abbs on 20 Oct.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* Breeding: **Shetland** 1 pair reared 2 young at usual site; **Tayside** prs at 2 sites but no evidence of nesting. Counts/passage: **Orkney** 22 at Harry on 30 Aug; **Highland** 19 at Longman on 2 Oct; **Grampian** the Ythan peak was 10 on 24 Apr; **Tayside** 8 at Strathearn on 27 Jul; **Fife** the Eden estuary peak was 155 on 4 Dec; **Central** 30 on the Forth estuary on 8 Sep; **Strathclyde** over 55 birds in Inner Clyde area from 5 Jul, peaks including 9 at Gartocharn on 24 Jul, 9 at West Ferry on 28 Aug, and 12 at L Indaal, Islay from 21 Aug-8 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 84 at Caerlaverock on 18-19 Apr.

* **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* **Grampian** 1 at Slains on 26 Sep (RD, JC) was the first for Scotland.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* Counts/passage: **Highland/Grampian** 1300 at Fort George on 17 Jan, 1350 at Nairn-Culbin Bars in Mar; **Tayside** 1500 in the outer Tay in Oct; **Fife** 1500 at Tayport on 16 Jan; **Lothian** the Aberlady peak was 2070 on 20 Feb.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Breeding: **Shetland** had a better season than 1987; **Orkney** had 9-10 prs breeding or attempting. Passage figures included: **Shetland** 1 wintering into 1989 at Baltasound may have been injured; **Orkney** 27 at Finstown on 19 Aug; **Highland** 16 at L of Mey on 20 Apr, 21 at Dunnet Links on 30 Aug, and the last 1 was at Moss of Mey on 22 Oct; **Grampian** had an early arrival of 7N at Girdleness on 16 Mar, followed by good autumn figures of 47 at Culbin Bar on 9 Aug, 60 at Auchleuch on 26 Aug, and 44 at Hopeman on 9 Sep; **Fife** had 28S at Tayport on 24 Aug; **Lothian** Tynninghame had an early bird on 27 Feb, with 60 there on 30 Jul, and a late bird at Aberlady on 23 Nov; **Strathclyde**'s earliest was 1 on Arran on 1 Apr, while high numbers delayed by adverse weather on Islay included 63 at L Gorm on 5 May and 117 between L Gorm and L Gruinart on 18 May; **Dumf & Gall** had an early bird at Caerlaverock on 28 Mar, and 42 at L Ryan on 24 Jul.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* Counts/passage: **Orkney** high counts included 2000 on St Ola on 5 Jan, 3000 on 20 Feb, and 2000 on 24 Aug; **Grampian** 1107 between Strathbeg and Rosehearty on 2 Feb; **Tayside** 1000 at Montrose Basin on 4 Aug; **Central** 953 in Forth estuary on 15 Feb; **Strathclyde** 700 at Bogside on 2 Aug, 1256 at Libberton on 6 Aug, 1362 at The Meetings on 28 Aug, and 701 at L Indaal, Islay on 13 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 1470 at Caerlaverock on 28 Sep, and 1214 in Wigtown Bay on 24 Jan.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Winter-spring: **Shetland** 1 on Whalsay from 13-15 May; **Orkney** 1 at L of Stenness from 1 Jan-6 May; **Highland** 1 at Tarradale from 22 Feb-6 Mar, 1 at Munloch Bay from 13-27 Mar; **Grampian** had 5 birds between 26 Mar and 15 May; **Fife** 2 at Tayport on 20 Mar, 1 on the Isle of May on 16 Jun, and 1 on the Eden estuary from Mar-end Dec; **Lothian** 1 at Aberlady on 16 Apr. Autumn summary:

	end-Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shetland-Highland	2	1	20	32	6		
Grampian-Fife		7	11	25	4	2	1
Central-Borders		2	12	23	2	1	
Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall			6	18			

Redshank *Tringa totanus* Breeding: numbers continue low in **Dumf & Gall**. Counts/passage: **Highland** 808 at Nigg Bay on 17 Jan, 980 at Longman on 7 Feb; **Grampian** 2000 in Findhorn Bay on 28 Aug, and 1266 on the Ythan on 11 Sep; **Tayside** 1000 at Montrose Basin on 5 Aug; **Fife** 1345 at the Eden estuary on 11 Aug; **Central** 3064 on the Forth estuary on 8 Sep; **Lothian** 619 at Tynninghame on 27 Aug; **Strathclyde** 500 at Bogside on 11 Sep.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Breeding: **Shetland** c5 prs nested; **Highland** birds present at 6 potential breeding sites in Caithness District; **Tayside** recorded at 3 locations. Counts/passage: **Shetland** a late bird was at Whiteness from 2-8 Nov; **Orkney** 14 on N Ronaldsay on 19 Aug; **Grampian** peaks were 16 in Findhorn Bay on 11 Aug, and 14 on the Ythan on 11 Sep; **Tayside** 20 at Montrose Basin on 23 Aug; **Fife** 15 at the Eden estuary on 28 Oct; **Lothian** 18 at Tynninghame on 30 Jul; **Strathclyde** peaks included 18SW over Lochwinnoch on 2 Sep, and 16 at Langbank on 16 Sep; **Dumf & Gall** 20 at Caerlaverock on 22 Oct. Wintering birds: **Highland** had 12 in Jan/Mar, 7 in Nov/Dec; **Grampian** had 8 in Jan, and 4 in Dec; **Tayside** had singles in Feb and Nov; **Fife** had 1 in Jan, and 2 in Dec; **Central** had singles in Jan and Dec; **Lothian** had 4 in Jan/Mar, and 7 in Nov/Dec; **Strathclyde** had 17 in Jan/Feb, and 15 in Nov/Dec; **Dumf & Gall** had 6 in Jan.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Winter-spring: **Shetland** had at least 23 birds between 19 Apr and 27 May, with 10 on Fair Isle on 20 Apr; **Orkney** up to 6 birds between 21 Apr and 23 May; **Grampian** unusual records included 2 at Fintray on 31 Jan, and 1 in Findhorn Bay on 20 Feb, 5 spring singles followed between 4 Apr and 22 May; **Strathclyde** a wintering bird was at Croftamie from 10 Jan-23 Feb, 2 singles were seen between 24 Apr-7 May; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Dumfries on 5 Jan and 27 Feb. A good autumn passage, spanning the dates from 20 Jun-29 Oct involved about 206 birds, with c50 in **Shetland**, c25 in **Orkney**, 2 in **West Isles**, 11 in **Highland**, 27 in **Grampian**, 7 in **Tayside**, 8 in **Fife**, 2 in **Central**, 30 in **Lothian**, 6 in **Borders**, 26+ in **Strathclyde**, and 12 in **Dumf & Gall**. Winter: **Lothian** 1 at Threipmuir on 27 Nov; **Strathclyde** had singles at Baron's Haugh on 6-7 Nov, and Howwood on 11 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** up to 4 at Dumfries on 9 Nov dropped to 1 by 14 Dec.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Breeding: **Highland** prs present at 3 sites – bred at one and probably bred at another. Passage birds: **Shetland** an excellent year with up to 18 birds between 29 Apr and 12 Jun, in autumn up to 17 birds between 6 Jul and 12 Sep; **Orkney** singles at Harray on 25 May

and Holm on 28 May were followed by up to 18 records between 8 Aug and 20 Sep, and an exceptionally late bird at Finstown on 23 Dec; **West Isles** 1 on South Uist on 4 Sep; **Grampian** 2 at Rashierieve on 9 May, 1 at Rigifa on 17 May, another on 17 Jul, and 1 at Peterhead on 9 Aug; **Tayside** 1 at Kinnaber on 23 Apr, and singles at Montrose on 11 Jul and 28 Aug; **Fife** 1 at Collessie on 8 Sep; **Lothian** up to 6 birds at Aberlady from 2-29 May; **Borders** 1 on the Eye Water on 7 Sep; **Strathclyde** had 2 in May, and 6 between 3 Aug and 21 Sep.



Common Sandpiper Lendalfoot June 1988

A. Hogg

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Breeding: **Orkney** up to 9 prs located; **Strathclyde** 44 prs were recorded from the Glen Falloch catchment area, and 59 prs from 15 sites in Ayrshire. An unusual winter record came from **Dumf & Galloway** where 1 was seen at Kirkcudbright on 3 Feb, while 1 at Almondell, **Lothian** on 19 Feb may also have been overwintered in Scotland. Counts/passage: spring arrival was generally from early Apr - in **Shetland** Fair Isle had a strong passage from 2-13 Sep, with 40 on 2 Sep, the last bird was noted at Grutness on 31 Oct; **Tayside** 1 in Glenlyon on 6 Apr, 43 at Kinnaber on 22 Jul, and the last 1 at Carsebreck on 9 Oct; **Fife** 4 at the Eden estuary on 20 Oct; **Lothian** a late bird was at Skateraw on 21 Oct; **Borders** had late singles at St Abbs and Burnmouth on 23 Oct; **Strathclyde** 1 at Linwood on 1 Apr, 24 at Bogside on 11 Jul. Late singles: **Strathclyde** 1 at Balgray Res from 30 Oct-13 Nov; in **Grampian** 1 remained on the Dee till 23 Nov.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Counts: **Shetland** Fair Isle peaks included 220 on 2 Apr, with 260 on 15 Nov; **Orkney** Sanday peak was 2591 on 12-15 May; **Grampian** 541 between Rosehearty and Fraserburgh on 20 Feb; **Lothian** 600 from Gullane-Tynninghame in Feb and 400 at Musselburgh on 4, and 6 May.

* **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* **Shetland** 1 at Hillwell on 23-24 Sep (PRF et al), and a juv at Norwick from 10-19 Oct (JHB et al).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Breeding: **Shetland** arrival on Fetlar on 21 May, between 13 and 14 broods were located, 2 prs nested at another site, and another 2 prs frequented another area but did not breed, the last juvs were present on 10 Aug; no breeding recorded on **West Isles**; **Strathclyde** 3 birds were present at one site from 27 May-7 Jun, with 2 on 19-20 Jun, but breeding not proven. Passage: **Orkney** 1 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Jul; **West Isles** 1 on St Kilda on 31 May; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at L Ken on 23 Jun, and another near Corsewall Pt from 2-7 Nov.

* **Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* **Shetland** 1 at Grutness on 13 Sep; **Orkney** singles on N Ronaldsay on 18-19 Sep, and at Dam of Hoxa on 25 Nov; **West Isles** 1 on South Uist on 23 Sep; **Highland** 1 off Sandside Head on 31 Jan; **Grampian** 1 at Fraserburgh on 4 Dec; **Borders** 1 Mire L, St Abbs on 3 Apr; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Glencaple on 8 Sep.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Spring: **Shetland** 2 on Fair Isle crossing on 6 May, 1 off West Yell on 18 May, and 4N at Watsness on 19 May; **West Isles** a poor passage off Balranald produced only 18 birds between 9-26 May; **Strathclyde** a few flocks on Tobermory-Coll crossing totalled 140 on 12 May. Autumn passage; **Shetland** c95 birds recorded between 19 Aug and 7 Dec with the peak being 27 past Sumburgh Head on 20 Sep; **Orkney** N Ronaldsay's peak count was 14 on 19 Sep, with 2 late singles off Stronsay between 21 Nov-1 Dec; **Highland** had 49 between 11 Aug and 3 Dec with peaks of 8 at North Kessock on 19 Sep and 7 in Dunnet Bay on 7 Oct; **Grampian** 87 birds were recorded between 21 Aug and 4 Dec, and the biggest passage occurred on 24 Aug with 27 off Aberdeen beach; **Tayside** 40 birds between 24 Jul and 19 Nov; **Fife** 96 birds recorded between 23 Jul and 10 Dec, the biggest passage being of 33 at Fife Ness on 23 Sep; **Central** 5 at Skinflats on 13 Nov; **Lothian** passage lasted from 4 Aug-4 Dec with peaks of 36 at Hound Pt on 22 Sep, 35 on 12 Oct, and 32W at Aberlady on 29 Sep; **Borders** had 5 birds between 16 Aug and 4 Oct; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** 3 in the Sound of Mull on 24 Sep, while there was another good autumn in Ayrshire, with up to 12 birds between 3 Sep and 13 Nov, but only 1 at Corsewall Pt on 3 Sep.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* Breeding: **Shetland** a disastrous year with only 6 young reared from 97 prs attempting, on Fair Isle the breeding population stood at 78 prs with an estimated 1.4 chicks fledged/nest; **Orkney** 224-225 prs located with 1st fledged young on 10 Jul; **Highland** 18-22 pairs were located at 9 sites in Caithness District. Migration: **Shetland** seen from 4 Apr on Fair Isle; **Grampian** 78S at Peterhead on 15 Aug was the highest daily figure, the last bird being off Girdleness on 2 Dec; **Tayside** 53S at Arbroath on 1 Oct; **Fife** 136 at Inverkeithing on 12 Oct, and a late bird at Fife Ness on 10 Dec; **Lothian** peak was 36 at Hound Pt on 1 Sep; **Borders** 30S past St Abbs on 21 Aug; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** had low passage numbers.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* After a poor spring passage, a very heavy autumn passage ensued with the monthly peaks and noteworthy counts shown below. **Shetland** an unprecedented influx in autumn with c106 individuals in Sep, the heaviest passage being on 20 Sep when 29 were recorded, another 5 were seen on 1-2 Oct; **Orkney** 1 on N Ronaldsay on 1 Jun and 25 Jul, then a huge passage of c163 birds during Sep, the maxima occurring on 18-19 Sep when 63 and 71 respectively; **West Isles** only 9 off Balranald between 8-18 May; **Highland** 15 birds were recorded at North Kessock/Tarradale/Chanonry between 19 Sep and 9 Oct; **Grampian** about 48 birds appeared between 13 Sep and 9 Oct, the largest group being a flock of 32 seen off Aberdeen on 23 Sep; **Tayside** had 9 between 20 Sep and 16 Oct; **Fife** had 4 between 25 Sep and 12 Oct; **Lothian** at least 63 recorded, with 51 at Hound Pt between 14 Sep and 28 Oct; **Borders** had 3 between 31 Aug and 15 Sep; **Strathclyde** 2S at Turnberry Pt on 9 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** an adult found dead at Dornells L on 6 Oct would suggest that many birds seen flying W at Hound Pt tried to fly overland.

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Shetland-Highland	1		284	6
Grampian-Fife			44	17
Central-Borders		1	24	41
Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall				3

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* Breeding: **Shetland** 392 prs on Noss showed a 1% increase since 1983, but a very poor breeding season throughout, Fair Isle's population was estimated at 78 prs; **Orkney** up to 280 prs located; **Highland** 4 prs were found at 2 sites in Caithness District. Winter: **Lothian** 6 records of Jan birds included 2 at Musselburgh on 13 Jan. Migration: **Shetland** arrival at Toab on 19 Mar, last 1 at Baltasound on 9 Nov; **Orkney** passage spanned 26 Mar-21 Oct; **Highland** 112N in 1 hr at Wick on 21 Aug; **Grampian** a late bird was at Fraserburgh on 4 Dec; **Fife** 124 at Inverkeithing on 12 Oct, and a late bird at Fife Ness on 6 Dec; **Lothian** 46 at Hound Pt on 12 Oct was the peak count; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** low numbers in the SW, the peak being 8S at Corsewall Pt on 3 Sep.

* **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus* **Highland** adult at Avoch on 18 Dec; **Grampian** adult at Girdleness and Donmouth during Jan-Mar, also a 2nd winter at Girdleness on 21 Mar, and a 2nd summer at Kemnay on 24 Apr, an adult summered in the area, and another at Girdleness on 20 Nov; **Fife** 2nd summer at Leven on 19 Mar; **Lothian** 2nd winter at Cramond on 17 Mar, an adult there on 23 Mar, a 2nd summer at Musselburgh from 6-15 Apr, and an adult at Seafield on 2 Oct; **Strathclyde** 2nd winter at Doonfoot on 21-22 Feb, and a 2nd summer/winter at Stevenston on 22-23 Sep.

Little Gull *Larus minutus* Summary of records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	2		2		3	1		2	7		2	1
Grampian-Fife	5	28	44	274	1	18	5	6	4	393	3	270
Central-Borders								2	6		1	
Strathclyde/D&G	2			1	3	4			4	2		1

Peaks: **Tayside** the main concentrations were at Balmossie with 250 on 10 Apr, and 270 on 27 Dec, also 388 flew W in 5 hrs at Arbroath on 11 Oct; **Fife** the Kilconquhar L peak was only 12 on 21 Aug.

* **Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini* A good year with most in the usual autumn period; **Shetland** 1 off Whalsay on 23 Sep; **Orkney** 1 off N Ronaldsay on 25 Sep; **West Isles** 5 in the Minch on 30 Aug; **Highland** 1 between Ascribs and L Snizort on 5 Sep, 1 at Chanonry from 23-28 Sep; **Lothian** singles at Hound Pt on 26 Aug, and Aberlady on 4-5 Sep; **Strathclyde** adult S at Turnberry Pt on 7 Oct, 2 juvs S there on 9 Oct.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* Breeding: **Highland** 765 prs were recorded; **Grampian** a dreadful year at Forvie where 573 prs reared only 2 chicks; **Tayside** 6841 prs at L of Kinnordy and 1250 prs recorded at 8 other sites; **Lothian** 1530 prs at Bavelaw, and 1535 prs recorded at 9 other sites; **Borders** 1200 prs at West Water; **Strathclyde** 1442 prs were counted at 2 Renfrewshire sites; **Dumf & Gall** 1000 prs at L of Urr. Counts: **Highland** 2200 at L Garten on 10 Apr; **Grampian** Invergie held 2000 on 23 Jan; **Tayside** 2500 at Drummond Pond on 27 Feb; **Central** 3650 at Alva in Dec; **Lothian** 9000 at Musselburgh on 11 Feb; **Borders** 4750 at Hule Moss on 17 Feb; **Strathclyde** 20,750 were counted in the Inner Clyde during mid-Feb, and 11,600 roosted on Strathclyde Country Park on 30 Oct.

* **Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* **Orkney** 1st winter at Stromness on 3 Jan, and again from 4-28 Feb, also possibly present till mid-Mar; **Strathclyde** adult at Doonfoot from 19 Feb-12 Mar, and 3 adults at Lussa Bay, Jura on 24 Feb.

Common Gull *Larus canus* Breeding: **Orkney** 836 prs were recorded; **Highland** a census revealed 7500 prs in the Mortlach gulleries, with another 1000 present in unsurveyed areas; **Grampian** 15,000 prs in the Coreen Hills; **Strathclyde** 157 nests on Arran, and 250 prs at L Thom. Counts: **Orkney** 10,000 at the Head of Work on 1-2 Feb; **Grampian** 20,000 on the Ythan on 10 Sep; **Lothian** 10,000 at Musselburgh on 6 Apr; **Strathclyde** 13,000 at the Meetings-Covington on 10 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* Breeding: **Orkney** had 101 prs recorded; **Tayside** 1200 nests at one site; **Fife** estimated 570 prs on the Isle of May; **Lothian** c552 prs on Forth islands; **Strathclyde** 15 colonies of roof-top nesters held 510 prs in Inner Clyde area. Counts/passage: **West Isles** 2 in North Ford on 30 Jan was unusual; **Strathclyde** 315 in Strathclyde Country Park on 23 Jan, 2000 there on 30 Oct. Other races: *L f fuscus* up to 12 birds were recorded between Mar and Oct in **Orkney**, **Highland**, and **Strathclyde**. *L f intermedius*: 9 birds were recorded from Jan-Jun in **Grampian**, **Fife** and **Lothian**.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* Breeding: **Highland** a big increase again on Canna to 1525 prs; **Fife** 1700 prs on the Isle of May; **Borders** 722 prs at St Abbs is an increase from 1987. Counts: **Shetland** 5000 on Fair Isle on 9 Nov; **Highland** 1800 at Kinloss in Apr; **Tayside** 7000 at Arbroath on 13 Jan; **Fife** 3000 at Collesie on 6 Jan; **Central** 16,700 at Skinflats on 13 Nov; **Strathclyde** 7900 at Strathclyde Country Park on 31 Jan, 6000 between Ayr and Prestwick on 18 Mar.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* Very scarce in the South, with a general drop in numbers. Summary of year's records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	15	44	33	15	5	6	3	1		2	7	11
Grampian-Fife	5	3	1		1		1					
Central-Borders			2	5								
Strathclyde/D&G	6	7	8	2		1						1



Kumlien's Gull Banff

S.M.D. Alexander

Kumlien's *L g kumlieni*: **Grampian** the Banff adult was again present between 1 Jan and 5 Apr, and from 27 Dec to the end of the year (GA, GMC, JSN, JGS et al).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* Like the previous species, it was scarcer in the South. Summary of year's records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland	33	33	27	26	14	4	3	4	9	33	51	11
Grampian-Fife	4	4	8	2			3	4	1	2	1	1
Central-Borders	3	5	5	5						5	2	5
Strathclyde/D&G	8	6	11	1	1	1	2	1	1	5	2	4

Glaucous × Herring Gull hybrids: **Shetland** 1 at Scatness on 14 Apr, and 1 on Fetlar on 15 Apr; **Tayside** 1 at Arbroath on 13 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* Breeding: **Shetland** 84 prs on Noss; **Orkney** 100 prs were recorded; **Fife** 3 prs on the Isle of May.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Breeding: **Shetland** had a disastrous season due to food shortage, with only those pairs nesting in North-western colonies faring marginally better, on Fair Isle a complete count revealed 19,340 occupied nests, but fledging success was low; **Orkney** an increase of 6.5% was found at monitored sites; **Fife** 7638 nests (highest ever number) on Isle of May; **Borders** 16,200 nests at St Abbs is another increase. Counts/passage: **Grampian** 9600N at Peterhead on 30 Sep.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* Breeding: **Orkney** 136 prs were recorded; Grampian 664 prs attempted at Forvie, rearing only 0.4 young/pair, while at Strathbeg 404 prs reared 0.7 young/pair; **Lothian** 383 nests were counted on Inchmickery. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 4 records, with 1 on 14 Oct being the latest ever recorded there; **Orkney** a late bird was off Stronsay on 6 Dec; **Highland** 380 at Culbin Bar on 9 Aug; **Strathclyde** 1N at Saltcoats on 21 Mar.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* Breeding: **Lothian** 21 nests were found on Inchmickery. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 12 May; **Orkney** 1 on N Ronaldsay on 22 May.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Breeding: **Shetland** another poor season with few fledged young, similarly 59 pairs on Fair Isle experienced almost complete failure with only 2 young fledging; **Grampian** 155 reared 0.56 young/pair; **Fife** c50 nests on Isle of May had low hatching success; **Lothian** 157 pairs at 2 sites; **Strathclyde** 87-100 pairs at Hunterston; **Dumf & Gall** 25 pairs at L Ryan. Counts/passage: **Grampian** 1 at Donmouth on 20 Mar; **Tayside** had a late bird on 16 Oct; **Strathclyde** had its last bird on Islay on 1 Nov.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* Breeding: **Shetland** another disastrous season, and an increase to 345 prs on Fair Isle saw only 1 young fledged; **Orkney** 6500 prs nested; **Grampian** 75 prs reared c0.48 young/pair; **Lothian** 81 prs at 2 coastal sites; **Strathclyde** 25 prs at 2 sites in Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** 35 prs at L Ryan. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1 at Grutness on 5 Oct; **Highland** 300 at Findhorn on 13 Aug; **Grampian** 1 at Forvie on 23 Apr; **Fife** last one at Inverkeithing on 6 Nov.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* Breeding: **Grampian** 33 prs at St Cyrus reared c9 young, 12 prs at Forvie reared 9 young; **Tayside** 21 prs at Barry Buddon, 11 prs at Elliot; **Lothian** 24 prs at 2 sites. Counts/passage: **Lothian** first one at Musselburgh on 18 Apr; **Strathclyde** and **Dumf & Gall** had singles on Islay and in Wigtown Bay on 11 Oct.

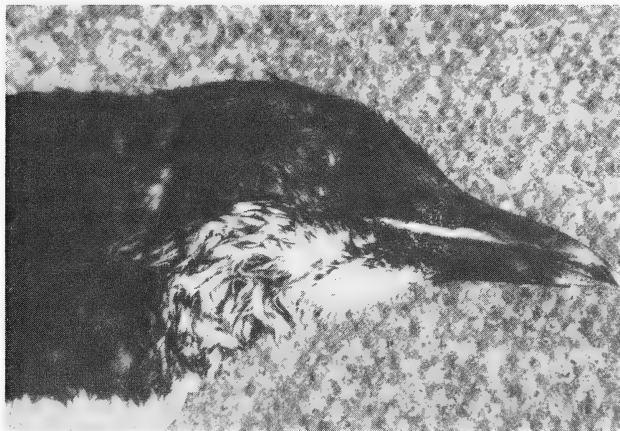
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* Summary of year's records: -

	M	J	J	A	S	O	
Shetland/Highland			4		3	17	2
Grampian-Fife		1				10	
Central-Borders					2	21	
Strathclyde/D&G				1		5	2

* **White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*** **Orkney** 1st summer bird at L of Tankerness on 16-17 Jun (ERM et al).

Guillemot *Uria aalge* Breeding: **Shetland** monitoring at breeding colonies showed a slight decrease in numbers from 1987, with Troswick Ness worst hit (decreased by 12%), on Fair Isle monitored breeding sites returned 0.79 chicks/nest; **Orkney** monitored sites showed a 3.8% decrease from 1987; **Fife** c11,220 prs on Isle of May (decrease of 460 prs from 1987); **Borders** 27,928 were counted at St Abbs. Counts: **Grampian** 6400N in 1 hour at Peterhead on 21 Feb; **Central** 300 at Kincardine Bridge on 19 Nov.

* **Brunnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia*** **Highland** adult ♂ found dead at Dunnet on 9 Mar (EWEM, JMW).



Brunnich's Guillemot Dunnet Mar 1988

E.W.E. Maughan

Razorbill *Alca torda* Breeding: **Shetland** Sumburgh monitoring showed a 18% decline in numbers, censusing on Fair Isle revealed total of 5114 in late Apr and 3053 in Jun; **Fife** c2000 prs on Isle of May; **Borders** 1502 birds were counted at St Abbs Head.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* Breeding: **Shetland** 1005 adults were counted, while Fair Isle's productivity at monitored sites was 0.57 chicks/nest; **Orkney** had a poor season. Elsewhere: only 5 records from **Lothian**.

Little Auk *Alle Alle* **Shetland** low numbers in early part of year, a summer-plumaged bird appeared in Yell Sound on 31 May, and off Ramna Stacks on 17 Jul, 403N in 2 hrs at Boddam on 27 Nov, and 104S in 1 hour off Sumburgh Head on 30 Nov; **Orkney** also had low numbers with 10 seen in Jan; **Grampian** 15 at Peterhead on 10 Nov, then 43 in 2 hrs at Girdleness on 1 Dec, and 39 there on 2 Dec; **Lothian** 92E in 2 hrs at Gullane Point on 26 Jan, and 81N in 1 hour at Barns Ness on 20 Nov; **Strathclyde** a small wreck of c24 birds on the Ayrshire coast between 9 Feb and 5 Mar.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica* Breeding: **Shetland** Noss census produced 1694 nests with poor success, Fair Isle's breeding success at monitored sites was 0.75 chicks/nest; **Fife** a slight decrease was suggested on Isle of May. Elsewhere: 1 on L Lomond, **Strathclyde** on 13-16 Jul was unexpected.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* Counts: **Shetland** 309 at Twatt on 11 Jun; **Orkney** 400 at Hall of Clestrain on 10 Dec; **Highland** 500-600 at Sandside Farm on 17 Jan.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* Counts: **Shetland** had 8 records in its best ever year; **Orkney** 1 on N Ronaldsay on 4-6 Apr was the first since 1913.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* Counts: **Highland** 5000-6000 at Duffus, and 2200 at L Loy on 24 Dec; **Grampian** 2000 at Udney on 2 Mar; **Tayside** 2500 at Airtully on 28 Oct; **Central** 2000 at Menstrie on 22 Dec.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* Counts/passage: **Orkney** 35 at Crantit on 14 Oct; **Highland** 41 at Keith on 19 Feb; **Strathclyde** 287 at Cumbernauld on 10 Aug.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* Breeding: **Borders** a pair probably bred at Reston. Migrants: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 5-6 May, and another on 12 May, then 1-5 daily from 22 May-4 Jun and 15 more elsewhere during May-Jun, 5 in Jul, and c15 between 26 Aug and 22 Oct; **Orkney** recorded from 11 May-5 Oct with 11 birds involved; **West Isles** singles on St Kilda on 24 May, Lewis on 28 May and Monachs on 8 Jul; **Highland** singles at Refaithey on 3 May, on Rhum from 7-14 May, at Mosstodloch on 17 May, on Egg from 31 May-2 Jun, with 2 there on 3 Jun, at L Eye on 11 Sep, Strathy Point from 7-17 Oct, and Thrumster on 22 Oct; **Grampian** 1 at Strathbeg on 30 May; **Tayside** singles at Arbroath on 2 May, Cortachy on 15 May, Bonnytown on 21 Sep, and Montrose on 30 Oct; **Fife** 1 at Glenrothes on 21 Apr, 1 on Isle of May on 12 May, with 5 from late May-mid-Jun; **Lothian** 1 at Barns Ness on 26-27 Oct; **Dumf & Gall** a juvenile at Laurieston on 8 Sep.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Counts/passage: **Shetland** 2 early birds on Fair Isle on 20 Apr, last one on Whalsay on 8 Sep; **Orkney** 1 on 28 Apr, with the latest record on 9 Sep; **Highland** 1 at Drynachen on 27 Apr; **Grampian** 1st record on 23 Apr, and a very late bird at Auchleudy on 3 Oct; **Strathclyde** 1 at Dippen, Arran on 5 Apr; **Dumf & Gall** 1st bird of the year was at Dalry on 21 Apr.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Breeding: **Tayside** a pair bred in the Dunning area, but remains scarce in the Region; **Fife** a pair bred, but also scarce in the Region; **Lothian** 26 sites reported; **Borders** minimum 59 sites reported; **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** good numbers bred due to peak in vole cycle. Elsewhere: **Grampian** only 3 scattered records during year.

* **Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca* **Shetland** 3 birds, all ♂♂, recorded at usual places during the year, one ♀ laid 4 infertile eggs; **Orkney** a ♀ on Evie on 7 May, and perhaps same on Birsay during the second half of May ♀; **Grampian** ♂ on Bennachie from 27 Apr-2 May (KDS, et al).

* **Little Owl** *Athene noctua* **Lothian** a single bird was present at the usual site during Jan-Feb and Sep, Nov; **Borders** 2 singles noted in Apr and Jul; **Dumf & Gall** pair bred in usual area.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* Breeding: no significant change in numbers noted.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* Breeding: small numbers recorded in **Highland/Grampian/Tayside/Lothian** reflects how elusive this species can be; **Borders** a minimum of 62 territories was recorded; **Strathclyde** 20 prs were reported from Inner Clyde area. Counts/passage: **Shetland** had 4 in spring period, but 23 during 17-29 Oct; **Orkney** Berstane Wood held 7 in Jan; **Grampian** 4 reported in Region during 13-29 Oct; **Fife** singles on Isle of May from 25-30 Sep, 16 Oct, 2 on 21 Oct.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Breeding: **Orkney** c21 prs were recorded; **Borders** and **Strathclyde** both reported a good season. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 5 roosting at Spiggie on 21 Mar was exceptional, 20 recorded in autumn, with a further 1-5 on Fair Isle during Oct; **Fife** 6 on Isle of May on 1 Nov.

* **Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Breeding: **Strathclyde** only 1 pair reported from Arran; **Dumf & Gall** 3 churring birds in New Abbey area, and 2 at New Galloway. Elsewhere: **Shetland** had singles on Whalsay on 2 Jun, and Ollaberry on 1-2 Aug.

* **Needle-tailed Swift** *Hirundapus caudacutus* **Orkney** 1 on Hoy from 28 May-8 Jun (KF, ST et al).

Swift *Apus apus* Counts/passage: **Shetland** had late singles on Fair Isle on 6 Oct, and Trondra on 13 Oct; **Highland** a very late bird was at Inverness on 31 Oct; **Grampian** 1st record was at Rattray on 2 May; **Strathclyde** 1st bird of the year was at Irvine on 22 Apr.

* **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* **Orkney** 1 on N Ronaldsay on 12 Aug (PJD et al).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Breeding: generally the species seems to be extending its range northwards again after a run of mild winters – **Grampian** possible breeding was reported from 1 site; **Tayside** a pair probably bred near Blairgowrie. Others: **Shetland** 1 at Strand on 13 Aug; **Highland** 1 at Portknockie harbour on 15 Oct; **Grampian** singles at Aboyne on 17 Feb, and Forglan on 28 Mar.

* **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* **Shetland** best year since 1973 with singles at Quendale on 20-21 Apr, on Fair Isle on 13 May, at Exnaboe on 18-19 May, and 12 individuals in autumn, with the last being on 3 Nov; **Orkney** had 2 singles between 14 and 22 May, and another 2 singles between 22 and 29 Oct; **West Isles** 1 on Lewis on 8 May; **Highland** singles at Thrumster on 6 May, Whitebridge on 8-9 May, at Achnalochy on 3 Oct, Dalchuly on 8-9 Oct, Crathie on 11 Oct, Dunnet Forest from 15-24 Oct, Tarvie on 20 Oct, and Insh marshes on 29 Oct; **Grampian** 1 at Dunecht on 7 Jun; **Tayside** 1 at Lunan Bay from 14-16 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at West Barns from 24-28 Oct.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Breeding: **Highland** a pair nested; **Grampian** 2 ♂♂ were heard calling within ½ mile of each other at one site in Jun. Passage: **Shetland** had a good year with the 1st on Fair Isle on 27 Apr, and a max of 6 on 15 May, elsewhere another 10 were reported from the main islands between 9 May and 9 Jun, Fair Isle's autumn maximum was 12 on 2 Sep, while the main islands had 9 on 2 Sep, 11 on 3 Sep, and another 8 till 11 Sep; **Orkney** had 3 in spring and 55 in autumn, including 30 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Sep; **West Isles** 3 on St Kilda on 3 Sep, one killed by a Kestrel; **Highland** singles on Eigg on 10 Oct, and at Thrumster on 13 Oct; **Grampian** singles at Inverugie on 1 May, and Cruden Bay on 2 Sep; **Tayside** 1 at Fishtown of Usan on 2-4 May; **Fife** singles on Isle of May from 29 Apr-2 May, and 4 May, and at Fife Ness on 13 May; **Central** 1 at Alva on 10 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at Tynninghame on 3 Sep; **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 17-18 May, and from 22-30 Oct.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* Breeding: **Highland** recorded at 9 localities; **Grampian** the species was recorded at 12 sites in the Region; **Lothian** a total of 45 sites were identified; **Borders** a slight drop in numbers may possibly have occurred with 22 territories recorded.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* Passage birds: **Shetland** had at least 35 individuals between 2 Sep and 26 Oct; **Fife** 1 on Isle of May on 11 Oct.

* **Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 14 May (PMP, DS), in autumn singles on Fair Isle from 23 Sep-18 Oct (DS et al), and 2-21 Oct (DPB et al), on Unst from 4-7 Oct (MGP, MS), and 4-12 Oct (MGP), on Fair Isle from 5-12 Oct (NJR et al), at Sumburgh from 26 Oct-5 Nov (MM et al), and another on Unst from 9-12 Nov (MGP et al).

* **Woodlark** *Lullula arborea* **Shetland** 4 individuals were recorded with singles at Compass Head from 22 Oct-3 Nov, Toab on 28 Oct, Boddam from 28-31 Oct, and Unst on 12 Nov; **Orkney** 1 on N Ronaldsay on 27 Mar was the first since 1913.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* Breeding: **Shetland** 92 prs were recorded on Fair Isle. Counts: **Shetland** 670 on Fair Isle on 26 Mar, and 700 on 21 Sep; **Orkney** 385 on N Ronaldsay on 27 Oct; **Grampian** 1000 at Alford on 6 Feb.

* **Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* Another year with few records: **Grampian** 1 at Rattray on 2 Nov; **Lothian** 5-6 at Tynninghame from 1987 till 3 Mar.



Shore Lark Tynninghame 1988

M. Darling

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* Breeding: the overall increase in numbers continues as the species regains lost ground – **Grampian** 690 nest-holes at 2 sites; **Tayside** 1632 prs located at 18 sites. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1 at Sumburgh on 23 Oct was very late; **Highland** had 4 at L Flemington on 10 Apr, and 400 at L Spynie on 25 Apr; **Grampian** latest record was one on 22 Oct; **Strathclyde** first bird was at Bothwell on 19 Mar.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Breeding: **Shetland** breeding was attempted at 3 sites with 5 young reared at Tingwall; **Grampian** first broods showed a good success rate. Counts/passage: **Shetland** highest number on Fair Isle was 200 on 25 May; **Highland** had an early bird at Lossiemouth on 2 Apr, and a very late bird there on 17 Nov; **Grampian** 2000 at Banchory roost on 12 Aug, 1 at St Combs on 11 Nov; **Fife** had a very late bird at Largo Bay on 20 Nov; **Lothian** first bird was at Longniddry on 27 Mar; **Strathclyde** 2 near Ayr on 16 Nov.

* **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica* **Grampian** 1 at Aberdeen on 17 Nov (BJS).

House Martin *Delichon urbica* Breeding: **Orkney** c9 prs bred. Counts/passage: **Shetland** had an early bird on 19 Apr, and late records on 9 and 10 Nov, Fair Isle's maximum was 80 on 25 May; **Highland** 1 at Keith on 12 Apr; **Tayside** a late bird was at Montrose on 18 Nov; **Strathclyde** first bird was at Stevenston on 3 Apr.

* **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* **Shetland** had 12 records in another good year: singles on Fair Isle from 2-17 Oct, at Grutness on 5 Oct, 2 on Fair Isle on 7 Oct, singles at West Voe of Sumburgh on 9 Oct, Strand on 18 Oct, Skaw, Unst, and Baltasound on 19 Oct, Stenness and Spiggie on 21 Oct, Virkie from 24 Oct-1 Nov, and Boddam on 3 Nov; **Orkney** singles on N Ronaldsay on 24 Oct, and Stronsay on 14 Oct, with 2 there on 15 Oct; **Highland** 2 at Kingston on 17-18 Nov, with 1 till 22 Nov, 1 on Eigg on 28 Nov; **Tayside** 1 at Arbroath on 22-23 Oct; **Fife** 1 at Fife Ness from 3-6 Nov.

* **Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewski* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 13-22 Oct (per NJR) ϕ will be the 1st British record this century, and the 1st record for Scotland if accepted by BBRC.

* **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* **Orkney** 1 on Stronsay on 27-28 May; **West Isles** at Balranald on 14 May; **Highland** 1 on Spey Bay Golf Course on 22 Aug.

* **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* Another good year with 6 birds: **Shetland** 1 at Exnaboe on 3 Jan (D&JC, RLH et al), singles on Fair Isle on 7 Oct (NJR et al), from 11-22 Oct (NJR, AFC et al), and on 14 Oct (per PVH) ϕ , at Helendale/Strand from 26-28 Oct (PME, FDH, PVH), and Virkie on 30 Oct (DRB, PVH).

* **Pechora Pipit** *Anthus gustavi* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 5-7 Oct (AJL, DMR, PGWS et al).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Breeding: **Lothian/Borders** up to 48 singing $\sigma\sigma$ were recorded; **Strathclyde** 115 territories were recorded in the Inner Clyde and Ayrshire parts of the Region; **Dumf & Gall** had 31 territories at Wood of Cree. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 1st bird on 19 Apr, and Fair Isle's peak was 180 on 14 May, last 1 at Norwick on 26 Oct; **West Isles** 2 on St Kilda on 3 Sep; **Highland** 1 at Little Dufftown on 9 Apr, **Tayside** first 1 at Kenmore on 1 Apr; **Strathclyde** c100 feeding in cut hay at Endrick Mouth on 28 Aug.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* Counts/passage: **Shetland** high counts included 350 on Foula on 16 Sep, and 800 on Fair Isle on 22 Sep; **Orkney** 700 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Sep; **Fife** 250 on Isle of May on 6 Sep.

* **Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* **Shetland** singles at Baltasound, Unst on 22 May (MGP, IS), and on Fair Isle on 2 Jun (PMP), in autumn singles at Quendale on 13-14 Oct (DRB, PVH et al), at Hillswick on 21 Oct (CFM), and Virkie on 29 Oct (MM, DS).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* Breeding: **Shetland** 26 occupied territories were found on Noss. Counts/passage: 10 **Scandinavian littoralis** race birds were at Rattray, **Grampian** 1 on May; and another 9 birds were reported in **Lothian** between 16 Mar and 16 Apr.

* **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* **Tayside** 1 at Broughty Ferry from 24 Dec into 1989.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* Breeding: **Shetland** a pair bred again at Quendale, with 2 juvs there on 12 Jul; **Borders** 4 prs were recorded in Coldstream area; **Strathclyde** 8+ prs in Avondale. Counts/passage *flavissima* or unspecified: **Shetland** had 12 between 1 and 26 May, in autumn 24 records mostly of singles between 31 Aug and 18 Oct, with singles of "eastern" race at Kergord on 8 Oct, Norwick on 17 Oct, and Unst on 6 Nov; **Orkney** a late bird on N Ronaldsay on 23-24 Oct; **Highland** 1 at L Caise on 23 May, and an extremely late bird at Jemimaville on 3 Dec; **Grampian** had 3 singles between 1 and 13 May; **Tayside** had singles on 4 May and 23 Aug; **Fife** singles on Isle of May on 27-29 Apr, and 8 May; **Lothian** 1st bird at Skateraw on 21 Apr. **Blue-headed flava**: **Shetland** had 5 between 16 May and 30 Jun; **Grampian** singles at Rattray on 15 and 22 May. **Grey-headed thunbergi**: **Shetland** had at least 16 between 14 May and 30 Jun; **Grampian** 1 at Rattray from 1-3 May.

* **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 8-10 Sep (per PVH) ϕ .

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Breeding: **West Isles** a pair bred in Stornoway. Counts/passage: **Shetland** 15 records was the best ever, with a late bird on Fetlar from 10 Nov-15 Dec; **West Isles** 2 on Benbecula in Oct.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* Roost counts/passage: **Grampian** 500 at Dyce airport in mid-Mar, and 600 there in mid-Oct. **White alba**: **Shetland** 1 at Haroldswick on 3 Jan, on Fair Isle noted from 26 Mar-late Apr with a peak of 27 on 21 Apr; **Highland** 3 at Cummington on 16 Apr; **Fife** 8 on Isle of May on 1 Apr.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* The best autumn influx for many years, with large numbers staying on in the South of Scotland into 1989. Summary of year's records:

	J	F	M	A	M	//	S	O	N	D
Shetland-Highland								390	969	124
Grampian-Fife					8			81	917	135
Central-Borders								54	1371	468
Strathclyde/D&G								10	2260	706

The largest groups were 235 at Inverkeithing, **Fife** on 28 Nov; 500 at Loanhead and 400 at Sighthill **Lothian** between 21 and 29 Nov; c300 in Strathclyde Country Park **Strathclyde** on 30 Nov.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* Breeding: **Central** c80 prs were recorded in one monitored area. **Black-bellied cinclus**: **Shetland** singles on Whalsay on 23 Oct, at Strand on 25 Oct, and Voe from 10 Nov-end Dec.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* **Fair Isle fridariensis**: 39 singing birds were found in census. **Shetland** 19 prs pred on Noss and Hermaness, and a good breeding season generally.

Duncock *Prunella modularis* Passage: **Shetland** 6 wintering during the early part of 1988 at Toab was unusual, seen on Fair Isle from 25 Mar-28 May, with a peak of 40 on 29 Apr.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* Passage: **Shetland** recorded on Fair Isle from 23 Mar-8 Apr, and again from 16 Apr-3 Jun, when numbers reached 70 on 22 Apr, the autumn peak was 80 on 26 Oct; **Fife** peak numbers on Isle of May were reached between 11 and 21 Oct, with 1500 on 12 Oct.

* **Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* **Shetland** 1st summer ♂ trapped on Fair Isle on 9 May stayed till 13 May (PH, NJR et al), another from 14-21 May (PH, PMP, NJR et al), 1 trapped at Kergord on 14 May (JND, IS), another at Voe on 14 May (MSC, AG) ♀; **Orkney** 1st summer on N Ronaldsay on 26-27 May (PJD, AED et al).

* **Nightingale** *luscinia megarhynchos* **Shetland** 1 at Quendale on 12 May, another on Fair Isle on 13-14 May; **Highland** 1 at L Slynie on 10 Aug; **Fife** 1 on Isle of May on 16-17 May.

* **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica* **Shetland** recorded between 7 May and 2 Jun with a big influx on 12-15 May providing at least 82 individuals, in autumn singles were recorded between 3 Sep and 28 Oct, with 4 on Fair Isle on 7 Oct; **Orkney** also had an influx from 13 May with 17 individuals seen, 6 autumn singles from 2 Sep-21 Oct; **West Isles** 1 on South Uist on 10 Jun; **Highland** singles at Noss from 13-20 May, and Staxigeo on 14 May, 2 at Noss on 19 May, and 1 there on 25 May; **Grampian** singles at Girdleness on 11 May, Grandholme on 15 May, St Fergus on 15 May, and Girdleness from 21-23 Oct; **Tayside** 3 at Fishtown of Usan on 15 May, 1 till 16 May; **Fife** singles at Fife Ness on 13 May, and 15 May, on Isle of May recorded from 15-24 May with peak of 10 on 15-16 May, 1 there on 2 Jun, and another on 11 Oct; **Borders** 1 at Dowlaw on 16 May.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Winter: **Strathclyde** 1 at Saltcoats from 5 Jan-21 Mar. Passage: **Shetland** recorded from 22 Mar-3 Jun with 26 birds on main islands and at least 11 on Fair Isle, in autumn recorded from 2 Sep-23 Nov with 6 on Fair Isle on 14 Oct; **Orkney** 14 birds between 26 Mar and 27 May, max in autumn was 6 on N Ronaldsay between 20 and 26 Oct; **West Isles** 1 at Balranald on 17 May; **Highland** 1 at Noss on 18 Oct; **Grampian** 4 at Girdleness on 23 Mar, 2 at Drums on 23 Mar, singles at Collieston on 19 Apr, Rattray on 30 Apr, 2 there on 2 May, then a big autumn influx with singles at 14 sites between 20 and 27 Oct; **Tayside** 1 at Arbroath on 3 May, influx between 14 and 22 Oct with 14 on coast, and 1 at Scotlandwell on 29 Oct; **Fife** 4 on Isle of May on 8 May, 1 there on 22 Jul, and 1-2 on 13-21 Oct; **Lothian** had 5 in spring and 10 in autumn.

Redstart *phoenicurus phoenicurus* Breeding: **Central** 39 nests produced 175 fledged young; **Borders** 61 sites held 120 territories; **Strathclyde** up to 49 territories recorded, mostly in South Ayrshire. Passage: **Shetland** first bird on Fair Isle on 21 Apr, then a large influx from 12-15 May with 44 on main islands on 14 May, and 50 on Fair Isle on 15 May, an autumn influx commenced on 2 Sep with 35 on Fair Isle, and 46 on main islands on 3 Sep; 3 singles appeared in Nov including a very late bird at Sumburgh Head on 11 Nov; **Orkney** the spring peak was 7 on Stronsay on 14 May, and in autumn 47 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Sep; **West Isles** 1 on South Uist on 25 Apr; **Grampian** 1 in Glen Tanar on 24 Apr; **Fife** 1 on Isle of May on 1 Apr, 20 there on 3 May, and 12 on 12 Oct.

* **Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus aureus* **Fife** a splendid ♂ on Isle of May on 29 Apr died on 30 Apr (per IMD). This is the first record of this Eastern migrant in Britain, and almost totally unexpected.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Breeding: **Borders** 20 sites held 44 territories. Passage: **Shetland** first bird on Fair Isle on 21 Apr, a large influx starting on 13 May brought 56 to the main islands and 40 to Fair Isle on 15 May, in autumn peaks were reached between 3 and 5 Sep with 130 at 2 locations on 3 Sep, 140 on Fair Isle on 4 Sep, last singles at Exnaboe on 5 Nov, and Haroldswick on 13 Nov; **Orkney** 135 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Sep; **Grampian** 2 at Girdleness on 23 Mar, and 2 at Drums on 22 Oct; **Tayside** 1 at Easthaven on 29 Oct; **Fife** 20 on Isle of May on 8 Sep.



Daurian Redstart Isle of May Apr 1988

B. Zonfrillo

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* Breeding: recovery of breeding population remains slow, especially in some Southern regions, although more birds appeared along the East coast – **Orkney** c55 prs bred; **Highland** only 2 ‘inland’ prs reported; **Grampian** single prs at 7 locations; **Lothian** a pair bred in the Pentlands – first breeding record since 1984; **Borders** 2 prs were the first since 1981. Passage: **Shetland** 7 spring and 4 autumn records, all of singles.

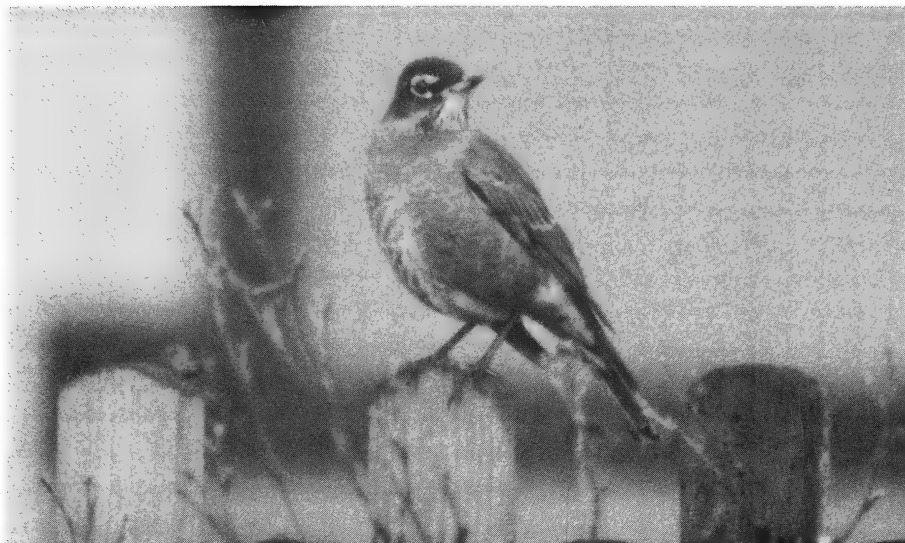
Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Breeding: **Orkney** c47 prs were recorded. Passage: **Shetland** first birds on Hermaness and Fair Isle on 27 Mar, the spring peak on Fair Isle was 350 on 15 May, while in autumn 500 were there on 31 Aug, with 200 at Quendale on 4 Sep, and the last 1 at Virkie on 5 Nov; **Orkney** 200 on Stronsay on 2 Sep; **Grampian** a late bird at the Ythan on 2 Nov; **Fife** 40 on Isle of May on 19 Apr, and an autumn fall of between 100 and 500 there on 22 Aug; **Borders** 2 at Eyemouth on 18 Mar; **Dumf & Gall** 1 at Dundrennan on 19 Feb was exceptionally early.

* **Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka* **Orkney** 1st year ♀ on Stronsay from 16-19 Oct (DG, JFH).

* **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* **Shetland** ♀ or 1st winter at Boddam on 2-3 Nov (MH, MMe et al); **Orkney** ♂ on S Ronaldsay from 21-30 Oct (CJC, KEH, MrsLW et al).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Breeding: **Shetland** 2 prs bred – first since 1972; **Grampian** 9 prs reported in Glen Tanar. Migration: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle on 16 Mar was exceptionally early, 50 there on 21 Apr; in autumn the maximum was 12 on 22 Oct, with a late bird on Whalsay on 25 Nov; **Orkney** late birds were recorded on 13 Nov and 16 Dec; **West Isles** singles on Harris on 1 Jun, and St Kilda on 16 Jun; **Grampian** last bird at Strathbeg on 19 Nov.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* Migration: **Shetland** a large influx between 22 and 27 Mar involved 500 on Skerries on 24 Mar, 1300 on Fair Isle on 26 Mar, and 500 at Dunrossness on 27 Mar, in autumn most occurred on 18-19 Oct when 1050 on main islands and 2500 on Fair Isle; **Orkney** 1000 on Hoy on 21 Oct; **Grampian** also had an Oct influx with ‘100s’ at Girdleness and Rattray; **Tayside** an estimated 15,000 along the coast on 22 Oct; **Fife** 300 on Isle of May on 11-12 Oct, and on 16-17 Oct; **Borders** 1500 at St Abbs on 16 Oct.



American Robin Inverbervie Dec 1988

S.M.D. Alexander

* **American Robin** *Turdus migratorius* **Grampian** 1st winter ♂ at Inverbervie from 24-29 Dec (MrsJE, RMcC et al) was the 7th record for Scotland.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* Summering stragglers: **Highland** 5 at Keith on 29 May. Migration: **Shetland** the spring return movement peaked on 20 Apr with 600 on main islands, and 1500 on Fair Isle, in autumn the main falls were between 19 and 23 Oct, with 6250 on main islands on 19 Oct, 3000 on Fair Isle on 23 Oct, and 5000 at Sumburgh Head on 23 Oct; **Orkney** 3000 on Stronsay on 19 Oct; **Highland** 175 still at Drummuir on 16 May; **Grampian** 1000 on Wartle Moss on 24 Oct, and 1200 in Deeside on 30 Oct; **Tayside** c10,000 between Arbroath and Montrose on 22 Oct; **Lothian** 1000 at Gullane in Jan; **Borders** 2000 at St Abbs on 16 Oct.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* Migration: **Shetland** spring peak on Fair Isle was 100 on 20 Apr, while in autumn 1500 were there on 13 Oct; **Fife** 150 on Isle of May on 12 Oct.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* Breeding: poorly reported, but little indication of change from main part of range. Migration: **Shetland** Fair Isle's spring peak was 200 on 19 Apr, in autumn 6000 were there on 18 Oct, with 4500 on main islands on 19 Oct; **Orkney** 2000 on Stronsay on 18 Oct; **Fife** 400-500 on Isle of May on 11-12 Oct, 700 on 16 Oct; **Borders** 10,000 at St Abbs on 16 Oct.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* Migration and post-breeding flocks: **Shetland** had 5 spring singles and 10 in autumn; **Highland** 75 between Keith and Drummuir on 22 Sep; **Grampian** 50 at Cammachmore on 30 Apr.

* **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella certhiola* **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 5-6 Oct (NJR, AFS), 9 Oct (PME, PH), and 12 Oct (NJR, PGWS).

* **Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle from 15-21 Sep (RCB et al), from 4-5 Oct (NJR, AFS), and 10 Oct (GRA, PMP, NJR).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* Breeding: **Shetland** a pair possibly bred; **Lothian** at least 30 birds reported; **Strathclyde** 27 prs reported in mid-Clyde haughs, and 57 territories in Ayrshire. Migration: **Shetland** first bird on Fair Isle on 23 Apr, and 10 on 30 Apr, in autumn 5 singles between 27 Aug and the last bird on Whalsay on 19 Oct; **Orkney** 3 singles reported between 2 Sep and 16 Oct; **West Isles** 1 in Lewis on 3 Jun; **Borders** 1st bird at St Abbs on 15 Apr; **Strathclyde** 1 at Heads of Ayr on 20 Apr.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Breeding: **Strathclyde** up to 253 territories recorded, mostly in South Ayrshire. Migration: **Shetland** first bird on Fair Isle on 27 Apr, 15 on 14 May, and last there on 10 Sep; **Tayside** a late bird was at Easthaven on 18 Oct; **Highland** and **Strathclyde** both had single birds on 23 Apr.

* **Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*** **Fife** 1 on Isle of May from 31 May-1 Jun (MPH,PKK et al).

* **Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*** **Shetland** a better showing with 9 on main islands from 18 May-19 Jun, on Fair Isle 1-3 birds daily on 24 May-5 Jun, with 5 on 1-2 Jun, 2 on 10-11 Jun, and singles on 12 and 20-24 Jun, 1 trapped there on 16 Jul, and a single autumn bird appeared on Foula on 22-25 Sep; **Orkney** had 7 in spring from 25 May-4 Jun; **Highland** 1 at Lagganbridge on 9 Jun; **Tayside** a juv was trapped near Inchtute on 9 Aug.

* **Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*** **Shetland** 12-13 birds were recorded between 14 May and 26 Jun, in autumn c16 birds between 11 Aug and 26 Oct; **Orkney** also had a good year with 20 spring records between 5 May and 3 Jun, in autumn 9 birds were recorded between 5 Sep and 22 Oct; **Grampian** a good year with at least 10 between 12 and 22 Oct; **Tayside** 2 at Fishtown of Usan on 14-16 Oct, singles at Lunan Bay on 16 Oct, and Arbroath on 22 Oct; **Fife** 1 on Isle of May on 15 Apr, in autumn up to 8 in Region between 11 and 22 Oct; **Lothian** had 8 between 13 and 21 Oct; **Borders** had up to 16+ between 9 and 22 Oct with a peak of 11 at St Abbs on 14 Oct; **Dumf & Galloway** 1 near Castle Douglas on 11 Jun and 1 Jul.

* **Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*** **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle from 27 May-10 Jun (PH, NJR), on 2-3 Jun (DD, PMP), and 3-4 Jun (PMP, NJR).

* **Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*** **Orkney** 1 on S Ronaldsay on 3-4 Sep (CC, MrsRMcC, ERM et al).

* **Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*** In spring **Shetland** had 18 between 13 May and 11 Jun; **Orkney** had 7 between 24 May and 5 Jun. In autumn **Shetland** had 16 between 23 Aug and 11 Sep; **Orkney** had up to 4 between 2 and 12 Sep; **West Isles** 1 on North Uist on 1-4 Oct; **Tayside** 1 at Fishtown of Usan on 7 Sep; **Fife** 1 at Fife Ness on 7 Sep; **Lothian** singles at Barns Ness on 7 Sep, and on Bass Rock on 8 Sep.

* **Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*** **Shetland** ♂ probably of race *S c albistriata* on Fair Isle from 27 Apr-14 May (CD, PMP, NJR), ♂ at Toab on 4-5 May (MH, RLH), ♂ on Fair Isle from 8-10 May (JH, DQ, NJR), ♂ on Out Skerries on 11-12 May (MrsJK, MrsMT), 1st summer ♂ on Fetlar from 11 May-1 Jun was killed by a cat (MAP et al), ♀ at Seafield, Lerwick on 12 May (DS), ♂ at Hillswick on 14 May (CFM), ♀ on Fair Isle on 14 May (PMP), ♂ at Skaw, Unst from 15-22 May (MS, IS, RJT), ♂ probably *S c albistriata*, on Fair Isle on 22 May (CFM, NJR); **Orkney** ♂ dead on N Ronaldsay on 7 May (AED, MGP), ♂ on Stronsay on 15 May (JF & MrsSMH); **West Isles** ♂ at L Obe. Barra on 5 Jun (AJS); **Fife** ♀ on Isle of May from 9-11 May (MJ, RP et al).

* **Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*** In spring **Orkney** had an adult at Tankerness on 10 May. In autumn **Shetland** had 30 on main islands between 10 Aug and 11 Oct, plus 1-3 most days on Fair Isle from 9 Aug-29 Sep; **Orkney** had up to 13 between 10 Aug and 20 Oct; **West Isles** 1 on North Uist on 14 Oct; **Grampian** 4 birds were recorded between 3 Sep and 12 Oct; **Fife** singles on Isle of May on 10-12 Aug, and at Fife Ness on 25 Sep; **Borders** 1 at St Abbs from 13-21 Oct.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* Breeding: **Orkney** a pair reared 2 young on N Ronaldsay (first breeding record for Orkney); **Highland** also had 1st breeding record for Caithness District; **Lothian** 24 singing ♂♂ were recorded at 13 sites, but slight suggestion of a drop in numbers; **Borders** 10 singing ♂♂ at 7 sites; **Strathclyde** up to 3 prs bred and another 9 singing ♂♂ were reported. Migration: **Shetland** large influx on 14-15 May when 1-3 birds at 10 locations on main islands, and 30 on Fair Isle, in autumn Fair Isle had 20 on 2 Sep, and the last bird appeared at Uyeasound on 25 Oct; **Orkney** in autumn N Ronaldsay had 7 on 2 Sep, while 1 from 10-17 Oct showed characteristics of *S c blythii*, another or the same appeared on Stromness on 19 Dec; **West Isles** singles on Lewis on 8 Oct, and Harris on 16 Oct; **Grampian** and **Tayside** had late birds on 23 Oct and 14 Oct respectively; **Tayside** 1st bird at Dunblane on 25 Apr; **Fife** 20 on Isle of May on 16 May; **Strathclyde** first bird at Greenan, Ayr on 26 Apr.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Breeding: **Borders** 29 singing ♂♂ were reported; **Strathclyde** 40 prs in mid-Clyde haughs and up to 88 territories recorded mostly in South Ayrshire. Migration: **Shetland** influx between 12 and 15 May with 1-4 at 20 locations on main islands, and 30 on Fair Isle, autumn passage was poor, with the last bird at Helendale on 22 Oct; **Orkney** first bird on N Ronaldsay on 3 May; **West Isles** 1 on S Uist on 7 Oct; **Highland** had an early bird at Keith on 26 Apr; **Grampian** had a late bird on 22 Oct; **Fife** had 10 on Isle of May on 13 May; **Lothian** 1st bird on Bass Rock on 19 Apr.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Breeding: **Borders/Lothian** up to 93 singing ♂♂ were reported from 52 sites; **Strathclyde** up to 71 territories recorded mostly in South Ayrshire. Migration: **Shetland** had a protracted spring passage from 9 May-21 Jun with 20 on Fair Isle on 2 Jun, in autumn Whalsay had 33 on 2 Sep, while Fair Isle had 170 on 2 Sep; **Orkney** 250 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Sep, a late bird was on Holm on 10 Nov; **West Isles** 5-6 on St Kilda on 3 Sep; **Highland** 1st bird at Staxigeo on 22 Apr; **Fife** 6 on Isle of May from 5-9 Sep, and 12-17 Oct; **Strathclyde** first bird at Minishant on 30 Apr.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Breeding: **Highland** 28 singing ♂♂ recorded at 16 locations; **Strathclyde** up to 127 territories recorded mostly in South Ayrshire. Migration: **Shetland** influx noted from 13-15 May with 1-4 at 15 sites on main islands, and 12 on Fair Isle, in autumn the highest number occurred between 12 and 15 Oct with 20 each on Whalsay and at Kergord, with 55 on Fair Isle on 12 Oct and the last one there on 16 Nov; **Orkney** first bird on 14 Apr, and the latest on 16 Nov; **Grampian** a late bird appeared at Alford on 30 Nov; **Strathclyde** 1 at Doonfoot on 14 Apr. Winter records: a summary of birds occurring during this period gave 76 in Jan-Mar, and 13 in Dec.

* **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **Shetland** 1st winter on Fair Isle from 9-21 August (PH, PMP, NJR), 1st winter on Noss from 11-12 Aug (DRB, SC), 1st winter on Whalsay on 14 Aug (BM), 1 on Fair Isle on 27 Aug (CD, PAG, DRW), two 1st winters on Whalsay on 28 Aug (BM, MW), 1 at Kergord on 29 Aug (CFM, PME) φ , and 1 at Lerwick on 4-5 Sep (PME, DS); **Orkney** singles on Stronsay from 16-19 Aug, with another from 18-19 Aug (JF & MrsSMH, JS), on Holm on 2 Sep (ERM), and on S Ronaldsay on 3-4 Sep (ERM, EJW).

* **Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* **Lothian** 1 at Skateraw from 21-23 Oct (PRG, CCMcG).

* **Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* **Shetland** singles at Eswick on 13 Oct (TDR) φ , Boddam on 14-15 Oct (MSC, RLH, MM), another on 26 Oct (MM), at Tingwall on 22 Oct (AG), on Fetlar on 22 Oct (BJY) φ , at Stromfirth on 22-23 Oct (A&JG), at Bigton on 27 Oct (CFM), and Scatness on 27 Oct (DRB, PME, CS); **Orkney** 1 on Hoy on 25-26 Oct (KF); **Highland** 1 at Kinlochewe on 24 Oct (RS); **Grampian** singles at Cruden Bay from 19-22 Oct (LTAB, TWM), and Drums on 22 Oct (WNH); **Lothian** singles at Barns Ness on 14 Oct (IJA, EP & MRL), and Scoughall on 22 Oct (DJB); **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 22 Oct (EP & MRL), and Eyemouth on 22 Oct (DP).

* **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* An excellent autumn with a minimum of 166 birds recorded. **Shetland** had 3 singles in Sep, 6 from 2-3 Oct, then a big arrival involving c70+ from 4-7 Oct, and another 20 till the last one at Sandwick on 29 Oct; **Orkney** 8 on N Ronaldsay on 4 Oct, 11 on 5 Oct, elsewhere 9 on 5 Sep, and 6 others on 6 Oct; **West Isles** had 9 on Uists in Oct-Nov; **Highland** had 3 singles from 10-20 Oct; **Grampian** 16 birds recorded between 4 and 27 Oct with a peak of 5 at Girdleness on 10 Oct; **Fife** had 4 on Isle of May from 4-11 Oct and 5 in Fife Ness area from 9-20 Oct; **Lothian** 1 at Skateraw on 11-12 Oct; **Borders** 3-4 birds in St Abbs-Eyemouth area from 4-25 Oct.

* **Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi* **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle on 13 Oct (DHR), and at Scatness on 27 Oct (DRB, JMCK); **Orkney** singles on Stronsay on 13-14 Oct (DG, JF&MrsSMH), on S Ronaldsay on 14-15 Oct, and again on E Mainland till 19 Oct (KEH, EJ&SW); **Borders** 1 at St Abbs on 15 Oct (EP&MRL).

* **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* **Grampian** 1 at Rattray Head on 13 Oct (MM).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Breeding: **Lothian** 25 singing ♂♂ recorded at 12 sites; **Strathclyde** up to 38 territories recorded mostly in South Ayrshire; **Dumf & Gall** 31 prs at Wood of Cree. Migration: **Shetland** an excellent year with c60 on main islands from 4 May-16 Jun, and 11 on Fair Isle from 13-23 May, in autumn 25 birds from 10 Aug-20 Oct; **Orkney** also had higher than normal numbers with 15 in May and 12 in autumn including a late bird on Hoy on 1 Nov; **West Isles** 1 on Benbecula on 4 May; **Strathclyde** 1st birds at Heads of Ayr and Balloch on 20 Apr.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Breeding: **Highland** 20 singing ♂♂ recorded at 16 locations; **Strathclyde** up to 124 territories recorded mostly in South-west. Migration: **Shetland** first bird on 27 Mar, and passage lasted through Jun with 1-2 daily, and a peak of 27 on Fair Isle on 29 Apr, 1 there on 24 Jul, main autumn passage ran from 3 Oct-18 Nov, with 15 on Fair Isle on 14 and 22 Oct, and stragglers elsewhere up to 29 Nov; **Highland** late singles reported from Lossiemouth on 2 Nov, and L Spynie on 29 Nov; **Grampian** 1 at Drums on 23 Mar showed characteristics of Northern races, while a *P c tristis* occurred at Hatterseat on 16 Oct; **Fife** 15 on Isle of May on 12-14 May, and 6 on 12-14 Oct; **Borders** a bird at Auchencrow on 18 Mar may have been the first genuine migrant. Winter records: a summary of birds occurring during this period gave 32 from Jan-Mar, and 32 in Dec.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Migration: **Shetland** first bird on 22 Apr, and a large fall on 13-19 May brought 300 to main islands and 60 to Fair Isle on 14 May, in autumn another fall on 2-4 Sep brought 130 to Fair Isle and 300 to main islands, last 1 was at Boddam on 26 Oct; **Orkney** 250 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Sep and a late bird there on 2 Nov; **Grampian** had an early bird at Cruden Bay on 27 Mar, and an extremely late one in Seaton Park on 20 Nov; **Fife** 300 on Isle of May on 3 May. A wintering individual on Whalsay, **Shetland** from 21 Jan-25 Feb was exceptional.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Migration: **Shetland** Fair Isle had 320 on 12 Oct, but the main islands had their largest ever fall on 22-23 Oct when 400 birds were counted at 4 locations; **Orkney** 152 on N Ronaldsay from 12-14 Oct; **Grampian** 300 at Muchalls on 23 Oct; **Fife** a large fall on Isle of May produced 2000 on 12 Oct.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* **Tayside** 1 at Easthaven on 18-19 Oct; **Fife** 1 at Fife Ness on 22 Apr; **Borders** singles at St Abbs on 7 Apr, at Eyemouth on 12 Oct, and again at St Abbs on 11-14 Oct, and 19-22 Oct.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Breeding: **Grampian** reported from 25 sites; **Strathclyde** up to 89 territories recorded, mostly in South Ayrshire. Migration: **Shetland** an influx on 13-15 May brought 50 to Fair Isle and 25 to Quendale, in autumn most appeared between 2-9 Sep when a peak of 36 were on main islands on 3 Sep, late birds were at Haroldswick on 20 Oct and Norwick from 17-22 Oct; **Orkney** 22 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Sep, and 2 on Holm on 27 Oct; **West Isles** 1 on St Kilda on 3 Sep; **Borders** 1st bird at Peebles on 29 Apr.

* **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* About 36 individuals were recorded during the year. In spring **Shetland** had single ♀♀ at Quendale on 8 Jun, and Upper Kergord on 10 Jun; **Orkney** had 1 on N Ronaldsay on 24-25 May; **Tayside** had 1 at Fishtown of Usan on 29-30 May; **Fife** had 1 on Isle of May on 17 May. In autumn **Shetland** had 15 between 20 Sep and 29 Oct; **Orkney** had 1-2 at 5 locations from 3-22 Oct; **West Isles** 1 on North Uist on 10 Oct; **Highland** 1 at Myrelandhorn on 16 Oct; **Tayside** 1 at Mains of Usan on 22 Oct; **Fife** 1 at Craig on 14 Oct, and 2 on Isle of May from 12-13 Oct with 1 till 14 Oct, and another on 21 Oct; **Lothian** 2 at Barns Ness on 12 Oct with 1 till 13 Oct; **Borders** singles at St Abbs from 11-14 Oct, and Burnmouth on 25 Oct.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breeding: **Central** 71 nests produced 340 fledged young; **Strathclyde** 87 prs on L Lomonds, and up to 27 territories in the South-west; **Dumf & Gall** highest number for many years with 20 prs in nestboxes in Glentroot. Migration: **Shetland** main influx was from 13-15 May with 31 on main islands and 35 on Fair Isle, in autumn a large fall from 2-4 Sep brought 91 to 2 locations on main islands and 65 to Fair Isle, the last bird was at Kergord on 22 Oct; **Orkney** first 3 on 3 May, in autumn 80 on N Ronaldsay on 2 Sep, and a very late individual on Hoy on 8-9 Nov; **West Isles** had singles on Lewis on 17 Jun and 30 Sep; **Grampian** first bird at Invergie on 30 Apr; **Strathclyde** first bird at Culzean on 15 Apr.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Migration: **Shetland** at Helendale on 12 Nov were the first since 1860, 2 were caught by cats at Clickimin on 13 Nov but 1 was rescued and released; **Orkney** also had an exceptional year with a flock of 7-8 on Harray on 17-18 Oct, also 2 at Holm on 23-24 Oct, 6 on Rousay on 28 Oct, and singles in Kirkwall on 11 and 16 Nov; **West Isles** 4 in Stornoway on 15 Oct, and 12 in North Uist on 18 Oct.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris* **Lothian** 2 at Woodhall Dean from 1 Jan-28 Feb, singles at Abbey Mill on 6 Jul, and Hailes on 13 Jul; **Borders** at least 3 prs at Hirsell, and 4 other sites held breeding prs.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus* **Strathclyde** little change in status suggested, continues to breed in small numbers in the usual areas, mostly in Clyde Valley and South Ayrshire Southwards into **Dumf & Gall**.

Crested Tit *Parus cristatus* Breeding: **Highland** several prs seen on the fringes of its range, e.g. a pair nested at Tomintoul; **Grampian** fewer prs were noted using nestboxes in Culbin Forest.

Coat Tit *Parus ater* Migration: **Orkney** singles on Hoy on 3 Nov, at Binscarth from 9-27 Nov, and on Burray on 22 Nov; **West Isles** 2 in Stornoway on 29 Oct, and 1 on Harris on 25 Nov.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* Migration/counts: **Shetland** a remarkable autumn influx brought about 37 birds to the main islands from 9 Oct-end Dec, and 2 to Fair Isle on 30 Dec, the main arrival took place from 20 Oct with numbers of birds ranging from 1-3 individuals; **Orkney** had 1 on 3 Apr, then 21 records at 3 sites from mid-Oct.

Great Tit *Parus major* Migration: **Shetland** had about 17 birds from 9 Oct-end Dec, with main influx from 22 Oct; **Orkney** 1 in spring and 7 autumn records from 3 sites.

* **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* **Borders** 1 was heard calling at the Hirsell on 4 Nov.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* Migration: **Shetland** 4 birds showing characteristics of **Northern C f macrodactyla** were recorded from 28 Sep-21 Oct; **Orkney** had 1 on 13 Feb, and 9 Sep, as well as 2 *C f familiaris* birds on 6-7 Nov; **West Isles** South Uist's first record of the species occurred on 23 Oct.

* **Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* Migration provided up to 22 spring individuals: **Shetland** had 15 birds from 11 May-21 Jun; **Orkney** had 4 between 23 May and 8 Jun; **West Isles** singles on Harris, and North Uist on 22 May; **Lothian** 1 at Muirfield on 29 May.

* **Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus* **Shetland** 1st winter at Catfirth from 17-23 Oct (MSC,AG et al).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* Breeding: **North Scotland** a pair with young were noted at one locality on 8-9 Aug. Migration: **Shetland** an excellent year with around 150 individuals in spring beginning with 2 on 11 May and peaking during 13-15 May with 27 on main islands and 30 on Fair Isle, in autumn 72+ were seen starting on 12 Aug with the main arrival between 1-12 Sep, with 21 on main islands on 3 Sep, and the last at Toab on 17 Oct; **Orkney** a total of 87 birds from 8 May-5 Jun, in autumn c15 seen from 18 Aug-2 Oct, with 13 on 2 Sep; **West Isles** 1 on South Uist on 6 Jun; **Highland** had 8 between 15 May and 7 Jun, and 2 from 7-17 Aug; **Grampian** had singles at Lonmay on 11 May, the Ythan on 17-18 May, Ludquharn on 20-22 Jun, Lumsden on 14 Aug, and Rattray on 12-13 Sep; **Tayside** had 1 in Glen Doll on 14 Jun; **Fife** had singles on Isle of May on 8 May, with 2 on 16 May, and 1 till 19 May, another on 23 May, others on 9 Jun, and 3 Jul, and 1 at Fife Ness on 12 Oct; **Central** 1 was at L. of Menteith on 3 Jun; **Lothian** had singles at Aberlady on 14 May, Samuelston on 22 May, Tynninghame on 2 Jul, and Bass Rock on 8-9 Sep; **Borders** had singles at Dowlaw Dean on 15-17 May, and 22-23 May, St Abbs on 13 Oct, and 15-18 Oct.

* **Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor* **Borders** 1 at Dowlaw Dean on 22 May (AB).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* Up to 35 birds reported: **Shetland** 1 on Fair Isle from 14-16 Apr, 6 on main islands from 13-26 Oct; **Orkney** singles on Stronsay on 22-23 Oct, Hoy on 1 Nov, and 12 Nov; **Highland** singles at Roybridge on 6 Mar, Insh marshes on 9 Mar, Tulloch Moor from 18 Mar-3 Apr, and Auldich in Dec; **Grampian** 1 near Aboyne on 27 Oct; **Tayside** singles at Pitlochry on 28 Jan, Montrose on 21 Mar, Mains of Usan on 19 Oct, in the Sidlaw Hills on 30 Oct, and at Carmylue on 8 Nov; **Fife** singles at Earlsall on 13 May, on Isle of May on 12-14 Oct, 18 Oct, with 2 on 20 Oct, and 1 at Craigtoun Den on 5 Nov; **Lothian** singles at Aberlady on 28 Apr, Barns Ness on 14 Oct, Aberlady on 17 Oct, and Skateraw on 21 Oct; **Borders** 1 at St Abbs on 12-13 Oct; **Strathclyde** singles at Balloch on 21 Mar, and in Glen Afton on 13 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** singles at Cullendoch and Glenhapple Forest in Feb, 1 at Castle O'er in early Nov.

* **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* **Shetland** singles on Fair Isle from 21 May-4 Jun (JC,NJR) from 1-4 Jun (PH,NJR), from 7-27 Jun (JD et al), and at Virkie from 2 Jul-1 Oct (AF,JMcK); **Highland** 1 at Trotternish, Skye from 1-3 Jun, later at Watnarnish from 18-19 Jun (DH,RJ&MrsCC); **Borders** 1 at Dowlaw Dean from 14-21 May (RGY et al).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* **Highland** 2 were noted at Invermoriston in Jan-Feb, and 2 at Strathfarrar on 22 Oct; **Grampian** 1 in Huntly on 11 Feb and 12 in Strathdon on 28 Mar were unusual records; an increase was noted in **Borders** but a decrease in **Dumf & Gall**.

Magpie *Pica pica* **Grampian** a count of 47 at Kirkhill suggests that the spread of this species is continuing in the North-east; **Borders** and **Lothian** also reported an increase.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **Strathclyde** a pair was present on Mull all year, and 5 in Dec, but no breeding occurred, in **SW Scotland** a pair held territory again and a nest was built, but no evidence of successful breeding.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* Breeding: **Orkney** 58 prs were counted; **West Isles** a pair bred again on South Uist. Counts: **Orkney** 160 on Holm on 24 Mar.

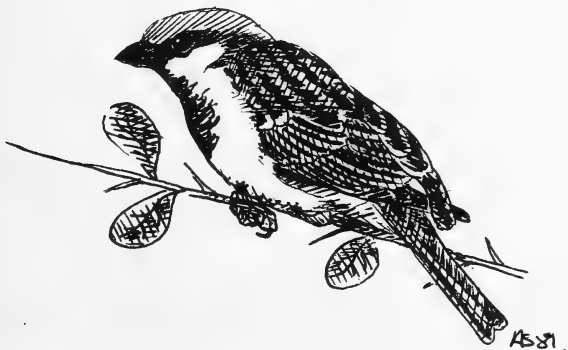
Rook *Corvus frugilegus* Breeding: **Shetland** the average size of 25 broods was 1.8; **Grampian** 633 nests were counted at Udney. Counts: **Shetland** 150 at Kergord on 20 Feb; **Orkney** 300 on Rousay on 7 May; **Grampian** 5000 at Lynturk on 8 Feb.

Carrión Crow *Corvus corone* **Hooded C** *c. cornix* were noted regularly on Fair Isle, **Shetland** from Mar-early Jul, with a maximum of 8 on 21 May, in autumn 6 appeared on 24 Oct.

Raven *Corvus corax* Breeding: **Shetland** 7 prs on Fetlar reared 13 young, 4 prs bred on Hermaness, and 3 prs on Fair Isle; **Orkney** 14 prs reared 43 young; **Central** 16 territories checked, and 10 successful prs; **Borders** only 3 sites now reported to exist; patchy success in **South-west Scotland** with best success inland, poor on coast. Counts: **Shetland** the highest count was 70 at Walls on 26 Jan.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Counts: **Highland** 10,000 at L Spynie on 5 Nov; **Grampian** 10,000 in an empty building in Aberdeen in late Dec; **Strathclyde** 20,000 in Ayr on 23 Dec.

* **Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus* **Strathclyde** adult at Ballygrant, Portnahaven, and Port Ellen, Islay from 18 Aug-13 Oct (MrsCB,MAO,MJS) may have been the returning 1987 individual.



House Sparrow

A. Stevenson

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* **Shetland** Fair Isle had 290 on 26 Aug; **Orkney** 456 on N Ronaldsay on 27 Sep.

* **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* **Orkney** a ♀ trapped on N Ronaldsay on 30 May (KFW et al) ♂ will be the 1st record for Scotland if accepted by BBRC.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Counts: **Shetland** c13 in spring between 21 May and 12 Jun, and 14 in autumn from 9 Sep-5 Nov was an above average showing; **Highland** 100 at Milton Brodie on 19 Feb; **Tayside** 156 at Ethiebeaton on 2 Jan; **Lothian** 200 at Aberlady from 7-29 Jan; **Borders** 208 at Eyemouth on 4 Jan.

* **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* **West Isles** 1 at Newton, N Uist from 1-7 Oct is the 2nd record for Scotland (TJD,BCF,JJG).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Breeding: **Shetland** proved breeding at Kergord. Counts/passage: **Shetland** the main spring passage was between 22 Mar and 9 May with peaks of 300 on main islands on 25 Mar, and 106 on Fair Isle on 26 Mar, autumn passage was very poor; **Highland** 600 at Califer on 25 Nov; **Lothian** 500 at Gladhouse from 20-29 Dec; **Borders** 1500 at The Mount on 7 Jan; **Dumf & Gall** c6000 at Challoch in Jan.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Breeding: **Orkney** a nest with 3 young was found on 6 Jul (first breeding for Orkney). Winter/spring: **Shetland** 320 on Fair Isle on 20 Apr; **Orkney** 175 on N Ronaldsay on 20 Apr; **Grampian** 300 in Strathdon in Apr; **Borders** 1900 at Black Yett on 18 Jan. Autumn: **Shetland** main influx on 13-23 Oct with 180 at Bigton on 17 Oct, 120 on Fair Isle on 19 Oct, and 400 on main islands on 22 Oct; **Highland** 1000 at Glenlivet on 26 Dec; scarce in the **South** with only a few flocks of 100-150.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* Breeding: **Orkney** a pair probably bred. Counts: **Highland** 500 at Hopeman on 3 Jan, and 500 at Westerfolds on 17 Feb; **Grampian** 300 at Corby on 26 Dec; **Tayside** 300 at Forfar L on 12 Mar.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Counts: **Shetland** a steady passage on Fair Isle involved at least 7 from 14 Apr-5 May, 2 appeared on main islands in spring, and autumn produced singles on Fair Isle from 7-14 Nov, and at Norwick/Haroldswick from 12-15 Nov; **Orkney** 16 birds were recorded between 13 Jan and 24 Dec.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* Breeding: **Strathclyde/Dumf & Gall** nest building in Glentrool from 9 Mar, and 500 were ringed. Counts: **Shetland** winter reports of 4 at Maywick in late Jan, and 1 on Whalsay on 3 Feb, but poor passage; **Grampian** 85 at Strathbeg on 9 Sep; **Tayside** 250 at Pitlochry on 31 Jan; **Strathclyde** 200 in Lennox Forest on 29 Dec; **Dumf & Gall** up to 300 in Darsalloch Forest from Mar-Apr and 300 at Woodhall L on 13 Sep.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* Counts: **Highland** 500 at Westefolds on 17 Feb; **Grampian** had flocks of 500 at Inverugie on 4 Jan, and Boddam on 10 Dec **Lothian** 1000 at Gladhouse on 28 Jan; **Strathclyde** 700+ in Currarie Glen on 6 Feb.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* Counts: **Shetland** 480 on Fair Isle on 9 Sep; **Orkney** 200 at Orphir on 10 Jan, and 230 on Stenness on 28 Jan; **Central** 140 at Grangemouth on 17 Jan; **Lothian** 200 at Gladhouse on 11 Feb.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* Counts: **Grampian** an exceptional count of 500 at Dinnet in Jan. **Mealy Redpoll** *C.f. flammea*: **Shetland** the usual scatter of Northern Isles' records involved between 1 and 4 birds on Fair Isle from 4 Feb-16 Jul, and up to 7 on 2 Nov; **Tayside** 4 at Carnoustie from 27 Dec-end year; **Lothian** up to 17 birds between 16 Oct and 31 Dec; **Strathclyde** 3 at Dalmellington on 6 Nov.

* **Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni* **Shetland** singles on Fetlar from 3-6 Oct (RM) ϕ , Foula on 9 Oct (GWP) ϕ , and at Boddam on 12 Nov (MM) ϕ ; **Orkney** 1 on Stronsay from 5-7 Nov (JF&MrsSMH); **Tayside** 1 at Carnoustie from 27 Dec into 1989 (SRG,MSC et al).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* Breeding: **Dumf & Gall** birds were seen feeding first juvs in Glentrool on 5 Jan. Counts/migrants: **Shetland** a few records of mainly immature birds from 22 Jun-10 Sep; **Orkney** 1 on Hoy on 15 May, then a peak of 34 from 24-26 Jun; **Highland** 72 in Borgie Forest on 21 Feb; **Strathclyde** 100+ at Inchcalloch on 11 Jun; **Dumf & Gall** 140 at Kirriereoch on 16 Dec is highest count ever for area.

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* Very little information received on this species, but 1 at Dunnet Forest, **Highland** on 3 Nov was unusual. Other counts in the Region included 22 at Cloddymoss on 25 Oct, and 24 at Forres on 28 Dec.

* **Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* **Shetland** perhaps up to 37 individuals in spring between 22 May and 3 Jun, including a peak of 7 on Fair Isle on 25 May, while autumn provided up to another 40 from 12 Aug-30 Oct, peaks included 6 on Skerries on 10 Sep, and 5 on Foula from 16-23 Sep; **Orkney** 25 birds in spring between 26 May and 4 Jun, in autumn 10 birds from 2 Sep-25 Oct; **Highland** 1 at Lagganbridge on 6-7 Jun; **Five** singles on Isle of May on 12-14 Jun, 16 Jun, 20 Jun, 28 Jun, and 2 on 8 Sep; **Strathclyde** 1 near Luss on 4 Jun.



Pallas's Rosefinch *N. Ronaldsay June 1988*

A. Hogg

* **Pallas's Rosefinch** *Carpodacus roseus* **Orkney** an imm ♂ on N Ronaldsay from 2 Jun-14 Jul (KFW et al) will be the 1st British record of this species if accepted by the BOU and BBRC.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Migration/counts: **Shetland** in the best year since 1973 the period from 19 Oct-13 Nov produced around 76 birds at 21 locations.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Breeding: **Tayside** 2 or 3 fledged young were seen at Murthly, and birds in suitable habitat at Grandtully, Lochearn, and Pitlochry; elsewhere, birds occurred at the usual locations in **Lothian** and **Borders** but no proof of breeding was obtained. Migration: **Shetland** had had about 26 individuals in the year with most from the second half of Oct; **Orkney** more than usual with c15 between 23 Mar-29 Oct; **Highland** singles at Noss Farm on 13 Oct, Orlig from 23 Oct-2 Nov, and Clochan on 30 Oct; **Grampian** singles at Peterhead on 22 May, and Memsie from 23-30 Oct; **Tayside** 30 at Scone on 6 Mar; **Central** 2 at Doune on 4 Feb, 1 in Dec; **Lothian** 5 Dalkeith Palace Park on 19 Jun, 2 at Carberry Towers on 20 Nov; **Borders** 10 at Hirsell on 27 Feb, 3 at Duns Castle on 13 Mar, 1 at St Abbs on 8 May.

* **Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca* **Shetland** a 1st year ♂ on Fair Isle on 7 Oct (per NJR) ♂ will be the 1st record of this species for the Western Palearctic Region if accepted by the BOU and BBRC.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* Winter/spring: **Shetland** c22 between 30 Mar and 27 May, autumn passage spanned 16 Sep-9 Nov with a peak of 20 on 30 Sep; **Orkney** 19 on 4 Oct; **Highland** 2 at Cabrach on 21 Mar; **Grampian** had singles at Donmouth on 5 Mar, and 14 Mar, with 1 at Nigg Bay on 21 Oct; **Tayside** 1-2 at Elliot on 17 Jan; **Fife** 34 at Fife Ness on 3 Apr, 20 on 5 Nov; **Lothian** 38 at Musselburgh on 23 Jan.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Breeding: **Grampian** breeding was confirmed in 2 areas, and birds were present in a third. Migration/counts: **Shetland** autumn peaks were 310 on Fair Isle on 2 Nov, and 350 at Quendale on 27 Nov; **Orkney** 220 on Sanday on 25 Feb, and 280 on S Ronaldsay on 16 Nov; **Highland** 500 at Cabrach on 31 Jan; **Grampian** 1000 at Corgarff on 19 Feb, and 300 at Foveran on 24 Dec; **Tayside** 300 at Auchmithie on 30 Dec; **Lothian** 300 at Barns Ness on 12 Nov; **Strathclyde** 500+ at Glen Luss on 17 Nov; low numbers in the **South-west**.

* **Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalus* **Orkney** ♂ on N Ronaldsay from 27-29 Oct (PJD,AED,PS).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* Migration/counts: **Shetland** had a very good year with a large autumn influx comprising some 60+ individuals mostly between 12 Oct and 2 Nov; **Orkney** 7 on 27 Oct was the maximum count; **Grampian** 120 at Drumoak in Jan.

* **Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* **Shetland** singles in spring on Fair Isle on 1 May, and Skerries on 12 May, were followed by 12 autumn individuals between 2 Sep and 22 Oct; **Orkney** had 1 on N Ronaldsay on 6 May, and up to 7 between 2 and 11 Sep.

* **Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* **Shetland** ♂ at Burravoe, Yell on 17 May (C&JD), and 1 on Fair Isle from 12-16 Oct (PMP,AFS).

* **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* **Shetland** a spring bird on Fair Isle from 15-18 May (PMP et al), and autumn singles at Grutness on 4 Sep (JDO,GWP), on Foula on 10 Oct (GWP et al), on Fair Isle from 12-14 Oct (AJL,PMP), from 12-17 Oct (NJR et al), on 14 Oct (PMP,DMR), from 22-24 Oct (NJR et al), at Haroldswick, Unst on 25 Oct (MGP,MS), and at Northdale, Unst from 12-14 Nov (HGB,MGP); **Grampian** 1 at Rattray Head from 2-4 May (TWM,AW).

* **Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola* **Shetland** single ♀♀ or imms at Boddam 28-31 Aug (PVH,MM,DS), at Norwick, Unst on 5 Sep (MGP), on Fair Isle from 9-18 Sep (PH,NJR,AFS), and also there on 19 Sep (BB,PH,NJR).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Breeding: **Shetland** 10 prs probably bred on Unst; **Orkney** c23 prs were recorded. Migration/counts: **Shetland** autumn passage on Fair Isle ran mainly from 2 Oct-7 Nov with 50 on 22 Oct; **Orkney** 47 on N Ronaldsay on 25 Oct.

† * **Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps* **Fife** 1 on Isle of May on 25 Jun, 2 on 26-28 Jun, 1 on 5, 14, and 18-19 Jul.

* **Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* **Shetland** ♂ on Fair Isle on 9 Jun (PH); **Orkney** ♂ on N Ronaldsay from 30 Jul-5 Aug (PJD,ES,KFW), and another ♂ there from 14-26 Aug (PJD,AED); **Highland** ♂ at L Droma on 2 Jul (KCR&MrsHSCH, et al); **Strathclyde** ♂ at Irvine from 4-5 Jun (PMcE,GM et al).

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* Breeding: **Shetland** a small population may still exist on West Mainland, but the present status of the species is unclear; **Orkney** c16 singing ♂♂ were recorded; **Grampian** recorded at 29 sites; **Lothian** no confirmed breeding; **Borders** reported a population stabilisation, but the decline continued in the **South-west**. Counts/migration: **Orkney** 43 on Stronsay on 2 Jan was the highest count; **Highland** 20 on Lossiemouth Golf Course on 5 Jan; **Tayside** 53 at Auchmithie on 6 Mar.

* **Northern Oriole** *Icterus galbula* ♀ or 1st winter ♂ on Benbecula from 30 Sep-3 Oct had probably been present from around 22-24 Sep (PRB,TJD,Mr&MrsCH). This is the 2nd record for Scotland.

Additional BBRC decisions

The following records have all been accepted by BBRC: – **White-billed Diver 1987 Highland** adult found oiled in Dornoch Firth around 7-14 Mar. **Night Heron 1987 West Isles** 2nd summer at Breivig, Barra from 19 May-at least 7 Jun had probably been present since late Apr (JSA,KJH), another bird, an adult or 2nd summer, was on Barra on 7 Jun (RHD), **1987 Highland** adult or 2nd summer in Glen Finnan on 8 Jun (LHC), **1987 Lothian** adult at Drem from 30 May-1 Jun (A&GDB,PRG). **Blue-winged Teal 1983 Orkney** ♀ on Gretchen and Hocking Lochs, N Ronaldsay from 6-14 Oct (MG,KFW). **King Eider 1983 Shetland** ♀ at Sumburgh on 25 Aug (MH); **1987 Shetland** ♂ on Whalsay from 3-7 Nov (BM,NDP). **Surf Scoter 1987 West Isles** 5 ♂♂ from 14-16 Dec (C&VR). **Crane 1987 Highland** 1 near L More on 4 Jun (GB,JP). **Ivory Gull 1980 Shetland** 1 freshly dead at Westing, Unst on 26 Apr (PG,RJT). **Red-rumped Swallow 1987 Grampian** 1 at Girdleness on 16 May (AL). **Lanceolated Warbler 1987 Fife** 1 on Isle of May on 2 Oct (PWF). **Icterine Warbler 1987 Strathclyde** 1 on Tiree on 2 Jun. **Pallas's Warbler 1987 Shetland** all records in last year's report marked ϕ have been accepted. **Nuthatch 1987 Tayside** 1 in Glenisla on 9 Mar. **Rose-coloured Starling 1984 Fife** adult at Dalgety Bay about 5 Aug (JM). **Two-barred Crossbill 1985 Central** ♂ at Carron Valley Forest on 13 Oct (PRGM,WP). **Rustic Bunting 1987 Shetland** all records in last year's report marked ϕ have been accepted. **Little Bunting 1985 Shetland** another on Fair Isle from 7-10 Oct should have been 7-10 Nov, **1986 Orkney** 1 at L Garso, N Ronaldsay on 24 Sep (DHH), **1987 Shetland** all records in last year's report marked ϕ have been accepted. **Yellow-breasted Bunting 1984 Shetland** ♀ or imm at Fladdabister on 18-19 Sep (PME,MH), **1985 Shetland** another on Fair Isle on 7-10 Nov related to Little Bunting, **1987 Shetland** ♀ or imm at Scatness on 21 Sep (DRB,PME).

The following record has been withdrawn at the request of observers: **American Golden Plover 1975 Dumf & Galloway** 1 at Caerlaverock from 23 Nov-26 Feb 1976.

The following records have been rejected by BBRC: – **Booted Warbler 1987 Shetland** 1 at Lerwick on 8 Oct. **Arctic Redpoll 1987 Shetland** 1 on Foula on 23 Apr.

The following corrections and additions to the 1987 SBR should be made: – **Night Heron 1987 Shetland** the location of the 1st summer bird at Raewick, Mainland from 18-30 Apr was in fact Garderhouse. **Crane 1987 Shetland** the bird at Exnaboe on 5 Jun, and at Aith from 6-8 Jun was different from the Fair Isle bird of 4 Jun. **Arctic Redpoll 1987 Shetland** 1 on Whalsay from 30 Apr-1 May should have read from 28 Apr.

The following addition should be made to SBR's 1984-87: – **Red-necked Grebe 1984 South Scotland** adult at an inland site from 3 May-6 Jun, **1985** a pair present from 23 May-27 Jul, attempted nesting, a third bird present on 9 dates was thought to be a ♀, a report of 4 birds on 3 Jul, **1986** adult present from 21 Apr-9 Jul, a pair from 13 May-20 Jun, nest site may have been selected and later abandoned, **1987** adult present from 23 Apr-27 May.



King Eider ♀ Aberlady July 1988

J. Busby

BIRD REPORTS

The following areas have produced *Bird Reports* for 1988.

- Angus and Dundee Bird Report* R D Goater (ed).
Argyll Bird Report C Galbraith & A R Jennings (eds).
Arran Bird Report M H Dunn (ed).
Ayrshire Bird Report A Hogg (ed).
Borders Bird Report R D Murray (ed).
Caithness Bird Report E W E Maughan (ed).
Clyde Bird Report I P Gibson (ed).
Dumfries and Galloway Bird Report A D Watson (ed).
Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report N Riddiford (ed).
Fife Bird Report D E Dickson (ed).
Highland Bird Report R H Dennis (ed).
Isle of May Bird Report B Zonfrillo (ed).
Lothian Bird Report M R Leven (ed).
Moray and Nairn Bird Report M J H Cook (ed).
North-east Scotland Bird Report M L Tasker (ed).
Orkney Bird Report C Booth, M Cuthbert, E Meek (eds).
Perth & Kinross Bird Report W Mattingley (ed).
Shetland Bird Report P M Ellis (ed).

A Bird Report for the *Outer Hebrides* is also available from the local recorder as an off-print.



Redstart West Lothian 1988

M. Darling

LIST OF OBSERVERS

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Region (District/s)

Dumfries & Galloway
(Nithsdale, Annandale, & Eskdale)

Dumfries & Galloway
(Stewartry & Wigtown)

Strathclyde (Kyle & Carrick, Cumnock &
Doon Valley, Kilmarnock & Loudoun,
Cunninghame)

Strathclyde (Dumbarton, Clydebank,
Bearsden & Milngavie, Stirling (Clyde
drainage area), Inverclyde, Renfrew,
Eastwood, City of Glasgow, Strathkelvin,
Cumbernauld & Kilsyth, Monklands,
Hamilton, Motherwell, East Kilbride,
Clydesdale)

Strathclyde (Arran, Bute, Cumraes)

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, Highland (Sutherland))

Highland (Caithness)

Western Isles (Harris/Lewis)

Western Isles (Uists/Benbecula/Barra)

Orkney

Shetland (Fair Isle)

Shetland (except Fair Isle)

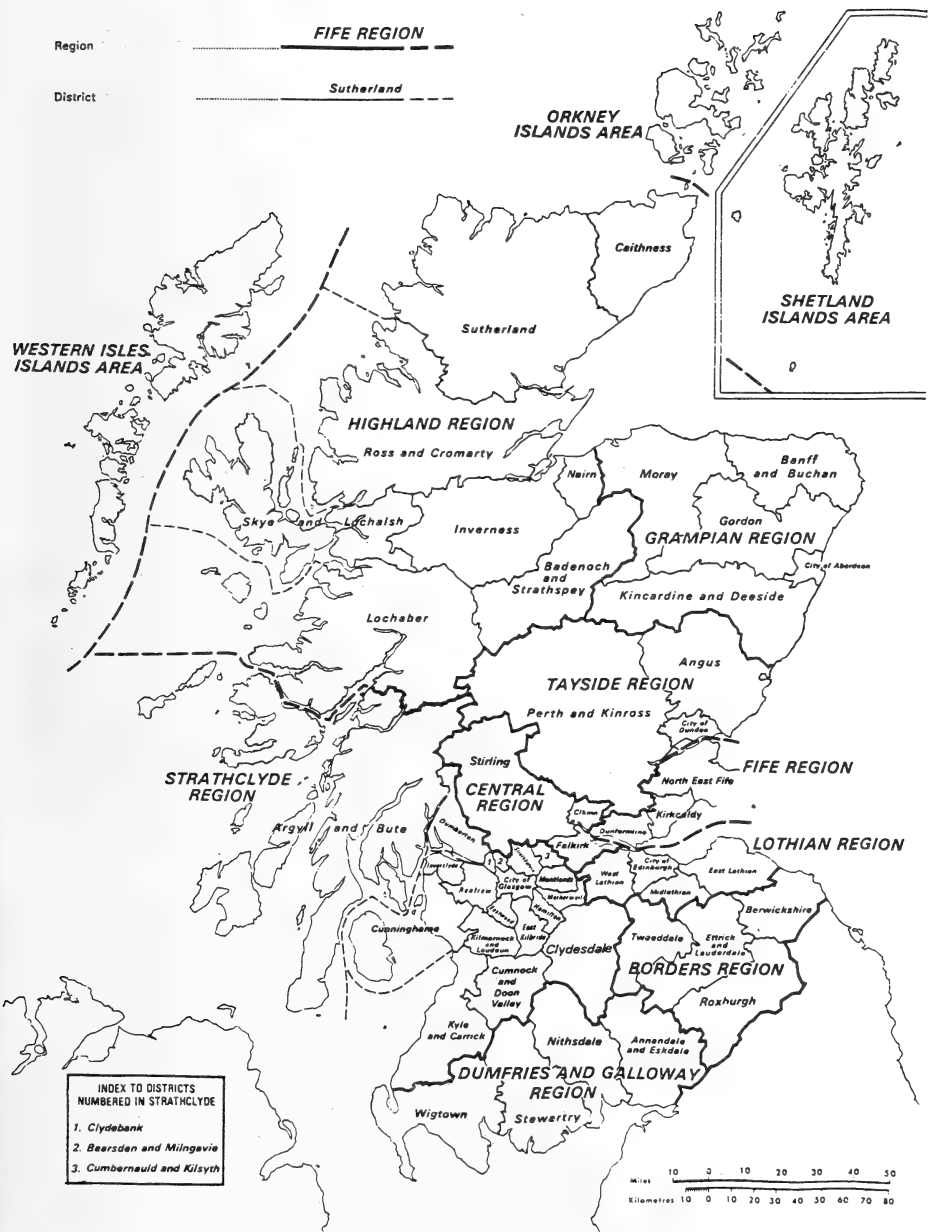
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

FIFE REGION

Region

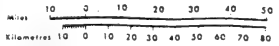
Sutherland

District



**INDEX TO DISTRICTS
NUMBERED IN STRATHCLYDE**

1. Clydebank
2. Bearsden and Milngavie
3. Cumbernauld and Kilsyth





American Robin Inverberie Dec 1988

S.M.D. Alexander



