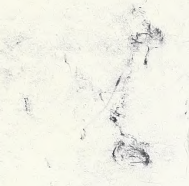

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THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
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# 1995 Scottish Bird Report

## Editor
## Ray Murray

Gyr
Falcon
Pintail
Eider
Blue Tit
Pallid
Harrier
Twite
Grey-cheeked
Thrush

Skylark
Puffin Icterine Warbler
Long-billed Dowitcher Red-necked Phalarope Red-eyed Vireo Long-tailed Skua - House Sparrow Gadwall White Stork
Great Northern Diver- Turnstone
Red-backed Shrike-Velver Scoter
Black-headed Bunting - Chiffchaff
Waxwing - Lesser Crested Tern
Brent Goose - Alpine Swift
Black-browed Albatross - Raven
Whooper Swan-Reed Warbler
Tawny Owl - Pied Wheatear
Sandhill Crane - Bullfinch
Red-breasted Merganser
Golden Plover - Little Crake
Arctic Redpoll - Green Woodpecker
Pheasant - Sanderling - Pochard
Melodious Warbler - Firecrest
Tennessee Warbler
Long-tailed Skua Stellers Eider Mute Swan Coot Shag Little Egret
White-tailed Eagle Common Tern Water Pipit Scaup Common Sandpiper Woodcock
Song Thrush-Sand Martin
Greater Black-backed Gull
Spoonbill - Oystercatcher
WoodWarbler - Ivory Gull
Short-eared Owl - Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler
Marsh Harrier - Slavonian Grebe - Capercaillie - Pallas's Warbler
White-rumped Sandpiper - Lesser Black-backed Gull - Osprey
Woodpigeon - White- winged Black Tern - Booted Warbler
Roller - Tawny Owl - Ptarmigan- Red-breasted Flycatcher
Blue Black-throated Diver - Gannet - Black Redstart - Water Pipit
Tit Two-barred Crossbill - Corn Bunting - Great Grey Shrike
Arctic Tern
Subalpine Warbler - Little Ringed Plover - Scottish Crossbill
Rock Dove- Herring Gull - Buff-breasted Sandpiper- Redshank
Guillemot Spotted Redshank - Snow Goose - Sparrowhawk
Night Heron Snow Bunting - Snipe- Hen Harrier - Woodlark
Marsh Warbler Grey Partridge- Red Kite- Eye-browed Thrush
Melodious Red-crested Pochard - Rough-legged Buzzard
Arctic Redpoll - Eider
Common Scoter- Red-footed Falcon
Rufous Turtle Dove - Sabine's Gull
Nightingale - Black Grouse - Killdeer
Forster's Tern
Corncrake Ring-billed Gull Chough Bee-eater Common Gull
Warbler Pectoral Sandpiper- Jackdaw- Subalpine Warbler
Jay Scarlet Rosefinch - Golden Oriole - Shore Lark
Siberian Rubythroat - Long-billed Dowitcher
Blackcap - Stonechat - Richard's Pipit
Black-eared Wheatear -Glaucous Gull Quail
Green Sandpiper - Red-legged Partridge - Bittern
Goldeneye Pacific Golden Plover- Pectoral Sandpiper
Golden Raven - Long-tailed Tit- Common Crossbil
Oriole Thrush Nightingale - Sedge Warbler
Greenshank Snipe Grey Plover - Greylag Goose
Rock Pipit Coal Tit Dunlin Fulmar
Great Crested Grebe Gannet
Jack Snipe -Greenfinch - Black Kite - Alpine Swift
Barnacle Goose Linnet Robin Artic Tern
Ruddy Duck - Night Heron - Glossy Ibis - Great White Snipe - Bean Goose - Goosander- Mute Swan - Egret
Med Shear-water Red Kite
Yellow-browed Warbler - Nuthatch - Marsh Tit
Spotted Crake - Black-headed Gull - Moorhen
Tawny Owl Ring Tree Ouzel Pipit Rook Storm Petrel
Wren
Rose-coloured Starling - Cormorant - Hawfinch
Black Kite - Pink-footed Goose - Goshawk
Montagu's Harrier - Brambling - Redshank
Razorbill - Yellow-legged Gull - Cuckoo
Thayer's Gull - Kestrel - Curlew Sandpiper
Yellow Wagtail -Red Grouse -Bewick's Swan
Common Crossbill - Willow Tit - Curlew
Woodchat Shrike - Dunnock - Fieldfare
Lanceolated Warbler -Red-throated Pipit
Nightjar - Shore Lark - Citrine Wagtail
Tengmalm's Owl - White-fronted Goose
Wood Sandpiper - Little Grebe - Siskin
King Eider - Reeed Warbler
Ruddy Duck - Grey Phalarope
Great Booted Warbler
Tit Dipper
Jay Teal

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# Scottish Bird Report 1995

**Editor:** Ray Murray
**Assisted by:** David Kelly

***The Scottish Bird Report*** is published by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and is available free to SOC members. It is on sale to non members: contact 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh for current prices.

**The Scottish Ornithologists' Club** was formed in 1936 with the aim of encouraging all aspects of ornithology in Scotland. The club has nearly 3,000 members and some 14 branches around Scotland which meet in Ayr, the Borders, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, New Galloway, Orkney, St Andrews, Stirling, Stranraer and Thurso, each with its own programme of field meetings and winter lectures. The club organises an annual weekend conference in the autumn and a one-day bird watchers' conference in the spring.

Club members receive the quarterly newsletter *Scottish Bird News*, the twice yearly journal *Scottish Birds* and the annual *Scottish Bird Report.* The SOC's offices and Library are in Edinburgh. The Waterston Library is the best ornithological reference library in Scotland, and is open during office hours and at other times by arrangement with the Librarian.

The Club acts as the coordinating body for ornithological recording in Scotland, appoints local recorders, and in addition to the *Scottish Bird Report*, publishes a number of Local Bird Reports via the branch network. A comprehensive stock of local bird reports is held at headquarters and may be purchased by mail order.

**SOC annual membership subscription rates**

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult | £18.00 |
| Family (wife,husband & children under 18) | £27.00 |
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| Pensioner Family | £14.50 |
| Life | £360.00 |
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All subscriptions may be paid by Banker's Order and Covenanted if desired. Subscriptions paid this way will greatly assist the Club.

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# SCOTTISH BIRD REPORT 1995

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Number 28
July 1997

Edited by Ray Murray
4 Bellfield Crescent, Eddleston
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assisted by
David Kelly

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Number 28, July 1997

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***Bearded Tit***
***Steven Brown***

## Editorial

Changes in personnel amongst the Local Recorders, allied to the alteration of the Scottish local authority boundaries, has resulted in a number of changes to the boundaries of local bird report areas. These are listed at the end of the *1995 Scottish Bird Report*. The important changes that affect this Report are that Sutherland is now dealt with by the *Highland Bird Report* and that the former Central Region is referred to as Forth. There is now also a comprehensive report from Clyde Islands that appears in *Clyde Birds*. Recent changes that have an impact on future observers concern the amalgamation of the two recording areas in the Outer Hebrides into a single recording area.

A change in the policy of the SOC Editorial Committee means that in the future notes dealing with major changes to the status of birds in Scotland will be published in the *Scottish Bird Report* rather than *Scottish Birds*. Accordingly, accounts of the first occurrence or the first breeding of a species in Scotland will appear in the *Scottish Bird Report* (except when the record is also a first record for the British Isles when it appears in *British Birds*). Such notes will hopefully appear in the issue of the *SBR* dealing with the year concerned. In addition any short papers reviewing the status of a species in Scotland, such as Alan Vittery's paper on Firecrest in this issue, will be considered by the *Scottish Bird Report*.

Once again artwork from Scottish local bird reports features in the SBR. The standard is high and it is my hope that the SBR will become a showcase for the best vignettes and that the artists will receive due recognition. I have also indicated wherever possible that Scottish local bird reports contain useful, as well as interesting, articles to advance our knowledge of Scottish ornithology.

With a relatively quiet spring and autumn there were no first records for Scotland in 1995. However the year did bring the second **Olivaceous Warbler** and second **Hermit Thrush**, both to Fair Isle. Fair Isle also managed yet another first for Scotland in the form of **Blyth's Pipit** from 1993, the interval having been spent in lengthy deliberations by the British Birds Rarities Committee on this difficult species. Fair Isle however does not hold a monopoly on rarities as Orkney managed Scotland's third **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and St.Kilda, the fourth **Tennessee Warbler**. The winter period was notable however with an invasion of both **Mealy Redpolls** and **Arctic Redpolls**.

On the breeding front, **Green Sandpipers** attempted to nest for only the second occasion and there were one or more attempts by **Bluethroats**. While a **Pallid Harrier** was seen displaying to a **Hen Harrier** in 1993, a male Pallid actually bred with a female Hen Harrier in Orkney in 1995, albeit unsuccessfully. Another 'event' was the first breeding of native-born **Red Kites** since the introduction scheme started in the late 1980s. The colonisation of **Nuthatch** appears to be gathering momentum, as does the disappearence of **Corn Bunting**.

From the historical archives comes official notification of the first breeding of **Bearded Tits** in Scotland during 1991 at an undisclosed location. It is believed that they have bred in each year since then. Another archival record, concerning birds that were no doubt released or escaped, is the breeding of a pair of **Eagle Owls** in Moray and Nairn in 198485. Unfortunately, like the Fetlar Snowy Owls, the male was killed just as things were getting interesting and the lone female has apparently tried to breed each year since.

Ray Murray, July 1997.

**Introduction**

This is the 28th Scottish Bird Report to be published by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club. It covers the whole country and was compiled from material published in local area reports. It is on these local area reports that the SBR is based. We have reports from all areas for 1995. Local areas are named and mapped on the inside back cover of the SBR with a full list of the recorders and the areas they cover.

It must be emphasised that I can only publish what is submitted to the local recorders and appears in the local area reports. ***Accounts for any area are what has been observed, and reported, in that year, not a summary of what is actually there !*** They are, in effect, samples, some of which are more comprehensive than others.

As a summary it is felt appropriate to abbreviate the area names as much as possible. Many of the recording areas are referred to by the briefest abbreviation possible for comprehension. These are listed, along with an area map, at the back of the SBR. Other abbreviations used are listed below. All sites names are followed by the recording areabbreviation the first time they appear in any species account, but not subsequently.

Only selected records are given. Precedence is given to peak counts, details concerning breeding populations and migration patterns. All national rarities and semi-rarities are included where the BBRC, the SBRC or local records committee have vetted the description. Any records still pending will be added to future reports.

If more details are required on any records published here, the first source should be the Local Bird Report and then the Local Recorder. Minor mistakes have occurred in the past in the details of dates and with the spelling of names. While every effort is made to ensure these do not occur, minor mistakes will not be corrected in future editions of the SBR. The precise details of records and corroboration of records should always be made via the local area bird report.

The sequence and scientific names in the species list follow the Voous sequence. (See Voous, K.H. 1973-1977. *List of Holarctic Bird Species*. **Ibis** 115: 612-638 & 119: 223-250.)

Data from the British Trust for Ornithology Common Bird Census (***CBC***), Waterbirds Survey (***WBS***) and the Constant Effort Sites scheme (***CES***) are presented as the indices for the year concerned in the form of a percentage change ( + or -) from the level of the previous year. In the ***CBC*** there are separate indices for woodland (W) and farmland (F) or where the sample is too small to be valid, all (A) data are used. The ***CES*** gives some indication of the changes in the numbers of adults and young trapped in each year. Data is taken from the indices published in *B.T.O. News* .

The Wetland Birds Survey data (***WeBS***) for waterfowl and waders is presented mostly as stacked histograms showing the birds counted in each month of the year at the major estuaries. Counts are grouped by the ***WeBS*** from more than 20 counting areas but data have been clumped to represent the five major coastal areas of Scotland;

**Forth** Tyninghame & Forth.

**Tay & NE** Eden, Tay, Montrose Basin, Dee, Don, Ythan.

**Moray** Spey, Inner Moray Forth, Cromarty Firth, Dornoch Firth, Loch Fleet (occasionally called Highland Firths).

**Clyde** Inner Clyde, Irvine, Loch Ryan.

**Solway** Luce Bay, Wigtown Bay, Fleet Bay, Kirkcudbright Bay, Auchencairn Bay, Rough Firth, Solway.

Like most of the records in the *SBR*, the ***WeBS*** figures cannot tell the whole story. Some counts at some estuaries are more complete than others, some counts were conducted on different days within a month and in others no count was conducted at all in certain months. They should be treated, as should all the records in the *SBR*, as samples ( albeit more comprehensive) representing what occurred at the time.

Two conventions are used to indicate breeding success: **MBS** - mean brood size, is used when the data comprises counts of broods, the MBS calculated by dividing the number of young by the number of broods; **MBP** - mean breeding production, is used when the breeding population is known, the number of young being divided by the number of pairs attempting to breed. MBP includes pairs that were unsuccessful and so will almost always have a lower value than MBP which only counts successful outcomes.

**Abbreviations**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| * | Description required | br2 | brood of two young, etc. | max | maximum, minimum etc. |
| m,mm | male (s) | MCS | mean clutch size | /hr | hourly rate for passage |
| f,ff | female (s) | MBS | mean brood size | RSG | Raptor Study Group |
| pr(s) | pairs (s) | MBP | mean breeding production | m, Km | metres, kilometres. |
| (34) | equivalent figure for previous year | juv | juvenile | $Km^2$ | square kilometres |
| | | imm | immature | Res | Reservoir |
| AON | apparently occupied nest | 1st-w | first-winter plumage, etc. | Pt | Point |
| AOT | apparently occupied territory | 1st-s | first-summer plumage, etc. | L./P. | Loch, Lake/ Pond |
| c/2 | clutch of two eggs, etc. | N,SE | flight direction | R. | River or Reservoir |

**Notice to Contributors**

All records should be sent directly to the appropriate SOC Local Recorder. They should be on one side of a sheet of paper only, and if possible in the Voous order (as in this report). Some Local Recorders can cope with computer-based data and welcome material on a floppy disc (always accompanied by hard-copy). You should ask the Local Recorder concerned for the particular arrangements if this option is available.

Observers are directed to the Local Bird Reports for the type of information required. All notes for the previous year should be sent in promptly to Recorders by the end of January, but more frequent submissions are welcome. Monthly or quarterly submission spreads the workload of the Recorder.

**Acknowledgements**

I was assisted in the compilation of the 1995 Scottish Bird Report by **David Kelly** (flycatchers to buntings). **Iain Roberts** and **James Coyle** assisted by proof-reading a considerable section of the Report, finding numerous typographic and grammatical errors. Their help has been greatly appreciated. **Mark Holling**, **Harry Scott** of Pica Design and the SOC Editorial Committee have also assisted in various ways in preparing the SBR.

**I would still like to appeal for any help in the compilation of the SBR. The deadline for publication is increasingly hard to meet and spreading out the workload by having several compilers of smaller portions of the sytematic list seems a solution. Please write if you feel you could assist.**

The artists that donated artwork to the SBR are thanked: **Brent Hurley**, **Andrew Stevenson** & **Steven Brown**.

The **Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust**, especially **Mark Pollit**, is thanked for making the waterfowl data from Wetlands Birds Survey results available to the SBR. **Kate Thompson** is thanked for forwarding materials published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee on seabird populations, **Tim Stowe** passed on the newsletters for White-tailed Eagle and Corncrake while **Lorcan O'Toole** forwarded the *Red Kite Newsletters*.

I would like to thank all of the Local Recorders and Bird Report Editors involved in producing the local area reports throughout Scotland that form the basis of the SBR. This is the bedrock on which Scottish ornithology stands at present. Please support them by not only contibuting records but by buying your local (and perhaps neighbouring!) area reports. Anyone who contributed any record to Scottish Recorders in 1995 is thanked for their help in building up a picture of Scotland 's birds for that year. So please keep your records coming.

There has been more than the usual number of changes amongst the Local Recorders. **Peter Cunningham** stands down as the Local Recorder for Lewis & Harris and formerly all of the Outer Hebrides, one of the longest-serving Recorders in Britain, having served in the Hebrides since 1968 when the Scottish network was initially formalised. **Eric Maughan** in Caithness (1986), **Tim Dix** in the Uists and Benbecula (1988), **Ken Bruce** in Dumfries (1989) and **Dr. Tristan ap Rheinallt** in Argyll (1992) have also decided to stand down. They are congratulated for their service over the years and their dedication in processing an endless stream of records . Their replacements: **Brian Rabbitts**, **Paul Miller**, **Steve Cooper** & **Paul Daw** are welcomed to the fray.

**Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report Award**

Working on the Scottish Bird Report gives both the editor and compliers a chance to see the broad range of artwork used in Scottish reports. These range from simple sketched drawings to complex, feather-by-feather scraper-board illustrations. Last year the SOC Council decided to make an award for the best vignettes that grace the pages of Scottish bird reports. A short-list of 12 illustrations was made by the Editor that were then voted on by the members of the SOC Editoral Committee. All short-listed artwork appears in the 1995 Scottish Bird Report.

The three winning artists were **Peter Donnelly**, **Brent Hurley** and **Andrew Stevenson** but material by **Steven Brown**, **Margaret Staley** and **James P. Smith** was also short-listed. The fact that the short-leet of 12 vignettes were drawn by only six artists tells us a little about their willingness to supply artwork to local bird reports but also that there are not enough people offering their work to the editors of their local bird report. All editors are desperate to get their hands on artwork and would be grateful to hear from anyone with material for publication.

If you have admired any of the artwork shown in the SBR ,or any local area report ,the artists are usually only too willing to sell their material or to receive a commission to draw specific birds. Please contact : Peter J. Donnelly at "Purtiback", North Ronaldsay, Orkney; Steven Brown at 118 Leadside Crescent, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 0NT; Andrew Stevenson at 5 Craigie Way, Ayr, Ayshire KA8 0HG; James P.Smith at 157 Standon Road, Wincobak Sheffield S9 1PH; Brent Hurley at 30 Crosswood Crescrent, Balerno, Midlothian; and Margaret Staley at Lincluden, Shore Road, Blairmore, Dunoon, Argyll.

## The Scottish Birds Records Committee

The *Scottish Birds Records Committee* was set up by the SOC in 1984 to consider records of species not rare enough in Britain to be dealt with by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*, but which were rare in Scotland.

The Committee examined 102 records for 1995, 84 were accepted and 15were found to be unacceptable (in most cases they were considered *possible but not proven).* 3 records remain pending.

A three-tier system of ajudication on records now exists in Scotland (BBRC being responsible from british rarities, SBRC for Scottish rare birds and local records committees for lesser rarities and local rarities). In addition to BBRC's list of British rarities, there are a number of species which are rare in Scotland and all records of species appearing on the SBRC's List require to be substantiated by the acceptance of a written description. Records of species appearing on the SBRC List are not being published in the Scottish Bird Report unless they have been assessed and accepted by either SBRC or one of the local committees.

The SBRC List is unaltered for 1997, having remained in its present form since 1994. A review of the current list is taking place with the intention that a few minor changes are likely to take effect from 1998.
Many species which might be common in some areas are rare elsewhere in Scotland and local committees are now examining records of species which are rare within their local area (e.g. Marsh Tit anywhere outwith Borders). Local Recorders can usually supply a list of additional local species requiring descriptions for their recording areas.

In addition to being Secretary of SBRC, Ron Forrster has been a voting member since his election in 1987. In 1996 he became the non-voting Secretary, with Ian Andrews joining the committee as a voting member.

The present Committee consists of Ken Shaw (Chairman), Eric Meek, Peter Gordon, Kevin Osborn, Dave Clugston, Bruce Forrester, Ian Andrews and Ron Forrester (Secretary).
All records should be sent to the SBRC via the Local Recorder who should forward correspondence to Ron Forrester, Secretary SBRC, 31 Argyle Terrace, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, PA20 0BD.

### S.B.R.C. List 1997

All the species listed below require to be vetted either by the Scottish Birds Records Committee or one of the local area records committees that now cover most of Scotland. If a record comes from an area without a committee, the Local Recorder will forward the description to the SBRC. Descriptions, including those required for the BBRC, should be sent to the area Local Recorder who will then forward it to the appropriate body for vetting.
**Note that in the species text of the Scottish Bird Report, all species with names prefixed by an asterisk require a description of some sort to be forwarded to the appropriate Local Recorder.**

CORY'S SHEARWATER
GREAT SHEARWATER
MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER
LITTLE EGRET
PURPLE HERON
WHITE STORK
SPOONBILL
GREEN-WINGED TEAL
RING-NECKED DUCK
FERRUGINOUS DUCK
SURF SCOTER
HONEY BUZZARD
MONTAGU'S HARRIER
ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD
HOBBY
CRANE
STONE CURLEW
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER
KENTISH PLOVER
PECTORAL SANDPIPER
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER
MEDITERRANEAN GULL
SABINE'S GULL
RING-BILLED GULL
HERRING GULL yellow-legged races *michahellis & cachinnans*
BEE-EATER
LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER
SHORT-TOED LARK
WOODLARK
RICHARD'S PIPIT
TAWNY PIPIT
WATER PIPIT
NIGHTINGALE
CETTI'S WARBLER
SAVI'S WARBLER
AQUATIC WARBLER
MARSH WARBLER
ICTERINE WARBLER*
MELODIOUS WARBLER
DARTFORD WARBLER
BARRED WARBLER*
PALLAS'S WARBLER
FIRECREST
RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER*
BEARDED TIT
WOODCHAT SHRIKE
SERIN
COMMON ROSEFINCH*
CIRL BUNTING
ORTOLAN BUNTING*
LITTLE BUNTING

* Records in Orkney & Shetland can be accepted at at local committees discretion without a full written description

## Species List for 1995

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

Max counts: 120 Chanonry Pt. **H**, 83 Clyde Est. **Clyde**, 56 Tentsmuir **F**, 30 Rockcliffe **D&G**, 31 Inverkeithing **F** in Jan; 59 Troon **Ayr**, 55 S.Forth **L** & 54 Brora **H** in Feb; 124 Largo **F**, 69 Aberlady-Gullane **L**, 60 Lunan Bay **A&D**, 33 Cloch Pt. **Clyde** in Mar; 80 Ardmore Pt. **Clyde**, 67 L.Ryan **D&G** & 50 Avoch **H** in Apr.

Best counts were 348 Blackdog-Balgownie **NE** 6 May, 640 Blackdog-Donmouth **NE** 20 May. Diver *sp.* seen Chanonry Pt. with 344E 28 Jan & 332E on 29 Jan.

Breeding: ***Shet*** *a 3% decrease in the numbers of pairs at monitored sites. Success was much better with a MBP of 0.71 despite considerable variation between study areas (0.44-1.5);* ***Ork*** *success was moderate with a MBP of 0.51 with 49 young reared from 97 sites (57 failed). While productivity was higher on Hoy, success was poor on Mainland and a total failure on Rousay .*

**Based on Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1995 and local reports.**

**Caith** at least 5prs were robbed; **High** 9prs in 5 areas, 3prs Handa raised 5 young, 3prs Eigg reared 6 young; **M&N** only single summered; **P&K** present 2 sites; **Forth** single prs noted at 6 sites, 1 failed attempt; **Arg** total of 40prs raised 18 young with 15prs in Kintyre & Knapdale managing only 6 broods; **Clyde** 2prs at 3 sites, both attempts failed. Odd singles and pair seen on inland waters in NE and A&D during May-Jun.

Unremarkable passage **Arg** in Aug-Sep: 74S in 376hrs Machrihanish & 85S in 57hrs Frenchman's Rocks,Islay; 61S Rubha Ardvule **OH** on 8 dates 23 Sep-11 Oct; 38S/ 2hrs Fife Ness **F** 16 Sep; 15S Eyemouth **B** 7 Oct; 20W Hound Pt. **L** 12 Oct; 54S/3 hrs Troon **Ayr**28 Oct; 40N Dunbar **L** 9 Nov; 29E Chanonry Pt. 13 &17 Dec.

Winter: 105 Spey Bay **M&N**, 76 Kinshaldy **F**, 28 Sound of Gigha **Arg** in Oct; 124 Delnies **M&N** & 83 S.Forth in Nov; 31 Ardmore Pt., 27 Croy **Ayr** & 20 Embo **H** in Dec.

---

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Poorer year than usual with very few double-figure counts: max were 26 Croy-Doonfoot **Ayr** & 20 Chanonry Pt. **H** in Jan; 11 Turnberry-Finnarts **Ayr** and 8 West L.Tarbert **Arg** in Feb; in Mar; 53 Embo **H** & 23 Croy-Doonfoot in Apr.

Breeding: **High** 94prs fledged 44 young- MBS 0.47 but 33 prs using artificial sites achieved MBS 0.70, much better than the MBS 0.34 of the natural nests, chick survival was enhanced by the warm summer although water-levels were lower than usual; **M&N** pr present; **P&K** 4 sites where 3br4; **Arg** 8prs bred at 9 occupied sites, 3prs raised 3 juvs (all on rafts); **Forth** 3 sites, 2prs bred , 1 rearing 1 young; **Clyde** 1-2prs at 1 site raised 1 young, first success since 1985; **Ayr** 3 birds at 1 site, possibly bred; **D&G** singles at 2 sites.

None summered Forth, Clyde & Moray, a few in Ork. First movements early Sep in Ork & Forth. Only small numbers in N.Isles and E, mostly 1-3 birds , max 7 Brora **H** 4 Oct; 6 Anstruther **F** and 5 Fife Ness **F** 12 Nov.

High counts: 45 Sound of Gigha **Arg** in Oct; 10 Burghead Bay **M&N** and Turnberry-Finnarts in Nov; 24 Sinclair's Bay **Caith**, 20 Croy-Doonfoot, 11 L.Indaal, Islay **Arg** in Dec.

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**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

15 Ardwell **D&G** in Jan; 36 West L.Tarbert **Arg** in Feb; 57 Bring Deeps **Ork** in Mar; 157 L.Indaal, Islay **Arg** , 66 Bring Deeps, 29 Machrihanish **Arg**, 21 Quendale Bay **Shet** in Apr; with in May. Mostly 1-3 birds E. coast but 18 Sinclair's Bay **Caith** & 11 Rattray **NE** 7 May.

Summer birds: 8 Shet , 3 Ork, 2 Caith, 3 Arg and 2 Bord with singles M&N, NE & Ayr.

Build-up from Aug but main numbers from late Sep. 22(57 hrs) past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** Sep-Oct. 15 Dunnet Bay **Caith** in Oct. Few in E, mostly 1-3 birds, max 4N St.Abbs **B** 21 Sep, 9 Brora **H** 3 Nov; 3 Hound Pt. **L** 4 Nov & 2N/2S Peterhead **NE** 11 Nov.

Max 260 Sound of Gigha **Arg** & 45 Bring Deeps in Oct; 39 Whiteness-Skelda Ness **Shet** and 21 L.na Keal, Mull **Arg** in Nov; 52 Bring Deeps, 41 L.Eriboll **H**, 36 Dunnet Bay & 20 Dubh-aird **H** in Dec.

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***White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii*

1st-s Lunna **Shet** 21 Apr; ad flew past Wats Ness **Shet** on 6 May with another past there 13 May; ad Gulberwick **Shet** 7-12 May; ad Tiumpan Head, Lewis **OH** 8-9 May with 1st-s there 8 May; ad dead Sand Voe, N.Roe **Shet** 12 Jun; 1st-s Fetlar **Shet** 17 Jul-30 Sep.

*8 records with a definite influx in May.*

Skin of N.Roe bird now in National Museum: NMS1996.75

**[1994]** 1 Gruinard Bay **H** 1Feb-1 May; 1 Findhorn Bay **M&N** 27 May.

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**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Coastal wintering at Clyde Est. **Clyde** where 11-12 in Jan-Feb & 8-9 R.Leven at Dumbarton **Clyde** Feb-Mar; 1-2 at 4 sites Loth coast **L**; 8 L Etive **Arg** & 6 Ness Mouth **H** in Jan. 1-4 at 12 sites **Ork**.

Inland wintering with 46 on R. Clyde **Clyde** 7 Jan (with 26 at Lamington & 13 at Thankerton); *c*13 at 4 sites R.Tweed **B** in Jan. 10 Martnaham L. **Ayr** in Jan and 9 L.Ken **D&G** in Feb.

Early return from early Feb in S, Mar-Apr in N.

| Breeding: | Sites | Pairs | Broods | Young | MBS | MBP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ork** | 3 | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| **Caith** | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 1.00 |
| **Highland** | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | - | - |
| **M&N** | 18 | 18 | 11+ | - | - | - |
| **NE** | 8 | >8 | + | 9 | - | 1.10 |
| **P&K** | 16 | - | - | - | - | - |
| **A&D** | 13 | > | - | - | - | - |
| **Fife** | 22 | 31 | + | 88 | - | 2.84 |
| **Forth** | 12 | 8 | - | 8 | - | 1.33 |
| **Lothian** | 10 | 27 | 19 | - | - | - |
| **Borders** | 22 | 24 | 12 | 28 | 2.33 | 1.33 |
| **Argyll** | 21 | 23 | 2 | + | - | - |
| **Clyde** | 46 | 83 | >31 | 91 | 1.50 | - |
| **Ayr** | 32 | 45 | >14 | 42 | - | - |

Double-brooded pairs noted Highland, Fife, Loth, Bord, Clyde & Ayr, possibly in Caith.

1 Giant's Footsteps, Eigg **H** in Jul was first on island since 1964.

Autumn assemblies: 25 Bavelaw **L** & 20 L. Flemington **M&N** in Aug; 43 Hogganfield L. **Clyde** , 21 Folly L. **B** & 27 Antermony L. **Clyde** in Sep; 52 Kilconquhar L. **F**, 44 Cameron Res. **F** & 25 Linlithgow L. **L** in Oct.

29 Bogside **Ayr**, 15 R.Leven at Dumbarton, 12 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** and 10 Tweed Haughs in Dec.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Fewer in Forth than usual : 78 S.Forth **L**, 29 Kinneil **Forth**, 19 Largo Bay F in Jan; 263 Silverknowes **L** & 18 Torrey Bay F in Feb; 144 Silverknowes in Mar.

Elsewhere: 65 Ardmore Pt. **Clyde** & 40 Carnoustie Bay **A&D** in Jan; 51 Clyde Est. **Clyde** & 8 Barassie **Ayr** in Feb; and 19 St.Andrews Bay **F** in Mar.

Singles L.Sarclet **Caith**, Leverburgh, Harris **OH** in Jan and 1 Weisdale Voe **Shet** in Feb, where birds are scarce.

31 Tyninghame **L** 28 Jun was unusual for summer.

Breeding:

| | Sites | Pairs | Broods | Young | MBS | MBP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **M&N** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| **NE Scot** | 3 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2.00 | 1.50 |
| **A&D** | 6 | *c*21 | 3 | 5 | 1.67 | 0.23 |
| **P&K** | 3 | >3 | 3 | ? | ? | ? |
| **Fife** | 7 | 32 | 19 | 22 | 1.16 | 0.69 |
| **Forth** | 10 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 2.00 | 0.31 |
| **Loth** | 9 | 18 | 3 | >1 | - | - |
| **Bord** | 7 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1.00 | 0.40 |
| **Clyde** | 21 | 40 | *c*12 | 18 | 1.50 | 0.45 |
| **Ayr** | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 0.13 |
| **D&G** | 6 | 15 | 4 | 6 | 1.50 | 0.40 |
| **Totals** | **79** | **160** | **52** | **65+** | | |

58 Musselburgh **L** in Jul; 242 Loth coast, 115 Clyde Est., 40 Kinneil and 33 Lunan Bay **A&D** in Aug; 336 L.Ryan **D&G**, 108 Clyde Est., 67 Kinneil, 26 Largo Bay in Sep; 329 Loth coast, 300 L.Ryan & 210 L.Leven **P&K** in Oct; 203 Loth coast, 195 L.Leven, 59 Clyde Est. & 55 Kinneil in Dec.

Singles Scrabster **Caith**, Weddel Sound, Burray **Ork** & Balgarva, S.Uist **OH** in Dec.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

Mostly singles on sea Jan-May in Shet (4),High (2), M&N (3), Bord & Clyde (2); but main population in Forth.

| Sites | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Largo Bay **F** | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Mus'burgh **L** | 7 | 8 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| Gosford **L** | 42 | 18 | 10 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 37 | 28 | 16 | 14 | 8 |
| Gullane **L** | 1 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 |

Jan-Apr max: 42 Gosford 25 Feb. 1-2 at 3 other Fife sites. Fresh-water: singles Lochwinnoch **Clyde** 14 Mar, L.of Harray **Ork** 17 Mar & Dee at Crossmichael **D&G** 29 Apr.

Juv seen Cameron Res. **F** 16-19 Jul with a pair there on 29-30 Jul but no suggestion of local breeding. Pr present on water in **P&K** 3 Jun but no evidence of breeding. Usual pair summered **Bord** 14 Mar-2 Jul but once again no proof of breeding other than building an especially large nest in early Jun.

Passage Sep /Oct seen Shet , M&N (2), Fife (2), Bord (2) and D&G (2). Otherwise mostly 1-2 winter birds in Shet , M&N, Fife (5), Ayr and D&G (2). Best counts were 37 Gosford 17 Aug and 3 Kinghorn **F** 15 Nov.

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

| Sites | J | F | M | A | M | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tresta Voe **Shet** | 15 | 30 | 23 | 47 | | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| L. of Harray **Ork** | 6 | 36 | 23 | - | - | - | - | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| Echnaloch **Ork** | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 12 | 24 | 16 |
| Burghead **M&N** | 3 | 2 | 4 | - | - | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| Largo Bay **F** | - | 10 | 10 | 11 | - | - | - | 10 | 4 | 7 |
| Kinshaldy **F** | 16 | - | 11 | 10 | - | - | 12 | 16 | - | 6 |
| Ardmore Pt.**Cly** | 13 | 26 | - | 12 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 12 |
| Gosford B. **L** | 41 | 44 | 27 | 18 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 30 | 26 |
| Musselburg **L** | 12 | 25 | 29 | 23 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 29 | 23 |

Also 12 L.Ryan **D&G** in Jan; 20 L.Indaal, Islay **Arg** in Feb; 46 Dornoch **H** in Apr.

Breeding: **High** 52prs were present on 24 lochs, an increase from the low 45prs in 1994 (66 in '93), a high 44 young were reared (24 in 1993&94), MBP 0.54. L.Ruthven was the main site with 12prs, pr bred in E.Ross for first time ; **M&N** 13prs (11) at 4 sites, *c*6prs raised 12 young; **P&K** present 3 sites but pair at L.of Lowes on just one date.

32 L.Ashie **H** in Sep; 16 L.Ryan & 9 N.Bay, Hoy **Ork** in Oct; 25 L.Indaal, Islay in Nov; 27 L.Eriboll **H** and 25 L.Ryan in Dec.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

2 L.Ryan **D&G** Jan-Feb, 1-2 Ruddon's Pt. **F** and singles Foveran Burn, Newburgh **NE**, Bridge of Dee **NE**,Musselburgh **L** and Portobello **L** were the only Jan-Mar records.

Breeding: **A&D** 8prs (10) bred L.of Kinnordy, most nests predated by Stoat , despite re-lays only 1pr reared 1 young, birds first returned 25 Mar-last seen 7 Aug **P&K** pr at one site did not breed, 3 ads another site

reared 1 young; **Bord** 2 sites (1 new), 6 May-6 Aug , where single pairs reared single young; **D&G** bird summered at 1993 breeding site, also 1 L.Ken 28 Apr. 4-5 L.Ryan, 1 Lochend L.-Hogganfield L. **Clyde** & 1 Woodend L. **Clyde** in Sep; 4 L.Ryan, 2 Goosepools **F**, 1 Largo Bay **F** & 1 Glenkiln Res. **D&G** 5 L.Ryan in Dec.

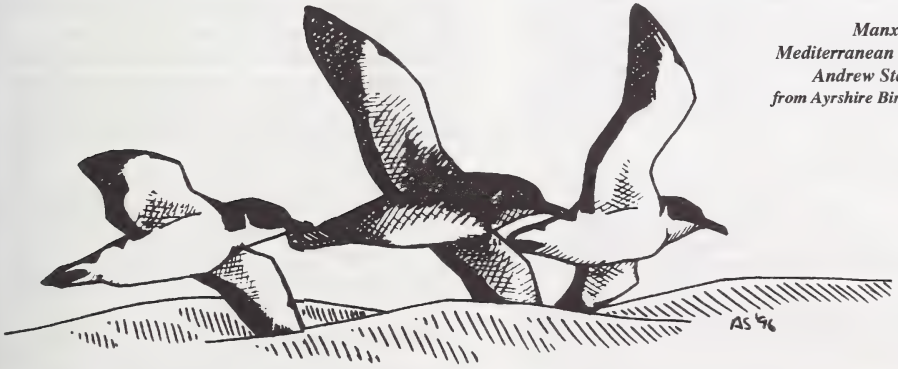
***Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris*
"Albert" returned to Hermaness **Shet** 3 Apr and was seen there to at least 7 Jul.
1 off Hoy **Ork** from *MV St.Ola* on 4 Sep was not specifically identified.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*
Breeding: *Numbers of occupied sites increased in all monitored areas with a 21% increase in NW , 12% in SE and 9% in Shet. Forth sites increased except at St.Abbs* ***B*** *where numbers were stable. Counts in NE showed the equivalent of 11%/annum increases since last counts in 1986 (+170%). Breeding success was slightly lower than in 1994 at MBP 0.41 nationally (0.48 in '94) with a significant decrease in NW. Productivity was highest on Alisa Craig at 0.79. The warm summer may have led to signifiant losses of chicks due to heat stress at colonies on Alisa Craig* ***Ayr*** *, the* ***Is of May*** *and in Orkney.* **Thompson *et al* JNCC 1996.**
1,760 sites on Forth islands (no count Bass Rock). Record 200prs Eigg **H** & 653 AOS Canna **H**.
Inland breeding: **High** 100+ Scart Ledge, Brora; **Fife** 65 prs at 2 sites reared 8 young; **Loth** declining to 43 AONs at 3 sites and managed only 2 young. Other inland birds; 1 Duns **B** 24 Apr, L.Arkaig **H** 4 Jun and singles Vane Farm **P&K** in Feb and Apr.
Few large passage counts: 2,200/hr Brough of Birsay **Ork** 1st Apr; 2,100N on 8 Jun & 4,700N Peterhead **NE** there 10 Jun; 2,532S (6hrs) Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** 25 Aug; *c*20,000E Strathy Pt. **H** 27 Aug; 1,762/hr N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 3rd Nov.
Blue' phase birds, mostly singles, reported: Shet (9), Fair Is , Ork , Caith (5), High (11), NE (5) & Fife (4), max 8 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 30 Sep and 7 Fair Is 24 Oct.
1 'blue' on ledge R.Brora **H** 26 Feb, for 4th year.

***Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*
Singles Fife Ness **F** 24 Jul; Girdleness NE 8 & 9 Aug; Collieston NE 11 Aug; Girdleness 15 & 21 Aug; Fariad Head **H** 25 Aug; Fife Ness **F** 2 Sep; Girdleness 3 Sep; & N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 24 Sep.

***Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*
1 35mls NW of Ramna Stacks **Shet** 5 Aug; 1 Faraid Head **H** 25 Aug; 1 Girdleness **NE** 27 Aug with another there 29 Aug; 1 found dead in sprat nets L.na Keal, Mull **Arg** 9 Nov.
Skin of Mull bird now at National Museum of Scotland, NMS 1996.44. Photo of Shetland bird: *Birding World* 8: 285.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*
4N Eyemouth **B** 8 Jul, 1 Brora **H** 11 Jul & 1 Machrihanish **Arg** 16 Jul; 1 Chanonry Pt. **H** 20 Jul, 1-3 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, North & South Head **Caith**, Eyemouth, Elie **F** and Fishtown of Usan **A&D** 24-27Jul were early. Only a handful of birds seen over next 3 weeks. Small numbers around N.Isles and Minch from 17 Aug but main movement 25-29 Aug when 104 Faraid Head **H** (3hrs), 40/hr N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 12N Barns Ness **L**, 6N/1S St.Abbs **B**, 26 Fife Ness, 3 Larne Ferry **D&G**, 8 Lossiemouth **M&N** & 29/hr N.Ronaldsay. 12 Forth from *MV Gardyloo* 30 Aug; 14 South Head 3 Sep; 15 Hound Pt. **L** 7 Sep.
Numbers generally poor along E coast and in SW - "a fairly lean year" - only slightly better N. Isles where max 10 **Fair Is** 25 Sep, max 7 Sumburgh **Shet** 7 Oct. Best sequences of records from Ork , High & Arg where 17 Brough of Birsay **Ork** 16 Sep; 54 N.Ronaldsay on 21 Sep and 122 there 11 Oct; 19 Strathy Pt. **H** 24 Sep; 28 Brora 4 Oct with 46 there 24 Oct. 152 seen Aug/Sep at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory and 231 at Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg**, max 102 on 15 Sep. Most Arg birds were moving S.
Most last records in late Sep but last from *MV Gardyloo* 19 Sep, 2 North Ronaldsay 25 Oct, 2N South Head & 7 Brora on 11 Nov with last 2 Brora 26 Nov.




***Manx & Mediterranean Shearwaters***
***Andrew Stevenson***
***from Ayrshire Bird Report 1995***

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*
Singles Bracken Bay **Ayr** and Fishtown of Usan **A&D** 21 Jan; 1S Machrihanish **Arg** 24 Mar. Otherwise mostly Jun on SW and E coasts.
Breeding: *Counts at Lunga, Treshnish Is, Mull* **Arg** *(200-250prs), Eigg* **H** *(300-350prs) and Sanda Arg (150-220prs) were similar to recent estimates. Occupancy continued low at the Canna* **H** *study site with only 40% of burrows occupied. Productivity was poor with MBP of 0.25 (0.75 in 1994), rat predation was evident. Rum* **H** *showed better success with 83% of sampled burrows that held eggs in May having chicks in Aug. An MBP of 0.84 was considered high.*
**Thompson *et al* JNCC 1996.**
**Shet** 9 burrows Fetlar with 8 chicks noted, 11 burrows Wick of Tresta; **Ork** 25-30 calling birds at one colony; **High** 300-350prs Ben Bhuide, Eigg.
*Regular on passage from mid-Jun on N.Sea coasts and mid-Jul in W with peak passage in Jul-Aug in the E and Aug-Sep in the W.*
On the N& E coasts: 317(2hrs) Elie Ness **F**, 900E Fife Ness **F**, 174/hr Brora **H** and 50 North Head **Caith** 8 Jul; 56N (hr) Fishtown of Usan 10 Jul; 223 (2hrs) Methil **F** on 11 Jul; 68N Eyemouth **B** 15 Jul; 300E Elie Ness 25 Jul; 528 (3hrs) Faraid Head **H** 25 Aug; 101N Eyemouth & 65 Delnies **M&N** 26 Aug; 105 Strathy Pt. **H** & 63W (2hrs) Lossiemouth **M&N** 27 Aug; 133N Fife Ness 29 Aug; 225 Hound Pt. **L** 7 Sep; 70N Eyemouth 16 Sep. Regular seawatching at Barns Ness **L** revealed 611N/62S (62hrs) Jun-Sep, max 430 in Jul, peak 281N on 9 Jul.
Mean rate past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** of 340/hr in Aug (336 in '94 & 234 in '93) with 169/hr in Sep (100 in '94 and 44 in '93).
On W coast: 3000 Troon **Ayr** 22 Jul; 2-3,000 Rum-Eigg **H** 27 Jul; peak 2,844 (4hrs) Frenchman's Rocks 20 Aug; 1.000/hr Corsewall **D&G** 25 Aug; 5.000 Turnberry **Ayr** 27 Aug; 1.070 (5hrs) Meikle Ross **D&G** 28 Aug; 1.200N Turnberry 3 Sep; 1.000/hr Troon 7 Sep; 1,000 Corsewall 8 Sep; max 8000 Machrihanish **Arg** 12 Sep; 865NE (1hr) Rubha nan Caorach, N.Uist **OH** 13 Sep.
Unusually late Oct movements in Arg with 107S (19hrs) at Frenchman's Rocks and 212 (80hrs) at Macrihanish. Movements N.Isles were smaller, max 18 off Sumburgh **Shet** 11 Aug &150 at N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 29 Aug.
Last Shet 8 Sep, Fair Is 9 Sep; Loth & Bord 15-16 Sep; M&N, Is of May & D&G 24-26 Sep; Clyde 6 Oct; Ork & Arg 17 Oct; Caith, A&D and Fife 12 Nov.
Last 26 Maidens **Ayr** 13 Nov

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***Mediterranean Shearwater** *Puffinus yelkouan*
A series of records from Clyde suggests 1-2 birds in area in Aug/Sep & Nov: 1S Turnberry **Ayr** 23 Aug; 1S Troon **Ayr** 24 Aug, perhaps same bird there 3 Sep; 1 Dipple **Ayr** 11 Nov, perhaps same Chapeldonan **Ayr** 13 Nov with another Maidens **Ayr** 13 Nov.
19 past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** 13 Aug-5 Oct with 1 Sound of Gigha **Arg** 10 Sep and another at N end of Gigha 19 Oct.
**[1994]** 1 from *M.V Gardyloo* off Archerfield **L** 15 Sep.

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**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*
1 Chanonry Pt. **H** 13 May; 1W Lossiemouth **M&N** on 11 Jun; 4 Harris-Skye ferry **H** 15 Jun; 1 **Fair Is** 17 Jun & 1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 2 Jul were the only early reports.
Breeding: *150-220 occupied burrows Sanda were similar to recent estimates. 1000-2500 pairs present on Lunga, Treshnish Is., Mull,* **Arg**. From **Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996.**
**Shet**: numbers of chicks on Mousa in Aug suggested a good breeding season; **Ork** bred Auskerry, Holm of Papa Westray and Sule Skerry; **High** 163-230 AOS Eilean nan Ron, 56-79 AOS Eilean Hoan, 4-7 AOS Rabbit Is.; **Arg** 6 nests found Lunga.
Passage birds from early Jul in Ork, Fife, Loth, Bord & Ayr.
Lower numbers present at trapping sites than usual with only (!) 1,152 birds ringed at Fair Is, 106 Noss Head **Caith**, 2 Kingston **M&N**, 30 Fife Ness **F**, 5 Is of May, 26 St.Abbs **B** but 121 trapped on one night N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 16 Jul.
2 trapped Priest Is. **H** were 19 years old !
Passage low as well with max area counts of 6 Vidlin to Out Skerries **Shet** 29 Jul; 17 off Ayr **Ayr** 9 Aug with 12 there on 24 Aug; 1 Fife Ness 27 Aug; 2-3 past N.Ronaldsay on 4 dates in mid-Sep; only 10 past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** Jul-Sep, only 3 were seen in same period at Machrihanish **Arg**.
Last 2N Lothbeg Pt. **H** 12 Nov.

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**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
1 Barr L. **Clyde** 29 Apr appeared to be healthy and was the 4th Renfrew record and the only early-year report.
Breeding: ***Shet*** *20 occupied burrows at Rumna Stacks (22), another 20 burrows were vacant.*
**Thompson *et al* JNCC 1995.**
Tape-luring attracted birds at Fair Is (1), Ork (5) & Caith (2). 2-10 calling birds Sule Skerry **Ork** 29 Jun.
First passage birds Mousa Broch **Shet** 8 Jul; **Fair Is** and N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 1 Aug, Machrihanish **Arg** 12 Aug, Turnberry **Ayr** 24 Sep and Corsewall **D&G** 26 Sep.
Few birds seen, only singles Shet, Fair Is and Ork but 20S Ceann a'Mhara, Tiree **Arg** 21 Aug. 8 Ardivachar Pt. S.Uist **OH** 31 Aug with 2 there 3 Sep.
Main movement 24-27 Sep: max 7 Machrihanish and 3 Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg**, 2 Corsewall, 2 Troon **Ayr**, 2 Turnberry **Ayr** and 1 Doonfoot **Ayr**.
1 Deil's Dyke **Ayr** 1 Oct; 3 Frenchman's Rocks 3 Oct; last 8W Strathy Pt. **H** 8 Oct.

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**Gannet** *Morus bassana*

Breeding: *The census suggests a continuing increase in British & Irish gannetries of 2.5-3% per annum with the smaller colonies expanding faster than the larger ones. In Scotland only at Sule Stack* ***Ork*** *have numbers decreased. Productivity was about average at MBP 0.66-0.75 in Shet, a slight decline from 1994 (0.68-0.77), and on Ailsa Craig* ***Ayr*** *at 0.66 (0.67 in 1994).* Thompson *et al* **JNCC 1995**

Census was completed at Ailsa Craig **Ayr** (34,000 nests) and Scar Rocks **D&G** (2,000 pairs). This gives at total of 173,903 breeding pairs in Scotland in 1994-95 73% of the 236, 845 prs breeding in the British Isles.

**Source: Thompson *et al* JNCC 1996**

Max local movements: max 1,780/hr Brough of Birsay **Ork** 17 Sep; 120/hr Strathlene **M&N** 2 Sep; 250/hr Fishtown of Usan **A&D** 10 Jul; 326/hr off Fife Ness 25 Mar, with 1,151/hr there 7 Aug & 1000+/hr 21 Aug; 606/hr Eyemouth **B** 16 Apr, up to 1,203/hr on 10 Jul & 2,080/hr 4 Sep but just 6/hr by 4 Nov. 5,000 Noss Head **Caith** 5 Oct; 1,500 Brora **H** 24 Oct. 103/hr Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** in Apr but 210-270/hr Jul-Sep and 123/hr in Oct with max 94N/ 2,489S on 13 Aug; max 311/hr Cloch Pt. **Clyde** on 22 Jul.

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**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

300 L.Leven **P&K**, 293 Forth Est.**Forth**, 105 Croy-Doonfoot **Ayr**, 76 Strathclyde Park **Clyde**, 73 in Tweed census **B** in Jan; 442 L.Leven, 270 Munlochy **H**, 220 Irvine-Saltcoats **Ayr** & 108 roosted Tay Bridge **F** in Feb; 42 Douglas-Clyde **Clyde** in Mar. 185 Gullane-English border **L/B** 8 Jan. 115N Fife Ness **F** 21 Jan.

Breeding: *Recovery to 177 nests (233 in '93) in Caith after drop to 92 nests in '94; slight (6%) increase in* ***Shet*** *suggests halt or pause in long-tern decline; 491 nests in* ***Ork*** *is 14% lower than last full count in 1985 but the size of typical fluctuations in Cormorant numbers may mean this is not significant. Two Ork colonies monitored in 94&95 show an 8% increase. Further recovery in % of adults breeding in SE. Productivity at N.Sutor* ***Caith*** *was low at MBP 1.73, compared to a mean of 2.36 in 1991-94. Brood sizes in Shet were also lowest since 1986 at 2.3 compared to c3.0 in 1993/94. Two W.coast colonies at L.Fyne and Sound of Jura had in excess of 2 chicks per nest while a gull-predated neighbouring colony held only 0.76.* **Thompson *et al* JNCC 1996.**

**Shet** 215 nests; **Ork** 491 nests; **A&D** possible nesting Balgavies L.; **Loth** 475 nests on 5 islands; **Bord** 51 nests (44) with MBS 2.50 and MBP 1.60; **Arg** 82prs at 5 sites with MBS 2.2., another site possibly Mink predated; **Ayr** 140 nests (154) with MBS 2.16); **D&G** 257 nests Mochrum L (242), just 34 nests at Castle L. (291 in 94).

Winter: 124 Methil **F**, 105 Alloa **F** and 100+ Is of May in Sep; 163 Ness Mouth **H**, 122 Ayr **Ayr**, 73 Montrose Basin **A&D** in Oct; 63 L.Indaal, Islay **Arg** in Nov; 464 Clyde Est. **Clyde**, 310 L.Leven, 188 Croy-Doonfoot, 135 Kennetpans **Forth** in Dec.

See Wood (1996) *Orkney Bird Report* 1995: 63-66 for an account of an aerial survey of Orkney Cormorants in 1995.

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**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Breeding: *Populations at colonies in SE showed some recovery after the 93-94 winter wreck with a 37% increase to about a third of the pre-wreck numbers. Counts in NE indicate some effect there also with a 79% decline in some areas from the 1992 levels, about half of the 1986 population. Sample counts in Shet suggest a halt to the previous population decline. The Sumburgh population increased by 27% after the Braer disaster. In Canna numbers rose for the 2nd year after declines in 1990-93. In contrast there was a 40% decline at Sanda which may be part of a longer-term local decline. The lowest productivity was in SE with MBP 0.95 where the breeding season was protracted with 2nd broods not fledging until mid-Oct. The best productivity was on the W coast at 1.76 except where Mink may be effecting numbers. Success in Shet was variable depending on corvid predation, at 1.55-1.69 where Hoodies and Ravens did not predate but only 0.96-1.07 where they did.* **Thompson *et al* JNCC 1996.**

Fewer large counts: 266 Gullane to English border **L/B** 8 Jan; 700 Avoch Bay **H** 5 Feb; 315 N.Berwick-Peffer **L** 8 Oct; 1,000 Anstruther **F** 25 Oct, 12 Nov & 13 Dec. 1 Hirsel L. **B** 15 Oct was first inland record from area.

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**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

1 Duddingston **L** 1994-17 Mar with 2 there 28 & 30 Jan; 1 Bemersyde **B** 12 Nov; single returned Duddingston 16 Nov-1996; 1 Standingstone **D&G** 20 Dec.

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*** Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

1m Port an Eilein, Handa **H** 8 May, found dead 9 May.

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***Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

No data on Edinbugh Zoo colony. Other Loth records of birds at Balgreen, Edinburgh **L** 23 May & 23 Jun, Bavelaw **L** 9 Jun & Foxhall **L** 24 Jun, probably all originated from the Zoo.

1 juv Stair **Ayr** 3-18 Sep and possibly same bird at Drybridge **Ayr** 14-15 Dec were of uncertain origin.

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***Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

1 Rough Firth/Kippford **D&G** from 1994 to early Apr; 1 Kinnibar -Montrose Basin **A&D** 6 May; 1 Vane Farm **P&K** 7-16 May; 1 Bridgend, Islay **Arg** 27 May and presumably the same bird L.Melfort **Arg** 30 May-1 Jun; 1 Aberlady **L** 29 May, moved to Tyninghame **L** 1 Jun; 3 Caerlaverock **D&G** 31 May; the Rough Firth/Kippford bird returned 5 Oct-10 Dec; 1 L.nam Magarlan, N.Uist **OH** 9 Dec.

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***Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

1 R.Tweed at Paxton House **B** 25 May.

*1st record for Borders.*

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**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Counts: 23 L.Etive **Arg** in Mar; 52 Bogside **Ayr** in Aug; 36 Finlayson Pt. **Clyde** in Sep; 20 L.Leven **P&K** in Oct; 44 Hunterston **Ayr** in Nov; 40 Clyde Est. **Clyde** in Dec.

Breeding:

| Area | Colonies | Nests | Area | Colonies | Nests |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orkney | 1 | 8 | Forth | 2 | 31 |
| Caithness | 1 | 3 | Borders | 9 | 63 |
| Highland | 2 | 51 | Argyll | 7 | 27 |
| M & Nairn | 4 | 33 | Clyde | 9 | 98 |
| Angus& D. | 3 | 9 | Ayrshire | 18 | >101 |
| Perth & K. | 2 | 26 | D&G | 1 | 1 |
| Fife | 1 | 25 | | | |

***Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
1 juv Lochwinnoch **Clyde** 4-8 Aug.
*1st record for Renfrewshire and Clyde.*

***Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*
1 Rackwick, Hoy **Ork** 27 Jun..
*3rd record for Orkney.*

***White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*
Singles Cairn of Foreside **A&D** 24 Apr, probably same bird Careston 27 Apr & Mosstodloch **M&N** 27-28 Apr; **Fair Is** 28-29 Apr; and Northdale, Unst **Shet** 29 Apr-11 May; 1 Tain **H** 11 May; 1 Strathpeffer **H** 25 Jun.
*2 (?) individuals. 3rd records for Fair Is and Shet, last there in 1975 & 1977 respectively.*
Photo of Shetland bird: *Birding World* 8:166 & 469.

***Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
1 Musselburgh **L** 26 Nov.
*First record for Lothian.*

***Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*
1 Caerlaverock **D&G** 20 May & 11 Jul and at L.Ken **D&G** 6-7 Aug.
*Probably same bird, first record for D&G since 1976.*

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*
***CBC*** (A-2%) 211 L.of Harray **Ork**, 133 Tweed Haughs **B**, 129 Cromarty Firth **H**, 78 Lochend L. **Clyde** in Jan; 128 Ayr **Ayr** in Feb; 46 Lossiemouth **M&N** in Apr. 29% of aged flocks in Bord were juvs.
Breeding: **Territorial**

| | Pairs | Nests | Broods | Young | MBS | MBP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shetland | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2.50 | 2.50 |
| Orkney | 48 | 28 | 28 | 90 | 3.21 | 1.88 |
| Caithness | 9 | 9 | 7 | 29 | 4.14 | 3.22 |
| M & N | 13 | 10 | 10 | 24 | 2.40 | 1.85 |
| A & D | 12 | 6 | 5 | 23 | 4.60 | 1.92 |
| Fife | 21 | - | 21 | 114 | 5.43 | - |
| Forth | 8 | 7 | 6 | 29 | 4.83 | 3.62 |
| Lothian | 76 | 53 | 34 | 140 | 4.12 | 2.64 |
| Borders | 97 | 78 | 52 | 230 | 4.42 | 2.58 |
| Argyll | 41 | - | 27 | >55 | 3.67 | - |
| Clyde | 81 | ? | ? | 225 | 3.00 | 2.78 |
| Ayr | 35 | 24 | 21 | 89 | 4.24 | 2.54 |
| D&G | 15+ | ? | 6 | 15 | 2.50 | - |

Moult Flocks: 150 Hogganfield L. **Clyde**, 145 Ayr, 119 Langbank **Clyde** and 112 Linlithgow L. **L** in Jul; 270 Montrose **A&D** & 70 L.a'Phuill, Tiree **Arg** in Aug. 108 Carlingwark **D&G** in Sep; 133 L. Gelly **F** in Oct; 209 Loch of Harray in Nov; 220 Montrose, 114 Tweed Haughs, 120 St.Margarets L. **L**, 1 14 Tweed Haughs, 80 Hogganfield & 80 Bingham's P. **Clyde** in Dec.

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*
11 Ballo Res. **F** 7 Jan,10 there to 19 Feb; 4 Roxburgh Mains **B** 12 Jan; 1 Hightae L. **D&G** 20 Jan; 1 Kingholm Quay **D&G** 28 Jan; 4 L.Leven **P&K** 30 Jan; 6 Crailing **B** 16 Feb; 1 Sibster Mains area **Caith** 11 Mar-4 Apr; 11 Portnahaven, Islay **Arg** 4 Apr
First 6 L.Leven 15 Oct with max 18 in Nov & 8 there to 8 Dec; 2 Hule Moss **B** 20 Oct, 1 there to 3 Dec; 2 The Laggan **Arg** 29-30 Oct; 2 Caerlaverock **D&G** 1 Nov, max 4 there Nov & 9 in Dec; 3 Threipmuir **L** on 1 Nov, 1 to 26 Nov; 1 Brownrigg **L** 3 Nov-1 Dec; 1 Hogganfield L.**Clyde** 4 Nov; 1 Torrey Bay **F** & 17 Ballo Res. 5 Nov; 2 Rossie Bog **F** and 1 Blackstoun Farm **Clyde** 7 Nov; 1 Yonderton **Clyde** 8-26 Nov; 1 Eden Est. **F** 10 Nov; 5 West Freugh **D&G** 13 Nov-1 Dec; 1 Rutherford **B** 25 Nov; 2 Tyninghame **L** 9 & 26 Dec; 2 RoxburghMains 22-23 Dec; 2 Muir Park Res. **Clyde** 29 Nov; 12 Doonfoot **Ayr** 28 Dec; 1 Edenside **F** 31 Dec.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygus*
*Fewer large flocks, more in medium size.*
Winter herd max : 158 L.of Lintrathen **A&D** in Jan; 155 Caerlaverock**D&G** & 135 Blackstoun Farm **Clyde** in Feb; 200 Insh Marshes **H** & 163 Fearn **H** in Mar; 200 North Kilimster **Caith** in Apr were the only sites with >100 birds.
Smaller herds of 25-100 were recorded in: Shet (2), Ork (2), Caith (6), High (7), M&N, NE, A&D , P&K (3), Fife, Forth (3), Loth (2), Bord (3), Clyde (2), Ayr (3) and D&G (3).
***WeBS*** Jan counts: **Ork** 284; **Loth** 103; **Bord** 196; **Clyde** 162. Aged counts in these areas show: 23% juveniles in Ork; 27% in Bord and 16% in Ayr & Loth. Last birds Forth , Fife, Loth, A&D, P&K, Bord & Clyde 8-20 Apr; M&N, NE & Caith 13 May; Arg & Ayr 25-31 May.
Breeding: **Shet** pr raised brood; **Ork** 7 birds summered 6 sites, single bird built a nest and laid one egg; **OHeb** pr laid 6 eggs but failed; **Clyde** 2 feral pairs bred Endrick Mouth, hatched 2br5 but only 1 survived
Summering also in Caith (2-3), High (4), Fife, Forth, Bord , Arg, Ayr (2-3 at one site) and D&G .
First Sandalwood L. **H** 3 Sep; Shet 19 Sep, Caith, Clyde, NE, M&N, P&K, Ork & Fair Is on 24 -26 Sep; Loth, D&G, Ayr , Bord & Arg 28-29 Sep; A&D and Fife 2-3 Oct. Main arrival in mid-Oct in N and late Oct in S.
Monthly max include: 194 Stronsay **Ork**, 150 L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg**, 104 Merryton **Clyde** & 100 St.John's L. **Caith** in Oct; 221 L.of Strathbeg **NE**, 198 L.of Spiggie **Shet**, 180 Todholes **Caith**, 165 Blackstoun Farm,

119 Ardivachar Pt, S.Uist **OH** in Nov; 198 Caerlaverock **D&G** and 110 Bemersyde **B** in Dec.
Area ***WeBS*** peaks include 320 in Shet & 318 in Clyde in Nov; 198 in Bord & 189 in D&G in Dec.
Breeding success (%juv/adult): Shet 19%, Bord 18%, Clyde & Ayr 16%.

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**Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*
**Taiga Bean Goose** *A.f.fabilis*
C. Scotland: Peak 132 at Slamannan **Forth** 10 Jan and 127 Fannyside L **Clyde** 1 Jan-2 Feb. Only 27 on 2 Mar. 8W Hound Pt. **L** 28 Sep then first 15 Carron Valley Res.**Forth/Clyde** 30 Sep with 33 on 8 Oct; 44 L.Ellrig **Forth** 14 Oct; gradual build-up to 76 Garbethill Muir **Clyde** by 8 Nov. No Dec counts.
*This flock forms 22% of the UK wintering population.*
*Fewer than usual elsewhere*: 2 L. of Boardhouse **Ork** 23 Jan; 2 L.Ken **D&G** 7 Feb; singles Vane Farm **P&K** 25-26 Apr, 5 May and 9-17 May.
Singles N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 12 Oct; L.of Swannay **Ork** 20 Oct; **Fair Is** 6-21 Dec; & Ruthwell **D&G** 30 Dec.
**Tundra Bean Goose** *A.f.rossicus (serrirostris)*
1 Morayhill **H** 19 Feb resembled this population.

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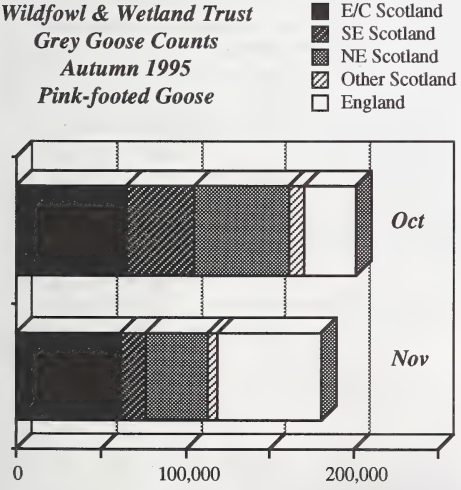
***Wildfowl & Wetland Trust***
***Grey Goose Counts***
***Autumn 1995***
***Pink-footed Goose***




**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrynchus*
Peaks away from main resorts: 7,780 Blairdrummond **Forth**, 5,000 The Meetings **Clyde** & 2,700 Miltonhill **M&N** in Jan; 2,500 Auchorn **Caith** & 2,500 Bavelaw **L** in Feb; 5,000 Tomhommie **M&N** , 3,200 Miltonhill & 2,600 Beauly Firth **H** in Mar; 5,816 Udale Bay **H** , 3,000 Morayhill **H** and 3,000 Alloa Inch **Forth** in Apr.
Last records mostly Apr but Arg & Ayr 3-4 May; Fife, Forth & NE 11-14 May; M&N, Ork & Bord 15-18 May; Clyde &Shet 28-30 May; High 10 Jun.
Pricked or feral birds noted: A&D (5), Fife, Loth(4), Bord and D&G.
First 10 Strathbeg **NE** 2 Sep; then A&D 4 Sep; Ork, Fife, Loth & Bord 16-17 Sep; M&N, Shet, Fair Is, High and D&G 18-19Sep; Arg, P&K, Forth, Clyde and Ayr 23-30 Sep.
Large counts away from the main roosts and feeding areas include: 8,550 L.Eye **H** , 3,290 Gladhouse **L**, 3,070 Skinflats **Forth** in Oct; 3,500 Miltonhill and 3,000 Monikie **A&D** in Nov.
*Mid-winter (Jan) counts showed 168,000 birds in Britain, 111,035 (66%) of them in Scotland. About half were concentrated in E-C Scotland with smaller numbers in the NE and SW. By Apr, with passage in full swing, only 106,292 birds were censused, 99,907 (94%) of them in Scotland. The largest numbers were now in the NE followed by E-C and N. Scotland with relatively few birds in the S and in England.*
**Mitchell (1995)** ***Mid-winter and spring counts of Pink-footed and Greylag Geese in Britain, 1995*****. WWT.**

*200,343 birds were counted in Britain in October 1995, a 24% decrease on the record totals of 1994. The arrival was slightly earlier than usual and the wider dispersal by the time of the count may explain some of the reduction in the census. Poor weather during passage may have had an impact on the numbers reaching Scotland.*

*The distribution was fairly similar to 1994 with a third of the birds in E-C Scotland, a quarter in NE and a fifth in SE. The Nov count (181,81) was almost identical to that of 1994. 11,270 birds were aged revealing that 13.8% of the birds were juveniles, a slightly lower breeding success than usual.*
**Mitchell (1996)** ***The 1995 National Census of Pink-footed and Greylag Geese in Britain*****. WWT.**

**Pink-footed Goose Resort Maxima: Jan-Apr & Sep-Dec**

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Strathbeg **NE** | 14286 | 17300 | 351 | - | 18000 | 48500 | 30000 | 22848 |
| Montrose **A&D** | - | - | - | - | - | 28500 | - | - |
| Strathearn **P&K** | **2910** | **11200** | **nc** | **6995** | **35000** | **7610** | **10300** | **nc** |
| L. Leven **P&K** | 9912 | - | 6778 | 7849 | 17900 | 11200 | 8915 | - |
| Strathallan **P&K** | 3300 | 3700 | 5920 | 8300 | 13500 | 5900 | 6350 | 6200 |
| Aberlady **L** | 4360 | 2000 | 55 | 94 | 2200 | 11320 | 4000 | 5680 |
| West Water **B** | 8770 | 2170 | 700 | - | 2350 | 55000 | 7159 | 10500 |
| Hule Moss **B** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1152 | 24900 | 3210 | 3100 |
| Caerlaverock **D&G** | 7090 | 4610 | 410 | 1200 | 1000 | 3260 | 6 | 2100 |

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

**Greenland Whitefront** *A.a. flavirostris*

**Arg**: 10,417 Islay in Jan. Main census 25-30 Mar with 9,652 Islay & 2,137 Kintyre. Max 1,142 Coll in Apr.

**Ork** 2 winter flocks- L.of Swannay max 70 in Feb & Swart Howe, Holm, max 30 in Mar but 100 Durkadale & 99 The Loons in Mar; **OHeb** 40 Kilpheder, S.Uist in Feb; **High** 26 Snizort in Mar & 60 Broadford in Apr; **Caith** 189 L.of Mey, 158 Westfield in Mar; **Clyde** 200-230 Endrick Jan-Apr; **D&G** max 462 West Freugh & 293 L.Ken in Mar. 1-7 seen Shet, M&N, NE, P&K, Forth, Bord & Ayr, mostly Jan-Mar.

Late main departure with 450N Balranald, N.Uist **OH** 13-26 Apr; last Ork 28 Apr & L.Gruinart, Islay 16 May. 3prs of full-winged birds escaped from a collection and raised 3 young at E.Ellister, Islay **Arg**.

First 1 St.Abbs **B** 9 Sep; 65 Loch of Swannay 18 Sep; 42 L.Gruinart 22 Sep with main influx from 28 Sep; then first Clyde and P&K 29 Sep; D&G 7 Oct.

**Arg** record 19,075 birds in mid-Nov, 14,360 Islay, 2,346 Kintyre, 9,62 Coll, 477 Tiree, 415 Mid-Argyll, Lismore area 275, Jura 160 and Mull 80.

**Ork** 120-126 L.of Swannay in Nov switched to The Loons in Dec; **Caith** 420 L.of Mey & 352 Stempster in Oct; **Clyde** max 300 Endrick Mouth in Dec; **D&G** 350 L.Ken in Nov with 550 West Freugh in Dec.

On Islay 20% first-winters, a good breeding success.

1-7 birds seen Shet, M&N, NE, A&D, P&K, Forth, Loth & Ayr but many large flocks: 11-20 L.of Spiggie **Shet** Oct-Dec, 33 **Fair Is** in Dec, 45 Kilauley, S.Uist **OH** in Dec, 26 L.Spynie **M&N** Oct-Dec.

**European Whitefront** *A.a. albifrons*

1 Vane Farm **P&K** in Jan; 1 Spiggie **Shet** 3 Jan- 18 Feb; 3 Marwick **Ork** 5 Feb; 1 Rattray **NE** 2 Apr; 1 Rossie Bog **F** 3-15 Apr.

1 Goosepools **F** 28 Sep. Influx in N from 5-8 Dec when 6 Whalsay **Shet**, 8 Muness **Shet**, 28 Fair Is, 54 Hempriggs **Caith**, 2 Brora **H**, 14 St.Fergus **NE** & 11 Rattray in Dec.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Jan-Apr maxima: 2,500 Redden **B** in Jan; 2,254 Uists **OH**, 2,000 Hirsel **B** in Feb; 2,485 Tarbolton **Ayr** and 2,200 Strathearn **P&K** in Mar Other areas with flocks 1,000-2,000: Ork (2), High (2), NE (2), A&D, P&K (4), Fife, Bord (2), Ayr (2), D&G, 5,644 at 4 sites in **P&K** in Jan with 4,206 at 6 sites in Mar.

*The Jan WWT count was able to locate 48,227 birds, 55% of the previous autumn total of Greylags in Britain. 86% of the birds were found in Scotland, mostly in N, NE & E/C areas which held 66% of all birds. By April even fewer were found, some 36,373 birds with 94% in Scotland. The same areas held the 86% of birds but proportionally more (42%) were in the NE compared to the N and E-C Scotland.*

**Mitchell (1996).** ***Mid-winter and spring counts of Greylag and Pink-footed Geese in Britain, 1995.*** **WWT.**

Breeding:

| Area | Sites | pairs | broods | young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shet** | 2 | - | 14 | 45 | 3.2 |
| **Ork** | 10 | 10+ | + | + | ? |
| **Caith** | 4 | 7 | 7 | >13 | 2.6 |
| **High** | 7 | 25 | 12 | 30 | - |
| **NE** | 1 | 4-5 | + | ? | - |
| **Fife** | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| **Loth** | 8 | >28 | >28 | 97 | 5.7 |
| **Bord** | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2.0 |
| **Arg** | 5 | >36 | >11 | >17 | - |
| **Clyde** | 5 | >12 | 2 | 15 | 7.5 |
| **Ayr** | 9 | >16 | 10 | 52 | 5.2 |

**OHeb** 2,579-2,599 in Aug - 1,344 on N.Uist and 1,235-1,255 on S.Uist & Benbecula; **High** 950 L.Fleet/Brora & 600 Creich in Aug/Sep.

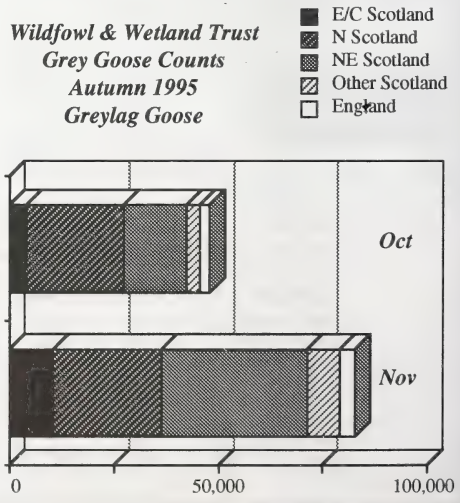
*47,814 birds were counted in Britain in October 1995, with 39,124, some 96% of them, in Scotland. The total counted rose to 82,722 in November, with 79,089 in Scotland, again 96% of the British total. This represented a 4% drop in numbers to 1995 from the 1994 count. While the numbers in N.Scotland stayed fairly constant between Oct-Nov, the largest increase was in NE where numbers trebled over the month to 42% of all British Greylags. Dinnet L. NE with 19,931 was, by far, the largest concentration of birds. Breeding success was low with only 11.5% of flocks being first-winters. The MBS was 2.41, a little lower than usual. Low-term analysis of population statistics shows a slow decline from the peak of 100,000 birds in the mid-1908s.*

**Mitchell(1995)** ***The 1995 National Census of Pink-footed and Greylag Geese in Britain.*** **WWT.**

| Resort Maxima | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|
| L.of Skene **NE** | 5118 | 12,300 | 600 |
| Dinnet Lochs **NE** | 207 | 19,931 | 370 |
| L.Bogrotton **M&N** | 3,000 | 3,500 | 1,520 |
| L.Spynie **M&N** | 3,500 | 7,000 | 2,330 |
| **P&K** counts | 2,317 | 5,909 | 1,530 |

Other autumn/winter counts include min 6,650 Mainland **Ork** in Nov; 2,500 St.Ola **Ork** in Dec.

***Wildfowl & Wetland Trust***
***Grey Goose Counts***
***Autumn 1995***
***Greylag Goose***



**Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

Breeding: 39 on Coll **Arg** Jan-Apr with 48 late Aug and 46 in Nov. 1 Tiree **Arg** in Nov and 8 Shawbost, Lewis **OH** in Jan and 3 there Dec probably from this flock. Other feral birds at Midross **Clyde** in Apr.

2 blue-phase birds Skaill, Westray **Ork** 2-9 Jun and 6N Virkie **Shet** 25 June may be moult-migrants from an English feral flock as may have been 6 off the **Is of May** 30 Aug.

The only possibly wild birds may have been 1 white-phase Port Charlotte, Islay **Arg** 1994-11Apr, probably returning L.Gruinart, Islay 10 Oct and moving to Port Charlotte into 1996. This bird moves with the Islay White-fronts. 2 white-phase Ecknish, Islay **Arg** 9 Nov were of less certain origin while 1 white form with Greylags at Tibbermore and Forteviot **P&K** Jan-Feb was not considered to be of wild origin.

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**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Resident flocks: **Forth** 38 Blairdrummond in Oct; **Arg** max 50 Colonsay in Jun, 23 L.Ederline in Aug; **Clyde** 44-48 Gadloch Jan- Mar, 40 there in Dec, 105 Endrick Mouth in Aug, 77 Millichen in Oct; **Ayr** 20 Barcraigs Res. in Jan; **D&G** 30 Kinharvie L. in Mar, 61 L.Ken in Oct, 77 Caerlaverock in Jan and 90 in Dec. Elsewhere 1-10 birds in A&D & Bord.

Breeding: **High** 6prs L.Ospisdale; br2 Nigg; **Forth** 22 at 4 sites but br5 Hutchinson Dam only success; **Loth** 3prs with7 young Duddingston; **Bord** pr+br2 Folly L.; **Arg** 50 ads with 4br9 Colonsay, 23 (incl juvs) L.,Ederline, 2-3 other sites; **Clyde** 8 prs bred at 7 sites, rearing 6br28; **Ayr** *c*11prs at 2 sites reared 2br7; **D&G** br2 Castle L..

East coast moult migration: 18 Outhead **F** 30 May; 18 Leuchars **F** 1 Jun; 14N Kinnaird **A&D** 13 Jun; 19W Yellowcraig **L** & 47N Eyemouth 17 Jun; 20 L.of Skene and 18 Strathbeg **NE** 18 Jun; 37W Aberlady **L** 19 Jun; 19 Longman **M&N** 29 Jun. 1-2 birds overshooting in N.Isles 6 May- 6 Jun and 21-29 Jul.

Max only 95 Beauly-Cromarty Firth **H** in Jun-Jul.

Southwards passage poorly observed: 16 Meikle L. **NE** 12 Aug; 25S Anstruther **F** 23 Aug; 5 **Is of May** 30 Sep. Max 291 Caerlaverock invloves Beauly-Yorkshire birds suggesting a circular route rather than a simple N-S movement along N.Sea coast.

2-3 small birds Islay **Arg** Jan-Apr may have been genuine vagrants. Single small-race Canada seen Kilmardinny **Clyde** 4 Jan, Lecropt **Forth** 28 Jan and Blairdrummond Carse **Forth** 19 Mar. Another was seen at Hogganfield L. **Clyde** 29 Dec.

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**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Solway flock: Svalbard-Caerlaverock population **D&G** held 6,170- 9,120 Jan-Mar, max 9,400 there 21 Apr during main spring passage. 31 still there 28 May with 1-4 birds summering. Passage: 48N St.Abbs **B** 1 May, 9 Aberlady **L** 2 May, 1 Is of May 7 May, 6 Savoch **NE** 12 May and 40N St.Abbs 21 May.

First singles Lunan Bay **A&D**, Arbroath **A&D** and Fife Ness **F** 12 Sep with 2 L.of Kinnordy **A&D** 23 Sep and 4 L.of Strathbeg **NE** 24 Sep . Main initial influx 28 Sep when 223W Hound Pt. **L**., 17 Aberlady **L**, 20S St.Abbs leading to 800 Caerlaverock by the evening.

*c*750 seen E.coast on 29-30 Sep with 6,100 Caerlaverock by 30 Sep. Further arrivals 1-15 Oct, 363W Musselburgh **L** 7 Oct with *c*1,650 **M&N** coast, 533 Strathbeg and 289 Skirza Head (2hrs) **Caith** on 8 Oct.

Many small parties stopping off *en route* for a few days, max 118 Eden Est. **F** .

Near-record Solway Oct count of 13,700 at Caerlaverock, Southerness & Mersehead 20 Oct. 10,500-11,530 Caerlaverock into Dec with 6,100 at Mersehead. Aged flocks revealed some 15.6% juveniles.

W.coast: 27,936 Islay **Arg** 10-11 Jan, with 28.298 there 28-29 Mar. Other flock peaks: 991 Coll **Arg** and 45 Mull Arg in Jan; 500 Balnakiel **H**, 400 Mid-Argyll in Feb; 441 Tiree, **Arg** & 223 Colonsay **Arg** in Apr. 2,000 Rubha Ardvule, S.Uist **OH** 26 Apr with 2,405N Balaranald ,Lewis **OH** 23-26 Apr. Departure late from Islay, the last L.Gruinart on 14 May.

First 22 L.Gruinart 24 Sep with 2,600 by 28 Sep. Arg count on 11-15 Nov produced 29,472, all but 811 on Islay. Peak of 29,332 Islay 28 Nov managed only a 7.2% rate of juveniles suggesting a very poor breeding season.

732 Eilean Hoan **H** in Oct; 550 Balnakeil in Nov.

Orkney flock: 1,000-1,208 present S.Walls Jan-Apr, max 1,208 on 5 Mar. Last seen 24 Apr. Few elsewhere. First Stronsay 1 Oct with main movement 8-29 Oct with many birds lingering **Shet** Oct/Nov, max 106 Scatness 21-23 Oct. 973-1,000 present S.Walls Nov-Dec. Ork birds may have overshot to **Caith** when 289 Skirza Head 8 Oct.

Further evidence of overwintering at passage stop-overs with up to 200 Strathbeg, 6-7 in P&K, 10 West Water Res. **B**, 5 Gladhouse **L** & 3 Aberlady. The origin of these birds is uncertain but Greenland is indicated as they appear to move with Pink-fronts.

Breeding: **Arg** 5prs feral birds bred E.Ellister, Islay but may not have reared any young; **Clyde** pr+br2 failed Lochend L..

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**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

**Pale-bellied Brent** *B.b. hrota.*

| Area | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N &W Is.** | 2 | 1 | 3 | 153 | 4 | - | - | - | 281 | - | 1 | 1 |
| **N. Scot*** | - | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 6 | - | - |
| **NE Scot*** | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 21 | - | - | 21 |
| **E/C Scot** | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 102 | 14 | 14 | 20 |
| **SE Scot** | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | 29 | 9 | 7 | 78 |
| **W. Scot** | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 | - | 1 | - | - | 804 | 138 | 5 | - |
| **SW Scot** | 12 | 12 | 21 | - | 21 | - | - | - | 41 | 36 | 33 | 32 |

*not all records included., Table includes unraced birds

*Brent Geese*
*Steven Brown*
*from Borders Bird Report No.16*

Movements: 45N Aird an Runair, S.Uist **OH** 17 Apr; 95 Balranald, Lewis **OH** 22 Apr.
First Fife 27 Aug; NE and M&N 7-9 Sep; Arg 13 Sep, Ayr and D&G 24 Sep. Best counts: 205 L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg** 18 Sep; 230S Rubha Ardvule, S.Uist **OH** and 206S Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** 28 Sep; 40E Anstruther **F** 29 Sep; 117S Frenchmans Rocks 17 Oct. Small numbers wintering E coast at Eden Est. **F** (10-13), Belhaven-Tyninghame **L** (8-51) and in W at L.Indaal, Islay **Arg** (5), L.Ryan **D&G** (12-30) and Caerlaverock **D&G** (1-3). Probable influx late Dec seen at Belhaven **L** and Findhorn Bay **M&N**.

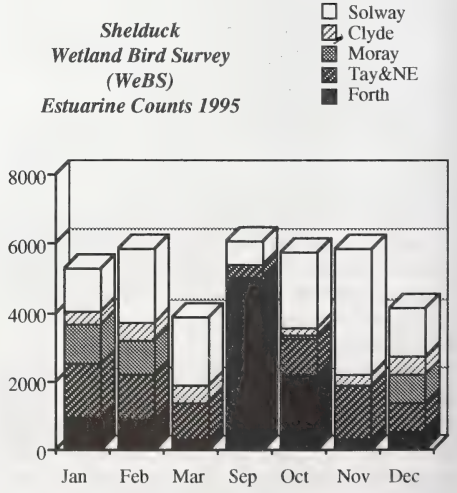
**Dark-bellied Brent** *B.b.bernicla*
Fewer reports: 1 Caerlaverock 29 Jan-4 Feb; 1 Ythan **NE** 1 Apr; 2 Kildonan, Eigg **H** 27 Apr; 1 Virkie-Spiggie **Shet** 11-22 Jun.
1 Montrose **A&D** 13 Aug; 1 **Is of May** 10 Sep; 3 North Ronaldsay **Ork** and 3 Deerness **Ork** and 1 Oct; 7 Ythan 8 Oct; 1 Lower Ythan **NE** 24 Oct; 1 N.Ronaldsay 25 Oct, 2 there 9 Nov; 1 Mersehad **D&G** 22 Oct;4W Noss Head **Caith** 28 Oct; 1 Skibo **H** 31 Oct; 3 Rattray **NE** 14 Dec; another at Spiggie 6-15 Dec; 1 Menock Farm, Bute **Clyde Is** 10-17 Dec; 1 Ythan 31 Dec.

***Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis*
1 Coul Res. **F** 8-10 Sep was thought to be an escape. Same (?) bird Boat of Garten **H** 10-12 Sep (no rings). **[1994]** 1 Vane Farm **P&K** 28 Sep may have been the 1992-1994 Solway bird returning with the Barnacles.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
1f Findhorn Bay **M&N** 29 Apr. 1 Strathbeg **NE** 14 May-17 Jun; 1 Moss of Dunphail **M&N** 23 May; 1 Nith Est. **D&G** 22 Sep; 2 ad +2 imm Annan Harbour **D&G** 23-25 Sep; 1 Caerlaverock **D&G** 25 Oct, possibly same bird Mersehead **D&G** 13 & 28 Oct. 2 Miltonhill **M&N** on 1 Nov.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*
Winter-spring: 1,054 Highland Firths **H**, max 952 Eden Est. **F**, 570 Montrose Basin **A&D**, 660 Forth Est. **Forth**, 338 L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg**, 177 Ardmore Pt. **Clyde** in Jan; 483 Wigtown Bay **D&G**, 233 Newshot Is. **Clyde**, 67 Nairn/Culbin Bars **M&N** and 30 L.Leven **P&K** in Mar; 330 Kinneil **Forth**, 152 Tyninghame **L**, 136 Ythan Est. **NE** & 113 Caerlaverock **D&G** in Apr.
Following figures may refer to the Forth moult flock: 1,600 Kinneil **Forth**, 1,480 Skinflats **Forth**, 665 Torry Bay **F** and 301 Blackness **L** in Sep; 980 Eden Est in Nov; 1,100 Montrose Basin in Dec.
476 Carse Bay **D&G** in Jun with 2,480 Caerlaverock in Oct; 810 Highland Firths, 451 Dumbarton shore **Clyde** and 150 L.Gruinart in Dec.

*Shelduck*
*Wetland Bird Survey*
*(WeBS)*
*Estuarine Counts 1995*



Breeding: (only identified prs and broods)

| Area | Sites | Pairs | Broods | Young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shetland** | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 8.0 |
| **Orkney** | 15 | 18 | 18 | 146 | 8.1 |
| **Caith** | 5 | 6 | 6 | 31 | 5.2 |
| **M&N** | 5 | 19 | >5 | 56 | 5.4 |
| **A&D** | 6 | *c*97 | ? | >92 | - |
| **P&K** | 2 | 16 | 4 | ? | - |
| **Fife** | 4 | >7 | ? | 59 | - |
| **Is of May** | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5.0 |
| **Forth** | 1 | ? | ? | 27 | - |
| **Lothian** | 9 | >11 | >9 | 58 | 6.4 |
| **Borders** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 4.0 |
| **Argyll** | 2 | >46 | >4 | 26 | 3.3 |
| **Clyde Is.** | 4 | >25 | ? | 13 | - |
| **Clyde** | 5 | >60 | 15 | 109 | 7.3 |
| **Ayr** | 13 | 30 | 11 | 36 | 3.3 |
| **D&G** | 2 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 11.0 |

Note no details of breeding from OHeb, High & NE.

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Breeding: **P&K** pr present R.Tay, f+br2 seen in Aug; **Bord** 1 pr Reston was only report; **Arg** 5prs laid 42 eggs in owl boxes at L. Eck, 2 hatched 17 young,with up to 9 seen R.Cur in autumn.

1m East Holmes **Ayr** 16 &18 Feb; pr Dunglass P. **L** 12 Mar-9 Apr included a pinioned bird; pr L.Tuimpan, Lewis **OH** 1 5 Apr; 1f Lochore Meadows **F** 20 Apr; pair Cardross **Clyde** 26 Apr; 1 Presmennan L. **L** 2 Jul; 1 Lochend L. **L** 9-10 Jul; 1m L.Watson **Forth** 9 Sep; 1 Lochwinnoch **Clyde** 16 Oct; 1f Torvean **H** 10 Nov; 1f Eden Est. **F** 26-28 Dec. *First for Forth.*

See Anderson & Petty (1996) *Argyll Bird Report* 12 :82-84 for account of the growth of the Mandarin population in Argyll.

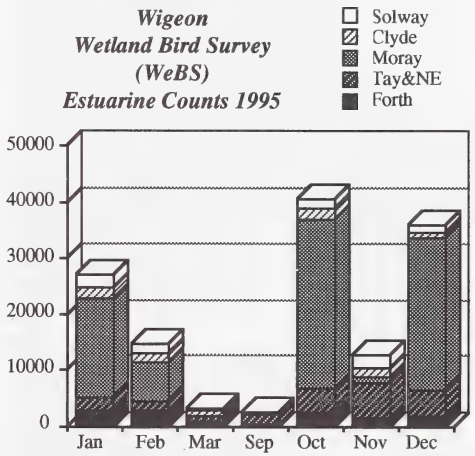
**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Broadhouse **Ork** | 1300 | 1054 | nc | 1130 | 565 | 858 |
| L.of Harray **Ork** | 2145 | 2114 | 1610 | 2492 | 3222 | 2097 |
| Widewall **Ork** | 1350 | 500 | 120 | 300 | 1450 | 2200 |
| Brora shore **H** | 1653 | 750 | - | 900 | - | 1150 |
| Dornoch F. **H** | 3470 | 1203 | | 12540 | - | 5017 |
| Cromarty F. **H** | 5413 | 1215 | - | 9553 | - | 11973 |
| Beauly F. **H** | 1120 | 906 | - | 1395 | - | 1009 |
| Inverness F.**H** | 3976 | 881 | - | 5402 | - | 4390 |
| Strathbeg **NE** | 926 | 1335 | 393 | 1350 | 256 | 1189 |
| L.of Skene **NE** | 750 | 141 | nc | 861 | 1100 | 1600 |
| Findhorn **M&N** | 1800 | 2400 | nc | 1100 | 500 | 1719 |
| Loss Est. **M&N** | 1034 | 839 | 510 | 857 | 875 | 870 |
| Montrose **A&D** | 1800 | 600 | 250 | 3500 | 4800 | 2500 |
| Carsebeck **P&K** | 1016 | - | - | - | - | 1130 |
| Eden Est. **F** | 800 | 186 | nc | 314 | nc | 1406 |
| Tyninghame **L** | 1192 | 1242 | 836 | 1115 | 796 | 913 |
| Clyde Est **Clyde** | 1270 | 1470 | 558 | 976 | 1525 | 1118 |
| Caerlav'ck **D&G** | 695 | 883 | 623 | 816 | 904 | 904 |

Also 820 Hunterston **Ayr** in Jan; 940 Forsth Est.**Forth** in Feb; 5,000 Udale Bay **H** in Oct; 940 L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg** and 780 Mersehead **D&G** in Nov; 1,090 L.of Sabiston **Ork** in Dec.

Breeding: **Shet** br3 at one site; **Ork** 14 sites, bred at 7; **Caith** 2br8 noted; **High** 39prs Insh Marshes; **M&N** 2br8 at 2 sites; **A&D** *c*5prs at 2 sites, 1 bred; **P&K** 12prs Strathallan, 5br16 fledged, 5 broods Atholl loch & 6prs at 4 Mar lochs; **Fife** pr+br6 Ballo Res. is first confirmed record since 1983, another pr elsewhere; **Bord** 4 sites, 11 Alemoor Res.in Ju1; **Arg** 4prs, no evidence of success; **Clyde** pr at Douglas Water with males at sev sites; **Ayr** br4 at C.Ayrshire site is first breeding record for area; **D&G** pr L.Ken but no evidence of success.

Few movements but 400S Arbroath cliffs **A&D** 2 Jan; 107N Eyemouth **B** 30 Sep; 30 **Fair Is** 15 Oct;




*Note the relative importance of the Moray area, especially the Inner Firths but not that not all months had a count there.*

*** American Wigeon** *Anas americana*

Pr Stronsay **Ork** 19-22 Jun; 1m Aberlady & Gosford Bays **L** 29 Oct to Mar 1996; 1m Montrose Basin **A&D** 5 Nov-24 Dec; 1m Echnaloch, Burray **Ork** 7-8 Nov. None recorded in Fife.

L.Loiston hybrid from 1994 seen until 4 Mar.

**[1994]** 1m L.of Skene 6 Nov-11 Dec.

Photo of Lothian bird: *Birding World* 8: 447.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Winter-spring max: 12 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** & 12 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** in Jan, 24 L.Leven **P&K**, 13 L.of Kinnordy **A&D** in Mar. Max 26 Baron's Haugh by May.

Breeding: **Ork** br7 N.Ronaldsay, 12 Birsay in Jul, poss bred; **High** pr bred N.Sutherland; **M&N** 2sites, no proof; **A&D** 3 sites with 6prs rearing 15+ young at Kinnordy; **P&K** 55 L.Leven in Jun, 3prs bred Vane Farm and 3prs at 2 other sites but no proof ; **Fife** 2 sites, no proof; **Loth** none bred; **Bord** up to 6 Hirsel in Jul suggests breeding; **Arg** no evidence; **Clyde** 4 sites, first proof from Merryton where failed, br3+ Gartloch and

13prs+11br86 at Baron's Haugh; **Ayr** 2-3 late pairs but no proof.
Autumn : 31 L.of Kinnordy in Aug; 90 Baron's Haugh, 29 Kilconquhar L. **F** and 10 Forfar L. **A&D** in Sep; 230 L.Leven, 30 Gartloch **Clyde** in Oct; 28 N.Ronaldsay Oct & Nov; 80 L.Leven & 24 Lochore Meadows **F** in Nov; still 2 L.Leven in Dec.
12S Machrihanish **Arg** 17 Oct was only movement.

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**Teal** *Anas crecca*
Winter max: 2,302 Brora shore **H**, 1,155 Inverness F. **H**, 930 L.Indaal/Gruinart, Islay **Arg**, 703 Forth Est. **Forth**, 645 Mill Dam, Shapinsay **Ork**, 389 L.of Isbister **Ork**, 360 Carsebeck **P&K**, 331 L.Leven **P&K** and 310 Bogside **Ayr** in Jan; 399 Caerlaverock, 388 Beauly F. **H**, 356 L.of Strathbeg **NE** & 304 L.of Kinnordy **A&D** in Feb; 564 Clyde Est. **Clyde** in Mar.
Breeding: **Shet** bred 2 sites; **Ork** bred 8 sites, present another 8 sites; **Caith** br7 at one site; **High** 88prs Insh Marshes; **M&N** 10prs bred 5 sites, also another 5 sites; **A&D** present 5 sites; **P&K** 14prs +9 broods Stathallan, bred 2 sites at 650m in W of area; **Forth** 1 site; **Loth** 14prs at 4 sites, 4 broods; **Bord** 17prs at 5 sites + 4br10; **Arg** 30prs L.Gruinart, Islay with 3br11 N.Jura; **Clyde** 7 sites, only 1 brood; **Ayr** 36prs, at 21 sites with 15br 81; **D&G** *c*16prs at 4 sites.
Winter: 820 L.Spynie **M&N** in Sep; 3,884 L.Leven, 2,015 Inverness F., 1,205 L.of Strathbeg **NE**, 1,165 Dornoch Firth, 770 Hule Moss **B**, 643 Caerlaverock, 552 Wigtown Bay **D&G**, 545 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** in Oct; 2,800 L.Leven, 890 L.of Lintrathen **A&D**, 600 L.Ken **D&G**, 359 Bavelaw **L** in Nov; 1,275 Clyde Est, 1,116 L.Gruinart, 1,091 Carsebeck & 614 Forth Est. in Dec.
*** Green-winged Teal** *A. c. carolinensis*
Singles Scatness **Shet** 1994 to 13 May, returned 15 Nov into 1996; Strathbeg **NE** 12 Jan, 9 May and 3-31 Dec.; Inver Bay **H** 15 Jan; L.Stiapavat, Lewis **OH** 25 Feb; L.Fleet **H** 30 Apr; Milldam, Shapinsay **Ork** 11 May; L.of Hillwell Shet 4 Jun; 1 Lochlea **Ayr** 12 Jun.
Alturlie **H** 11 Nov; Lochportain, N.Uist **OH** 19 Nov; Balgray Res. **Clyde** 4-26 Dec; Bogside **Ayr** 30 Dec-1996. *2nd-3rd Ayr records.*
1 Starnafin **NE** 14 Mar & 22 Dec showed hybrid features, presumably the 1994 Strathbeg bird.

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**Mallard** *Anas platyrhyncos*
Winter-spring: 4,313 Highland Firths **H**, 1,268 Forth Est. **Forth**, 496 Tweed Haughs **B**, 486 Carsethorn Bay **D&G**, 426 Kilconquhar L. **F**, 370 Dalmeny shore **L**, 354 Mill Dam, Shapinsay **Ork**, 350 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** , 347 L.Spynie **M&N** & 300 Bogside **Ayr**, all in Jan; 2,101 Highland Firths & 740 Montrose Basin **A&D** in Feb.
Breeding: **Fair Is** 2 broods; **Ork** bred 18 sites ; **High** 217prs Insh Marshes; **Loth** 50 prs/broods. Generally more successful season than 1994 with larger and more numerous broods.

| Area | Broods | Juvs | MBS | Area | Broods | Juvs | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Caith** | 7 | 42 | 6.0 | **Bord** | 109 | 583 | 5.7 |
| **High** | 5 | 24 | 4.8 | **Arg** | 9 | 44 | 4.9 |
| **Fife** | 70 | 388 | 5.5 | **Clyde** | 154 | 1078 | 5.4 |
| **Loth** | 9 | 48 | 5.3 | **Ayr** | 115 | 683 | 5.9 |

Autumn/winter: 488 Kilconquhar L. , 789 Forth Est, 414 L.of Strathbeg & 300 Kenmure **D&G** in Aug; 1,200 R.Nith **D&G** in Sep; 2,786 Highland Firths, 754 L.of Lintrathen **A&D** , 481 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** and 345 Hule Moss **B** in Oct; 604 Clyde Est. **Clyde** in Nov; 3,269 Highlands Firths, 1,149 Tweed Haughs, 578 Montrose Basin, 356 Dinnet L. **NE** & 305 L.Spynie in Dec.

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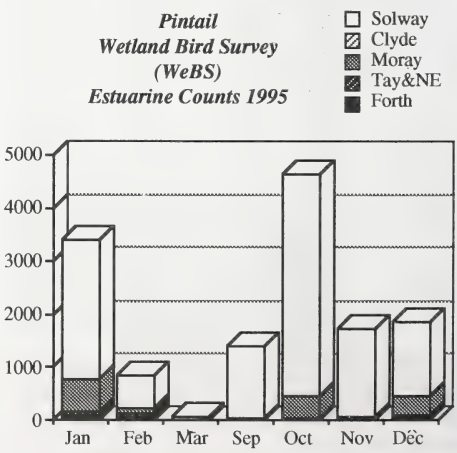
**Pintail** *Anas acuta*
Winter-spring max counts: 1,030 Caerlaverock **D&G**, 460 Cromarty F. **H**, 132 Beauly F. **H** , 85 Skinflats **Forth** , 74 Montrose Basin **A&D** and 20 Shelly Spit **F**, 20 Belgrove Bay **F** & 20 Eden Est. **F** in Jan; 1,070 R.Nith **D&G**, 93 Threave **D&G** and 62 Montrose in Feb. Only 3-15 Caerlaverock Feb-Apr.
Few counts >20 birds elsewhere and after mid-Mar.
Breeding: **Shet** 4-5prs at 3 sites in May but none remained; **Ork** 9 sites , potentially 14prs, 3 broods seen; **Caith** several in spring but no proof ; **High** 2prs Insh Marshes, 1 with br4; **NE** pr+4mm Strathbeg but no evidence; **Arg** 2ff at 2 sites Tiree but no evidence.
Good autumn with higher than uusual winter numbers; max counts: 3,900 R.Nith, 1,030 Caerlaverock & 25W Hound Pt.**L** in Sep; 350 Dornoch F. **H**, 86 L.Spynie **M&N**,80 L.Leven **P&K**, 36 L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg** in Oct; 1,540 Caerlaverock and 57 Skinflats in Nov; 2,570 R.Nith, 595 Mersehead **D&G**, 158 Beauly F., 61 Montrose Basin & 36 L.Indaal, Islay **Arg** in Dec.

***Pintail***
***Wetland Bird Survey***
***(WeBS)***
***Estuarine Counts 1995***



**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

*Up to 35 in spring, 4 in autumn.*

| Area | Apr 1-15 | Apr 16-30 | May 1-15 | May 16-31 | Jun 1-16 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N.Isles** | - | - | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| **W Isles** | - | - | - | 4 | - |
| **N.Scot** | - | - | 1 | 3 | - |
| **NE Scot** | - | 2 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| **E/C Scot** | - | - | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| **SE Scot** | - | - | 4 | - | - |
| **W.Scot** | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | - |
| **SW Scot** | - | - | 6 | - | - |
| **Total** | 5 | 6 | 33 | 16 | 5 |

First 5 Barr L. **Clyde** 11-23 Apr , 1-2prs there to 9 May, seen again 4 Aug-6 Sep, max 4 on 16-19 Aug suggesting possible breeding. Nearby 3f/imm Gartloch Pool **Clyde** 8 Sep. Pr failed in breeding attempt at **P&K** site.

1Bavelaw **L** 16 Aug-4 Sep, 1f there 20-31 Aug with 1m there 31 Aug; pr Stronsay **Ork** 20-25 Aug; imm Burnfoot **Ayr** & 1 f Trabboch **Ayr** 21 Aug; 1m Douglas Water **Clyde** 16-20 Sep.

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*** Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

1 St.Kilda **OH** 20 Oct; 1 1st-w m Urafirth **Shet** 20 Oct-2 Nov; 1st-w m L. of Tingwall **Shet** 2 Nov with same bird Grunna Water/Benston L. **Shet** 3-11 Nov.

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**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Winter max: 33 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 20 L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg** , 16 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** & 29 Shapinsay **Ork**.

Breeding: **Shet** br7 L.of Hillwell; **Ork** bred 4 sites, present another 6 sites; **OHeb** br3 L.nam Feithean, N.Uist; **Caith** pr +f at 2 sites but no proof; **M&N** 2 prs but br11 failed totally at one site; **A&D** 4prs Kinnordy raised 11 young, 1pr present another site; **P&K** 2br11 Vane Farm, 4prs at 3 other sites, 1 with br10; **Fife** br3 L.Gelly; **Loth** 4prs but no evidence; **Bord** 5prs at 3 sites, br5 at Hirsel; **Arg** 3 areas with 14prs L.Gruinart, Islay where most bred; **Clyde** 7prs at 5 sites, 2 broods Lochwinnoch and single br9 Gartpool L; **Ayr** br7 Knochshinnoch; **D&G** 2prs L.Ken.

Aug-Dec max : 47 Baron's Haugh, 46 Strathbeg **NE** and 30 Duns Dish **A&D** in Sep; 550 L.Leven, 96 Hirsel **B**, 71 L.Spynie **M&N**, 68 L.Gelly in Oct; 230 L.Leven, 59 Caerlaverock **D&G**, 58 Shapinsay & 40 Bemersyde **B** in Nov; 44 Garnqueen L. **Clyde** & 39 L.Gruinart in Dec.

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**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta ruffina*

1 m L.of Harray **Ork** 23 Jan-12 Feb; 2 Barr L. **Clyde** 29-30 Jul; 1 m Monikie **A&D** 4 Aug-14 Oct; 1 m Barr L. 5 Aug-22 Sep & Barcraigs L. **Ayr** 16 Aug; 1m Castle L. **D&G** 9 Sep; 2 imm Musselburgh **L** 17-23 Sep, 1 to 3 Oct & 11-28 Oct, 1 juv Endrick Mouth **Clyde** 19 Sep; 1m L.Gelly **F** 3-7 Oct; 1 imm m Gosford P. **L** 16 Oct; ad m Ratho **L** 10 Nov; 1 imm Linlithgow L. **L** 12 Nov & 18 Nov.

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**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep/Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boardhouse **Ork** | 562 | 151 | nc | 790 | 750 | 858 |
| L.of Harray **Ork** | 913 | 149 | 27 | 604 | 1501 | 2070 |
| L.Ragnag **Caith** | 150 | 350 | 281 | 40 | 30 | - |
| L.Leven **P&K** | 510 | - | - | - | 1000 | 800 |
| Kilconquhar L.**F** | 244 | - | - | 408 | 646 | - |
| L.Gelly **F** | - | - | - | 475 | 538 | 186 |
| Methil L. **F** | 420 | 124 | - | - | - | - |
| Linlithgow L.**L** | 170 | 146 | 69 | 172 | 104 | 138 |

200 L.Scarmclate **Caith**, 150 Stemster **Caith**, 129 L. of Skaill **Ork** & 104 L.of Bosquoy **Ork** in Jan.

Breeding: **A&D** 2prs reared br1 at Kinnordy, br2 at Redmyres L.; **P&K** 5prs at 3 sites, bred at 2 other sites; **Fife** br5 at un-named site; **Loth** 2 sites; **Bord** *c*7 prs at 4 sites, 2br7 Bemersyde, br5 Folly L. & br4 Yeholm Marsh; **Clyde** 4mm at 3 sites; **D&G** pr L.Ken.

Winter: 117 Lochwinnoch **Clyde** & 110 L.of Tankerness **Ork** in Aug; 442 Loch of Skaill, 390 St. John's L. **Caith**, 200 L.Sarclet **Caith** and 168 Cameron Res. **F**, in Oct; 351 Balgray **Clyde**, 227 Loch of Bosquoy and 135 Glenbuck L. **Ayr** in Nov; 308 L.of Hundland **Ork**, 200 St.John's L. & 200 Stathclyde Park **Clyde** in Dec.

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*** Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*

1m L.o'the Lowes **Ayr** 6 Apr; imm f Kilconquhar L. **F** 22-28 Oct. *2nd for Fife, 5th for Ayrshire.*

1m L.of Tingwall **Shet** 4 Jan & L.of Asta **Shet** 18-26 Feb & 28 Apr showed hybrid (with Tufted Duck) features.

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**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

| Largest flocks: | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep/Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.ofStenness **Ork** | 204 | 457 | 361 | 15 | 68 | 100 |
| L.of Harray **Ork** | 1202 | 829 | 386 | 1625 | 923 | 421 |
| Beauly/Inv.F. **H** | 595 | 242 | - | 220 | - | 475 |
| L.of SkeneNE | 70 | 47 | 103 | 276 | 230 | 140 |
| L.Leven **P&K** | - | - | 390 | - | 2800 | 980 |
| Kilconquhar L.**F** | - | - | - | 266 | 363 | - |
| Linlithgow L. **L** | 390 | 198 | 222 | 375 | 412 | 320 |
| St.Margarets L. **L** | 136 | 170 | 108 | 12 | 46 | 78 |
| Lochwinnoch **Cly** | 74 | - | 28 | 297 | 133 | 21 |
| Martnaham L.**Ayr** | 318 | - | 116 | 164 | 78 | 162 |

403 Strathclyde Park **Clyde**, 300 Tay at Dundee **A&D**, in Jan; 200 L.Ussie **H** in Feb; 206 L.Fergus **Ayr** in Mar.

| Breeding: | Sites | Pairs | Broods | Young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shetland** | 5 | >5 | ? | ? | ? |
| **Orkney** | 7 | .21 | >9 | ? | ? |
| **Caith** | 5 | 12 | 10 | 57 | 5.7 |
| **M&N** | 9 | >28 | 28 | 108 | 5.4 |
| **North-east** | 3 | >5 | 5 | 21 | 4.2 |
| **A&D** | 3 | 14 | 1 | 10 | - |
| **P&K** | 3 | ? | 23 | 66 | 5.0 |
| **Fife** | 13 | ? | 22 | 135 | 6.1 |
| **Lothian** | 10 | 36 | 26 | 19 | 3.8 |
| **Borders** | 41 | 118 | 31 | 169 | 5.4 |
| **Clyde** | 23 | >43 | 43 | 207 | 4.9 |
| **Ayrshire** | 12 | 42 | 22 | 117 | 5.3 |
| **D&G** | 5 | 16 | ? | ? | ? |

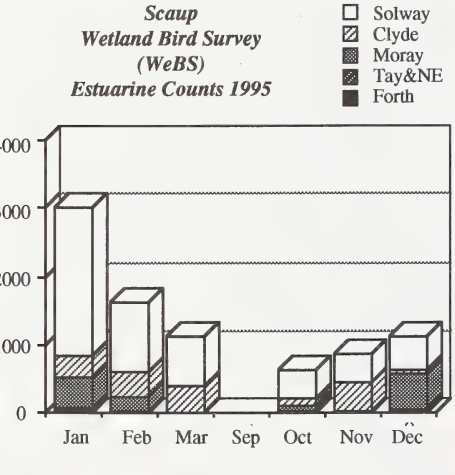
Winter maxima: 295 Monikie **A&D**, 202 Cobbinshaw **L** & 152 L.Spynie **M&N** in Sep; 240 Carron Valley R. **Clyde** in Oct; 250 Balgray **Clyde**, 200 Forfar L. **A&D** in Nov; 400 Stathclyde Park, 216 L.of Swannay and 215 Doonfoot **Ayr** in Dec.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Peak site counts:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.of Harray **Ork** | 123 | 194 | 110 | 106 | 186 | 191 |
| L.of Stenness **Ork** | 35 | 142 | 267 | 32 | 109 | 147 |
| L.Indaal **Arg** | 830 | 230 | 90 | 225 | 670 | 650 |
| Auchebarvie **Ayr** | 105 | 139 | 149 | 6 | 51 | 82 |
| Dornoch F. **H** | 28 | 5 | - | 0 | - | 219 |
| Cromarty F. **H** | 406 | 110 | - | 81 | - | 279 |
| L.Ryan **D&G** | 596 | - | - | 200 | - | 1200 |

Other large counts include 159 Rough Firth **D&G** and 90 Inverness F. **H** in Feb & 230 L.of Harray **Ork** in Apr.



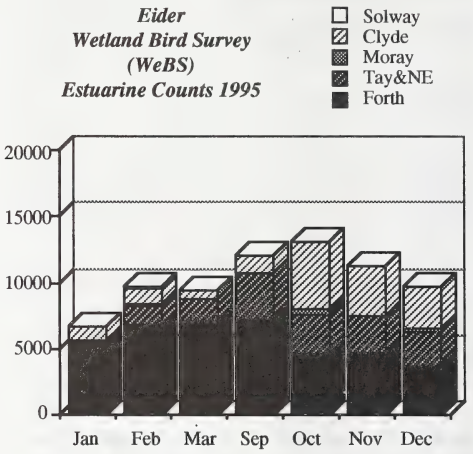

Largest E.coast counts were 77 Leven **F** & 36 Ythan **NE** in Jan. 23 Lossiemouth **M&N** in Oct; 161 off Leven **F**, 38 Inverness F. and 20 Musselburgh **L** in Dec.

No evidence of breeding but 2prs L. Stemster **Caith** to late May and 1m St.John's L. Caith into Jun; pr into mid-May at Cotehill L. **NE** & 1m summered **P&K** loch as did 1 bird at Carron Valley Res. **Forth**.

Apparent Scaup x Tufted hybrids reported widely: 3 Bord and singles Ayr, A&D and D&G in Jan-Apr, singles Caith, Bord and A&D during Jun-Jul . Singles Shet and D&G in Oct-Dec.

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Winter-spring max : 2,200 Berwickshire coast **B** & 12,20 Ythan **NE** in Jan; 2,883 S.Forth **L** , 2,000+ Largs **Ayr** & 1,330 Largo Bay **F** in Feb; 2,400 Broughty Ferry **A&D** in Mar. Movement: 2,000S past Arbroath **A&D** 2 Jan.




Breeding: **Ork** 50 young survived gull predation from c60 nests N.Hill, Papa Westray, 70nests Holm of Papa Westray; **Caith** 6br30 noted; **High** 10+ broods Handa but none fledged, 77nests Nigg, 10prs Eigg , 32 chicks but just 10 fledged; **M&N** 8br26 Delnies +br3 Nairn Bar; **NE** following predator control 790 fledged Ythan Est. with 3br23 elsewhere; **M&N** 400 nests Montrose Basin , 50% hatched, 36% predated & 14% deserted, 200 young seen later; **Is of May** 1,181 nests, 83% hatched from sample 210 nests; **Fife** 3ff+11 young Eden Est, 18 young St.Andrews; **Lóth** 549 nests Forth islands (not all islands), max 350 Inchkeith, 282 juvs seen along shores; **Arg** 31 ff with 27br72 Colonsay; **Clyde** min 20 broods with *c*108 young; **Ayr** 448 nests Horse Is,counts of 483 young along Ayrshire coast.

Moult flocks: 5,841 S.Forth in Jun, 3,500 Colliston-Ythan **NE** & 600 Spey Bay **M&N** in Jun; 4,371 Turnberry **Ayr**,1,606 L.Ryan **D&G** & 1,500 Noss **Shet** in Jul; 5,878 S.Forth, 3,700 Ythan & 2,700 Barassie **Ayr** in Aug.

Winter: 5,637 Clyde Est.**Clyde** in Sep; 2,810 Leven **F** & 2,100 Montrose in Oct; 11,50 R.Tay **F** in Nov.

1m Kilbirnie L. **Ayr** 15 Oct & 1f Carsebeck **P&K** were rare inland records.

***King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*

*A very parsimonious 2m, 1 imm m and 1f on Shet; 2m on east coast, 1f on Shet and 2f elsewhere.*

**Shet** 1m Trestra area 1994 to 18 May, back 10 Nov into 1996 was joined by 1m on 19 May-18 Jun. 1m Sumburgh Head 8 Jul-21 Aug; 1 m Mousa Sound 20 Nov- 1996 was joined by 2nd-w m 26 Nov into 1996.

1m Tay Est. **F** 2 Feb-4 Mar is assumed by BBRC to be same as 1m Ythan Est. **NE** 22 Mar-10 Jul, also seen at

Blackdog **NE** 22 Jun & 29 Jul (returned from 1994).
1m Covesea **M&N** 9 Oct 1994 to 14 Feb, returned Lossiemouth 10 Nov and was present at Burghead Bay 12-13 Nov.
Also 1m Saltcoats **Ayr** 20-22 Mar; 1m Rattray Head **NE** 14 Apr.1f Olna Firth **Shet** 26-28 May; 1f Mail **Shet** 12-15 Jun; 1f Aberlady **L** 15-19 Jul, 1 f L.Ryan **D&G** 3 Sep-4 Mar 1996.
Photos of the Ayr bird in Mar: *Birding World* 8: 123; the Ythan bird in May *Birding World* 8:167; and two Shet males in Jun *Birding World* 8: 205.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*
Counts from key areas:

| Site | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shet** max | 145 | - | - | 176 | 142 | 212 |
| **Ork** max | - | 229 | 240 | 150 | 250 | 119 |
| Inverness **H** | 194 | 1172 | 611 | - | - | - |
| Riff Bank **H** | 320 | 443 | 177 | - | - | - |
| Cromarty **H** | 244 | 129 | 81 | - | - | - |
| Nairn/Culbin | 560 | 260 | 120 | nc | nc | 60 |
| Burghead **M&N** | 221 | 438 | 638 | 2000 | 300 | 40 |
| Spey Bay **M&N** | 60 | 105 | 92 | nc | nc | nc |
| S.Forth **L** | 302 | 325 | 198 | 12 | 231 | 208 |

Others: 100 Carnoustie **A&D** in Jan; 250 Kirkcaldy **F** & 100 Dunnet Bay **Caith** in Feb; 312 Ruddon's Pt. **F** in Mar; 350 Eynhallow **Ork**, 326 Methil **F** & 300 Kirkwall **Ork** in Apr; 130 R. Donarea **NE** in May; 2 Gosford Bay **L** in Jun; pair Bogside **Ayr** Jun-Aug; 1 Eshaness **Shet**, 1 Kingston **M&N** & 1 Ganavan Bay **Arg** Jul-Aug.
Inland birds: 1 NE in Jan, 2-3 Clyde & 1 P&K Jan-Apr; and singles High, Loth, Ayr and D&G Oct-Dec.
382 Methil, 180 Peninerine, S.Uist **OH** & 180 Dunnet Bay in Nov.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

| Site | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nairn/Culbin | 711 | 880 | 725 | nc | 145 | nc | 169 |
| Burghead Bay | 712 | 694 | 1087 | 150 | 600 | 500 | 650 |
| Spey B. **M&N** | 830 | 684 | 346 | nc | nc | nc | 200 |
| Methil **F** | 1315 | nc | 2750 | nc | nc | 850 | nc |
| Aberlady **L** | 700 | 425 | 700 | 50 | 160 | 68 | 240 |

Also: 2,100 Carnoustie **A&D** in Jan; 300 Colliston **NE** in Jan; 1,500 E.Largo **F**, 500 East Haven **A&D** in May; 3,513 Murcar shore **NE** in Jun: 1,000 Lunan Bay **A&D** in Aug; 1,000 Hattesrseat **NE** in Sep; 2,000 St.Andrews **F** & 300 Sound of Taransay, Harris **OH** in Dec.
Breeding: **Caith** prs at 2 sites; **High** 18 prs Sutherland; **P&K** seen 4 sites but no proof of breeding; **Bord** pr in Apr but not later; **Arg** 6prs+8mm Islay in May, 13mm in Jun with pr another site, 1pr+1m Mid-Argyll; **Clyde** pr L.Lomond in Jun; **Ayr** pr at site in Apr but not later.

***Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata*
*3m+1f in Forth & 1m in Moray Jan-Apr; 4m+1f in Forth & 2m in Moray Oct-Dec. 1f Shet Jun-Oct.*

**Forth**: 2m Largo from 3 Jan with 1f there from 19 Jan joined by another 3rd m 9 Feb-17 Apr. Last m on 30 Apr. 1m returned Largo 22 Oct with 2m from 30 Oct. 2m+1f 6 Dec with 3m+1f there to 23 Dec and into 1996.
4m+1f St.Andrews Bay 19 Nov-9 Dec with 2m+1f there 17-18 Dec and 2m on 28 Dec. 1m Musselburgh 18 Feb probably involves one of the above birds.
**M&N** and **NE**: 1m Burghead Bay 1 Jan-14 Feb ; 1m flew S Peterhead 30 Apr; 1 m Murcar 17 Jun & 3 Sep.; 1m Burghead 3 Oct-30 Dec with 2m there 4-19 Nov, 1 of above seen Culbin Bar 9 Nov.
**Shet**: 1st-s f Wick of Tresta, Fetlar 16 Jun-7 Oct.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

| Site | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nairn/Culbin | 100 | 139 | 143 | nc | 150 | nc |
| Burghead **M&N** | 141 | 231 | 324 | 250 | 300 | 150 |
| Spey Bay **M&N** | 89 | 129 | 41 | nc | nc | nc |
| Largo Bay **F** | 112 | 73 | 69 | nc | nc | nc |
| St.Andrews **F** | nc | nc | nc | 692 | 1000 | 750 |
| S.Forth **L** | 143 | 183 | 200 | 90 | 100 | 75 |
| Aberlady **L** | 280 | 28 | 18 | 20 | 11 | 22 |

Also 309 Largo Bay in Apr, 350 Lunan Bay **A&D** in Jul rising to 650 in Aug. Away from E.coast:, 12 Sinclair's Bay **Caith** in Apr; max 12 Echnaloch Bay **Ork** in Nov; 27 Sinclair's Bay & 4 Dunmure **Ayr** in Dec.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*
Monthly peaks:

| Site | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harray **Ork** | 71 | 156 | 127 | - | 10 | 71 | 27 |
| Stenness **Ork** | 191 | 125 | 183 | - | 2 | 152 | 191 |
| Tankerness **Ork** | 140 | 45 | 54 | - | 11 | 120 | 135 |
| Inv/BeaulyF. **H** | 187 | 464 | 710 | - | 53 | - | 260 |
| Skene **NE** | 150 | 222 | 248 | 212 | 33 | 160 | 120 |
| Strathbeg **NE** | 26 | 25 | 40 | 44 | 37 | 180 | 95 |
| L.Leven **P&K** | 310 | - | - | - | 260 | 261 | 300 |
| Leven **F** | 1350 | 823 | 538 | 465 | - | 880 | 1928 |
| S.Forth **L** | 309 | 262 | 232 | 156 | 23 | 270 | 214 |
| Tweed Haugh **B** | 126 | 171 | 218 | 112 | 46 | 139 | 314 |
| ClydeEst **Clyde** | 439 | 416 | 315 | nc | 7 | 272 | 437 |
| Doonfoot **Ayr** | 588 | 447 | 390 | 82 | 138 | 371 | 458 |
| Dipple **Ayr** | 493 | 450 | 300 | nc | nc | 350 | 660 |

220 Irvine **Ayr**, 191 Balmossie **A&D** & 152 Lamington **Clyde** in Jan.
Breeding: **High** 63 prs bred, 39prs hatched young;, 19prs Abernethy laid 204 eggs and fledged 159 young 39prs attempted Insh Marshes but 24 failed to hatch; **P&K** pairs present at 5 sites, br6 L.Tay was first confirmed record from that site, 2ff laid another site but failed, 2 juvs in Jul another site were not reared there (?) no further evidence at 2 other sites .
Summering : Shet (3), Ork, M&N (4-5), A&D (2), Fife (5),Loth (3), Bord (2), Clyde (5), Ayr and D&G (4).

*Smew*

*Andrew Stevenson*

*from Ayrshire Bird Report*

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

| Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr-May | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N Isles | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| N Scot | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| NE Scot | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | 5 |
| E/C Scot | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 3 |
| SE Scot | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| W.Scot | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| SW Scot | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | - | 3 | 10 |
| **Total** | 14 | 17 | 15 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 22 |

Best counts were: 3 Strathclyde Park **Clyde** 19 Feb and Doonfoot **Ayr** 4-5Mar; and 4 Bogside **Ayr** 29-30 Dec. Last 1 Wood of Cree **D&G** 6 May, first Kilburnie **Ayr** 8 Nov.

Also: 148 Inverkeithing **F** in Jan; 353 Burntisland **F** in Mar; 150 L.of Tankerness **Ork** in May;

Breeding: **Shet** bred 5 sites with pairs at 8 others; **Ork** 22ff at 7 sites, 10br55; **Caith** 2br10 noted; **High** 6prs Insh Marshes, 8prs Alness Pt, 4prs Eigg; **M&N** 3 sites with 9br95, including br18 +br22 - amalgamation of broods or egg-dumping?; **A&D** 8prs at 5 sites with 3br15; **P&K** 5 broods reported; **Clyde** 3 sites with 5br46; **Ayr** 14prs at 5 sites with 7br45 noted.

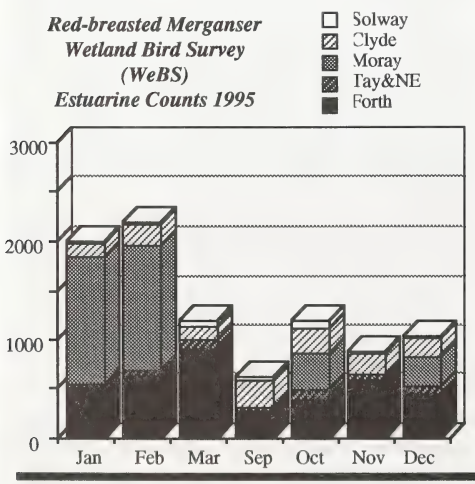
Moult flocks: 220 Montrose Basin **A&D** & 176 Largo **F** in Jun; 192 Delnies, 152 Kintra **Arg** in Jul; 185 Dipple **Ayr**, 172 L.Indaal, Islay **Arg** & 155 Machrihanish **Arg** in Aug; 216 Nairn Bar **M&N** in Sep.

250 flew up Spey at Whitness Head **M&N** 28 Sep.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

| Site | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.Stenness **Ork** | 65 | 36 | 53 | 39 | 59 | 44 |
| Highland F. **H** | 1220 | 1281 | - | 351 | - | 267 |
| Delnies **M&N** | 30 | 21 | 50 | 244 | 49 | 10 |
| Ythan Est .**NE** | 29 | 29 | 33 | 36 | 26 | 31 |
| S.Forth **Loth** | 244 | 218 | 371 | 439 | 269 | 216 |
| Clyde Est. **Clyde** | 76 | 11 | 92 | 39 | 103 | 146 |

***Red-breasted Merganser Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Estuarine Counts 1995***




**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Slightly higher 794 (647) noted Tweed **B** census 15 Jan but only 130 peak Hirsel **B** roost 5 Feb. 553 Beauly F. **H** in Jan with 585 in Feb and 496 in Mar; 270 roosted Strathclyde L. **Clyde** 3 Jan with 133 there on 7 Feb. Elsewhere next best counts were 90 L.of Skene **NE** and 43 Castle L. **D&G** in Jan and 74 Bardowie L. **Clyde** in Feb.

Pre-moult and moult flocks: 90 Cults Res. **NE** in May; 93 Tyninghame **L** in Jun; 118 Speymouth **M&N** and 174 Ness Mouth **H** in Jul; 156 Montrose Basin **A&D** and 277 Tay Est. **F** in Aug;

Breeding: *Success generally poor.* **Caith** br3 Rumsdale; **High** 7prs Insh Marshes; **NE** 2br10 noted; **A&D** 4 sites with br6 Glen Isla; **P&K** 3br26 noted; **Bord** 10br61, a low MBS of 6.1; **Clyde** 9br65 at 7 sites **Ayr** 16 sites with 21 ff but only 3br11.

68 L.Leven **P&K** in Jul; 80 L.Ken **D&G** , 60 Kinnaber **A&D** and 42 Talla **B** in Sep may be local production. 351 Highland Firths in Oct; 185 Hogganfield L. **Clyde** and 254 Hirsel in Nov; 500 N.Kessock shore **H** and record 361 Strathclyde Park in Dec.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

1-2 birds Gartmorn **UF**, Kilconquhar L. **F**, Montrose Basin **A&D**, Forfar L. **A&D**, Blagray Res. **Clyde** and Hogganfield L.**Clyde** in Jan but max 5 at Harestonhill P. **Clyde** 2 Jan. 1 Rescobie **A&D** is only Feb record. Arrival mostly early Mar . Main influx mid-Apr. Outwith main area 1-3 birds Ayr from 8 Apr; M&N 23 Apr; Shet 6 May, OHeb 7 May & Ork 22 May.

| Area | Sites | mm | ff | Broods |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ork** | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| **NE** | 1 | 4 | 1 | br4 |
| **A&D** | 5 | 28 | 7 | 4br17 |
| **P&K** | 7 | >7 | >7 | 7br?? |
| **Fife** | 15 | >9 | >9 | 9br45 |
| **Forth** | 3 | 7 | 5 | - |
| **Lothian** | 4 | 4 | 2 | - |
| **Borders** | 6 | 15 | 9 | 4br9 |
| **Clyde** | 12 | >24 | >15 | 11br30 |
| **Total** | 54 | >99 | 56 | >29br105 |

Max counts: 12 Hule Moss **B** 24 Aug; 12 Hoselaw L. **B** 26 Aug; 17 Redmyre L. **A&D** 31 Aug; 69 Kilconquhar L. 2 Sep; 49 Woodend L. **Clyde** 19 Sep; 18 Forfar L. 24 Sep; 44 Kilconquhar L. 2 Nov; 34 L.Gelly **F** 12 Nov. Limited dispersal into Loth, Ayr and NE but mostly birds gone by mid-Nov. Still 10 Cameron Res. **F** 1 Dec and 13 Gadloch **Clyde** 6 Dec. Elsewhere only singles Kilburnie **Ayr** & Carlingwark **D&G**.

1 Dunnet Bay **Caith**10 Aug was unusually on the sea. *2nd Caithness record.*

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***Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

Singles Whittlemuir Dam **Clyde** 6 May; Stronsay **Ork** 13 May; Cortachy **A&D** 14 May; Reston **B** 22 May; Brora **H** 30 May; Brow , Fladdabister & Scatness **Shet** 31 May-1 Jun; Inverdruie **H** 16 Jun; Tore **H** 9 Jul; **Fair Isle** 16 Jul; Lochwinnoch **Clyde** 1 Sep; Munlochy **H** on 7 Sep; Hound Pt. **L** 7 Oct; Newtonmore **H** 29 Oct.

*5 in spring, 3 in autumn.*

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***Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

1N Belhaven Bay **L** 7 Apr.

*First for Lothian.*

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**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

*22 territories were occupied in 1995. Eggs were laid by 15 pairs of which 11 fledged 26 young. The average brood size remained similar to previous years, as did overall production, but the expanding population base, and increasing experience of the birds will mean a steady increase in the population. The first successful breeding by three native-born birds also occurred in 1995.*

| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Territories** | 1 | 5 | 16 | 22 |
| **Nests with eggs** | 1 | 5 | 8 | 15 |
| **Nests with broods** | 1 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| **Young fledged** | 1 | 7 | 13 | 26 |
| **Mean Brood Size** | 1.0 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 |

**1995 Raptor Round Up SOC,SRSG'S & SNH.**

The regular winter roost near the release site held up to 30 birds from Jan-Mar with at least 45 individuals using the roost in that period.

Away from the release area birds were reported from M&N, NE (2), A&D (4), Fife, Bord (2) & Clyde during Jan-May and in Caith, NE (2), A&D, Clyde in Sep-Dec. Reports of summering birds from M&N and D&G (3)

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**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*

*There were ten pairs or trios in occupation, the same number as 1994 but including a new trio. Two adults, possibly not paired, also held territory in another area and a single adult was territorial elsewhere. A new nesting area, with Scottish-born birds, was discovered but was unsuccessful. One habitually unsuccessful pair at least achived success and raised a single chick. The details are listed below.*

*Only six new chicks were obtained from Norway due to bad weather, all were successfully released.*

| | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sites occupied | 12 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 14 |
| Sites with 2/3 birds | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Numbers of clutches | 9 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| Clutches hatched | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Broods fledged | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Young fledged | 2 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 7 |

**Sea Eagle Project: Newsletter 1995 RSPB, JNCC & SNH and 1995 Highland Bird Report.**

Reports of wing-tagged birds in the Highland area and other records from OHeb & Arg with only 1 Tillyporonie **NE** in Oct away from the main range.

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**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

First 1 Strathbeg **NE** 6 Feb; 1 **Fair Is** 24-25 Mar was earliest-ever there; another Strathbeg 14 Apr. Main movement late Apr in SW, early May in SE and May in NE. Max 7 L.of Strathbeg together in May.

| Area | Apr 15-30 | May 1-15 | May 16-31 | Jun 1-30 | Jul 1-31 | Aug 1-31 | Sep 1-30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N Isles** | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| **W Isles** | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| **Highland** | 1 | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | 2 |
| **NE Scot*** | 5 | 7 | 12 | 1 | - | 4 | 3 |
| **E/C Scot*** | 3 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| **SE Scot** | 1 | 12 | 6 | 1 | - | 4 | 2 |
| **W Scot** | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | 7 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| **Totals** | **20** | **35** | **42** | **12** | **4** | **13** | **11** |

* Numbers approximate.

Pair failed early at **D&G** site. 2-3 summered L.of Kinnordy **A&D**.

Last birds Morton L. **F** 8 Sep; Folly L. **B** 9 Sep; L.of Kinnordy 27 Sep; Olrig **Caith** 14 Oct; Keiss Links **Caith** 15 Oct.

*As the Scottish population grows there has been a marked increase in numbers of passage birds, a record being reported in 1995.*

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

At roosts: **Ork** 5-10 at 3 sites Jan-Mar/5-15 at 3 sites Oct-Dec; **Arg** 14-19 at 3 sites Jan-Mar with 7-9 at 3 sites Oct-Dec; **D&G** 46 at 8 roosts in Jan/Feb, the largest held 13 birds, 54% were grey males; 23 seen Oct-Dec, 82% grey males.

Breeding:

| RSG | Territories occupied | Sites Laid | Sites Hatched | Sites Fledged | Young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Orkney** | 35 | 18 | 9 | 9 | 22 | 2.5 |
| **Highland** | 43 | 43 | 24 | 24 | 83 | 2.9 |
| **NE** | 17 | 17 | ? | 4 | >4 | ? |
| **Tayside** | 41 | ? | ? | 19 | 55 | 2.9 |
| **Argyll** | 24 | 23 | 17 | 17 | 49 | 2.9 |
| **S Strathclyde** | 30 | 24 | 10 | 10 | >40 | 3.6 |
| **D&G** | 20 | 19 | 15 | 15 | 49 | 3.3 |

*Orkney had yet another poor season and Perthshire had several failures at the eggs stage. The long dry summer allowed fairly large broods to fledge successfully wherever they were free of persecution. Analysisof moors in Highland RSG showed a marked contrast in success rates, with keepered areas achieving half the success of unkeepered moors. Persecution was intense in Strathspey, Nairn and Moray. No birds were successful at all in Kincardine & Deeside. This last area is now a 'sink' for tagged birds. Persecution accounted for 30% of sites in S.Strathclyde RSG.*

**1995 Raptor Round Up: SOC, SRGS, SNH**

**Loth** & **Bord** *c*3prs showed interest but no success; **Clyde Is** 4prs Bute, a 'few' on Arran.

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***Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrorus*

3rd-yr m West Mainland **Ork** 18 Apr-13 Sep.

This bird paired with a female Hen Harrier and produced a nest with 5 eggs. The nest failed.

See Fairclough, *Orkney Bird Report 1995*: 67-68 and *Birding World* 8: 253-255 for accounts of the Orkney breeding of Pallid Harrier. Photo s also in *Birding World 8: 207 & British Birds* 89:527.

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**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

**High** br1 Lochaber, no success Brora; **M&N** 6 sites, one failed & another raised br4; **NE** 5prs reared 8 young, the low success was due to poor weather; **Bord** 10br32 reared from 14 monitored sites showed increased success and numbers, 2 other were occupied but the remaining two failed, no robberies were known, casual records (29) were slightly down on 1994; **Ayr** 2br6 with another pair known to have bred; **D&G** 8 reared from 3 sites with one nest robbed

Singles Ork & High in Apr & Sep , Caith in Apr & Aug and in A&D, Forth & Clyde.

*Breeding reports still vary in their accuracy, largely due to continued secrecy in face of persecution but more areas now giving a truer picture of the local situation.*

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**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

1 overwintered Tingwall **Shet**; 1 Coll Arg, outwith usual range.

Breeding: **Ork** 7 sites but only one successful; **High** 5prs Brora, 3-4prs Insh Marshes, br2 Eigg; **Loth** 2br4 reported; **Arg** 41 young reared from 10 nests L.Eck, pr propbably bred L.Gruinart, Islay; **Clyde** 3prs produced 6 young; **Ayr** 19 occupied sites produced 15 nests and 12 clutches of which 11br45 were reared successfully, outwith study area another 12 sites known and another 2br6 were reared.

Reported 50 sites in NE , 40 in Fife and 49 in Loth; 165 bird/days in Clyde from 3 observers (150 in 1994).

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**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Breeding: ***CBC*** (A+37%)

**Ork** 2prs reared 2 young Hoy; **Caith** 150 records, now well established in NE over last 5 years; **High** 71prs surveyed, 59prs laid, 52prs hatched and 51prs raised 106 young. MBS 2.1,, MBP 1.5; **NE** 170 records from 100 sites, 56prs present Deeside and spreading E.Grampian and Buchan, 10 known breeding sites; **A&D** spreading into lowland area, 15 breeding records received; **P&K** 31-34 prs Strathallan where 13prs reared 22 young; **Fife** *c*50prs, mostly in W, 20 confirmed as breeding and 30 as probable, 12 prs reared 25 young; **Loth** 52prs present, 34 reared 91 young; **Bord** 155prs, 41 confirmed nests, 13 pairs with 31 young; **Arg** 23prs Colonsay with 11 pairs reared 21 young, 24 fledged from 2? sites in L.Eck area; **Clyde** considerable spread; **Clyde Is** 8+prs Bute; **Ayr** *c*60prs at 69 sites, 13 pairs reared min 26 young.

*Better success in 1994 with most areas showing higher brood sizes - High 1.5 (1.4), Fife 2.1, Loth 2.7(1.7) Bord 2.8( 2.1).*

29 Gilmerton **P&K** 10 Sep & 18 L.Spynie **M&N** 19 Sep were highest counts.

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*** Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

*2-3 overwintered. 3 in spring. 3 in autumn-winter.*

1 Rossie Moor **A&D** 1994-28 Feb; 1st-w Lammermuirs **L & B** 1994-13 Mar was joined by ad 13 Mar; 1 Ardler **A&D** 10 Apr, also seen Kinnordy 11 Apr; 1 Kilburnie **Ayr** 22 Apr; 1Skaw, Unst **Shet** 30 Apr; 1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 3-7 Oct; 1 Chapel **L** 8-28 Dec; 1 L.of Harray **Ork** 24 Dec.

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**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

Breeding:

| RSG | Occupied | Laid | Hatched | Fledged | Young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Highland** | 96 | 66 | 49 | 44 | 48 | 1.1 |
| **North-east** | 17 | 13 | ? | 10 | 13 | 1.3 |
| **Tayside** | 32 | >11 | >9 | 9 | 15 | 1.7 |
| **Central** | 6 | 6 | ? | 1 | 2 | 2.0 |
| **Argyll** | 52 | 32 | ? | 16 | 18 | 1.1 |

*The breeding season was delayed somewhat in spring resulting in a later fledgling period. The fine summer may have*

*balanced any deliterious effects of the spring. Better occupation in E.Highlands but many young are still disappearing into keepered areas. Success was average overall, close to long-term means.*

**1995 Raptor Round Up: SOC, SRGS, SNH**

**Arran**: 2prs produced 2br3; **Clyde** 2prs raised 2br2; **D&G** 2prs raised 2br2. Elsewhere: wandering individuals seen Ayr (1) & D&G (1): Loth & Bord (7).

See Gregory (1996) in *Argyll Bird Report* 12: 85-88 for an account of the Argyll population since 1964.

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**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Singles L.Ken **D&G** 9 Mar, New Lanark **Clyde** 24 Mar & L.of Lintrathen **A&D** 26 Mar were first reported.

Breeding:

| | Occupied | Laid | Hatched | Fledged | Young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Scotland** | 99 | 92 | 77 | 73 | 144 | 1.9 |
| Highland | 58 | 56 | 44 | 42 | 84 | 2.0 |
| **Tayside** | 23 | 23 | ? | 19 | 32 | 1.7 |
| **Argyll** | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2.0 |

*In addition to the official totals, five eyries had single birds and three other pairs were seen but no nests located, bringing the overall total to over 100 pairs. 6 nests were robbed, 9 failed at the egg stage, 4 at the chick stage. Failures were associated with strong winds. A Scandinavian-ringed bird that might have brought new genes into the population was unfortunately robbed.*

**1995 Raptor Round Up: SOC, SRGS, SNH**

No increase in numbers of nests in NE. Multiple sightings becoming more common in Loth, Bord & D&G, raising hopes of breeding in S.Scotland, but no proof yet.

Late singles Kinnaber & Brechin **A&D** 27 Oct, St.Cyrus **NE** 28 Oct & Avoch **H** 31 Oct.

***Osprey***

***Brent Hurley***

***from Borders Bird Report No.16***

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**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Good spring with *c*21 Shet & *c*7 Fair Is.

Breeding: **Ork** declineing population, only 10 sites and 7 successful nests where 6br19; **High** 6prs Eigg, 2prs Insh Marshes; **Fife** 3br8 reported; **Arg** pr bred Colonsay for first time in several years; **Clyde** 37 AOTs, with 4br7 noted; **Ayr** 23 territories, 6br19 outwith study area.

*In the Ayrshire study the expected crash in vole numbers and a cold, wet and windy spring resulted in the lowest occupancy of territories since the study began in 1972. Adults captured were less than normal weight reflecting the poor conditions of winter. The better weather later in the season suited those that did attempt to breed and these birds were very productive. Only 50% of sites were occupied and only 18 clutches were laid. 74% of eggs laid hatched and 86% of the young fledged. 4 pairs failed Productivity was quite high with MBS 4.25/ successful nest.*

*In Highland 29 pairs bred, 2 less than 1994. Mean clutch size was 5.4, near record levels and brood sizes at 4.7 were the highest since 1989. Productivity was up 0.1 on 1994 suggesting that birds made the best of the good conditions of late spring and summer.* **1995 Raptor Round Up: SOC, SRGS, SNH and Ayrshire Bird Report 1995.**

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***Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

A 1st-s m N. Ronaldsay **Ork** 28-30 May was killed by a cat !

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**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Breeding:

| RSG | Occupied | Laid | Hatched | Fledged | Young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shetland** | 20 | 20 | - | 14 | 52 | 3.7 |
| **Orkney** | 16 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 33 | 3.3 |
| **Highland** | 21 | 21 | 16 | 16 | >45 | 3.2 |
| **North-east** | 34 | 27 | - | 18 | 58 | 3.2 |
| **Tayside** | 48 | 38 | - | 21 | 57 | 3.0 |
| **South-east** | 41 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 78 | 3.9 |
| **Argyll** | 8 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 12+ | 2.0 |
| **S.Stra'clyde** | 18 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 28 | 3.1 |
| **D&G** | 13 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 2.2 |

*Overall occupation rates were around 50% and and about 50% of those were actually successful in fledging young. Late snow had some impact in NE, Perthshire and Highland but conditions were much more favourable further south where high levels of productivity were reported.*

**1995 Raptor Round Up : SOC, SRSG & SNH.**

*Hobby*
*& House Martins*
*J.P.Smith*
*Short-listed for Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report from North-east Scotland Bird Report*

***Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*
*12 in spring, 2 in summer, 7 in autumn.*
Singles Glenapp **D&G** 3 May; Boddam **Shet** 23 May; Honeysgeo, S.Ronaldsay **Ork** 25 May; 2 Glen Gheallaidh **M&N** 26 May; singles Wood of Cree **D&G** 29 May; Grutness **Shet** 29 May-1 Jun; Insh Marshes **H** 30 May; **Fair Is** 31 May -2 Jun; Irvine **Ayr** 2 Jun; Guelt Glen **Ayr** 2-13 Jun; Penninghame **D&G** 14-22 Jun; N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 20 Jun; Applegarthtown **D&G** 26 Jun; Dyce **NE** 23-30 Jul; L.of Banks **Ork** 6 Aug; juv W.Mainland **Ork** 8 Aug; juv Drem **L** 13 Aug; Clachan of Campsie **Clyde** 15 Aug; Insh Marshes & juv N.Ronaldsay 29 Aug Last 1 juv Hempriggs **M&N** 16 Sep.

*** Gyrfalcon** *Falco rusticolus*
1 white-phase St.Kilda **OH** 31 Mar; 1 intermediate-phase Linn of Quoich, Braemar **NE** 24 Apr.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*
Breeding:

| RSG | Occupied | Laid | Hatched | Fledged | Young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Orkney** | 19 | - | 7 | 5 | >10 | 2.0 |
| **Highland** | 35 | 29 | 22 | 20 | 40 | 2.0 |
| **North-east** | 60 | 43 | - | 22 | 41 | 1.9 |
| **Tayside** | 52 | - | - | 22 | 54 | 2.6 |
| **Cent** | 15 | - | - | 11 | 23 | 2.1 |
| **South-east** | - | 49 | - | 30 | 89 | 3.0 |
| **Argyll** | 17 | 12 | - | 8 | >17 | 2.4 |
| **S.Stra'clyde** | 25 | 23 | - | 13 | >29 | 2.2 |
| **D&G** | 99 | 77 | - | 54 | 121 | 2.2 |

*Peregrine are now extinct as a breeding species in Shetland, no sites showing signs of occupation. The last confirmed breeding being in 1990. Weather caused difficulties in many areas of Highlands and C. Scotland. The summer allowed record production in SE Scotland however with an overall MBS of 3.0. Persecution and robberies still dog the population however with higher levels of problems in grouse areas in NE & Highlands while between 30-50% of nests are still robbed in southern Scotland.*
**1995 Raptor Round Up: SOC. SRSG & SNH**

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*
Abernethy **H** 1km² survey plot held 10mm+9ff in Apr & 10mm+10ff + 29 young in Aug - MBS 3.5 was poorer than 5.0 in 1994. Stocks remain seriously low in M&N with no shooting Glen Avon **M&N** for 2nd year where cold spring depressed insect availability for newly-hatched chicks. Larger numbers than recent years in parts of **NE** and good breeding success in Deeside study contrasted with the patchy success elsewhere in area. Poor numbers and suspension of shooting in some of the Angus glens **A&D** and low population levels in parts of **D&G** but return to former levels Lomond Hills **F**.
**Ork** 3 coveys with total of 15 birds seen Hoy, young seen Gotta, Gairsay and Mainland, max 20 Hill of Huntis, Evie in Oct; **High** 3prs Handa raised 3br22, some possibility of extincton Eigg where just 2 broods seen, 270 An Suidhe, Kincraig in Dec; **NE** 43 Glen Gairn in Jan & 66 Morven in Oct; **A&D** 12 Glen Tennet in Aug; **P&K** 4prs Vane Farm (1); **Fife** 16 Lomond Hills in Oct; **Loth** 70 Harestone-Meikle Says in Feb; **Bord** 6br25 seen Greenlaw area; **Arg** 8-12prs L.Gruinart, Islay.

**Ptarmigan** *Lagopus mutus*
Seen 18 sites in Highland during breeding season. Population in Glenshee **NE** now increasing following relatively low numbers in recent years. 75 seen Lochnagar **NE** in Oct with 61 Broad Cairn **NE** in Nov but these pale into insignificance in the face of a flock of 250 on L.Avon cliffs below Cairn Gorm **M&N/H** in Jan.
**A&D** pr Corrie Clova in Apr; **P&K** noted 6 hills, max 23 Meale Buidhe in Novl; **Arg** singles seen Beinn Bheula, Cowal in Feb & The Cobbler in Dec with 1-2 on Mull at Ben More & Beinn Mheadhon; **Clyde** 8 seen Ben Lomond in Apr with br8 there in Jun & 3 Ben Vorlich in Jul; **Clyde Is** max 5 Goat Fell, Arran in Aug with 1 Beinn Brheac in Nov.

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

Reported : (mostly at leks)

| | Sites | mm | ff | | Sites | mm | ff |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **High** | 44 | 195 | 5 | **Bord** | 33 | 130 | 22 |
| **M&N** | 7 | 8 | 2 | **Arg** | 8 | 17 | 2 |
| **NE** | 19 | >80 | >25 | **Clyde** | 19 | 39 | 18 |
| **A&D** | 9 | 20 | 4 | **Ayr** | 30 | 73 | 2 |
| **Forth** | 10 | 42 | 1 | **D&G** | 6 | 29 | 1 |
| **Loth** | 6 | 7 | 31 | | | | |

Marked increase Abernethy reserve **H** where 13 leks with 90 birds seen May (50 in 1992, 63 in 1994), perhaps indicating success of management policies. Breeding surveys there indicated 3.3ff/km² & 4.8 young/hen. 3.0 young/hen in Jul brood counts at Creag Meadgidh **H**. Surveys in W found 66birds at 15 leks in **Clyde**, 58mm at 19 leks in **Ayr** and 10 birs at 3 leks in **D&G** with 18 other males elsewhere. 10broods in **Ayr** with MBS 2.8. Largest lek, by far, was 40mm +10ff at Muttonhall **B** but 28 Forest of Birse **NE** and 22 Rynie **NE**.

**Capercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus*

**High** 37mm +25ff at 6 leks Abernethy reserve (15+5 in 1989 & 25+24 in 1994), brood counts were above aaverage with 1.4 young/hen, although lower than the high 2.9 in 1994, a winter drive yielded 20mm+30ff (12+19 in 1994), seen 9 other area with 25 in turnips Kindeace; **M&N** encouraging increases after 1992-93 releases with 12-14mm at lek Darnaway with several broods; 8mm+5ff Elchies Forest with 2 broods; present 6 other sites, but no sign of recovery in Culbin where just a single f seen; **NE** continued decline and reported from 8 sites with fewer birds and just a single chick fledging Glen Tanar with 54mm+21ff in Nov census, numbers similar to 1994 in Deeside and just single record from Donside; **A&D** 2-3mm/2ff Montreathmont with 1m L.of Lintrathen; **P&K** reported 3 woods, only single brood noted; **Forth** 1m Drumore in May with predated pr at nearby lek; **Arg** no reports; **Clyde** just 27 birds (28) in L Lomond islands census (48 in 1993), 17mm+8ff +2 others).

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

(includes Chukar and Red-leg x Chukar hybrids) ***CBC*** +15%

Fewer reports than previous years in most areas except A&D, High & Clyde Is. where releases continue. Only 1-2 records from Arg and Clyde and < 5 records from M&N, P&K, Fife, Loth and Ayr.

Best counts were 12 Kirkton of Kingoldrum **A&D** in Mar; 11 Crimond **NE** in Sep and 15 Watherston **B** in Nov. Only 2 records of breeding with br8 Pennyglen **Ayr** and br8 Threeburnford **B**.

The only Chukar-types reported were at Milne Graden **B** and St.Abbs **B**.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

***CBC*** -1% A good season in M&N, NE, A&D and Fife and good numbers reported Ayr and Clyde. Some benefits from set-a-side may be materialising. Best broods were br17 Alford **NE** and br15 Cathkin Braes **Clyde**. Good sized parties widespread, max 146 in 15 coveys at Leuchars Airfield **F** in Nov with groups of 50 in Loth, 32 Clyde, 25 M&N, 21 A&D, 19 Ayr, 18 Bord, 16 Forth & 12 D&G and High.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

First singles Mauchline **Ayr** 6 May; Sanday **Ork** 7 May; Cronberry **Ayr** 10 May; & Logie Buchan **NE**, Inverarity **A&D** and Linwood **Clyde** on 13-14 May. Other influxes mid-Jun and early Jul.

Birds present each month. and total known to have occurred.

| | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N&W Isles** | 6 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 8 |
| **N Scot** | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | - | - | 9 |
| **NE Scot** | 2 | 10 | 11 | 3 | - | - | 23 |
| **E/C Scot** | 1 | 5 | 10 | 3 | - | - | 14 |
| **SE Scot** | 3 | 19 | 9 | 4 | 1 | - | 31 |
| **W Scot** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 6 |
| **SW Scot** | 2 | 7 | 5 | - | 1 | - | 14 |
| **Total** | **17** | **49** | **44** | **13** | **3** | **-** | **105** |

Best counts were 8 Cummingston-Roseisle area **M&N** 27 Jun and 10 Windywalls area **B** 29 Jun. No confirmed breeding.

*A total of c105 birds was a better than average showing.*

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

**Ork** present up to 12 sites; **Arg** Colonsay -17 calling mm (20); **Forth** 9.6 territories/km² near Doune; **Loth** 19prs Aberlady (24).

Highest counts: 200 Tarland **NE** in Oct & 100+ Delnapot **M&N** in Nov but observers rarely bother to submit records near release areas.

**Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*

1m Glenbay **Ayr** in Mar and Jun; 1 N.Kessock **H** in Apr & Black Isle **H** in May; 1 Palnure **D&G** in May are the only reports from the breeding feral population in the SW. 1 Longformacus **B** in Nov was an escape.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Winter records from *c*41 sites, max 5 Restenneth **A&D** in Jan & 5 Cran L. **M&N** in Mar. Few migrants noted.

Breeding: **Ork** up to 6 sites held birds, 4prs Mill Dam, Shapinsay and br2 N.Ronaldsay; **OHeb** br1 seen Carinish, N.Uist; **Caith** 5 calling at 2 sites; **High** 14mm Insh Marshes, 5 calling at 3 other sites; **M&N** perhaps 13prs at 3 sites; **NE** birds noted 4 sites, perhaps bred Strathbeg; **A&D** 4prs L.of Kinnordy; **Forth** 1 site; **Loth** 4prs,with 6 broods Bavelaw, br1 Duddingston; **Bord** noted 6 sites; **Arg** 5prs Coll where not recorded in either ***BTO*** Atlas; **Clyde** 12 territories at 9 sites with broods noted at

Newshot Is, Lochwinnoch& Baron's Haugh; **Ayr** 47 ads calling at 19 sites with min 18 juvs heard at 4 sites; **D&G** 5 sites.
In autumn mostly passage singles noted Sep-Dec, but up to 5 N.Ronaldsay & **Fair Is** on 11-12 Oct.
Higher Nov-Dec numbers with records from *c*38sites, max 5 Lindores **F** and Duddingston with 4 N.Ronaldsay & L.Loy **M&N**.

***Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*
*2 in spring, 10 in autumn.*
Singles Coll **Arg** 3-14 May and 1 **Fair Is** 10 May. 1N.Skye **H** 30 May-2 Jun. Up to 4 calling Insh Marshes **H** through summer.
1 Knockshinnoch **Ayr** 11 Aug-13 Sep; 1 L.of Strathbeg **NE** 15-21 Aug; 1 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** 20 Aug-10 Sep with another there 27 Aug-2 Sep; 1 imm N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 24 Aug with 1 ad 29 Aug & 1st-w there on 8 Sep; 1 Fair Is 17-21 Sep; 1 dead Strichen **NE** on 2 Oct; and 1 St.Kilda **OH** 14 Nov.

***Spotted Crake***
***by Peter Donnelly***
***Short-listed for best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report***

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*
First singles Uig **H** 12 May.
Calling males in the main areas:-

| Singing birds | 1994 | 1995 | | 1994 | 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Orkney** | 20 | 39 | Rum & Muck **H** | 1 | 0 |
| Lewis,**OHeb** | 89 | 96 | Eigg **High** | 2 | 0 |
| Harris,**OHeb** | 7 | 8 | Tiree,**Arg** | 126 | 140 |
| N.Uist **OHeb** | 51 | 53 | Coll, **Arg** | 25 | 37 |
| Benbecula,**OHeb** | 19 | 23 | Mull, Iona +,**Arg** | 4 | 4 |
| S.Uist,**OHeb** | 49 | 58 | Colonsay+, **Arg** | 6 | 12 |
| Barra+,**OHeb** | 40 | 44 | Islay & Jura ,**Arg** | 13 | 14 |
| Skye, **High** | 9 | 9 | **Total** | 463 | 537 |
| Canna, **High** | 2 | 0 | | | |

*A 16% increase over the 1994 figures is encouraging for the various bodies involved in Corncrake management schemes in the Hebrides that hope to make farming more Corncrake-friendly. This figure almost matches the 1988 census (540) which suggests that the decline seen since then has now stopped and that the population is recovering from its lowest point in the early 1990s.* Corncrake Newsletter 1995.
3 spring singles Mull of Galloway & Sandhead **D&G** in May & 1 **Fair Is** 12 Jun were the only spring records. Elsewhere singing birds: 9-10 calling at 7 other Highland sites; Dunbeath **Caith** & Lecropt **Forth** through the spring and summer and at Piersknowe **B** in late Jun.
Few autumn birds with 4 singles on Fair Is and 2 on Ork , with the latest date on **Fair Is** 14 Oct.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
Winter max: 24 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** & 21 Culzean **Ayr** in Jan; 48 Teviot Haughs **B** & 34 Airthey **Forth** in Feb.
Breeding: ***CBC*** (F-1%)

| | Sites | Prs | Broods | MBS | | Sites | Prs | Broods | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shet** | 2 | 2 | br2 | 2.0 | **Fife** | 6 | 11 | 10br29 | 2.9 |
| **Ork** | 13 | 19 | ? | - | **Forth** | 6 | 17 | 4br11 | 2.7 |
| **Caith** | 2 | 2 | 3br11 | 3.7 | **Loth** | 13 | 34 | 23br59 | 3.1 |
| **High** | 5 | 6 | br4 | - | **Bord** | 49 | 75 | 30br86 | 2.9 |
| **M&N** | 11 | 21 | ? | - | **Arg** | 5 | 10 | 1br2 | 2.0 |
| **NE** | **6** | **9** | **-** | **-** | **Clyde** | 45 | 120 | - | - |
| **A&D** | 1 | 9 | ?br20 | - | **Ayr** | 41 | 78 | 6br19 | 3.1 |
| **P&K** | 2 | 13 | - | - | **D&G** | 2 | 13 | 3br? | - |

Max autumn/winter counts : 69 (53% juvs ) Bemersyde Moss **B**, 43 Bavelaw **L** and 23 Montgrew **M&N** in Aug; 25 Baron's Haugh in Sep; 40 Carlingwark **D&G** & 28 Airthrey in Oct; and 20 Strathbeg **NE** in Dec.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*
Winter: 750 Linlithgow L. **L**, 342 Drummond P. **P&K**, 333 Castle L. D&G, 300 L.Watten **Caith**, 203 Kinghorn L. **F** & 149 Lochend L. **Clyde** in Jan; 360 L.Gelly **F** & 250 L.of Harray **Ork** in Feb.
Breeding:

| | Sites | Prs | Broods | MBS | | Sites | Prs | Broods | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ork** | 16 | 21 | 9+ | - | **Fife** | 18 | ? | ?br132 | - |
| **Caith** | 3 | 4 | 3br8 | 2.7 | **Forth** | 7 | 23 | 9br15 | 1.7 |
| **High** | 2 | ? | ?br10 | - | **Loth** | 12 | 24 | 19br? | 2.5 |
| **M&N** | 11 | 18 | 8+ | - | **Bord** | 39 | 215 | 58br180 | 3.1 |
| **NE** | 2 | 2 | - | - | **Clyde** | 56 | 207 | ?br280 | 1.9 |
| **A&D** | 2 | 5+ | ?br22 | - | **Ayr** | 30 | 30 | 19br63 | 3.3 |
| **P&K** | 1 | 15 | 8br15 | 1.9 | | | | | |

Winter: 496 Kilconquhar L. **F** in Sep; 1,020 L. Leven **P&K**, 275 Bishop L. **Clyde** & 250 Balgavies L. **A&D** in Oct; 972 L.of Harray, 712 L.Gelly & 280 Strathbeg **NE** in Nov; 771 Linlithgow L., 323 Drummond P. & 309 Lochore Meadows **F** in Dec.

Freezing conditions in late Dec forced many birds to the coast: 10 Ham **Caith**, 103 Doonfoot **Ayr**, 12 Croy Bay **Ayr** , 30+ L.Ryan **D&G** and 1-2 birds Thurso **Caith**, Castrlehill **Caith**, Culbin Bar **M&N**, Fraserburgh **NE**, Eyemouth **B** and Ardmore **Clyde**.

***Crane** *Grus grus*
1 Dalcross **H** 28 Apr; 1 Sortata, Lyth **Caith** 1-2 May; 1 Tain **H** 5-10 May; 1 Bowmore, Islay **Arg** 17-20 May were the only records. *8th for Arg.*

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**Oystercatcher** *Haemtopus ostralegus*
Site counts: 8,651 Highland Firths **H**, 4,946 S.Forth **L**, 4,796 Clyde Est. **Clyde**, 3,257 Wigtown Bay **D&G**, 2,800 Montrose Basin **A&D** & 1,400 Eden Est. **F** in Jan. Unusually large number of inland birds in Jan in SE, especially Bord, masked first inland movements but first P&K 27 Feb; M&N, A&D, NE & Forth 5-8 Feb; Clyde 12 Feb & High 20 Feb. Arrivals 1 Feb in Shet and 14 Feb in Ork.
Non-coastal flocks: 370 Almondmouth **P&K** 18 Feb; 496 L.of Stenness **Ork** 25 Feb; 480 Craigforth **Forth** on 2 Mar; 239 Teviot Haughs **B** 11 Mar; 1,487 mid-Clydesdale **Clyde** 12 Mar; 350 Shieglas **P&K** 13 Mar; 500 L.of Skaill, Sandwick **Ork** 29 Mar.
Breeding: **Fair Is** 71prs (60); **Ork** 74prs N.Hill, Papa Westray (97); **High** 66prs Insh Marshes, 19prs Handa, 90prs (97) Eigg but successful; **M&N** 24prs +15 others Glen Avon raised, only 2 young; **P&K** 63prs Strathallan (87); **Is of May** 30prs (30); **Forth** 12prs/km² Doune; **Loth** 24prs on 5 Forth islands; **Bord** 35br73 (MBS 2.1) ringed in area, 12prs Gala Water WBS (8), 3prs/km R.Tweed at Makerstoun; **Arg** 78prs Coll reserve (85) & 9prs L.Gruinart , Islay (12); **Clyde Is.** 10prs Pladda Is.. Roof-top nests noted High (7), M&N(5), NE, Fife, Forth & Loth. Pr hatched and raised a Herring Gull pullus at Elgin Academy **M&N**!
1,322 Eden Est. **F** in Aug; 13,000 Inner Solway **D&G** in Sep; 19,350 Caerlaverock **D&G**, 8,372 Highland Firths, 6,916 S.Forth **L** & 2,000 Ardmore **Clyde** in Oct; 5,303 Clyde Est in Nov; 1,749 Nairn Bars **M&N** in Dec.

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**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
2 Doonfoot **Ayr** 2 May; 2 Carinish, N.Uist **OH** 23 Jul; 1 Ardmore **Clyde** 10-12 Dec. *3rd for both Clyde & Ayr.*

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***Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*
1 **Fair Is** 14 May. *7th record for island.*

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*** Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
1 Musselburgh **L** 9 Apr; 1 Candren P. **Clyde** 15-17 Apr; 1 un-named Tweed gravel island **B** 23 Apr; 1 Donmouth **NE** 29 Apr; 1 un-named site **D&G** 2 May. 2 together Donmouth 4-16 May , thereafter single birds only. Nest found inland but failed after 11 days incubation, the relay was however successful and br3 seen 27 Jul.
*First breeding record for NE and 5th for Scotland. 2nd record for Borders.*
**[1992]** Pr bred un-named site **D&G**.
**[1993]** Pr returned un-named site **D&G**, 3 seen there on 11 May, but site abandoned after late snow.

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**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*
Site max include: 228 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** , 250 Stevenston Pt. **Ayr** & 178 S.Forth **L** in Jan; 200 L.Ryan **D&G** in Feb; 100 Methil **F** in Mar.
First inland Bord 18 Feb; D&G 8 Mar; P&K 17 Mar; Clyde 26 Ma.r; NE 3 Apr.
Spring passage peak of 2,745 in ***WeBS*** counts
Site peaks: 115 N.Ronaldsay in Apr; 340 Goosepools **F**, 300 Newbie **D&G**, 212 Dunnet Bay **Caith**, 199 L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg** , 192 Findhorn Bay **M&N** and 173 Ythan Est. **NE** in May
Breeding: **Fair Is** 14 prs (12); **Ork** 8prs N.Hill, Papa Westray (16); **Caith** 5prs at 3 sites; **High** 8prs Eigg but little success; **M&N** 19prs at 5 sites with 5prs Cloddach Quarry; **NE** 12prs at Crimond Airfield; **Fife** 16pairs at 4 sites only managed to rear 11 young; **Loth** 12 sites with 22prs , 7prs Aberlady (6); Bord 9 sites, 15prs; **Arg** 20prs Colonsay (22), 12prs Coll reserve; **Clyde** 14 sites, 23prs, 6br16 noted; **Ayr** 21 sites, 38prs, 2br5 noted.
Few large counts: 696 Eden Est **F** in Jun; 319 S.Forth & 265 Ythan in Aug; 520 N.Bay, S.Uist **OH**, 176 L.Paible, N.Uist **OH**, 150 N.Ronaldsay in Sep; 284 Ythan Est., 196 Cromarty F. **H** & 150 Barry Buddon **A&D** in Oct; 170 Killinallan, Islay **Arg** in Nov.

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***Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*
1 Starnafin **NE** 13-15 Apr.
*2nd record for area, last was at Peterhead in 1867.*

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**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*
First 4 Slochd summit **H** 13 Apr; then 1 L.Stiapavat, Lewis **OH** 30 Apr & 1 Black Hill **L** 3 May. Then Clyde 5 May; Ayr 6 May; D&G 8 May; NE & Caith 13 May; Arg 17 May; Ork 19 May.
Some reasonable-sized parties with group of 10-14 seen Loth, Clyde, Ayr and D&G (2).
**High** no Cairngorm survey but present 6 sites; **M&N** 3mm bred; **NE** present 13 sites, breeding confirmed in at least 2 sites; **P&K** reported 3 areas.
Few in autumn: last birds on territory **NE** hills 14 Aug; 2 Papa Westray **Ork** 12 Aug; 2 Fife Ness **F** 19 Aug; 1 St.Kilda **OH** 10 Sep; 2 **Fair Is** 15 Sep; 2 Machrihanish **Arg** 10 Oct; 1 Fair Is 17-19 Oct.

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*** American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*
1 ad m Ythan Est. **NE** 9-16 Jun; 1juv Aberlady **L** 7 Oct; 1juv Maidens **Ayr** 24 Oct-1 Nov.
*1st record for NE and 4th for Ayrshire & Lothian.*
Photo of Ayr bird : *Birding World* 8: 408.

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*** Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*
1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 16-21 Sep.
*3rd record for Orkney.*

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Site peaks of 2,000 Arbroath **A&D**, 1,200 Stronsay **Ork**, 1,145 Doonfoot **Ayr** & 1,000 Seafield **L** in Jan; 2,600 Aberlady **L** & 1,086 Caerlaverock **D&G** in Feb; 1,200 Rattray **NE** in Apr:

265 "northern" *altifrons*-types Balkenna **Ayr** 6 Apr; 100 Hill of Rattar **Caith** 15-16 Apr; 3 L.of Mey **Caith** 13 May; 'some' Carrbridge **H** 14 May.

Inland flocks 14-24 Apr include: 500 Fettercairn **NE**, 500 Brechin **A&D**, 470 Mayshiel **L**, 600 Groundistone Heights **B** 14-24 Apr

Breeding: **Ork** 21prs N.Hoy (16), 19prs Rousay; **Caith** 3 sites with 20+prs Knockfin-Raey; **High** records from just 3 sites, 5prs Eigg (2); **M&N** only 2prs Glen Avon estate; **Loth** 8prs at 3 sites; **Bord** 10 prs at 5 sites; **Clyde** 22prs in 2 areas; **Ayr** 39prs at 18 sites.

Local peaks include: 2,450 Stronsay **Ork**, 2,500 Ythan, 1,600 Eden Est **F**, 1,500 Sandwick **Ork** in Oct; 3,000 L.of Banks **Ork**, 4,750 S.Forth **L** & 3,000 Strathbeg **NE** in Nov; 2,346 Barassie **Ayr** in Dec.

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**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Best counts: 280 Caerlaverock **D&G** & 273 Tyninghame **L** in Jan; 1,043 Eden **F**, 400 Aberlady **L** & 224 Tentsmuir **F** in Feb; 530 Aberlady in Apr with 420 there in May.

Last Ayr 30 Apr; Arg 17 May; Ork & NE 21 May.

58-95 summered Aberlady.

First N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 29 Jul; NE 5 Aug; M&N, Forth & Arg 11-13 Aug; Bord 26 Aug; Shet & Ayr 9 -10Sep; Clyde 14 Sep; Fair Is 16 Sep.

660 Goosepools F, 198 Tyninghame in Oct.

Inland records from Montgrew **M&N** and L.Leven **P&K** in Sep.

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**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

1,700 Doonfoot **Ayr**, 1,400 L.Ryan **D&G**, 1,184 Clyde Est. **Clyde** & 1,040 Ythan **NE** in Jan; 1,000 West Ferry Clyde in Feb.

Returning dates are obscured by the large numbers wintering inland. Return Bord on 1 Feb; P&K and Ayr 7-10 Feb; High, M&N, Forth 12-15 Feb; NE 19 Feb, Caith 9 Mar. Best flocks were 2,580 Strathallan **P&K**, 450 Lees **B** 18 Feb; 1,121 mid-Clydesdale **Clyde** & 312Meadownay **Ayr** 12 Mar; 550 Widewall Bay **Ork** 18 Mar.

Breeding *CBC* (F-2%)

**Fair Is** 9prs (12); **Ork** 20prs N.Hill, Papa Westray (20), 26 N.Hoy (18); **Caith** decline noted but production average; **High** 124prs Insh Marshes where good fledging, 3prs Eigg reared 2 broods but 80% loss since 1990; **M&N** 13br48 Drainie, MBS 3.7, but poor numbers upcountry; **NE** 27prs Strathbeg; **A&D** 20prs Riverside Park; **P&K** 213prs Strathallan (219) where bad weather 11-12 May killed many chicks, 66% of broods failed in some fields, other had few chicks surviving, MBS was 1-1,5, much better than 1994; **Fife** 7prs Eden Est. raised 12 young; **Loth** 18prs Aberlady (11) raided 14 young; **Bord** 122br318, mostly reported by ringers, MBS 2.61 (2.75); **Arg** 263prs L.Gruinart, Islay (297), 140prs Coll reserve (124), becoming scarce S.Kintyre; **Clyde** 145prs from 37 sites; **Ayr** 221prs from 68 sites with 32br65, MBS 2.0 noted, 8prs Meadownay (7 ).

Post-breeding flocks mostly from mid-Jun suggests reasonable season.

Autumn/winter flocks: 1,500 Quarryside **Caith** in Aug; 1,150 Ythan, 1,000 Tiree **Arg** & 1,000 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** in Sep; 2,800 Vane Farm **P&K** and 2,600 Aberlady in Oct; 2,506 Clyde Est **Clyde** & 1,000 Newark, S.Ronaldsay **Ork** in Nov; 2,926 Forth Est **Forth**, 1,316 Eden Est **F** & 1,200 Carsebeck **P&K** in Dec.

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**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Best site counts: 5,000 Leven **F** , 3,215 Culbin/Nairn Bars **M&N**, 2,797 S.Forth **L**, 2,700 Kinneil **Forth**, 2,297 Cromarty F. **H** & 1,400 Montrose Basin **A&D** in Most birds left by Apr. Peak 1,000 Findhorn **M&N** in Apr. Last records mostly 15 -29 May. Few in Jun/early Jul but up to 130 Aberlady and 10-15 M&N.

Normal return; first Arg & NE 12 Jul; Shet , Ork & Ayr 15-16 Jul; Fife, Bord & Forth 26-29 Jul; Clyde 13 Aug with main arrival early Aug.

Max Sep-Oct counts: 933 Musselburgh **L**, 800 Findhorn & 490 Culbin Bars in Oct.,

Inland records from Cummertrees **D&G** 23 Feb; L.Leven **P&K** 29 Aug; Endrick Mouth **Clyde** Aug-Oct, max 7 on 17 Aug; & L.of Kinnordy **A&D** 15 Dec.

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**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Very few even moderate counts: 261 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 73 Largo Bay **F**, 57 Aberlady **L** in Jan/Feb.

Spring max 224 Balmossie **A&D**, 88 Ruddons Pt. **F**, 84 N.Ronaldsay, 80 Aberlady, 50 Inverugie **NE** in May; 50 Dunnet Bay **Caith** in Jun.

A few summered N.Ronaldsay (81), Aberlady (20) & Ythan **NE**.

First Ork 8 Jul; High & Arg 12-13 Jul; M&N, Shet & Ayr 15 -17 Jul; D&G, Caith, Fair Is & Clyde 20-21 Jul; Fife 28 Jul.

Good passage N&W Isles with 1,500 Tiree **Arg** in Aug, 340 North Bay, S.Uist **OH** in Sep & 266 N.Ronaldsay & 115 Ardivachar Pt.S.Uist **OH** in Oct. 193 flew past Machrihanish **Arg** (378hrs) and 114 past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** (112 hrs) in autumn. Elsewhere: very low max with 78 Aberlady in Aug; 98 Ruddon's Point and 91 Nairn Bars **M&N** & 48 Ythan in Oct.

Winter: 93 Tentsmuir **F** in Nov; 217 Balmossie in Dec.

*Little Stint*
*Peter Donnelly*
***Short-listed for Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report***

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Singles Aignish, Lewis **OH** 1 Mar; Browhouses **D&G** 15 Apr; 2 Northton, N.Uist **OH** 6 May; singles Musselburgh **L** 16-17 May & 27 May; Goosepools **F** & N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 21 May; 2 Aberlady **L** 28-30 May; 1 Machrihanish **Arg** 12 Jun; 4 L.Paible, N.Uist **OH** 15 Jun; 1 Berneray **OH** 15 Jun;1 Drainie **M&N** 17 Jun.

| Area | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N&W Isles** | **3** | **5** | **-** | **2** | **198** | **7** | **-** |
| **N.Scotland** | - | - | - | 2 | 42 | - | - |
| **NE Scot** | **-** | **1** | **1** | **4** | **153** | **4** | **-** |
| **E/C Scot** | **1** | **-** | - | 4 | 77 | 2 | - |
| **SE Scot** | 4 | - | 2 | 2 | 78 | 2 | 1 |
| **W.Scot** | **-** | **-** | 7 | 3 | 11 | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | **-** | **-** | - | - | 18 | 1 | - |
| **Total** | **8** | **6** | **10** | **17** | **567** | **23** | **1** |
| 1994 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 21 | 99 | 3 | - |

Return passage with singles Aberlady 2&7 Jul; 2 Ythan **NE** 16 Jul; 7 Endrick Mouth **Clyde** 30 Jul.

A scatter of birds in Aug was followed by main passage in Sep, especially 7-22 Sep. Best counts were 53 Virkie **Shet**, 31 Goosepools, 30 Tyninghame **L**, 30 Donmouth **NE**, 26 Kingston **M&N**, 25 Dornoch **H**, 19 N.Ronaldsay & 18 L.Paible, N.Uist **OH**. Few in Oct but 1 Belhaven **L** until 2 Nov.

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**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Ad Musselburgh **L** 27-29 May.

Breeding: **High** 2prs probably bred usual site. First display seen 26 May ,2mm+1f seen there 27 May.

2 autumn singles: ad L.Gelly **F** 19 Jul; ad Boddam Voe **Shet** 29 Jul. *A very quiet year.*

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*** White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*

Ad Annachie Lagoon, St Fergus **NE** 30-31 Jul; ad Aberlady **L** 24 Oct. *4th for NE & 9th for Loth.*

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***Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*

**[1994]** 1 Sandside Bay **Caith** 8 Oct. *3rd for area.*

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***Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

*1 in spring, 6 in autumn.*

1 Fidden, Mull **Arg** 18 May.

1 L.Paible, N.Uist **OH** 4 Sep; 1 Quendale **Shet** 5 Sep; 1 North Bay, S.Uist **OH** 10 Sep; 1 Endrick Mouth **Clyde** 13-15 Sep; juv Doonfoot **Ayr** 18 Sep; ad Goosepools **F** 24 Sep.

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**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

| Area | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N&W Isles** | 4 | 3 | - | 3 | 54 | - | - |
| **N.Scotland** | **-** | **1** | **-** | **-** | **6** | **-** | **-** |
| **NE Scot** | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 23 | 4 | |
| **E/C Scot** | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 85 | 9 | - |
| **SE Scot** | 5 | - | 4 | 3 | 44 | - | - |
| **W Scot** | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | - | - | - | 8 | 21 | 2 | - |
| **Total** | **17** | **4** | **6** | **18** | **241** | **15** | **-** |
| 1994 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 199 | 13 | - |

First 1 Aberlady **L** 30 Apr, next Skinflats **Forth** 1 May; NE 2 May, Shet 5 May, then OHeb 18 May,Caith 1 Jun; Ork 23 Jun. Best count was 3 Ythan **NE** 2-4 May.

First autumn singles Aberlady **L** 19 Jul & Edenside **F** 26 Jul. Few birds in Aug, max 6 Bogside **Ayr** 27 Aug. Main passage 3-17 Sep: 7 Bogside 5 Sep, 24 Goosepools **F** 9 Sep, 15 Skinflats **Forth** 11 Sep, 20 Tyninghame **L** and 9 Findhorn Bay **M&N** 12 Sep. Few in Oct with last Ayr, Fife & Forth 4-7 Oct. Latest 3 Ythan **NE** 8 Oct.

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**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Just 80 birds Aberlady-English Border **L&B** in Jan where *c*800 found in late-1980s, suggests huge decline. Counts also much lower in NE over same period.

246 Egilsay **Ork**, 80 St.Abbs **B**, 45 **Fair Is** in Jan; 287 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 160 Banff **NE**, 150 Evie **Ork** , 150 Fraserburgh **NE**, 107 Girdleness **NE**, 103 Buckie **M&N** and 100 Thurso **Caith** in Feb; 165 Papa Westray **Ork**, 110 North Berwick **L** in Apr; 110 Houb, Whalsay **Shet** & 40 **Is of May** in May.

Last Ork 15 Apr; Caith 27 Apr; Ayr 11 May; Fife & Loth 14-15 May, Arg 17 May & latest Shet 26 May.

Breeding: **High** br1 seen usual montane site 13 Jul.

First Loth 12 Jul; Fair Is 16 Jul; Ork 24 Jul; Ayr 31 Jul; Fife 16 Aug; Bord, Arg, Caith & Shet 10-26 Sep.

211 Is of May, 150 N.Ronaldsay in Oct; 155 Scatness **Shet**, 150 Birsay **Ork**, 122 Fraserburgh, 113 Buckie, 84 Thurso **Caith**, 76 Black Rocks **L**, 63 N.Berwick and 63 Ayr **Ayr** in Dec.

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**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Site max: 8,480 Highland Firths **H**, 3,900 Inner Solway **D&G**, 3,000 Montrose Basin **A&D**, 2,672 S.Forth **L**, 2,405 Eden Est **F** , 1,800 Nairn/Culbin Bars **M&N** & 1,768 Clyde Est. **Clyde** in Jan; 6,144 Forth Est **Forth** in Feb; 2,000 Kinneil **Forth** & 1500 Goosepools **F** in Mar.

Breeding: **Ork** 21prs Hoy (18), 16prs at 7 other sites; **Caith** 2-3prs at 1 site; **NE** noted 3 sites; **A&D** 1 site;

**P&K** 2prs at 1 site; **Loth** *c*10 birds at 4 sites; **Bord** 4prs at 2 sites; **Arg** 6prs L.Gruinart, Islay (5), 7prs Coll reserve (6), also 5 other sites; **Clyde** *c*13 birds/prs at 5 sites with 8prs Caorrunn plateau; **Ayr** 20prs at 9 sites with 7-9prs Airds Moss.
Best counts: 1,300 Goosepools, 1,070 Ythan **NE** in Oct; 6,950 Inner Solway, 1,580 Findhorn **M&N** in Nov; 10,975 Forth Est, 4,262 Highland Firths, 1,722 Clyde Est. & 1,280 S.Forth in Dec.

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*** Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*
1 L.Borve, Berneray **OH** 23 Jun-27 Jul; 1 Lochlea **Ayr** 2-6 Aug; 2 L.Paible, N.Uist **OH** 4 Sep with 4 there 5 Sep; 1 Belhaven Bay **L** 11-14 Sep; 1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 12 Sep; 1 Baleshare, N.Uist **OH** 22 & 25 Sep.
*9 reports with record largest party in Oheb and 3rd for Ayr & 8th for Orkney.*

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**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
Great reduction in winter birds: Ythan **NE** (1), L.Leven **P&K** (3), Elie, & St.Monance **F** (3-4) & Musselburgh, Tyninghame and Seacliff **L** (4-7) Jan-Mar. Max 4 Musselburgh in Jan & Feb. Few Apr-May records.
First NE & Arg 15 Apr; Fife, Shet & Ork 21-30 Apr; Ayr & Fair Is 1-2 May; A&D and D&G 13-27 May.
Max 4 Strathbeg **NE** where 2prs displayed.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N & W Is.** | - | - | - | 2 | 5 | - | - | 39 | 82 | - | - | - |
| **N.Scot** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 116 | 2 | - | - |
| **NE Scot** | - | 1 | - | 6 | 6 | - | 2 | 31 | 188 | 78 | 4 | 4 |
| **E/C Scot** | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | - | 2 | 39 | 95 | 9 | 5 | 5 |
| **SE Scot** | 7 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 37 | 85 | 39 | 10 | 9 |
| **W.Scot** | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 17 | 20 | 4 | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | - | - | - | - | 8 | 1 | 5 | 17 | 72 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| **Total** | **15** | **13** | **10** | **17** | **23** | **2** | **11** | **187** | **658** | **132** | **23** | **23** |

NB numbers very approximate, especially Aug/Sep.
Good autumn, but again fewer than previous year with only half the Sep total.
First 1 Lochlea **Ayr** 20 Jun; 1 Musselburgh 25 Jun; a few from early Jul but first large numbers were 13 Hillwell **Shet** 21 Aug & 23 Baleshare, N.Uist **OH** 29 Aug. Main influx 10-13 Sep, max 41 Strathbeg **NE**, 33 Belhaven **L**, 27 Musselburgh, 23 Drainie **M&N**, 20 Quendale area **Shet** 12-13 Sep. Max site counts of 15 in Caith, 12 in OHeb, 11 in Ayr, 10 in A&D, 9 in Fife & 7 in Forth over same period. Best counts: 50S Annachie **NE** 15 Sep and max 107 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 17 Sep. Rapid decline thereafter into Oct except for 62 Ythan **NE** 8 Oct.
Wintering birds into Dec at Musselburgh (9), Strathbeg (4), L.Leven (3), Lochar Water **D&G** (3), Mersehead **D&G** (1) & Dipple **Ayr** (1).

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**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocryptes minimus*
Max counts: 9 Kinneil **Forth** & 6 Hogganfield L. **Clyde** in Jan; 5 Cunning Park **Ayr**, 3 Cardross **Clyde**, 3 Black Loch **Ayr** in Feb; 4 Elliot **A&D** & 3 Midross **Clyde** in Mar; 3 Craigmarloch **Clyde** in Apr. Otherwise 1-2 birds reported Jan-Apr: Shet (2 sites), Fair Is (2), Ork (?), High ( 8), M&N (8),NE (3), A&D, Fife (4), Loth (6), Bord (2), Arg (3), Clyde (8), Clyde Is, Ayr (7) and D&G (3). Mix of last winterers and migrants late Mar /Apr. Late birds NE, D&G, Bord and A&D 2-16 Apr; High, Loth & Clyde 18-26 Apr; with latest **Fair Is** 9 May
Autumn arrival: first 3 Tyninghame **L** 19 Aug. Next birds NE 1 Sep; Ork, Fair Is & Shet 3-9 Sep; High and M&N 12-15 Sep; Ayr & Clyde 23-30 Sep; Bord & Caith 8-9 Oct.
Best passage counts: 15 Fair Is 3Oct; 17 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** and 15 Fair Is 12 Oct; 5 Ruthwell **D&G** 15 Oct.
Nov-Dec: Shet (many sites), Ork (4), Caith (4), High (5), M&N (6), NE (10), A&D, P&K, Fife (5), Forth (6), Loth (3), Bord, Arg , Clyde (18), Ayr (5) and D&G (6).
13 Troswick **Shet** 13 Nov and 12 Culbin **M&N** 16 Dec were, by far, the best counts.

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**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
Lower numbers than usual away from Ayr: 270 Gailes **Ayr**, 190 Bogside **Ayr**, 48 Egilsay **Ork**, 31 Walkinshaw **Clyde**, 27 Kingoodie **A&D**, 21 Aberlady **L**. in Jan; 250+ Cunning Park **Ayr**, 22 Bridgend, Islay **Arg**, 22 Kingston **D&G**, 19 Inverugie **NE** in Feb; and 61 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** in Mar.
Breeding: **Fair Is** 30mm (20); **Ork** 34prs at 8 sites; **High** 380prs Insh Marshes with many fledged young, 41 displaying Eigg (34) (41 in 1992); **Fife** 6 sites; **Loth** 13 at 9 sites; **Bord** 11 sites, 7prs Hule Moss(5); **Arg** 39pr L.Gruinart (41) 39 Colonsay, 164 Coll (85) ; **Clyde** 18prs at 12 sites; **Ayr** 117prs at 32 sites, 16prs Knockshinnoch, 10prs Darnaconnar; **D&G** 12prs Threave.
Autumn max: 186 Folly L. **B** in Aug; 283 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 129 L.of Swannay **Ork**, 100 **Fair Is** & 65 Gailes in Sep; 320 Graemeshall **Ork**, 200 Papa Westray **Ork**, 200 Fetlar **Shet**, 200 Insh floods, 150 Inverugie **NE** and 100 Endrick Mouth **Clyde** in Oct.
Winter: 200 N.Ronaldsay, 103 Newark, S.Ronaldsay **Ork** in Nov; 110 Newshot Is **Clyde** in early Dec.
Movements in late Dec with severe frosts produced 200+ Fair Is & 100 Boddam Voe **Shet** and small numbers of birds in unusual areas throughout S.Scotland, max 50 Prestwick **Ayr**, 30 Aberlady **L** & 30 Cupar **A&D**.

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*** Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*
Singles **Fair Is** 31 Aug,-1 Sep, 8 -19 Sep, 17-23 Sep.
Photos: *Birding World* 8: 327 & 470 and in *British Birds* 89: 527.

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*** Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Juv Quatquoy, Firth **Ork** 5-6 Oct, juv Kinnaber **NE** on 5 Oct-11 Nov; juv Ancum L. N. Ronaldsay **Ork** 11 Oct; juv L.of Houlland, S.Nesting **Shet** 3-4 Nov.
*4th for Shet, 4th&5th for Ork, 2nd for NE, 3rd for A&D.*

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**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*
Usual dearth of early-year records, max 6 Hoy Lodge **Ork** in Jan; 4 **Fair Is** in Feb; 6 Ardentallan Bay **Arg** in Mar. Elsewhere mostly 1-3 birds. Spring passage was poor in N.Isles.
Breeding: **High** 5 Insh; **M&N** 3 sites; **A&D** 7 sites; **P&K** signs of local decline, absent from previously regular areas, only 3 sites; **Fife** 24 birds at 12 sites; **Loth** 10 at 9 sites; **Bord** 50 at 14 sites, 19 Bowmont Forest, 8 Duns Castle & 6 Monteviot; **Arg** min 7 on Colonsay; **Clyde** 12 at 6 sites with 6 Mugdock; **Ayr** 43 at 21sites with 5 Mochrum Hill; **D&G** 2 Wood of Cree.
Few, mostly 1-3 birds Aug-Sep. Passage late Oct-early Nov when max 26 Fair Is 31 Oct, 12 at 3 sites Ork and several S.Scotland 5-6 Nov and 11-14 Nov, max 7 Pierseknowe **B** & 6 Glen Afton **Ayr**.
Major event during late Dec frosts with many reports of 1-3 birds, probably having been flushed out of their normal cover into any remaining open water and even into gardens: 50 Fraserburgh shore **NE**, 30 (3hrs) Forss **Caith**, 18 Skateraw- Barns Ness **L**, 10 Herston **Ork** & 8 Ballantrae-Dipple **Ayr**. 2 estates near Banff **NE** shot at least 120 birds on 29 Dec.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*
88 Eden Est.**F** in Jan, rising to 113 by Mar and a record 280 in Apr is easily the main Scottish resort. 20-26 Forth Est **Forth** Jan-Mar peaked 37 in Apr. Elsewhere max counts 38 Caerlaverock **D&G**, 15 Montrose Basin **A&D** & 5 Musselburgh **L** in Apr. 5 L.Mor, Benbecula **OH** in Apr, 10 Duns Dish **A&D** in May.
Breeding: **Shet** 2prs reared 3 young; **Ork** single displayed but no evidence of breeding.
37 Musselburgh **L** 7 Jul & 21 on 16 Jul were transient, perhaps going to Kinneil **Forth** or Eden. Build-up Forth Est. with 26 in late Jul, rising to max 86 in Sep while Eden had 24 in Jul, rising to 109 by Oct. 71 Clacham Pools, N.Uist **OH**, 37 Bay of Suckquoy, Toab **Ork**, 34 Ardivachar Pt, S.Uist **OH**, 25 Kingoodie **A&D** and 20 Hatterseat **NE** in Sep; and 38 Montrose in Oct.
48 Montrose Basin, 42 Forth Est. and 2-3 Musselburgh & Cramond **L** in Dec but no winter data from Eden .

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*
Extremely poor numbers, max: 3,449 Highland Firths **H**, 1,231 Eden Est **F**, 1,068 S.Forth **L** , 800 Findhorn Bay **M&N**, in Jan/Feb.
Most were away by end Mar although 20-80 summered L.Indaal, Islay **Arg**, L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg**, Findhorn, Lossiemouth **M&N**, Musselburgh **L** & Aberlady **L**.
Poor autumn: max 600 Tay Est **F** in Jul; 2,915 Highland Firths, 865 S.Forth, 444 Nairn & 360 Sanday **Ork** in Oct. 1,738 Highland Firths, 1,418 Nairn , 1,300 Buddon Ness-Monifieth **A&D**, 757 S.Forth , 672 Eden Est & 298 Islay in Dec. Marked decline noted Loth.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
First 1 Musselburgh **L** 8 Mar; 2 Canna **H** 29 Mar. Then A&D 6 Apr; Ork & Ayr 10-12 Apr; Fife, D&G, P&K 16-22 Apr; Shet, Fair Is, Caith, M&N, NE, Forth & Bord 26-30 Apr.
Peak counts: 23 L.of Mey **Caith** 30 Apr; 96 Bogside **Ayr** 1 May; 62 Ham area **Caith** & 31 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 3 May; 68 Glencaple **D&G** 6 May; 23 Marwick **Ork** 7 May; 33 Scarfskerry **Caith** 10 May; 27 Ythan Est. **NE** 12 May. 37N Machrihanish **Arg** & 105N Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** 24 Apr-13 May.
Breeding: **Ork** 11prs W. Mainland (7), 7-8prs Eday (2), pr displayed Hoy; **High** pr bred E.Sutherland.
*Hint of passage up W& N coast in spring but down E.coast in autumn.* Passage from late Jun. 42 Ythan **NE** 11 Jul; 22 Delnies **M&N** 24 Jul; 27 Kingston **M&N** 27 Jul; 36 Musselburgh **L**, 15 St.Abbs **B** and 11 Ythan 2 Aug; 11 N.Ronaldsay 15 Aug; 12 Fair Is 18 Aug; 29 Lossiemouth **NE** 22 Aug.
Only 20 Machrihanish all autumn.
Last Is of May, A&D, Fife & Clyde 3-5 Sep; M&N and Bord 9-12 Sep; NE , Clyde Is, D&G, Arg, Ayr, Ork & Fair Is 17-28 Sep; High , Loth & Caith 8-14 Oct.
1 late bird Deerness **Ork** 9 Nov.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*
Site peaks: 3,673 Highland Firths **H**, 2,675 L.of Harray **Ork**, 1,201 Clyde Est. **Clyde** and 985 Forth Est. **Forth** in Jan; 4,047 Highland Firths, 900 Widewall Bay and 880 Newark, S. Ronaldsay **Ork**, 684 Fraserburgh **NE** in Feb; 3,003 Wigtown Bay **D&G** & 800 Dalmeny **L** in Mar.
Inland: 1,236 mid-Clydesdale **Clyde**, 1,000 Hightae L. **D&G** , 400 Castle L. **D&G**, 380 L.o' th' Lowes **Ayr** & 350 Innerleithen **B** 12-28 Mar.
Birds on territory : Clyde 20 Feb; Forth 28 Feb; D&G and Bord 11 Mar; High 12 Mar, A&D 14 Mar.
Breeding: **Fair Is** record 7prs (5); **Ork** further drop to 18prs N.Hoy (22), 8prs N.Hill, Papa Westray (11), 237 birds held territory Rousay; **High** 123prs Insh Marshes where good fledging; **M&N** 12prs Moss of Dunphail; **Bord** 8prs Hule Moss (13), 8br13 ringed-MBS 1.63; **Arg** increase to 42prs L.Gruinart, Islay (30), 18 reared young, 11prs Coll; **Clyde** 72prs at 21 sites with 21prs Abington area; **Ayr** 194prs at 38 sites with 24prs Welltrees area.
Autumn: 2,200 Ythan **NE**, 1,000 Montrose **A&D** in Jul; 2,200 Graemeshall **Ork** in Aug; 2,480 Meikle Craigs **Ayr**, 1,563 South Forth **L**, 1,349 Forth Est. in Sep; 4,169 Highland Firths, 1,135 L.of Harray & 1,125 Clyde Est. in Oct.3.364 Highland Firths, 909 Clyde Est. 780 Newark, S.Ronaldsay & 500 Thurso **Caith** were the next highest.
218 Merryton **Clyde** in Jan and 260 in Nov appears to be the only substantial inland wintering flock.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Summary: *Average spring, short autumn.*

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N&W Is** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 9 | - | 1 | - |
| **N Scot** | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 8 | - | - | - |
| **NE Scot** | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 6 | 4 | - | - |
| **E/CScot** | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 18 | 3 | | |
| **SE Scot** | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | - |
| **W.Scot** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | 1 | - | - |
| **Total** | **0** | **2** | **4** | **4** | **6** | **1** | **1** | **13** | **47** | **12** | **2** | **0** |
| 1994 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 33 | 34 | 10 | 1 | 1 |

Feb-Mar records from Cummertrees **D&G** and Monikie **A&D**.

Spring singles at Findhorn **M&N**, Edenside **F** (3), Aberlady **L** (2), Musselburgh **L** & L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg** with 2 Montrose Basin **A&D**.

Return passage from 12 Jul at Skinflats **Forth**. Mostly 1-3 birds with best count was 6 Montrose Basin 10 Sep. Latest singles Sand Water **Shet** & 1 Aberlady into Nov.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Max counts: 2,370 Forth Est. **Forth**, 1,114 Ythan **NE**, 1,063 S.Forth **L**, 1,043 Clyde Est. **Clyde**, 800 Stevenson **Ayr** in Jan: 3,489 Highland Firths **H**, 1,950 Montrose **A&D** in Feb; 1,393 Clyde Est. in Mar; 1,050 Ythan & 550 Maidens **Ayr** in Apr.

Odd inland records P&K, Loth, Bord & Clyde but wintering occurred at Millichen **Clyde** (max 46) & Lees **B** (4).

Arrival on territory: Clyde & Bord 11 Mar; P&K and Loth 12 Mar; High 13 Mar; Forth 19 Mar.

Breeding **Fair Is** absent (1); **Ork** 14prs Hoy (15) 13prs at 7 other sites; **High** 143prs Insh Marshes; **M&N** 6prs at 3 sites; **P&K** only 28prs Strathallan (35prs) where disturbance was factor; **A&D** fmany ewer sites due to "improvements", down to 5-6prs Dundee airport; **Fife** 3prs in suitable habitat but no evidence; **Loth** 6prs Aberlady (9), 5prs Whiteadder WBS, 2prs Thriepmuir (2); **Bord** 25prs at 13 sites, 6prs West Water & 5prs on 6km of Tweed at Makerstoun; **Arg** 107prs L.Gruinart, Islay (109) and 56prs Coll reserve (54), 17prs Colonsay/ Oronsay (23); **Clyde** 32prs at 18 sites, max 3prs Kilburnie L. & Endrick Mouth; **Ayr** 88prs at 37 sites with 18prs Knockshinnoch; **D&G** 19prs at 6 sites, 8prs Caerlaverock.

First passage early Jul.

Best totals: 1,305 Ythan in Aug; 2,100 Montrose in Sep; 1,983 S.Forth in Oct; 1,600 Carse Bay **D&G** in Nov; 3,452 Highland Firths, 3,177 Forth Est & 2,532 Clyde Est. in Dec.

Inland wintering at L.Leven **P&K** (1) and Lees (6).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

61 Jan-Feb birds: Ork, High (12), M&N, NE (2), A&D, P&K, Fife (2), Loth (7), Arg (5), Clyde (16), Ayr (10), D&G (3).

Spring passage light. Mar-Jun birds Shet (9), Fair Is (3), Ork (2), Caith (5), High (20), M&N (3), NE(17), A&D, P&K (2), Fife (11), Forth ,Loth (8), Bord, Arg (9), Clyde (20), Ayr (14), D&G. Max 12 Ythan **NE** 12 May.

Breeding: **Shet** 3prs, br2 reared; **P&K** 5 sites no young seen; **Arg** present 4 sites.

Passage from late Jun, peaking mid-Aug and late Sep/ early Oct with max counts: 15 Findhorn Bay **M&N** in Jul; 20 Tyninghame **L**, 16 St.Abbs **B**, 10 Montrose **A&D**, 9 St. John's L. **Caith**, 9 L.Eye **H** & 6 L.Scridain **Arg** in Aug; 18 Finlaystone Pt. **Clyde**, 18 Tyninghame, 14 Edenside **F**, 9 Ythan Est. , 7 Glencaple **D&G** in Sep; 14 Hunterston **Ayr** in Oct.

16 Finlaystone Pt. Oct/Nov with 10-12 still there in Dec & 13 Tyninghame in Oct with 7 there in Dec.

Dec birds: High , M&N (2), NE (2), Loth (7), Clyde (12), Ayr (12), D&G (3). 39 compares with 49 in '94.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

1 Earnhill **M&N** 1994-6 Jan; 1 Yetholm Marsh **B** Jan-Mar with 2 there in Mar; 1 R.Clyde at Cormiston **Clyde** in Jan & Mar; 1 R.Girvan at Drumgirnan area **Ayr** Feb-Mar; 3 R.Nith at Kirk **D&G** in Jan, 1 in Feb; 1 Crossfields **D&G** in Feb. Mar singles at Hempseedrig **B** & Whitrig **B** with Apr/May singles in Shet (3), Fair Is , A&D, Loth, Arg, Clyde (2) and D&G.

Breeding: **High** pr displayed 3-9 May, seen nearby in suitable habitat 27 May and singing to 12 Jun. Breeding stongly suspected.

*Represents only second breeding attempt in Britain.*

1 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** 1 Jul was first of autumn. Then Ayr 6 Jul; D&G and Loth 10-12 Jul; Ork, Forth & Shet 15-18 Jul; A&D, NE, Fair Is & Bord 22-24 Jul; M&N, Fife & Ayr 29 Jul- 6 Aug.

Good autumn: 13 Fife , 23 Loth , 36 Bord , 16 Clyde & 18 Ayr. Mostly 1-3 birds but best counts: 4 Strathbeg **NE** 18-22 Aug; 12 Folly L. **B** 29 Aug; 4 Hule Moss **B** 9-10 Sep; 4 Montrose Basin **A&D** 17 Sep.

Winter singles : 2 R.Nith at Kirk in Nov; 1 Kingholm Quay **D&G** in Dec; 1 Alford **NE** in Dec.

Summary

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N. Isles** | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | 5 | 18 | 7 | - | - | - |
| **N Scot** | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | - | - | - |
| **NE Scot** | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 11 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| **E/C Scot** | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 8 | 14 | 16 | 1 | - | - |
| **SE Scot** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | - | 8 | 34 | 27 | 2 | - | - |
| **W Scot** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 8 | 17 | 9 | - | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 20 | 10 | - | 3 | 1 |
| **Total** | **6** | **8** | **5** | **9** | **4** | **2** | **35** | **116** | **73** | **4** | **3** | **2** |
| 1994 | 1 | -- | 1 | 8 | 17 | 1 | 28 | 112 | 39 | 8 | 2 | 6 |

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
*Good spring and autumn in N.Isles, poorer elsewhere.*
Singles Threave **D&G** 29 Apr, Strathbeg **NE** 1 May, Lochlea **Ayr** 4 May with 2 Scatness **Shet** 9 May.
More widepsread from 20 May. Max 3 L.of Spiggie **Shet** 26 May.
Breeding: **Caith** 1displayed but no further proof; **High** singles at 2 sites N.Sutherland, 2prs bred usual Rossshire site, 3-4prs at 2 sites in Badenoch & Strathspey. First singles Corsehouse Res. **Clyde** 22 Jul, Folly L. **B** 23 Jul & Aberlady **L** 25 Jul. Mostly singles , 2 **Fair Is** 9 Sep, 2 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** on 9 Sep and 16-17 Sep, 2 Delnies **M&N** 13 Sep. Last 1 Tankerness **Ork** 27 Sep.
Summary

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N Isles** | - | - | - | - | 13 | 3 | - | 2 | 17 | - | - | - |
| **N.Scot** | - | - | - | - | 12 | 11 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| **NE Scot** | - | - | - | - | 3 | 6 | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | - |
| **E/C Scot** | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 5 | - | - | - |
| **SE Scot** | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - |
| **W.Scot** | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **1** | **34** | **23** | **4** | **11** | **28** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| 1994 | - | - | - | 1 | 36 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 11 | - | - | - |

*** Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*
1 Boddom Voe and L.of Brow **Shet** 11 Jun.
*3rd for Shetland & 5th for Scotland.*
Photo: *Birding World* 8: 206.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
1 Lamberton shore **B** 1994-21 Jan.
First Salen Bay, Mull **Arg** 3 Apr. Bord & NE 8 Apr; A&D, P&K, D&G, High, Forth &Loth 9-12 Apr; Ayr & Clyde 14 Apr; Fife and M&N 19-20 Apr; Ork & Fair Is 22-25 Apr; Shet 8 May; Caith 11 May .
Breeding: **Shet** 9prs at 7 sites **Ork** 15prs (14) with 6prs L.of Swannay; **High** 19prs Insh Marshes; 31prs on Eigg coastline; **NE** 10prs Glen Clunie; **Fife** none bred; **Loth** 12prs Whiteadder WBS (14); **Bord** , 22br56 (MBS2.6) ringed by BRG, 6prs Gala Water WBS (4), 7prs on 4km of Tweed at Makerstoun, 25prs Dewar Water raised 14br47; **Arg** 13prs Colonsay (26); **Clyde** 103prs at 40 sites, 17 prs Glen Fruin & 12+prs Carron Valley Res.; **Ayr** 103prs at 39 sites with 10prs L.Doon.
Main passage mid-to-late Jul: 14 Kingston **M&N** 4 Jul; 15 Kirkcudbright **D&G** 9 Jul; 14 Dalmeny shore **L** & 16 Gladhouse **L** 13 Jul; 16 Newshot Is **Clyde** 17 Jul; max 18 past Machrihanish **Arg** & 32 Montrose **A&D** 18 Jul; 12 Edenside **F** 26 Jul; 19 Tarradale **H** 12 Aug; 20 Kinnaber **A&D** 9 Sep were rather late.
Last Forth & Arg 22-24 Aug; Ayr, Caith, Fife, NE & Clyde 9-15 Sep; M&N and Bord 24 Sep; High & Shet 29-30 Sep; A&D, Fair Is & Ork 8-15 Oct;
Single Bentpath & Kirk **D&G** 9 Nov with 1 R.Tay at Kercock **P&K** 10 Nov.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
489 counted Gullane Pt. -Bilsdean **L** 8 Jan, considerably less than the mean of 1,469 from similar counts in 1976, 1984 & 1992. Counts in NE show a similar trend.
969 S.Forth **L**, 383 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 338 Highland Firths **H**, 213 Egilsay **Ork** & 208 Scockness, Rousay **Ork** in Jan; 362 Portgordon area **M&N**, 350 **Fair Is**, 300 Stevenston shore **Ayr** and 182 Montrose **A&D** in Feb; 463 Fraserburgh **NE** in Mar. 350 Arbroath **A&D** & 245 Turnberry **Ayr** in Apr & 248 S.Forth in May.
Jun peaks: 90 N.Berwick **L**, 53 N.Ronaldsay, 43 Ythan Est. **NE** & 19 Whalsay **Shet**.
Display & copulation noted L.Ryan **D&G** 31 May.
Main return in mid-Jul/Aug in N, Aug/Sep in S.
250 Tiree **Arg** and 162 Ythan in Aug; 800 S.Forth, 580 Montrose, 312 N.Ronaldsay and 230 Fair Is in Sep; 649 S.Forth, 371 Fraserburgh , 284 Highland Firths & 272 Portgordon in Dec.
Inland: 3 Endrick Mouth **Clyde** 30 Apr & 1 Folly L. **B** 28 Jul.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*
First Fetlar **Shet** 24 May & Benbecula **OH** 6 Jun.
1 Drainie Pool **M&N** 9 Jun. *First record for M&N.*
Breeding: **Shet** 31-33 (26) alarming males at 1 site, chicks seen 13 Jul with last juv there 19 Aug; 2prs elsewhere bred successfully; **OHeb** pr one site in Jun with 2prs there in Jul, 1f another site.
1f Swona **Ork** 1& 9 Jul; 1f Stronsay **Ork** 9 Jul; 1m Mill Dam of Rango, Harray **Ork** 16-18 Jul.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*
Singles Broughty Ferry **A&D** 17-22 Jan, Cowie **NE** & Ruddons Pt. **F** 22 Jan, latter bird to 24 Jan; Flotta **Ork** 25 Jan; Fraserburgh **NE** 4 Feb; Westhaven **A&D** 2 Apr.
2 *Phalaropus sp.* Boarhills **F** 22 Jan were likely this species.
2S Machrihanish **Arg** 24 Sep; 1 Harray **Ork** 26 Sep; 7 Machrihanish & 1 Mill Sands, Tankerness **Ork** 5 Oct; 2S Orsay, Islay **Arg** 7 Oct; 2S Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** 8 Oct with 2S there 11 Oct & 1 on 12 Oct; 1 Holm of Papa Westray **Ork** 14 Oct; 1 Foula **Shet** & 1 Frenchman's Rocks 15 Oct; 1 Machrihanish 17 Oct; 1 Strathy Pt. **H** 22 Nov; 1 Dunbar **L** 6 Nov.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*
1 Inverness Firth **H** 2 & 6 Jan with 2 there on 8 Jan; 1 Strathclyde L. **Clyde** 3-23 Jan ; singles Chanonry Pt. **H** 8-29 Jan & 4 Feb were the only early-year birds.
1 Fife Ness **F** 7 Apr; 1 Brora **H** 17 Apr; 1 Wats Ness **Shet** 6 May, 30 on 11 May, 30 on 13 May, 22 on 14 May & 49 on 20 May; 5N Aird an Runair, N.Uist **OH** 8 May, 20N there 29 May & 30N on 30 May; 3 Westerwick **Shet** 14 May; 1 Esha Ness **Shet** 1 Jun; 2 Sumburgh Airport **Shet** 8 Jun; 1 Quendale Bay **Shet** 21 Jun.

None seen N.side of Inner Solway, despite many seen on the S side in Cumbria.

| Area | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Isles | 4 | - | 39 | 4 | 2 | - | 2 |
| N.Scot | 1 | 39 | 189 | 59 | 75 | 8 | 2 |
| Moray F. | - | - | 30 | 2 | - | - | - |
| NE Scot | - | 1 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 2 | - |
| Forth* | - | 4 | 369 | 95 | 13 | 18 | - |
| W.coast | 2 | - | 10 | 1 | 7 | - | - |
| **Total 1995** | **7** | **44** | **649** | **172** | **107** | **28** | **4** |
| Total 1994 | 13 | 3 | 101 | 377 | 1,013 | 26 | 9 |

***some duplication likely between Fife & Lothian observations.**

*Average numbers but main passage in Aug rather than Oct, as in 1994, suggesting a poor breeding season in Arctic as adults typically move earlier in the autumn.*

31 Chanonry Pt. 20 Jul . Main movements 6-11 Aug and 25-29 Aug.

34 from boat off W.Shetland 2-7 Aug; 16 Chanonry Pt. & 5 Lossiemouth **M&N** 6 Aug; 64 Hound Pt. **L** 7 Aug with 26 on 8 Aug; 78 (mostly ads) Chanonry Pt. 8 Aug; 45 Kinghorn **F** 10 Aug & 27 Hound Pt. 11 Aug. 12W Kinghorn 17 Aug. 20 Chanonry Pt., 12 Lossiemouth , 21 Hound Pt. & 7 Strathy Pt. **H** 27 Aug with 60 Hound Pt. on 29 Aug; 31 Chanonry Pt. 3 Sep; 4 Eyemouth **B** 18 Sep; 18 Anstruther **F** 29 Sep; 14 Brora on 4 Oct; 5 Dunnet Bay **Caith** 19 Oct; 11 Strathy Pt. 20 Oct.

Few into Oct-Nov but 1 Usan **A&D** 25 Nov; 4 imm Brora 26 Nov; 2 Brora 2 Dec and last 2 Lamb Holm **Ork** 7 Dec.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1 Chanonry Pt. **H** 7 Jan & 5 Feb with 1-2 1st-w there 11 Jan-4 Feb; singles Yellowcraig **L** 21 Jan and N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 15 Mar; 1st-w Chanonry Pt. 21 Mar. First 10S Machrihanish **Arg** 7 Apr; Fair Is 10 Apr; Ork & Shet 11 Apr; High, M&N and Caith 14-21 Apr.

First Fife, Loth, Bord & Ayr 12-17 Jun. 60 Wats Ness **Shet** 13 May was the only significant movement.

Breeding: **Fair Is** 7% drop to 87 AOTs but reasonable productivity at MBP 075-0.80; **Caith** 7prs at 3 sites; **High** 27 AOTs Handa; pr bred Rubha Coigeach moors; **Arg** 27prs Coll (33), only 1 seen Colonsay.

*Further decline (-10%) at the 11 monitored sites in Shet to 127 AOTs (143). The decline seems widespread and uniform at most sites. Orkney also showed a 5% drop to 231 AOTs (245). Productivity varied on Shet between 0.90 on Unst to 1.21 on Mousa while Orkney showed variation between 0.08 on Hoy, where most of the production was wiped out by Bonxies, to 1.12 on Rousay. Overall productivity was slightly lower on Shetland but a little better on Orkney at 0.93 (0.87)*

**Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996.**

| Area | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.coast | + | 8 | 62 | 21 | 2 | - | - |
| Moray F. | - | 8 | 100 | 71 | 8 | 1 | - |
| NE Scot | 9 | 56 | 101 | 115 | 14 | 8 | - |
| Forth-Tay | 11 | 27 | 202 | 519 | 43 | 10 | - |
| Clyde/SW | 3 | 1 | 9 | 20 | 9 | - | - |
| **Total** | 23 | 100 | 474 | 736 | 76 | 19 | 0 |
| **Total 1994** | **+** | **58** | **936** | **1017** | **650** | **30** | **4** |

*As with other skuas, low numbers and the absence of birds in Oct suggests a poor breeding season in the Arctic with few young to boost the Oct passage.*

Peak counts: 18 Kinghorn **F** 17 Aug;16 Queensferry **F** 26 Aug; 36 Lossiemouth **M&N** 27 Aug; 42 Hound Pt. **L** 29 Aug; 10 Dunnet Bay **Caith** 30 Aug; 31 Fife Ness **F** 1 Sep; 51 Hound Pt. & 22 Barns Ness **L** on 3 Sep; 67 Hound Pt. 7 Sep; 30 Peterhead **NE** 9 Sep; 26 Barns Ness 17 Sep; and 16 St.Abbs **B** 18 Sep.

Best Oct count: 13 Kilminning **F** 2 Oct. Last mostly mid-Oct with 4 Usan **A&D**, 3 Arbroath Cliffs **A&D** and 1 St.Andrews **F** 12 Nov.

1 freshly-dead in coastal Peregrine eyrie **NE** in Dec.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

*Quiet spring*: 5 Wats Ness **Shet** and 1 Sumburgh Head **Shet** 11 May with 2 there 13 May, 5 on 15 May & 2 on 20 May. 2 Chanonry Pt. **H** 13 May; 6 Aird an Runair N.Uist **OH** 18 May with 7 on 19 May.

2 Handa **H** 29 May; 1 Norwick **Shet** 4 Jun.

| Area | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Isles | 1 | 1 | 60 | - | - | - | - |
| N.coast | - | - | 8 | - | - | - | - |
| Moray F. | - | 1 | 510 | 2 | - | - | - |
| NE/A&D | - | - | 28 | 3 | - | - | - |
| Forth/Tay | - | - | 604 | 8 | 1 | - | - |
| W.coast | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| **Total 1995** | **1** | **2** | **1212** | **13** | **1** | **0** | **0** |
| Total 1994 | 24 | 2 | 423 | 76 | 179 | 3 | 2 |

**Note: some duplication between Fife & Lothian totals likely.**

*As in other skua species, a poor breeding season is indicated by the early movements of adults in Aug and the lack of juveniles in Oct.*

Remarkable concentration of movement in early Aug. First 3 Seaton of Usan **A&D** 2 Aug with 2 there 3 Aug. 55 from boat W of Shetland 2-7 Aug. 92 Chanonry Pt. 6 Aug **H** with 157 there 7 Aug (mostly ads) & 86 there 8 Aug. 94W **M&N** coast (mostly Burghead) 6 Aug but only 2 there on both 7& 8 Aug. 39 Brora **H** 7 Aug with 6 there on 8 Aug.

In Forth 217W Hound Pt. **L**, 110W Kinghorn **F**, 87W Earlshall **F**, 43W North Queensferry **F**, 13N Barns Ness **L**, 6 Edenmouth **F** & 5 Fife Ness **F** on 7 Aug.

8S/4N Girdleness **NE** , 10 Kinghorn & 5 Inverkeithing **F** 8 Aug when singles on W coast at Knockshinnoch **Ayr** and Glencaple **D&G**. Fewer over next 4 days with 10W Dalgety Bay **F** on 9 Aug, 10W Hound Pt. 10 Aug & 15W Kinghorn 11 Aug the best counts.

Much smaller numbers, mostly 1-2 birds, for remainder of month on E.coast except for 10W Lossiemouth **M&N** 27 Aug.

2 Girdleness 1 Sep; 1 Fife Ness 2 Sep; 1 Arbroath Cliffs **A&D** 18 Sep; 1 Hound Pt 24 Sep; 3 Brora 30 Sep; 1N Fife Ness 15 Oct was the last for the year.

**Great Skua** *Catharacta skua*

*Good number of early-year records*: 1 Arbroath **A&D** 2 Jan; 1 Hessilhead **Ayr** 6 Jan; 1 Musselburgh **L** 17 Jan; 1 Aberlady **L** 18 Jan; 1 Bracken Bay **Ayr** 21 Jan; 1 Fortrose **H** 23 Jan; 1 Iona **Arg** 8 Feb; 1 Mains of Usan **A&D** 10 Feb; 1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 20 Feb & 5 Mar. Then first Fair Is, Ork &Shet 24-31 Mar; High & OHeb 2-3 Apr; NE & Fife 17-22 Apr; Ayr 4 May; Arg 19 May; Bord and M&N 3-9 Jun. Note very late first records from A&D, Loth & Clyde 24-29 Jul then D&G and Is of May 29-30 Aug. There were no large parties seen until Jul, max 6 Strathy Pt. **H** 7 Apr.

Breeding: **Arg** 41 bird summered Coll.

*There was little change in Shetland (+7%) and Handa (+3%) at 228 and 115 AOTs respectively. While AOTs were similar, club site numbers on Foula were much higher than previous years suggesting potential future increases. Numbers on Orkney (+16%) & Fair Is (+29%) showed larger increases to 111 & 130 AOTs respectively. The increase in Fair Is numbers meant a spread into new areas of the island.*

*Other than on Fetlar & Fair Is, productivity was generally higher than 1995 and considerably better on Hoy, Noss, Hermaness & Mousa. Overall productivity on Shetland was 0.90, Orkney 0.92 and Fair Is 1.15. Overall productivity in the N.Isles has been similar since 1991 with birds switching prey in periods of low Sandeel availability. Large-scale predation of Kittiwake and small-scale cannabilism was noted in 1995.* **From Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996.**

100 bathing Heldale Water, Hoy **Ork** in May; 86 at Water, Fetlar **Shet** in Jun & 80 Spiggie **Shet** in Jul. Post-breeding dispersal from late Jun.

| Area | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N.coast** | + | - | 91 | 3 | 5 | - | - |
| **Moray F.** | 1 | 7 | 54 | 60 | 44 | 12 | 1 |
| **NE/A&D** | 21 | 26 | 180 | 164 | 13 | 14 | - |
| **Forth/Tay** | 4 | 23 | 119 | 256 | 27 | 24 | 1 |
| **W.coast** | + | 3 | 25 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 |
| **Total 1995** | **+** | **59** | **469** | **487** | **94** | **50** | **3** |
| Total 1994 | + | 27 | 480 | 439 | 266 | 8 | 1 |

*Numbers similar to 1994, in marked contrastto other skuas. The local, non-Arctic, origin of Bonxies means this species is not subject to the Lemming-year variation seen with the more polar, tundra-breeding species.*

Peaks: 20 Brough of Birsay **Ork** 15 Aug; 91W Strathy Pt. & 19 Lossiemouth **M&N** 27 Aug; 38 Barns Ness **L** & 24 Peterhead **NE** 28 Aug; 29 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** & 14 Fife Ness **F** 29 Aug; 34 Hound Pt. **L**, 30 Girdleness **NE**, 25 Barns Ness, 22 Peterhead & 13 Fife Ness 3 Sep; 31 Hound Pt. 7 Sep; 35 St.Abbs **B** 16 Sep; 15S Brora **H** 24 Oct; 13 Usan **A&D** 12 Nov.

Last M&N and Clyde Is. 13-15 Sep; D&G, Bord & Clyde 1-8 Oct; Ayr and Is of May 20-26 Oct; Fair Isle 3 Nov; NE, Shet &Loth 11-17 Nov; Ork & Fife 1-2 Dec; Latest 1 Ailsa Craig **Ayr** 20 Dec & 1S Brora 31 Dec.

*** Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

*14 Jan-Jun & 15 Sep-Dec reports, double the 1994 total. The Forth continues to attract most records with 14 birds in Lothian and 5 in Fife.*

2nd-w Musselburgh **L** 2 Jan-5 Feb; 2nd-w Gartloch Pool **Clyde** 13-15 Jan; 2nd-w Carsethorn **D&G** 10 Feb; 1st-w Skateraw & Woodhall **L** 18 Feb; 1st-s Doonfoot **Ayr** 4-12 Apr; ad Musselburgh 16 Apr; 1st-s Doonfoot 23 Apr; 1st-s Musselburgh 8-14 May; 1st-s Tentsmuir **F** 14 May; 1st-s Musselburgh 4-21 Jun with 2nd there 14-21 Jun; ad Leven **F** 10 Jun with another 14 Jun; 2nd-s Ythan **NE** 20 Jun.

Ad Hound Pt. **L** 3 Sep; 2nd-w Barassie **Ayr** 9 Sep; ad Newark Castle **Clyde** 25 Sep; ad Hound Pt. 7 Oct; ad L.Fitty **F** 8 Oct; 2nd-w Levenmouth **F** 16 Oct; 2nd-w Belhaven **L** 21 Oct; 2nd-w **Fair Is** 25 Oct and at Pool of Virkie & Exnaboe **Shet** 26-28 Oct; 2nd-w Portobello **L** 8 and 29 Nov; 1st-w Portobello 16 Nov; ad Arbroath **A&D** 26 Nov; ad Seton Burn **L** 28 Nov; ad Donmouth **NE** on 11 Dec; 2nd-w Musselburgh from 17-30 Dec; ad Cramond **L** 30 Dec.

***Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*

1st-w Kinnaber **A&D/NE** 16 Oct.

*First record for both recording areas.*

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

*The Firth of Tay continues to eclipse all other areas.*

Very low numbers in Jan but increasing into Feb when 40 Tayport **F**, 59 Kinshaldy **F** & 137 outer Tay Est. **F**. Numbers then declined until the spring passage started in early Apr when high numbers at Rescobie L. **A&D**: 103 on 12 Apr, 250 on 15 Apr & 200 on 22 Apr. Also 27 Earlshall Marsh **F** 22 May & 16 Shelly Spit **F** 2 Jun.

| Summary | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N&W Is.** | - | - | 1 | - | 13 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | - | - |
| **N.Scot** | 1 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 5 | 17 | 6 | 1 |
| **NE Scot** | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 | - | - | 17 |
| **E/C Scot** | 73 | 56 | - | 134 | 13 | 11 | 120 | 323 | 1170 | 216 | 97 | 7 |
| **SE Scot** | 6 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | - | 2 | 11 | 8 |
| **W.coast** | - | 1 | - | 2 | 8 | 1 | - | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 |

* E/C data very mimimal, only main records included.

Tay area: 50 Arbroath **A&D** 21 Jan; 56E Tentsmuir **F** 3 Feb; 79 Rescobie L. **A&D** 8 Apr; 50 Balmossie **A&D** 9 Apr; 100 Buddon Burn **A&D** 25 Jul; 150 Elliot Park **A&D** 2 Aug; 112 Barry Mouth **A&D** 5 Aug; 18 Goosepools **F** 9 Aug; 40 Monikie **A&D** 12 Aug; 15 Fife Ness **F** 3 Sep; 650+ Elliot Park 5 Sep; 191S (1hr) Fife Ness 10 Oct; 500+ **Is of May** 14 &15 Oct; 89S Fife Ness on 13 Nov.

Outwith the Tay area mostly 1-3 birds, the exceptions being 6 Westray **Ork** 3 May; 4 in Forth from *M.V. Gardyloo* **L** 15 Aug; 7 Musselburgh **L** 27 Nov-2 Dec; 8S Peterhead **NE** 2 Dec with 6 there on 3 Dec.

*** Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini*
1st-s Girdleness **NE** 9 & 12 Jun; ad Girdleness 6 Jul; ad S Turnberry **Ayr** 23 Aug; 1st-s Grangemouth **Forth** 26 Aug; 1st-s Lossie Est. **M&N** 27 Aug; ad Chanonry Pt. **H** 3 Sep; juv S Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** 9 Sep with another there 24 Sep; juv W Strathy Pt. **H** 28 Sep; juv Deil's Dyke **Ayr** 1 Oct; 2 juvs S Frenchman's Rocks 5 Oct; juv N Dunbar **L** 7 Nov; ad S Dunbar 26 Nov.
*14 birds, a typical year.*
*2nd record for Forth, 3rd for M&N, 26th-27th for Ayr.*

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**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
Breeding: **Shet** 32prs Fetlar raised 21 juvs, MBP 0.66; **Ork** 13 sites with *c*422 prs; **High** 900prs Insh Marshes; **M&N** 825prs at 11 sites, at 8 sites counted 1994/95 total rose from 354 to 773 prs; **NE** *c*1,040prs at 4 sites, success variable; **A&D** 161prs at 6 sites, 1 site failed; **P&K** 150prs at 6 sites Strathallan, few young fledged due to marshes drying out; **Fife** 1,050prs Redmyre (450) totally failed, as did Birnie L.; **Forth** 120prs Ashfield raised 80 young (120/150), 8prs reared 5 juvs Carron valley; **Loth** 4 sites, 1,009 juvs ringed from 1,170 nests N.Esk, a stable 800prs Bavelaw; **Bord** 2,155 nests at 9 sites with 32 juvs from 40prs Cralaw & 343 young from *c*1,250prs Hule Moss, 41% of 500 birds at giant Bemersyde site were juvs on 8 Jul; **Arg** 7 sites, 289prs, 50-85 young reared, 4 colonies failed, 2 due to Mink; **Clyde** 1,009prs art9 sites with 440prs Barscube Hill (535) reared *c*465 young, 400prs Cochno L. (145) reared 70 while 70prs Gilshaw L. (50) managed just 3 juvs; **Ayr** *c*633prs at 14 sites with 300 Hunterston (261), 35prs Barcraigs reared 33 juvs; **D&G** 500prs L.Ken.
Roosts: 25,000+ Roost Munlochy Bay **H** in Jan/Feb; 16,000 feeding Clyde Est. **Clyde**, 8,600 Doonfoot **Ayr**, 4,700 Balmossie **A&D** & 3,500 Bogside **Ayr** in Jan; 5,200 Hule Moss **B** & 3,200 Hirsel **B** in Feb; 3,000 Forfar L. **A&D** in Mar; 2,000 Kercock **P&K** in Apr. 4,000 Musselburgh **L** in Aug; 12,660 Meikle Craigs **Ayr** in Sep; 8,000 Meikle Craigs, 5,800 Doonfoot, 3,200 Hirsel and 2,500 Lochwinnoch **Clyde** in Nov; 5,800 Hule Moss & 2,000 Musselburgh in Dec.

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*** Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*
Winter 94/95: ad Stromness **Ork** 21 Jan-21 Mar; returning ad Port Charlotte, Islay **Arg** 22 Feb-16 Mar; 1st-s Hillwell **Shet** 13 May.
Winter 95/96: 2nd-w Donmouth **NE** 29 Jul; ad Miltonhill floods **M&N** 17-24 Sep.
*6th for Ayrshire.*
**[1994]** 1st-s/2nd-w North Ledaig **Arg** 5 Jul.

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**Common Gull** *Larus canus*
Breeding: **Fair Is**: 5prs with 3 young (7/4); **Ork** 12 sites held *c*1,053prs, 75prs Hobbister reared 82 young, MBP 1.1; **High** 136prs at 6 sites with 12% increase Eigg to highest numbers since 1987; **M&N** 14,527 'active' nests Mortlach Hills with total 22,271 nesting attempts, may represent *c*18,400 prs, a 40% increase since 1988, also 686 prs at 7 other sites where 394 at last counts; **NE** 2,841 active and 6,603 attempted nests Correen Hills site, an 80% decline since 1989, success was poor, perhaps due to predators, also 2,500-4,000 AONs Bluemills, 210 prs at 2 other sites; **P&K** bred 5 sites; **Forth** 40prs Cambusmore; **Loth** 13 juvs Cobbinshaw,pr Bavelaw failed; **Bord** 32 ringed from new colony of 30prs at Megget Res., 2prs West Water; **Arg** 982prs at 25 colonies raised 384-508 young (MBP 0.39-0.52), Mink were thought to be involved with failures at 7 colonies; **Clyde** 195prs at 18 sites with 128 AONs L.Thom (51), 20prs reared 30 juvs Eaglesham (MBP 1.5); **Ayr** 152prs at 12 sites.
*Productivity varied due to different pressures at different sites with Mink-effected W.coast colonies achieving only MBP 0.16-0.52. **Fair Is** managed 0.60 while Hobbister **Ork** was most successful with 1.09.* **Thompson et al JNCC 1996**
Roosts: 10,500 West Water **B**, 6,000 Doonfoot **Ayr**, 5,000 Portmore L. **B** in Jan; 40,000 Munlochy Bay **H** in Feb; 4,000 Cobbinshaw **L** & 3,000 Whiteadder Res. **L** in Apr.
22,000 Meikle Craigs **Ayr**, 11,180 Hule Moss **B** & 5,000 Miltonhill **M&N** in Sep; 10,000 Meikle Craigs, 9,500 West Water in Oct; 7,000 Doonfoot in Nov; 3,300 Whiteadder Res, in Dec.

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**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*
Jan counts: 29 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** 3 Jan; 16 Doonfoot **Ayr** 23 Jan with 59 Doonfoot 23 Feb. 1-8 birds reported Jan from High (3), A&D (2), P&K, Fife (2), Forth (2), Loth (4), Bord (4), Arg (2), Clyde (4), Ayr (6) and D&G. First arrivals D&G, P&K, Ork & Arg 11-19 Feb; M&N, Clyde & Forth 26-28Feb; A&D, Shet & NE 2-6 Mar; OHeb & Bord 18-23 Mar; Fair Is 9 Apr.
Spring counts: 500W (6hrs) Banknock **Forth** 26 Mar & 1,950 Carsebeck **P&K** 29 Apr.
Breeding: **Ork** 36 nests Papa Westray (32), 20prs Rousay (15); **M&N** 3 sites; **P&K** gas-banger disturbance removed Red Moss colony (1,050 in Apr) and effected Choire Odhair which declined to 630 AONs (50% drop); **Fife** 20 nests at 2 sites; **Loth** roof-nests at 11 sites; **Arg** 900-1,100prs at 13 sites reared 320-375 young, 179 prs at 6 sites Coll; **Clyde** 377 nests at 9 roof sites with 248prs Dumbarton (163) & 65prs Trongate, Glasgow (30); **Ayr** 1,429 nests Horse Is (1149); 29prs Heathfield Industrial Estate reared 21 juvs (MBP 0.72).
*Numbers rose by 29% on **Is of May** to 1,635 AONs (1,270) with similar changes at Inchmickery **L**.*
*Productivity much improved in **Arg** to 0.40 (0.10) but Mink*

*predation was still severe. Success was lower on Is of May at 0.56 (1.24). The best success was at Hobbister Ork where 80 nests reared 80 young (1.0).* **Thompson et al JNCC, 1996.**
1,544 Doonfoot 24 Aug was the largest autumn count. Last Fair Is, Shet & NE 16-22 Sep; P&K, Ork 3-12 Nov. Dec records from High, M&N, A&D, Forth (2), Loth (3), Bord (2), Clyde (5) & Ayr with 26 roosting Eyemouth **B** 5 Dec & 170 Balgray Res. **Clyde** 22 Dec.
*L.f.intermedius*: 1 St.John's P. **Caith** 31 Mar with 2 there 20 May; 1-2 Belhaven **L** 10 Nov.
*L.f fuscus*: 1 Lossie Est. **M&N** 27 Mar ; 1 Killimster **Caith** 15 Apr; 1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 1 Jun; 1 Lossie Est, 28 Aug; 1 Miltonhill **M&N** 24 Sep; 1 Musselburgh **L** 24 Dec.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*
4,000 Bogside & 4,000 Doonfoot **Ayr**, 3,000 Collessie **F** , 3,200 **Fair Is** & 2,275 Gullane-English border **L** & **B** (low tide) in Jan were the highest early-year counts. Breeding: **Ork** 267prs at 7 sites; **High** 1,326prs Canna, 320prs Eigg r eared many young; **NE** roof-nesting spreading to Portsoy (3), Pennan (1), Banff (35), Macduff (31), Fraserburgh (21) & Peterhead (210), 2,955 AONs (-29% ) Buchan Ness-Colliston and 4,196 AONs Gamrie to Pennan(+62%); **Is of May** 2,554 AONs (+19%); **Bord** 398 AONs (296) St.Abbs (+34%), first increase for some years; **Arg** 42 sites with 4,000-4,500 nests, 9 monitored sites with 1,750-2,000prs fledged 840-990 juvs, 4 colonies were predated by Mink, 1 totally failed; **Ayr** 953prs Horse Is. (766) with 727prs Finnarts (620).
*Substantial increase in Forth colonies, representing a 72% increase over 1992 figures, following a period of decline. Sites in NE show contradictory trends that are indicative of the variability of the factors impacting on populations with predation, disease and disturbance being important.*
*Productivity was generally better in 1995 with sites in NW (1.9), Is of May (1.4) & Hobbister Ork (1.0) being especially successful. Colonies in SW & NW Scotland averaged 0.45-0.65. In areas of high Mink predation success rates were as low as 0.18.* ***Thompson et al JNCC, 1996.***
2,500SW Brora **H** 16 Aug.
Max winter counts: 5,720 Wigtown Bay **D&G** in Sep; 7,000 Meikle Craigs in Oct; 3,200 Doonfoot in Nov; 7,000 Tay Est. **A&D** and 2,500 Kinneil **Forth** in Dec.
*L.a.argentatus* dark Scandinavian race
2 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 14 Sep with 4 there 15 Sep & 50 on 24 Sep; 4 Belhaven **L** 10 Nov; 51 (6% of flock) Lossie Est. **M&N** 12 Nov; 1 Musselburgh **L** 28 Nov; 1 Perth **P&K** 30 Dec.

***Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus (a.) cachinnans*
Ad Doonfoot **Ayr** 2 Feb and intermittently Newton shore to 6 May; 1 Lerwick **Shet** 24 Apr; 3rd-s N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 4 & 5 Jul; ad Stromness **Ork** 15 Jul; ad Kirkwall **Ork** 30 Jul.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N Isles** | 7 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 2 | - | - | - | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| **W.Isles** | - | 1 | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| **N.Scot** | 4 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 |
| **NE Scot*** | 6 | 5 | 6 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 |
| **E/C Scot** | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| **SE Scot** | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| **W.Scot** | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| **SW Scot** | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| **Totals** | **27** | **31** | **36** | **38** | **18** | **6** | **0** | **1** | **0** | **9** | **9** | **15** |
| 1994 | 43 | 69 | 53 | 29 | 18 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 15 |

*records not fully detailed. Birds present each month, there will be some duplication between months for long-stayers.
Poor year, mostly 1-2 birds reported. 3 North Head **Caith** 2 Apr was the only records of more than 1-2 birds. 1st-s Machrihanish **Arg** 27 Aug.
Photo of a Shet bird in Feb: *Birding World* 8: 46.

***Kumlien's Gull** *L.g. kumlieni*
Ad Ayr **Ayr** from 1994 to 24 Apr returning 5 Oct into 1996; returning ad Banff **NE** 7 Jan-24 Feb; ad St.Kilda **OH** 22 Feb-8 Mar; 1st-w Lerwick **Shet** 23 Mar & 28 Apr with ad there 3-7 Apr.
**[1994]** 1 Hillswick **Shet** 5-6 & 25-26 Feb.
Photo Shet bird : *Birding World* 8: 127 & *British Birds* 89:505.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*
*289 records (254 in 1994).*

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N Isles** | 27 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | - | 4 | 10 | 17 | 7 |
| **W.Isles*** | - | - | - | 7 | 7 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | - |
| **N.Scot** | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| **NE Scot*** | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| **E/C Scot** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| **SE Scot** | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| **W.Scot** | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | 9 | 11 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Totals** | **48** | **40** | **31** | **31** | **22** | **10** | **7** | **6** | **6** | **22** | **35** | **31** |
| 1994 | 53 | 55 | 25 | 24 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 13 | 21 |

*records not fully detailed. Note no records from Fife.
Highest counts: 3 Troon **Ayr** 2 Feb; 3 Ayr **Ayr** 3 Feb; 3 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 11 Feb; 3 Troon 24 Mar; 5 St.Kilda **OH** in Apr; 3 Lerwick harbour **Shet** in Jun; 7 Fetlar **Shet** 16-17 Nov; 3 Fraserburgh **NE** 30 Dec.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*
200 Lendalfoot **Ayr** &192 Holy L. **Arg** in Jan; 2,000 **Fair Is** in Feb; 1,200 Strathbeg **NE** in Apr; 485 Lossie Est. **M&N** in May were the highest counts in first half of the year.
Breeding: **Shet** stable 75 AOTs (76); **Ork** decline noted sites on Hoy, stable Papa Westray reserve; **High** 42prs Clynelish Moss, stable 27prs Handa, 85prs Canna (91); 99prs Nigg where MBP 2.0; **M&N** prs Covsea & Kinloss; **NE** 19 prs Buchan to Colliston and Gamrie to Pennan; **Is of May** 7prs reared 15 young (6); **Loth** 10prs

on 5 of the Forth islands; **Arg** 188prs at 8 sites reared 123 young (1.4), a further 28 sites held *c*250prs; **Ayr** 103prs Horse Is (74), 28prs Finnarts shore (15), 1pr bred centre of Ayr.

*Numbers were generally stable on a small sample with Shet (-1%), NW Scotland (-10%) and N Scotland (+16%). Breeding success was high with MBPs of 1.31 in SW Scotland, 1.53 in Orkney and 2.0 in both N.Scotland & Isle of May.*

**Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996**

900 Troup Head **NE** & 506 Blackshaw Bank **D&G** in Sep; 1,000 Fetlar **Shet**, 1,000+ Fair Is , 300 Kingston **M&N** in Oct. Further S, max counts: 92 Doonfoot **Ayr** in Nov & 160 Eyemouth **B** in Dec.

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**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Max passage counts: 2,900N Peterhead **NE** 24 Apr; 2,424 Frenchman's Rocks, Islay **Arg** 9 Aug; 3,000N(hr) North Head **Caith** 11 Aug; 3,200W Lossiemouth **M&N** 26 Aug; 2,900N Peterhead 1 Sep; 2,400 Kinnaber **A&D** 12 Sep; 5,000NE Brora **H** 3 Nov.

Breeding: *A major recovery occurred in SE Scotland after the drop in numbers nesting in 1993 & 1994. The **Is of May** showed a 103% increase. Numbers also recovered at Fowlsheugh **NE** while elsewhere in NE counts showed 28%-94% increases since the 1980s. Other sites in area showed some declines. Shet was more stable with a slight drop on **Fair Is**., but the effects of predation by Bonxies at some Shet colonies was marked.*

*Productivity was moderately high but significantly higher than in 1994. Although regionally the SE had the poorest success the further improvements there indicates a continuing recovery.*

| *Area* | *% population change* | *MBP 1993* | *MBP 1994* | *MBP 1995* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shet** | -1.8 | 0.37 | 0.40 | 0.54 |
| **Ork** | - | 0.91 | 1.14 | 1.22 |
| **N Scot** | - | 0.98 | 0.96 | 1.23 |
| **NW** | +4.6 | 0.68 | 1.05 | 1.14 |
| **NE** | +30.2 | 0.23 | 0.41 | 0.66 |
| **SE** | +28.7 | 0.21 | 0.39 | 0.51 |
| **SW** | - | 0.37 | 0.40 | 0.78 |

*Success was patchy in Shet with total failure at some sites and great success at others. Bonxies may have been responsible for the total failures. Productivity in Ork and NE was excellent as was the improvement at Ailsa Craig. Handa was again one of the most successful sites with MBP of 1.47.*

**Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996.**

Inland reports: 1 Balgray Res. **Clyde** 12 Feb; 1 long dead Inversnaid **Clyde** 28 Apr; 1 long dead Turnhouse **L** 22 Jun; 2 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** 31 Oct.

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*** Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea*

Ad Longman Outfall **H** 19-22 Jul.

Photo: *Birding World* 8: 247 & *British Birds* 89:506.

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*** Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*

1 Pool of Virkie **Shet** 25 Jun. *First record for Shetland.*

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**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

First 1 Peterhead **NE** 19 Mar. Then M&N, D&G and Ayr 25-26 Mar; Fife, Ork & Clyde 27-30 Mar; Arg,, High , Caith & Loth & Bord 1-2 Apr; A&D, Shet & Clyde Is. 6-10 Apr. 16 Culbin Bar **M&N** 27 Mar was first large party seen.

Breeding: *+33% L.Ryan **D&G** to 80prs where conditions are now very crowded, was balanced by a 48% decrease in Strathbeg **NE** & Forvie **NE** and a 96% decrease in Forth. The latter drop may have been due to plastic sheeting used to control vegetation not being removed early enough due to weather preventing access to the site. Just 5 prs bred in the Forth (129).*

*Productivity was very poor with an MBP of 0.21 (0.33) in NE colonies and 0.4 in the Forth (0.16).*

**Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996**

**Ork** *c*346 birds at 3 colonies with MBP 0.7 from 20prs at Twinness, Westray; **M&N** 10 nests Kingston (7) but no young due to dog-walkers; **NE** 481prs Strathbeg (923) reared 100+ young; **Loth** 1pr Inchmickery (98); **Arg** stable 12prs Machrihanish; **Ayr** 8prs Hunterston (15); and **D&G** 80prs L.Ryan (59).

Better year in Shet with 14 records (3) but only 2 reports Fair Is (3).

Autumn numbers generally low: 182 (2hrs) Eyemouth **B** 1 Jul; 1,000 Musselburgh **L** 12 Aug; 400 Braefoot Bay **F** 13 Aug; 244 Pettycur Bay **F** 16 Aug; 240 Aberlady **L** 24 Aug; 150 Kinneil **Forth** 30 Aug; 200 Valleyfield **F** 6 Sep; 100 Nairn Bar & 110N Peterhead 9 Sep.

Inland: 1 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** 30 Mar; 2 L.Leven **P&K** 19 Jun; 1 Hamilton **Clyde** 20 Jul; 2 Laurieston **D&G** 24 Sep.

Last birds Shet, Is of May & Caith 9-13 Sep but A&D, D&G , Clyde & NE 1-9 Oct; Arg, M&N, Forth & Ork 11-16 Oct; Bord, High & Ayr 22-28 Oct; Fife 19 Nov. The latest record was 1 Musselburgh **Loth** 4 Dec.

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**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

No first dates for Forth birds but 1 Brora **H** 7 May and 1 Carnoustie **A&D** 13 May.

Breeding: *The Forth breeding population rose to 11prs (9) and the **Is of May**, not used for 40 years, was encouragingly occupied by a pair that were ringed as chicks in Ireland. The Inchmickery **L** colony failed totally. A total of 13 young (MBP 1.2) were reared at the un-named main Forth colony.*

**Thompson *et al*, JNCC 1996**

All autumn records came from the Forth with records from Eyemouth **B** 2 Aug and St.Andrews **F** 12 Aug. Most were of 1-2 birds with 6 Inverkeithing **F** 20 Aug The latest records were of 1 Fife Ness **F** 17 Sep.

*The Eyemouth bird appears to be the first published record from Borders, although birds must have been seen in the past with the Forth and Farne colonies bracketing the area.*

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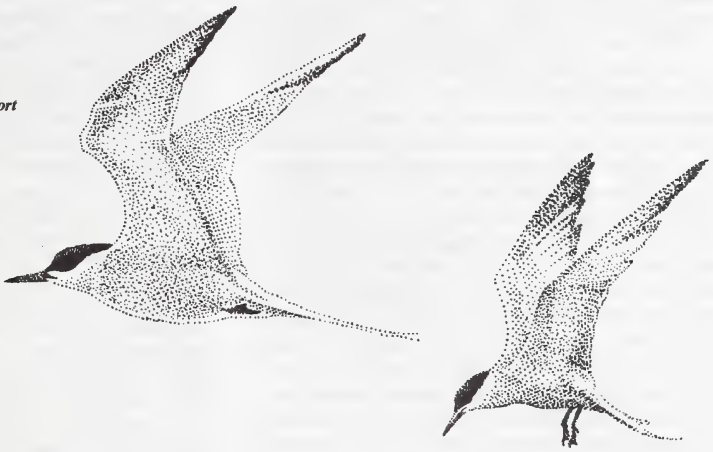
*Common Tern*
*J.P.Smith*
***Short-listed for Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report from North-east Scotland Bird Report***



**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

First 1 Irvine **Ayr** 25 Apr. Bord, Fife & Loth 27-28 Apr; M&N, High & Clyde 30 Apr; Shet, A&D, NE, Forth, Ork & Arg 2-5 May; Fair Is and P&K 8-9 May.

The only large parties were 20 at Machrihanish **Arg** on 3 May ,with 100 there 20 & 21 May.

Breeding: *Attendance at monitored Scottish colonies fell by 16% in 1995. Long-running declines in NW and SW Scotland show a drop from 1,829prs at 23 sites in 1987 to 1,107 at 14 sites in 1995. Much of this is attributed to Mink predation. In SW the Treshnish Is. held birds after an absence of several years but gull predation and human disturbance created a decline to 569prs (888) in N & NE Scotland.*

*Overall productivity in NW & SW was substantially down on 1994 at 0.33-0.46. Mink took many chicks in sites that lack mammalian predator control. An overall figure of 0.32 in N & NE was due to total failure at Nigg where feral cats and mustelids were a problem. The SE colonies fared better at 0.67 MBP.*

| Area | %population change | | MBP | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1994 | 1995 | 1994 | 1995 |
| N.Scot | stable | -36 | 0.27 | 0.13 |
| NE Scot | +53 | -36 | 0.06 | 0.55 |
| NW Scot | -19 | +9 | 0.88 | 0.00 |
| SW Scot | -19 | +9 | 1.05 | 0.41 |
| SE Scot | -22 | -16 | 0.65 | 0.67 |
| Scotland | na | na | 0.65 | 0.40 |

**Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996.**

**Shet** 37prs Fetlar (15) raised 10 young; **Fair Is** 6prs failed; **Ork** 134 birds at 7 sites with 100 Lyness; **Caith** c10prs at 5 sites with 11 young seen; **High** 3prs raisied 2 young Eigg, c18prs Handa produced 2 nests that failed; **M&N** new site with 250prs at Whiteness but only 3prs later in season; **NE** 123prs Strathbeg (288); **P&K** pr bred Luncarty; **Fife** 268prs bred Forth estuary; **Is of May** 181prs (144); **Forth** 104prs Skinflats reared 70 young; **Loth** 416 nests, only 9 broods at Leith Docks; **Arg** largest study colony was Otter predated, 200prs at 5 sites Coll, 50 nests Lunga, 11prs at L.Indaal, Islay; **Ayr** 50prs Hunterston; **D&G** 12 nests L.Ryan (20).

275 Montrose Basin **A&D** 16 Jul; 300 Goosepools **F** 28 Jul; 200 Burntisland **F** 8 Aug; and 100 Musselburgh **L** 12 Aug were the best autumn counts.

Last bird Forth, NE &Bord 16-21 Sep; Shet & Fair Is 26 Sep; High, Ayr & Loth 4-8 Oct; A&D, Ork and Arg 14-18 Oct. Latest 1 Goosepools **F** 27 Oct.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

First 1 New England Bay **D&G** 5 Apr.Also early were first at **Fair Is** 13 Apr. Then Ork 22 Apr; High 24 Apr; Fife, M&N, Loth, Shet, NE 27-30 Apr; A&D, Caith & Arg 3-5 May; Ayr 12 May.

Breeding: *Counts at regularly monitored sites in Arg & Lochaber continued. Range contraction has occurred in the face of predation, from 299prs at 21 sites in 1987 to 290-293prs at 12 presumably safer sites in 1995. In N. Scotland 544prs at 3 sites had shrunk to 243prs while the St.Fergus colony NE rose from 243prs to 354prs. Mink and ferrets trapped here had a big effect on numbers and success. Several colonies in the Forth showed a small increase with the Is of May showing a more substantial rise.*

*Productivity was variable in Shet but much higher than 1994. Ork had the best success in recent years although again there were differences between area. Failure at Brora **H** (gull predation and human disturbance) and Nigg **H** (mustelids) meant that only 5 young fledged from 243prs. Kinloss **M&N** had an excellent season (MBP 1.12) while shelters at St.Fergus aided productivity. High tides were responsible for the poor showing in SE. The W.coast had a good year.*

| Area | %population change | | MBP | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1994 | 1995 | 1994 | 1995 |
| Shet | -37 | - | 0.19 | 0.52 |
| Ork | -22 | - | 0.17 | 0.79 |
| N.Scot | +56 | -55 | 0.20 | 0.02 |
| NE Scot | -32 | +3 | 0.02 | 0.68 |
| NW Scot | - | - | 0.22 | - |
| SW Scot | - | - | 0.77 | 0.90 |
| SE Scot | +1 | +12 | 0.70 | 0.21 |

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**Shet** 2,881 nests at 19 sites, 1,504 young; **Fair Is** record 1,200prs reared only 200 young due to food shortages in Jul; **Ork** record success, 4,196prs at 22 sub-colonies on 9 island fledged at least 3,825 chicks; **Caith** 124 nests Dunnet raised 250 chicks (4 in '92); **M&N** 380 nests RAF Kinloss (150) reared 429 young; **Fife** 608prs on Forth islands; **Is of May** 608prs (544) fledged *c*280 (some Commons); **Loth** old site reoccupied, 10prs raised 1 young; **Arg** outwith study 80prs L.Indaal, Islay, 671prs in 22 sites on Tiree, 79 nests Lunga.

800 Eden Est. **F**, 700 Culbin Bars **M&N** & 600 Dunnet Bay in Jul. Very light passage Machrihanish **Arg** with only 45 birds (1,153 in 1994). Last birds A&D, Bord & Fair Is 3-10 Sep; Loth, Fife & Ayr 24-28 Sep; Clyde, High and Forth 1-7 Oct; Caith, OHeb , Arg and Shet 12-19 Oct; Ork 24 Oct. Latest 1 on Is of May 28 Oct.

***Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*

1st-w Musselburgh **L** from 1994 re-appeared 21 Feb and was seen along shore to Aberlady to 10 Apr.

1st-s Ythan Est. **NE** 3 May- 4 Aug.

*Assuming the Lothian bird moved northwards, still the second Scottish record. First for North-east.*

Photo Lothian bird: *Birding World* 8: 85 & 128.

***Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus*

**[1994]** 1 Tiree **Arg** 30 Jun-7 Jul.

*Third record for Scotland, first for Argyll.*

Previous records in Stromness **Ork** Aug 1979 & Eigg **H** July 1993.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

First 2 Ythan **NE** 18 Apr; Loth & Arg 29-30 Apr; High, Fife & Caith 3-4 May; Is of May 14 May; Ork 25 May.

Breeding: *Scottish colonies showed some stability between 1994-95, rising from 60-64 pairs at sites monitored for population changes (+7%). Sites monitored for productivity also showed an increase in absolute numbers as well as a considerable increase in breeding success. Sites in NE had problems with predation by crows, gulls and foxes.*

| Area | 1994 | Pairs 1995 | 1994 | MBP | 1994 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N.Scot** | 10 | 19 | 0.00 | | 0.16 |
| **NE Scot** | 2 | 22 | 0.40 | | 0.45 |
| **SE Scot** | 42 | 21 | 0.05 | | 0.33 |
| **SW Scot** | 17 | 5 | 0.00 | | 0.65 |
| **Scotland** | **59** | **79** | **0.11** | | **0.39** |

**See Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996.**

**Caith** 12prs Dunnet hatched 22 chicks, only 5 fledged; **High** 3-4prs Brora fledged 1 young; **M&N** 18 birds, 3prs nested, failed; **NE** 50 birds Ythan, 7prs, 5 young; **Fife** 32 at one site, *c*8prs reared 9 young; **Loth** 18 at one site, single nest failed; **Arg** 21ads+6 juvs Islay, 22prs at 2 colonies Tiree with 24 ads at 4 other sites, 7 at Gunna, Coll with 14prs at 2 other sites on Coll; **Ayr** no attempts; **D&G** 2-3prs L.Ryan, poor success.

Last Fife, M&N, NE & High 13-26 Aug; Loth 3 Sep; Arg 26 Sep; A&D 1 Oct. Latest Castlehill **Caith** 6 Oct.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

*1 in spring: 48 in autumn.*

2 Anstruther **F** 10 Jun was the only spring record.

In autumn 1 Chanonry Pt. **High** 20 Jul; 1 Annachie **NE** 1 Aug; 1 Girdleness **NE** 10 Aug; 1 Kinghorn **F** 12 Aug; 2 Grangemouth **Forth** & 1 Granton **L** 13 Aug. 3 Kinghorn 16 Aug with 4 there on 21 Aug. 4 Leven **F** 23 Aug with 5 Largo Bay **F** 26 Aug. 2 L.Leven **P&K** 6 Sep.

| Area | 1-15 Jul | 16-31 Jul | 1-15 Aug | 16-31 Aug | 1-15 Sep | 16-31 Sep | 1-16 Oct |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N/W Isles** | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| **N.Scot** | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| **NE Scot** | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| **E-C Scot** | - | - | 4 | 21 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| **SE Scot** | - | - | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - |
| **Total** | **0** | **1** | **8** | **25** | **9** | **1** | **3** |

Last singles Leven 4 Oct, Ruddons Pt. **F** 7-8 Oct and Clachan, N.Uist **OH** 16 Oct.

*A good year in Fife (with half of all the autumn birds) but poor elsewhere. 41 in 1993, 34 in 1994 & 49 in 1995.*

*** White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Ad L.of Hundland **Ork** 27 Jul-1 Aug; 1st-w Montrose Basin **A&D** 11-13 Sep.

*4th for Angus & Dundee and 6th for Orkney.*

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Only 140 found dead **Shet** in Jan/Feb (1,072 in 1994).

Breeding: *Large-scale increases of birds on study plots in SE with +31% at Is of May and +26% at St.Abbs Head. Longer-term increase in NE where 116-176% increase since 1986. Further north numbers were stable or slightly decreasing in NW (-6%) and Shet (-3%) but some Shet colonies showed significant decreases with -12% at Hermaness and -16% on Fair Is. No data were available from Ork.*

*Breeding success was generally high, averaging 0.76 across the British Isles. Fair Is had the least success at 0.67 as did Handa at 0.69. Elsewhere figures ranged 0.73-0.83.*

| Area | %population change 1994 | 1995 | MBP 1994 | 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shet** | -5 | -3 | 0.74 | 0.73 |
| **Ork** | + | - | 0.72 | 0.77 |
| **N.Scot** | - | - | 0.73 | 0.76 |
| **NE Scot** | +16 | +23 | - | - |
| **NW Scot** | stable | -6 | 0.70 | 0.69 |
| **SE Scot** | +4 | +29 | 0.79 | 0.81 |

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**NE** 27,899 ads Buchan Ness-Collieston, 44,634 ads Gamrie-Pennan; **Is of May** record 25,754 ads (13,843); **Fife/Loth** 5,629 birds on four Forth islands (5,503); **Arg** 6,600 birds Lunga, Mull (1,530 in 1971); **D&G** 2,027 Mull of Galloway, 770 Scars Rocks.

Passage : 2,075/hr N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 25 Feb & 3,200/hr Eyemouth **B** 11 Nov were the only high numbers.

No inland records.

*** Brunnich's Guillemot** *Uria lomvia*
1st-w exhausted and emaciated Gulberwick **Shet** 4 Jan was taken into care. It was released Wadibister Voe on 1 Feb and last seen 2 Feb. *10th for Shetland.*
1 **at sea** in sea-area Fair Is, 62°41'N, 01°34'W 23 Jan.
Photo of Shetland bird : *Birding World* 8: 6.

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**Razorbill** *Alca torda*
Breeding: *Population change was rather variable ranging from a 16% increase on Is of May to 27-33% increase on Shet where numbers have increased since the low point of the late 1980s. Handa also showed a 14% decrease. Some areas of NE coast showed 152-286% increases since the last survey in 1986 while other areas showed 2-30% increases since 1992. Limited data on indicate a poor year with Is of May showing its poorest success in the last ten years.*

| Area | 1994 | %change 1995 | 1994 | MBP | 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NW Scot** | - | -14 | 0.75 | | 0.00 |
| **NE Scot** | +43 | -22 | 0.0 | | 0.40 |
| **SE Scot** | +19 | +17 | 0.69 | | 0.62 |
| **Shetland** | +3 | +13 | 0.64 | | 0.49 |

**See Thompson *et al* JNCC, 1996.**

**High** 441 sites Canna; **M&N** 2,896 Buchan Ness-Colliston & 4,812 Gamrie-Pennan; **Is of May** 4,248 birds, a 40% increase; **Fife/Loth** 293 nests on five Forth islands; **Arg** 640 Lunga, Mull; **D&G** 328 birds Mull of Galloway, 44 Scar Rocks.
1,500 Chanonry Pt. **H** (15 mins) 21 Jan was the only large count.

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**Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle*
Breeding:
*Little change Shet since 1994 (+3%) with a partial recovery on 'Braer" coast but 9% decrease Fair Is. Some decreases in Shet thought to be related to Otter predation. Decreases also seen Ork where gull and rat predation may be involved. Better success Fair Is at 0.72 (0.58) but not at best rates of 1993 (1.23). Holm of Papa Westray* ***Ork*** *showed a decrease to 0.57 (0.89). In SW Mink predation is still important and some six colonies have been abandoned.*
**High** 25prs Eigg raised 20 young; **M&N** 1pr Portknockie with additional adults; **Clyde** potential 34prs in survey with 4prs confirmed as breeding; **Ayr** *c*29prs noted with 85 seen Finnarts Pt. shore; **D&G** 24 L.Ryan in Apr with 20 Mull of Galloway in Jun and 7 Scar Rocks.
Records throughout the year in Forth maintaining the possibility of isolated breeding somewhere in the area with Fife (4 records), Loth (5) and Bord (1).

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**Little Auk** *Alle alle*
*High numbers in Forth Jan-Feb with higher, record numbers there in Nov-Dec.*
Winter 94/95: 170 Fraserburgh **NE** 15 Jan; 14 Sullom Voe **Shet** 16 Jan; 360 Kirkcaldy **F** 18 Jan; 200/hr Gullane Pt. & 280 Musselburgh **L** 22 Jan; 58 (2hrs) Brora **H** 3 Feb; 'hundreds' **Is of May** 19 Feb; 471E Boarhills **F** (1hr) & 216 Anstruther **F** 22 Feb.
Late records: 2 Musselburgh **L** 22 Apr; 1 Anstuther **F** 23 Apr; 1S Cloch Pt. **Clyde** 29 Apr.

| Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N&W Isles** | 43 | 7 | - | 1 | 26 | 90 | 50 |
| **N.Scot** | 24 | 61 | 1 | 2 | 57 | 880 | 1888 |
| **NE Scot** | 174 | 7 | - | - | 3 | 387 | 143 |
| **E/C Scot** | 474 | 1168 | - | - | 35 | 3908 | 71 |
| **SE Scot** | 929 | 10 | 2 | - | 31 | 11805 | 1431 |
| **W Scot** | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 17 |
| **SW Scot** | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |

N.Isles & NE numbers very approximate.

Winter 95/96: early singles N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, off Eigg **H** & Arisaig L. **H** 13-16 Sep. First mostly 24-28 Oct. Major movement on N.Sea coast in Nov with 3,100N Dunbar **L** 7 Nov; 2,473+N Fife Ness **F**, 354 Brora (2hrs) 11 Nov; 414 Arbroath Cliffs **A&D** 12 Nov; 217S Peterhead **NE** & 106N/23S Colliston **NE** 13 Nov; 3,200N Seacliff L 19 Nov; 376SW Brora (4hrs) 26 Nov; 1,225E Musselburgh **L** 6 Dec; 1,670SW Brora (3hrs) 25 Dec.
Inland: 8 Kilconquhar L. **F** 22 Jan. Singles inland at Bauds **M&N** 30 Oct, Edinburgh **L** 13 Nov; Stirling **Forth** & Dinnet **NE** 29 Nov; 9 Aird Meadow, 4 Balgray Res. , 1 Barrhead & 1 Hogganfield L. **Clyde** 6-7 Dec; 1 Livingston **L** 6 Dec; L.Chon **Forth** 15 Dec. Undated late-year singles at Glenrothes & Leuchars **F**.

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**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*
2 Brora **Suth** & 3 Troon **Ayr** in Jan are unusual winter records.
First birds off breeding areas: A&D, NE, Caith & Shet 26-27 Mar; Fair Is & Arg 1-7 Apr; High, Is of May & Bord 10-15 Apr.
Breeding: *Fewer data in 1995 but little or no change* ***Is of May*** *in keeping with the 0.4% annual increase over 1986-94. 25% drop* ***Fair Is*** *on census to 17,386 birds, although drop is apparently within sampling error. 19,110 burrows Hermaness* ***Shet****, similar to the 22,960 figure from 1987. Productivity was average, ranging from 0.78 with no significant regional differences. The most successful colonies were at Is of May, at 0.83, and the poorest at Sumburgh Head* ***Shet*** *at 0.53 , due to predation by feral cats .*

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**Fair Is** corrected estimate suggests 42,500 individuals; **High** stable 507-872 individuals Handa; **NE** 622 Gamrie-Pennan,(+600% over 1986) & 727 Buchan Ness-Collieston (+300% over 1986); **Fife/Loth** *c*6,371 birds on 6 Forth islands; **Bord** 106 birds ashore St.Abbs; **Arg** 1,631 nests Lunga, Mull (774 in 1971); **D&G** 12 Mull of Galloway, 20 Scar Rocks.
Peak movements: 200/hr Eyemouth **B** 10 Jun; 510N Peterhead **NE** 11 Jun; 173W Fife Ness **F** 13 Jul.
Last M&N 27 Aug; Fife & Arg 3 -12Sep; Fair Is, High & Ork 17 -26 Oct; NE, Loth & Ayr 13-3 Nov.

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**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*
"Pure": **Shet** 200 Hestingott in Oct; **Fair Is** 35 in Apr; **Ork** 350 Widewall, S.Ronaldsay in Jan/Feb, 660 Deerness in Nov; **OHeb** 200 L.Paible, N.Uist in Oct; **Caith** 172 Noss Head in Oct.
"Feral": 1,000 Blackstoun **Clyde**, 800 Inchinnan **Clyde** & 600 Fowlsheugh **NE** in Sep; 1,000 Middleton **Clyde** & 800 Auldhame **L** in Nov. Flocks 3-500 in P&K & NE.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*
A poor year in N.Isles with 2 records Shet, none Fair Is and 4 Ork and only 2 singles St.Kilda **OH** Oct-Nov.
Max 203 Musselburgh **L** in Dec was only site with counts >100. Smaller flocks of 20-70 seen M&N, P&K (2), Fife (2), Forth, Loth (4), Bord, Clyde (5), Ayr (2) and D&G.
Breeding: **High** 2 sites; **M&N** 14 sites; **NE** 1 site; **P&K** 3 sites with pr Vane Farm (2); **Loth** 6 sites with 6mm Roslin Glen; (4) **Bord** 29 sites, 7mm Floors Castle; **Clyde** 14 sites with stable 5 nests at Walkinshaw; **Ayr** 36 sites, with 8 Doonside area.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*
Winter-spring: 2,100 Reston **B** in Jan; 4,000 Gosford **L** & 2,000+ Star Moss **F** in Feb; 2,500 Haddo **NE** in Mar. Also flocks 1,000-2,000 in M&N, NE, A&D (3), P&K (2), Fife (3) & Bord.
Breeding: **Shet** no suggestion of breeding; **Loth** 22prs Aberlady (21), 19prs Roslin Glen (15).
Winter: few large flocks with just 5,000 Muthill-Creiff **P&K** in Nov & 2,000 Ladykirk **Ayr** in Dec.
Flocks of 1,000-2,000 in M&N, A&D, Fife & Clyde.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Jan-Mar max : 72 Kingoodie **A&D**, 53 Sandyford **Ayr**, 100 Lochhill **M&N** in Feb; 41 Heathfield **Ayr** in Mar. 95 Charlesfield **B** in Sep; 48 Barrance **Clyde** & 43 Mill of Grange **M&N** in Oct; 62 Windygates **F** in Dec.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
1 wintered in garden in Lundin Links **F** to 8 May with another in garden at Drummore **D&G** (no dates ).
First 1 Sumburgh **Shet** 2 May with 4 New Galloway **D&G** on 4 May.

| | May | | Jun | | Jul | | Aug | | Sep | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1-15 | 16-31 | 1-15 | 16-31 | 1-15 | 16-31 | 1-15 | 16-31 | 1-15 | 16-31 |
| **N.Isles** | 2 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 10 |
| **W.Isles** | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| **N.Scot** | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| **NE Scot** | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **E/C Scot** | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **SE Scot** | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **W.Scot** | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| **SW Scot** | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | 12 | 22 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 12 |

Late birds: 1 **Fair Is** 16 Sep-10 Oct and 1-2 regularly N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 1-24 Oct.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*
First Glen Errochty **P&K** 18 Apr; D&G, Ayr & Clyde 22-23 Apr; Arg, High, NE & Bord 25-29 Apr; Forth & Loth, Is of May, A&D, M&N, Ork & Fife 1-4 May.
Main arrival 25-28 Apr in SW, widespread by 4 May.
Breeding: **High** 12m Eigg (9), 6f +5-6 juvs, 5-6m Insh Marshes; **M&N** 8 Banchor, 10 Glengeoullie; **P&K** 2m Vane Farm, 5 juvs Carsebeck; **Forth** 7 sites; **Loth** 1 juv in Jul; **Bord** 30m at 28 sites, 1 juv; **Clyde** 44m at 30 sites, 2 juvs & 7m Inversnaid; **Ayr** 37 at 29 sites, 2 juvs; **D&G** 19 Glentrool area in May (21).
Ads mostly away from hills late Jun-early Jul. Last Fife & Loth 29-30 Jul; P&K, Arg, NE & Forth 8-19 Aug. Passage birds in Sep: Shet (3), Ork , Caith, NE, Loth & Bord. Last 1 Noss Head **Caith** 9-13 Sep.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*
**Caith** 1 in Jun; **High** 7 AOS, 1 failed, 1 not known and 5 fledged 18 young MBS 3.6 (1.75), bred at 4 other sites where 2br 9, reported 19 other sites, first Eigg since 1978; **M&N** 3prs bred, 8 other sites Apr-Jul and 8 sites in winter; **NE** 4 sites in Mar-Aug, pr reared br2; **A&D** 1bird; **P&K** 3 sites; **Fife** 4 sites, no hint of breeding; **Forth** 5 sites; **Loth** 2br6 reared, also 10 other sites; **Bord** reported 99 sites (82), bred min 8 sites; **Arg** 6prs raised 9 juvs Kintyre, MBS 1.5 (2.15), stable 12 nests Islay with 11br30 , MBS 2.7; **Clyde** 6prs reared 4br11, MBS 2.7 (2.80), also 16 other sites: **Ayr** in poor vole year 20prs had 14 nests with 11br21, MBS 1.9 (4.07) also 19 other territories where 3br12 known; **D&G** in a poor vole year - 68 sites Galloway Forest reared just 34br85, MBS 2.5 and 27prs Rhinns had 23br58, MBS 2.5.

*** Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*
1st-w m released Fetlar **Shet** Oct 1994 remained until 13 May ; 1m Papa Westray **Ork** 1-7 Apr, presumed the same bird N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 11-16 Apr

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*
1 St.Thomas' Is, R.Tweed **B** 12 Jul, 1 Caerlaverock **D&G** 6 Nov & 1 at un-named site **Loth** 9 Nov.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*
**Caith** 9 sites, 2br2; **High** 35% of RSG nests in E.Ross failed before hatching, 5prs Insh Marshes; **NE** 3 nests lost to Grey Squirrels in study area; **P&K** poor year, only 3 young from 4 boxes; **Fife** 27 birds at 34 sites (18), bred at 7; **Loth** 21 sites, 3br6 at 7 sites; **Bord** 97 birds at 74 sites, 3br8 noted; **Arg** 13 sites; **Clyde** 26 sites, 3 broods; **Ayr** only 5 prs S.Ayrshire study site (9) just 2 broods, 77 birds at 43 other sites with 12br27, MBS 2.2.

| Area | Pairs | Nests | Hatched | Fledged | MBP | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **High** | 43 | 43 | 33 | 33br56 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| **M&N** | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6br8 | 1.0 | 1.3 |
| **NE** | 21 | 21 | 15 | 12br29 | 1.3 | 2.4 |
| **D&G** | 12 | 12 | ? | ? | ? | 1.6 |

*Snowy Owl*
*Brent Hurley*

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*
Winter roosts: 3 sites Shet, 7 Ork, A&D, Bord, 3 Clyde and D&G: 12 Longhouse, St.Ola **Ork** in Jan was largest roost. Otherwise singles seen Forth, Fife and D&G.
Mar-May migrants, all singles, Shet 3, Fair Is 2, Fife 4, Is of May 3, Loth & Bord. 1 St.Kilda **OH** 2 Jun.
Breeding: **Caith** br2 Skaill; **High** 2 failed E.Ross, bred 5 other sites; **M&N** juvs at 9 sites, also 2 other sites in summer; **NE** bred 5 sites; **A&D** bred 1 site; **P&K** bred 2 sites, 1 predated by Pine Marten; **Fife** 2br4; **Bord** 2br3; **Arg** 2prs noted,raised br2; **Clyde** 5 sites , 2 broods; **Ayr** 15 sites, juvs at 5 sites where 8br24, MBS 3.0 (1.75).
Poor passage N.Sea coasts Aug-Nov: 3 Shet, 5 Fair Is, 8 Ork, High, 4 NE, 3 Is of May & Loth. (*c.f.* 127 in 1994).
Mostly singles, 3 Quennamidda, Rendall **Ork** 20 Nov. 4 Quennamidda in Dec was only large roost.
See Stevenson (1996) *Ayrshire Bird Report* 1995 for an account of the status of Long-eared Owl in Ayrshire.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*
Very few Jan-Feb: 3 Dunston Hill **Ayr** & 3 Pennyghael, Mull **Arg** in Jan; 11 Craigdow L. **Ayr** & 3 Eday **Ork** in Feb were the only reports of >2 birds.
1-2 seen Shet, Ork (2), Caith (2), High (2), NE, P&K (4), Forth (3), Fife (5), Bord (3), Arg (2), Clyde & Ayr (6). On territory from early Mar. First birds Fair Is & Shet 18-25 Apr with light passage, total 11 Fair Is & 7 Shet.
Breeding: **Ork** 30 sites with 15-16prs N of Hillside Road, Mainland; **Caith** 12 sites Apr-Jul , 5 Scotscalder & 4 Strathmore; **High** 2 sites, br4 noted; **M&N** 5 sites; **NE** 4 sites, no proof; **P&K** 12 sites, only 2 bred; **Forth** 2 sites, no proof; **Loth** 6 sites, none bred; **Bord** 10 sites, none bred; **Arg** 8 sites Mull, 5 sites Islay, 4 mainland sites, no success; **Clyde** 14prs at 9 sites; **Ayr** many quit after vole crash, *c*5 sites, no success; **D&G** just 1pr Galloway Forest after vole crash.
Passage: Sep-Nov - 3 Shet ,8 Fair Is , 6 NE, 2 Is of May, 4 Loth and Bord. Best autumn/winter counts: 9 roosting Hollandmey **Caith** & 4 Carrick Hills **Ayr** in Nov.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*
First 1 Arran **Clyde Is** 28 May. Also 1 Scourie **H** in May.
Breeding: **NE** 1 churring at un-named site 12-23 Jun; **Forth** none Queen Elizabeth Forest Park; **Clyde Is** 1 bird calling Arran; **D&G** 6-7 calling Newton Stewart site on 13 Jun with 1-2 still there 27 Jul, 2 birds calling The Bennan. 1 Abriachan **H** 22 Sep. *First NE since 1977.*

**Swift** *Apus apus*
First 1 Bowmore & 4 Laggan Bay, Islay **Arg** 10 Apr were exceptionally early. Then Loth 23 Apr; Bord and D&G 28-29 Apr; Clyde , Fife , M&N, P&K, Ayr & NE 1-2 May; Shet, Forth & High 3-5 May.
Main arrival 2-4 May. Best counts : 100 Forfar L. **A&D** 5 May, 100 Strathbeg **NE** 9 May, 200 L.Spynie **M&N** 10 May and 100 Musselburgh **L** 20 May.
Breeding: no useful data.
600 Gladhouse **L** 8 Jun; 300 Strathclyde L. **Clyde** 5 Jul; 500 L.Gelly **F** 10 Jul were best flocks. Last D&G, A&D, Fair Is, P&K, Arg & Forth 13 -31Aug; Ayr, Clyde, M&N, High, NE & Bord 2-12 Sep; Shet & Fife 15-20 Sep. Late birds Ork A&D and Loth 8-15 Oct with extremely late birds Barns Ness **L** 11 Nov & Loanhead **L** 22 Nov.

***Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*
1 Dunbar **L** 28 May. *Third for Lothian.*
**[1992]** 1 Balgray Res. **Clyde** 2-14 May. *First for Clyde.*

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
1 Fetlar **Shet** 28 May. *First for island, 12th for Shetland.*
Breeding: **High** 3 sites Mar-Aug; **M&N** 3 sites Mar-Aug sites; **NE** 4 sites, all in winter; **A&D** only Montrose Basin Mar-Aug, 4 winter sites; **P&K** only Garry at Blair Atholl in summer, 9 winter sites; **Fife** 3 sites Mar-Aug, no proof, 6 winter sites; **Cent** 4 sites , 8 winter sites; **Loth** bred 3 sites, pr on R.Almond with 3 broods ,min 6 other sites in winter; **Bord** record 25 sites in summer, bred at 7, also 15 sites in winter; **Arg** 1 site in summer, 5 in winter; **Clyde Is** 2 winter sites; **Clyde** 14prs (15), bred at 8 sites - seen 25 sites in winter; **Ayr** 6prs (8)+ 6 other sites Mar-Aug, 15 sites in winter; **D&G** 4prs in summer, 4 other sites in winter.

*** Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
*Exceptional year, 5 birds.*
1 Fidden, Mull **Arg** 15 May; 1 Heldale, Hoy **Ork** on 17 May; 1 Vigga, West Yell **Shet** 6 Jun, moving to Whalsay 9 Jun & Vidlin 10-11 Jun.
1 Yellowcraig **L** 23 Sep; 1 Belhelvie **NE** 5-7 Oct, moved to Kirkton of Durris until 16 Oct.
*22nd for Shet, 2nd for Loth, 3rd for NE & 4th for Arg.*
Photo of Shetland bird: *Birding World* 8: 207.

***Great Spotted Woodpecker***
***Brent Hurley***
***Winner: Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report Borders Bird Report***

*** Roller** *Coracias garrulus*
1 Erbusaig, Kyle of Lochalsh **H** 22-25 Jul.
Photo: *Birding World* 8: 247.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
*11 in spring.* Singles Portlethen **NE** 30 Mar; Colinsburgh **F** 5 Apr; Longside **NE** 24 Apr-9 May; Sanquhar **D&G** 28 Apr-3 May; Barry Buddon **A&D** on 1 May; Cullievoe **Shet** 4 May; Laide **H** 6-7 May; Rosyth **F** 9 May; Foula **Shet** 12-16 May; Laurieston **D&G** 20 May; Roy Bridge **H** 26-29 May.
*9 in autumn*: singles Flaws, S.Ronaldsay **Ork** 22 Aug; Burray **Ork** 8 Sep; Glendale **H** 14-16 Sep; Corriegills Arran, **Clyde Is**. 16 Sep; Southerness **D&G** 17 Sep; Lerwick **Shet** 18 Sep; Smighton area **H** 20-29 Sep; Ardnadrochit, Mull **Arg** 21 Oct; Oban **Arg** 25-29 Oct.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
*5 in spring.* 1 St.Abbs **B** 27 Apr- 2May; 1 Kilminning **F** 28 Apr; 1 Lochwinnoch **Clyde** 3 May; 1Wether Hill **F** 6 May; 1 Virkie **Shet** 24 May. *First for Renfrewshire.*
Breeding: 1 in suitable habitat Wester Ross **H** 29 May. 1 Abernethy Forest **H** 3 Aug.
*c88 in autumn.* First 1 Baltasound **Shet** 1 Sep; 1 **Fair Is**, 3 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** , 1 Fife Ness **F** & 1 **Is of May** 3 Sep; 1 Burray **Ork** & 1 Fetlar **Shet** 5 Sep. Large influx followed 8-12 Sep when 11 Shet, *c*7 Fair Is, *c*25 Ork , 3 Caith, 2 High, 27 NE, 3 Is of May, 3 Fife and 2 Bord. Max 8 N.Ronaldsay 9 Sep & 7 Newburgh area **NE** with 4 Collieston **NE** 10 Sep. 1 Rattray **NE** 17 Sep; 1 Fair Is 19 Sep; 1 N.Ronaldsay 20 Sep with latest 1 Fair Is 1 Oct.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*
**High** 6 sites ; **M&N** 12 sites , no success; **NE** 3 sites; **A&D** 11 sites; **P&K** 10 highland & 12 lowland sites, bred Vane Farm; **Fife** 31 sites, bred Wallyden, Kennoway, juv Fife Ness; **Forth** 14 sites, 3prs L.Ard, bred Menstrie Glen; **Loth** 19 sites; **Bord** 29 sites , bred Craigurd; **Clyde** 15 sites, bred Cathkin Braes; **Ayr** 2 sites; **D&G** 4 sites.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker**
*Dendrocopos major*
**High** only 6 sites, 3prs bred Insh; **M&N** bred 2 sites + 2 winter records; **A&D** 9 sites, bred Montreathmont & Newtyle; **Fife** 26 sites, bred at 4; **Forth** 16 sites, bred at 4 sites; **Loth** 30 sites , bred at 5; **Bord** 81 sites with 66prs at 42 sites, proved at 6 sites ; **Clyde** 26prs at 20 sites, bred at 8 sites; **Ayr** 147prs at 36 sites; **D&G** 7+prs Wood of Cree (11).
Migrants: 1 overwintered Whalsay **Shet** but no other evidence of presence of continental birds.

***Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*
*4 in spring, 11 in autumn.*
1 **Fair Is** 1-2 May; 2 Fair Is 22 May-1 Jun; 1 Rattray Head **NE** 25 May. *First record for NE.*
Singles on Bressay **Shet** 6-11 Sep; N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 7-15 Sep; Fetlar & West Links **Ork** 15 Sep; Scatness **Shet** 1-2 Oct; Whalsay **Shet** 2-9 Oct; Lamba Ness, Unst **Shet** 2 Oct; Fetlar 4-12 Oct; Fair Is 12-24 Oct with another 16 Oct; another Fetlar 20 Oct.

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*** Wood Lark** *Lullula arborea*
Male in song, Kirkton of Kingoldrum **A&D** 4-5 Mar; 1 overflying Kingsmuir, Forfar **A&D** 25 Sep; 1 Scatness **Shet** 17 Nov.
**[1993]** 1 Rum **High** 14 Nov.

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**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*
1,000 Waulkmill **A&D**, 800 Maidens **Ayr** & 500 Hempriggs **M&N** in Jan but hard-weather movements 22-29 Jan produced passing flocks of 1,400 Linlithgow **L**, 700 Newmains **B** & 590 Kincardine **F**. Jan-Feb flocks 100-400 seen M&N (3), A&D, P&K (2), Fife, Forth (2), Loth, Bord, Arg, Clyde, Ayr (3) and D&G (3). Few large spring flocks >200 birds - only 550 Blackford **P&K** in Mar with 250 Crieff **P&K**, 520 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** & 515 **Fair Is** on 11-12 Apr. Return to hills mostly 10-15 Feb in S, 5-15 Mar in N & high ground.
Breeding; ***CBC*** (F -6%) **Ork** 27prs N.Hoy (28); **P&K** 38prs Vane Farm (16); **Loth** 47prs Aberlady (53), stable 16-20prs Musselburgh lagoons; **Clyde** 49prs Rodger/ Ballencleugh Laws; **Ayr** 38prs Darnaconnor.
Autumn passage subdued :1,000 Fetlar **Shet** 23 Sep; 565 Fair Is 8 Oct; 300 Bracken Bay **Ayr** 21 Oct the best counts. Larger-scale movements in response to Dec freeze-up, 24-29 Dec with 5,000S Donmouth **NE**, 1,000S Newtonhill **NE**, & 600 Skinflats **Forth**, 500S Musselburgh & 270S Kilconquhar **F** on 24 Dec with 3,000 Girvan Mains **Ayr**, 2,000 Croy **Ayr**; 1,200 Lees-Wark Haughs **B** & 500 Lendalfoot **Ayr** 26-29 Dec.
Flocks of 100-400 in Ork, Fife (2), Loth (2) & Ayr (4).

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**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*
4 Greenwall, Holm **Ork** 5-10 Feb; 1 Whiteadder Res. **L** 2 Apr; 4 Northdale, Unst **Shet** 6-13 May; 1 Brims **Caith** 8 May; 5 **Fair Is** 14 May.
3 Dornoch **H** 30 Sep and 1 Findhorn **M&N** 15 Nov.

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**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*
First 1 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** 12 Mar & 2 L.Leven **P&K** 13 Mar. A&D 19 Mar; D&G, Fife, Arg , Bord & Loth 23-28 Mar; NE, M&N, High, Forth & Ayr 2-5 Apr; Caith, Fair Is & Ork 10-13 Apr.
500 Strathclyde Park **Clyde** 7 Apr; 200 Birnie Loch **F** 9 Apr; 350 Rescobie **A&D** 15 Apr; 500 Carseback **P&K** 7 May.
Breeding: *Further improvements.* **Caith** recolonisation of ND27 after absence of many years; **High** 54 burrows Insh Marshes; **M&N** *c*370 burrows at 17 sites; **P&K** 250 burrows S.Ochil with early departure, few second broods; **Fife** 289 at 4 sites, 18prs reared 67 young at Shell Bay; **Forth** 280 nests at 3 sites; **Loth** 279 nests at 7 sites; **Bord** 548 nests at 8 sites; **Arg** 138nests at 2 sites Mid-Argyll , where 59 in 1993; **Clyde** 2,451 nests in some 45 colonies R.Clyde, Thankerton-Hyndford Bridge (x2 1988 figure), 302 nests Merryton (119 in 1994), 4,779 burrows at 51 sites L.Lomond, Kelvin & Clyde perhaps an oversestimate; **Ayr** 833 nests at 23 sites.
Best autumn assemblies: 2,000 Kirkton **D&G** 10 Aug; 8,000 L.Leven **P&K** 26 Aug; 4,000 Bothwell Park P. **Clyde** 31 Aug, usual max elsewhere 100-200.
Last Arg 27 Aug; P&K, Arg & High 6-11 Sep; D&G, Fair Is & Clyde 17-20 Sep; Caith, Loth & Bord 23 Sep. Latest 1 Edenside **F** 25-26 Sep.

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**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
First 1 Tyninghame **L** 1 Apr. Then Forth , Clyde, NE, Fife & Bord 2 Apr; D&G, Clyde Is & Ayr 3-6 Apr; M&N, A&D, Ork , P&K, High & Caith 7-10 Apr; Fair Is 14 Apr; Shet 30 Apr. Widespread arrivals 8-9 Apr, further influx 21-26 Apr but few until mid-May.
Breeding: ***CBC*** (F -11%) **Shet** 8prs bred (4), double-brooded Fetlar; **Fair Is** none bred; **Ork** 115prs (98) early broods failed but better success in warm summer, triple-brooded Birsay; **Caith** successful season; **High** fewer, 20-25 prs Eigg but good success; **M&N** 12prs Glen Esk MBS 5.0; **Is of May** no success.
Main movement mostly early-mid Sep. Best counts were 800 Castleton **Caith** 8 Aug; 3,600 Abbot's Inch **Clyde** 17 Aug; 700 L.Gelly **F** 19 Aug; 6,000 Tullibody Inch **Forth** 21 Aug; 4,000 Kirkton **D&G** 13 Sep; 8,000 Tullibody 18 Sep; 1,000 Bothwell Park **Clyde** 19 Sep; 820S Hirsel **B** 21 Sep.
Last Shet, M&N, P&K, Ork & Caith 13-16 Oct; Bord & Ayr 20-22 Oct; D&G, Loth, High, A&D, Fife & Clyde 26-29 Oct. Late birds;Ardtalla, Islay **Arg** 8 Nov, Windygates **F** 13 Nov; Seafield P. L 25 Nov and Eigg **H** 30 Nov. 1 imm extremely late Lonmay **NE** 3-5 Dec.

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**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*
First 2N **Fair Is** 24 Mar. Then early arrival with first D&G 2 Apr; High, P&K, Forth 4 Apr; Clyde Is., Ayr & Loth 5-6 Apr; A&D, Arg, Fife & Bord 7-9 Apr; Ork, NE & Clyde 14 Apr. Few around until early May and no large numbers until mid- May when 35 L.Spynie **M&N** 12 May; 70 Kilconquhar L. **F** 14 May; 50 Hogganfield L. **Clyde** 26 May.
Breeding ***CBC*** (+6%A). **Shet** did not breed; **Ork** 3prs at 2 sites (2); **M&N** 25 nests Buckie High School (23); **Fife** 2 nests Kincraig Pt. (4); **Loth** 60 nests Tantallon (54), 29 nests Tranent (30); **Ayr** 40-50prs Dreghorn

(15-20), 6 nests Penwhapple (3).
Fewer large counts: 350 Mull of Galloway **D&G** 30 Jul; 170 Doonfoot **Ayr** 15 Aug; 200 Eddleston **B** 4 Sep; 1300 Bute **Clyde Is** 7 Sep; 50 Tweedbank **B** 9 Sep.
Most left N, W & SW mid-Aug, SE by late Aug, Bord by mid-Sep. Last P&K, Shet , Ayr &Is of May 8-10 Oct; NE, M&N, Caith, Clyde, Bord & Loth 11-19 Oct; Ork, Fife & High 22-26 Oct.
Latest 2 L.Ken **D&G** 30 Oct.

***Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*
Singles Stornoway , Lewis **OH** 5-6 Apr and L.Spynie **M&N** 12-13 May.
*Firsts for Moray & Nairn and Outer Hebrides.*

***Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
*1 in spring 22 in autumn*
1 Rattray Head **NE** 25 May.
1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 9-11 Sep; 1 **Fair Is** 11 Sep, 1 Fair Is 15-23 Sep with 2-3 Fair Is on 2-14 Oct; 1 Symbister **Shet** 4 Oct with 2 on 5-7 Oct & 1 on 8 Oct; 1 **Is of May** 9 Oct; 1 N.Ronaldsay 12 Oct with 2 there 14 Oct, 3 on 15 Oct and 1 until 20 Oct; 1 Stronsay **Ork** 14 &15 Oct; 1 Foula **Shet** 14-15 Oct; 1 Skaw, Unst **Shet** 14-20 Oct; 3 Fair Is 16 Oct; 1 Fair Is 22-23 Oct; 1 Rattray Head 29 Oct; 1 Fair Is 31 Oct-1 Nov; 1 Girdleness **NE** 12 Nov.
1 Fair Is 26 Oct was this either species or Blyth's Pipit.

***Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii*
**[1993]** 1st-w **Fair Is** 31 Oct-1 Nov.
*After long consideration this record becomes the first for Scotland and 3rd for Britain. Several others are however still under consideration by the BBRC.*

***Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
1 **Fair Is** 24-25 Apr with another there 9 Nov.
*First spring record for Scotland.*

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
First 1 Insh Marshes **High** 8 Apr. Then Clyde, D&G, Ayr & Fife 11-13 Apr; Forth 18 Apr; M&N, P&K, A&D, Fair Is, P&K, Shet & Is of May 22-25 Apr; Shet 30 Apr; Ork & Bord 1 May; Loth 6 May.Most passage sites 1-3 birds but 9 **Fair Is** 28 May.
Breeding: ***CBC*** (-24%A): **High** 11 prs Insh Marshes (19), 14 at 5 other sites; **M&N** 11 at 6 sites; **A&D** 9 sites; **Fife** 15 sites, 12 Wether Hill; **Forth** 8 sites; **Loth** 3 sites; **Bord** 25 mm at 11 sites, 9 Bowmont; **Arg** 9 prs Taynish (10); **Clyde** 66 at 22 sites, 15-20 Inversnaid and 8 Beinn Bhreac; **Ayr** 45-52 terr at 24 sites with 7-12 Glen Afton (6).
Last Insh Marshes 10 Jul with passage birds over Loth (2) & Clyde (4). Main passage mid-Sep : 55 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 50 Skerries **Shet**, 45 Fair Is and 30 Fetlar **Shet** on 8-12Sep with 6 Auchmithie **A&D**, 4 Crail **F**, 3 Fife Ness **F** and 4 St.Abbs **B**. 25 Skerries 18 Sep. Last Clyde & High in Aug; P&K, Ayr, A&D, Fife, Loth, D&G and Bord 3-10 Sep. Later birds Shet to 9 Oct. Is of May & Fair Is 12-16 Oct; with latest N.Ronaldsay 24 Oct.

***Pechora Pipit** *Anthus gustavi*
1 **Fair Is** 13-17 Sep; 1 Foula **Shet** 21-25 Sep.
*9th for Shetland.*

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*
6 wintered Lees **B**, 32 Carsebeck **P&K**, 25 Summerston **Clyde**, 2 Glen Lednock **P&K** and singles Romach Hill **M&N**, Lamington **Clyde** & Dell of Killiehuntly **H** in Jan; 35 Glen Tanar **NE** and 1 Kingussie **H** in early Feb
Movements Fife & Ork 19 Feb; Bord 26 Feb; P&K, M&N, Shet & High 3-9 Mar.
272 Tweedbank **B** 23 Mar; 888/hr Aberlady **L** 2 Apr; 250 **Fair Is** 10 Apr; 960 Aberlady 11 Apr; 580 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 12 Apr; 300 Rumster Forest **Caith** 17 Apr; 500 Kinloch Rannoch **P&K** 19 Apr.
Breeding: ***CBC*** (-4%A): **High** 50+prs Insh Marshes; **P&K** 62 prs at Vane Farm (46); **Loth** 32prs Aberlady (31), 15 prs Thriepmuir (18), 13prs Black Springs (16); **Clyde** 16prs Cathkin Braes (3).
Autumn passage: 420 Fair Is 6 Sep; 200/hr Mull of Galloway **D&G** and 200 Falla **B** 9 Sep; 190 Monynut **L** 10 Sep; 400S/hr Irvibe Ayr, 353 N.Ronaldsay Ork & 200 Ben Chonzie **P&K** 16 Sep; 800 Fetlar **Shet** 18 Sep; 200 Is of May 26 Sep; 500 Gailes **Ayr** 28 Sep; 70-250 daily Is of May 12-20 Oct; 200 Ruddons Pt. **F** 18 Oct; Few Dec records: Shet (4), Caith, Forth (2), Bord (3) & Clyde, max 25 Balgray Res. **Clyde** 10 Dec and 35 at 310m Craig Innich **Forth** 17 Dec.

*Tree Pipit*
*Steven Brown*

***Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*
*4 in autumn, all N.Isles.*
Singles Boddam **Shet** 8 Sep; N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 11 Sep & 15 Sep; Hametoun, Foula **Shet** 13-16 Sep.

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**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*
111N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 100 St.Andrews-Coclemill **F**, 68 Egilsay **Ork**, 43 Scockness, Rousay **Ork** in Jan were by far the best winter counts. 12 Harrow **Caith** in Apr and 20 Blackwaterfoot **Clyde Is** 30 May.
Breeding: **Bord** stable 10prs St.Abbs Head; **Ayr** 26prs Finnarts Pt.-Dowman Hill, 15prs Bennae Head, 12prs Fisherton-Dunure.
50 North & South Wick, Papa Westray **Ork** on 12 Oct; 57 N.Ronaldsay 14 Oct; 83 Fraserburgh-Rosehearty **NE** 30 Dec.
**Scandinavian Rock Pipit** *A.p.littoralis*
*Identifiable in field only during spring.*
1 Ruddon's Pt. **F** 8 Mar; 2 Barns Ness **L** 21 Mar ; 3 birds **Fair Is** 8 dates 16 Apr-7 Mar; 1 Doonfoot **Ayr** 20 Apr.

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***Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*
*Record numbers with minimum 5 birds wintering and another 3 passage birds in spring.*
1 Tyninghame **L** 1994-13 Mar; 1 Curragh **Ayr** 1994-11 Feb; 1 Maidens **Ayr** 2 Jan-4 Apr; 1 Kingston **M&N** 4 Jan-29 Mar with 2 there 21 Jan-29 Mar; 1 Doonfoot **Ayr** 14 Mar-13 Apr with 2 there 19 Mar and 3 birds from 29 Mar-7 Apr.
**[1984]** 1 Ludquhard **NE** 20 Apr now rejected by S***BRC***.

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**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
1 Springhall Haugh **B** 14 Apr. Then Shet 21 Apr; D&G, Is of May and Loth 23 Apr; Fair Is, NE & Fife 1-2 May; A&D, Ayr , High & Forth 7-16 May. Totals: Shet (3), Fair Is (*c*7), High, NE, A&D, Fife, Is of May (8), Loth (25), Bord (16+), Ayr and D&G (2).
Best : 4 Skateraw **L** 28 Apr; 9 St.Abbs **B** 3 May; 4 **Is of May** 24 May.
Breeding: ***CBC*** +38%A, ***WBS*** +6. **Loth** pr+ br3 Barns Ness, juv Musselburgh may be locally bred; **Bord**: 4prs Teviot Haughs but no search, *c*22 territories on Tweed with br3 Floors Haugh, 10prs Hendersyde-Banff Mill, 2prs+br1 Redden, 3prs Birgham Haugh with 10 juvs, 3prs Lees with 8 juvs, 4prs Lower Tweed WBS at Paxton.
*No birds appear to now breed outwith SE Scotland, c.f. 1980s when most bred in Ayr & Clyde.*
First of autumn: Kennetbank **D&G** &Seacliff **L** 27 Jul; A few mainland birds in early Aug to late Aug in NE, Loth, Bord and D&G. Mainland passage 31 Aug-7 Sep when singles NE & Is of May, 4 Loth, 5 Bord. Another movement further N 8-17 Sep when 13 Shet, 12+ Fair Is, *c*8 Ork, *c*8 NE, 1 Is of May, 2 Loth & 3 Bord, max 12 Fair Is 10 & 14 Sep. Last Fair Is 23 Sep & Is of May 7 Oct.

**Blue-headed Wagtail** *M.f.flava*
Male seen Sprouston **B** breeding with *flavissima* partner. 1 Rattray **NE** 28 Apr; pr Musselburgh **L** 7 May; singles Barns Ness **L** & Kinneil **Forth** 12 May; Musselburgh **L** 13 May; Barns Ness-Skateraw **L** 20-29 May; Caves, Eigg **H** 20 May. Also 2 **Fair Is** in spring. *First for Eigg.*
1 Out Skerries **Shet** 10 Sep.
**Grey-headed Wagtail** *M.f.thunbergi*
Singles L.of Strathbeg **NE** 7 May; Foula **Shet** 13 May; and Skaw, Unst **Shet** 27 May-4 Jun.

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***Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*
*1st-w birds* **Fair Is** 17 Aug; another there 6 Sep. Also singles Fetlar **Shet** 20-24 Sep and Seafield, Lerwick **Shet** 26-29 Sep. *4 records, an average year.*

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**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
Winter reports: High (4), M&N (3), P&K (4), Forth (5), Bord & Clyde (4). Arrivals: Clyde 17 Feb; A&D 3 Mar; Ayr and P&K 9 Mar; High 13 Mar; Ork 17 Mar.
Poor spring N.Isles with singles Shet & Fair Is and just 3 Ork. None Is of May.
Breeding ***CBC*** +4%A, *WBS* +23%: **Shet** & **Ork** none; **Caith** 3prs ; **High** 7+prs Eigg (9), 3prs Insh Marshes; **Bord** 12prs at 2 ***WBS*** sites (9); **Clyde** 35prs at 22 sites; **Ayr** 89prs at 58 sites with 13br39 noted, MBS 3.0 (3.15).
6 Shet, *c*11 Fair Is & 25 Ork in autumn, mostly 1-2 birds as elsewhere, although 8 Musselburgh **L** 26 Aug.
Dec records: Ork, High (3), M&N (2), P&K (2), Bord & Clyde.

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**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
Nil Shet & Fair Is, 10 Ork, 2 Caith and 2 P&K during Jan-Feb. Winter roosts: 300 Inverness **H**, 80 Ayr **Ayr**, 55 Rora **M&N** and 23 Tweedbank **B** Jan-Feb.
13 Skinflats **Forth** in Jan. 22 Braes of Doon **Forth** in Feb. Max Mar counts: 150 Irvine **Ayr**, 96 Kilconquhar L. **F**, 92 Tweedbank roost, 30 Mire L.,St.Abbs **B** roost, and 200 L.Spynie roost **M&N** in Apr.
Breeding ***CBC*** +12%F, *WBS* +11%: **Shet** 3 sites (7); **Fair Is** 3prs (2); **Loth** 16prs Whiteadder ***WBS***; **Bord** 7prs at 2 ***WBS*** sites (11); **Clyde** 8br34 noted, MBS 4.25.
Autumn counts lower than usual: 200 Banchory **NE** 8 Aug; 64 N.Inch, Perth **P&K** and 55 Musselburgh **L** 17 Sep; 80 Mire L. & 74 Newtown St. Boswells **B** 18 Sep; 100 Airthrey **Forth** 19 Sep; 275 Bridge of Don **NE** 22 Sep; 120 Tweedbank 28 Sep; 110 Motray Burn **F** 7 Oct. Last Fair Is 24 Oct; Shet 15 Nov. 5 Ork in Dec.
Winter roosts: 300 Inverness, 147 Kirkcaldy Station **F**, 50 Biggar Main Street **Clyde** in Dec.
**White Wagtail** *M.a.alba*
First 2 Newmains **B** & 4 Swansfield **B** 14 Mar. Then Ayr & Clyde 28-31 Mar; Shet 2 Apr; Arg, Loth & Fair Is 9-12 Apr; Ork, High & Clyde Is 16-18 Apr.

Best counts and highest numbers in W: 17 Musselburgh **L** & 11 Doonfoot **Ayr** 23 Apr;26 Balkenna **Ayr** 28 Apr; 17 Candren Pool **Clyde** 29 Apr; 46 Bracken Bay **Ayr** 4 May; 30 Munnoch Res. **Ayr** 6 May; 80 Irvine **Ayr** on 9 May; 20 Birsay Bay **Ork** and 20 Balnakeil **H** 16 May.
Breeding: Pr with 2 broods (2br5) St.John's L. **Caith**, with young 9-13 Jun and 4 Aug. Mixed pair bred Haroldswick **Shet**.
Max 40 St.John's Pool **Caith** 22-55 Aug with 6 there on 27 Aug. Main movement 3-15 Sep when 5 Caith; many Ork including 15 N.Ronaldsay on 12 Sep; 8 Is of May, 1 Loth, 1 Bord, 11 Arg, 4 Clyde, 8 Ayr and 2 D&G.
Last 2 Harray **Ork** 3 Oct with 1 Is of May 22 Oct.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*
*Extremely quiet year with few birds.*

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/W Isles | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 13 | 9 |
| N.Scot | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - |
| NE Scot | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 15 |
| E/C Scot | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| SE Scot | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **9** | **2** | **3** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **2** | **19** | **26** |
| **1995** | **42** | **19** | **20** | **8** | **-** | **-** | **41** | **144** | **7** |

NB: numbers approximate

Winter 1994-95 1 Edinburgh **L** 1-13 Jan; 1 Bankfoot **P&K** 7 Jan-19 Feb; 7 Aviemore **H** 28 Jan; 1 Quoy's Quarry, Hoy **Ork** 16 Feb; 3 Inverurie **NE** 13 Mar.
1 Stornoway, Lewis **OH** 1 Jun.
1995-96: First singles Urafirth & Voe **Shet** 31 Oct; Linicalte, Benbecula **OH** 2 Nov; 4 singles Shet & 7 Ork mid-Nov; 2 Insh **NE** 13 Nov; 5 Tain **H** 18 Nov.
In Dec singles Shet; Ork (7) with 2 Kirkwall 29 Dec; 1-2 birds at 4 sites NE with 10 Stonehaven in late Dec; and 2 Pitlochry **P&K** late Dec.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*
Breeding ***WBS*** +4%. **High** 1-2prs Eigg (3), 7prs Insh Marshes (4); **NE** 7nests on 6 miles of Bronie Burn, 1 at 1,000m Beinn aBhuird in Aug; **A&D** 24 nests had MBS 3.5, 1 nest infested with fleas failed; **P&K** 12 R.Tummel Ballinluig-Pitlochry; **Fife** bred 4 sites; **Bord** 12prs on 8kms R.Lyne, 8prs at 2 ***WBS*** sites (10), 14br58 in Tweeddale, MBS 4.14 (4.29); **Ayr** 67prs with 7br11 noted, MBS 1.7 (3.2); **D&G** 3prs Wood of Cree (4).
Singles Ork in Jan-Mar, May & Oct.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*
***CBC*** F+13%, W+6%. **Fair Is** 34-35mm (32-37) ; **Ork** 22prs Trumland Wood, Rousay; **NE** numbers ringed doubled Ordiquhill; **P&K** 38prs Vane Farm (22); **Forth** 11prs Doune CBC (8); **Loth** 18prs Aberlady (15), 28prs Roslin Glen (27), 25prs Bawsinch (30); **Bord** stable 6prs St.Abbs; **Arg** 32prs Mid-Arfyll ***CBC*** (36); **Clyde** 11prs Merryton (21), 13prs Cathkin Braes (15).
Few autumn passage birds: 40 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** on 18 Sep; 25 Is of May & 2 St.Abbs 11-12 Oct.
Several reports of roosting in House Martin nests in Dec frosts in NE , P&K and D&G with 7 dead below an old nest Glen Lyon **P&K**.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*
Jan-Feb singles Shet (2) & Ork (3).
First migrants Shet 9 Mar, Fair Is 13 Mar, N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 14 Apr, max 11 **Fair Is** 1 May.
Breeding:***CBC***+2%,F-68%W,***CES*** ads+2% juvs+12%. **Ork** 5prs Hoy (3), Mainland 4 sites(5), TrumlandWood, Rousay 8prs (4); **High** 5prs Insh Marshes; **Forth** 9.6prs/km² Doune ***CBC***(5); **Loth** 26prs Aberlady (27), 5 Roslin (6); **Bord** stable 9prs St.Abb's; **Clyde** 8prs Baron's Haugh (10-15), 13prs Merryton (24).
Very weak passage N.Isles: with 6 Shet, a few Fair Is & 9 sites Ork. 40 Fife Ness **F** 9 Sep; 17 St.Abbs 11 Oct.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*
Wintering N.Isles - 24 Shet (4), 2 Fair Is, *c*28 Ork (16). Light spring passage, peaking 23-29 Apr, max 11 Out Skerries **Shet**, 40 on 4 dates **Fair Is** , 32 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** & 10 Is of May. No passage noted on mainland
Breeding ***CBC***+9%F/+5%,***CES*** ads+9%, juvs+8%: **Ork** 25prs Hoy (14), 11 sang Trumland (8); **High** 30prs Insh Marshes; **P&K** 15prs Vane Farm (19); **Loth** 8prs Aberlady (13), 27 Roslin (26); **Bord** 3prs St.Abb's (0); **Clyde** 16prs Cathkin Braes (15), 12prs Merryton (15).
Passage from early Sep 25 St.Abbs 3 Sep; 25 Fife Ness **F** 9 Sep; 31 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 18 Sep; 58 Whalsay **Shet** 3 Oct; 43 St.Abbs 11 Oct; 91 N.Ronaldsay, 65 Fair Is & 40 Girdleness **NE** 14 Oct; 40 Reay **Caith** 5 Nov.

***Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*
*1 in spring, 1 in autumn*
1 **Fair Is** 25 May; 1 Longhouse, St.Ola **Ork** 18-19 Sep., *6th for Orkney.*

***Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*
1 Haroldswick **Shet** 6 May; 1 **Fair Is** 10 May, another 15-20 May. 11 Fingeo, Stronsay **Ork** 30 Sep-1 Oct showed characteristics of the eastern race *L.m hafizi.*
*Race determination being considered by BBRC.*
See account of Stronsay bird in *Birding World* 8: 427.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
First 1 Brothock Valley **A&D** 28 Apr then 1 Rattray **NE** 8 May. Singles Foula **Shet**, St.Abbs **B** & **Is of May** on 17 May before main influx in N.Isles 23-29 May when 38 Shet, *c*20 Fair Is & 10 Ork. Max 4 Whalsday **Shet** 25 May, 11 **Fair Is** & 4 Out Skerries **Shet** 27 May and 3 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 28 May. On mainland, single birds Girdleness **NE** and Bullers of Buchan **NE** 23 May, Staxigoe **Caith** & Girdleness 24 May. Also 3 Is of May 24 May. Later 1 N.Ronaldsay 1 & 2 Jun, 1 Auskerry **Ork** & 2 Fair Is on 3 Jun and 1 Fair Is 17 Jun.

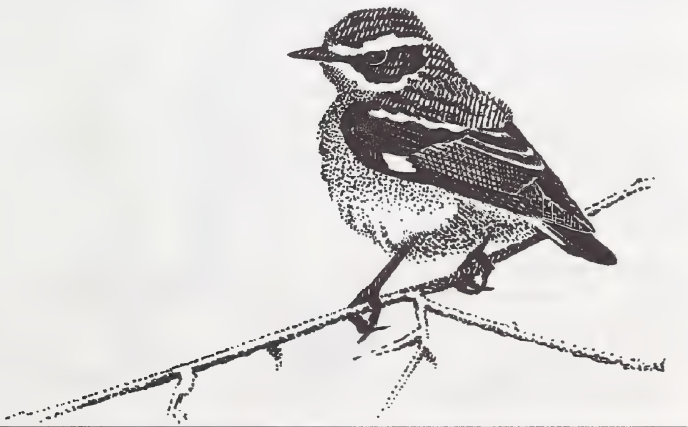
*Total c79 birds with 39 Shet, c20 Fair Is, 10 Ork, 4 NE, 1 A&D, 4 Is of May and 1 Bord.*
Breeding: *Present at 3 sites.* 1m Loch Bhuidhe **H** 8 Jun. Pr bred at un-named site **H** with br3 on 17 Jul, fledged 25 Jul. Juv m trapped Lentran reedbed **H** 7 Aug.
1 Fair Is 6 Sep with 1-5 daily Fair Is 13-21 Sep when 5 Shet and 2 N.Ronaldsay . 1St.Kilda **OH** 16 Sep.
1-2 Fair Is 30 Sep-11 Oct when singles Compass Head **Shet** 30 Sep & Girdleness 1 Oct.
Last 1 Stronsay **Ork** 11-20 Oct. *c20 in autumn.*

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochrurus*
9 winter birds seen Croy **Ayr** 1994-14 Mar; Talisker Bay **H** 2 Jan; Ayr **Ayr** & Fast Castle **B** 3 Jan; **Fair Is** 5 Jan; Seamill **Ayr** 27 Jan-26 Feb; St.Abbs **B** 27-31 Jan; Tantallon **L** 30 Jan; Cockenzie **L** 2 Feb-11 Mar.
Arrivals from early Mar with singles Eastfield **L** 6 Mar, Seafield **L** & St.Abbs 9 Mar, Rattray **NE** 14 Mar & Ardrossan Bay **Ayr** 21 Mar although possibility remains that winter birds redistributed themselves.
Apr-May passage with first Arg (1 bird) 1 Apr ; Fair Is (small numbers)and A&D (3) on 5-6 Apr; Loth (1) & Ork ( 14) 9-11 Apr; Is of May (7), NE (4+) , OHeb (2), Bord (2) & Shet (7) 22-27 Apr; Fife 14 May (1); & High (2) 27 May. Max 5 Fair Is 22-25 Apr; 3 Rattray **NE** 23 Apr; 4 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 28 May.
Jul/Aug singles from Balmedie **NE** 12 Jul, >1,100m Beinn a Bhuird Garbh Choire **H** 31 Jul, Fair Is 9 Aug, Ordiquhill **NE** 10 Aug & Is of May 11 Aug.
Passage mostly from 9-10 Sep when 1-2 birds Shet, Fair Is, Caith (2), NE, A&D & Fife (3). No marked influx with birds scattered through Sep-Oct, total 5 Shet, 2 Fair Is, 4 Ork, 2 Caith, 6-7 NE, 2 A&D, 1 Is of May, 3 Fife, 1 Loth, 1 Ayr & 1 D&G. Later records of singles from St.Kilda **OH** 7 & 11 Nov; Fetlar **Shet** 11 Nov; Fair Is 13 Nov; Toab **Shet** 19 Nov; Pinacree **P&K** 28 Nov; Fair Is 5 Dec; & Levenwick **Shet** 8 Dec.

***Whinchat***
***J.P.Smith***
***Short-listed for Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report from North-east scotland Bird Report***

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Singles Wood of Cree **D&G** and Glen Feshie **H** 13 Apr; P&K, Clyde Is., Arg & Clyde 14-16 Apr; Bord , Fair Is, Ork, Is of May, Loth Ayr, Caith and NE 22-30 Apr; Shet 9 May. Passage extremely light- just 6 Shet, *c*5 Fair Is, 6 Ork & *c*4 Is of May. 1-2 birds elsewhere.
Breeding: ***CBC*** +3%A: **Caith** 1 site; **High** 14prs Insh Marshes (12), 2br6 from 3 nests Drumguish; **M&N** *c*22prs at 12 sites with 6+prs Culbin; **A&D** 4prs Glen Esk fledged 16 young, MBS 4.0; **Fife** 2prs Cleish Hills; **Forth** 49 nests Trossachs (33), 205 young (174), MBS 4.18 (5.3); **Loth** 7prs at 5 sites, 5br19 noted; **Bord** 50 mm at 29 sites; **Arg** 6prs Taynish (3), also 7 sites Mull; **Clyde** 25prs at 11sites with 8prs Glen Luss; **Ayr** 62mm at 37 sites, with 11+prs Glen Afton **D&G** 26prs Wood of Cree (23).
Last on territory mid-Jul in High, P&K, Arg & Bord and early Aug in Ayr. First passage birds mid-Aug but few before a large-scale, often record, fall 3-23 Sep that peaked 8-12 Sep with 115 St.Abbs **B**, 100 Girdleness **NE**, 96 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 81 at various other **NE** sites and 60 Tarbertness **H** on 8 Sep; 150 Noss Farm **Caith**, 67 Sanday **Ork**, 60 on **A&D** coast, 50 **Is of May** and 40 Fife Ness **F** on 9 Sep; 169 Sanday, 85 Fair Is, 70 Out Skerries **Shet** & 54 Stronsay 10 Sep; 99 N.Ronaldsay on 12 Sep. Small numbers over next week before further fall when 155 Fair Is, 77 N.Ronaldsay with 20-26 birds at Sumburgh Head , Whalsay & Unst **Shet** 16-18 Sep and 20 St.Abbs 20 Sep. Small numbers thereafter.
Last Fife, M&N, Loth & Bord 12-24 Sep; Ork & Is of May 3-11 Oct. Singles Girdleness **NE** 15 Oct and Burrafirth **Shet** 20 Oct. Latest Fair Is 7-9 Nov.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*
First singles Insh Marshes **H** & Kames **Arg** 18 Apr. Then Forth 21 Apr; Bord, D&G Loth, Fife & Fair Is 23-25 Apr; M&N, Ayr & Clyde 27-30 Apr; A&D, P&K Is of May, Ork & Caith 1-5 May; Shet 10 May.



Light passage mostly 1-2 birds but on coast 6 Aberlady **L** 4 May and 6 Fast Castle **B** 11 May, while on territory 10 Greendams **NE** 6 May & 10 Wether Hill **F** 10 May.
Breeding: **Ork** pr bred Queenamidda, Rendall Ork reared br6. *First breeding since 1969*; **High** 14prs Eigg croftland (18) but good success, 2prs Insh Marshes; **Loth** 17mm at 8 sites; **Bord** 37mm at 29 sites; **Ayr** 70mm at 34 sites with 7br17 noted.
18-28 roosting clump of docks *Rumex sp.* Greenloaning **P&K** 20-31 Aug.
Major fall 6-10 Sep: 60 Out Skerries **Shet**, 25 Fetlar **Shet**, 30 Fair Is, 18 North Ronaldsay, 22 Sanday **Ork**, 35 Tarbertness **H**, 30 Girdleness **NE**, 30 Newtonhill **NE**, 15 Mains of Usan **A&D**, 20 Is of May; 14 Kilminning **F**, 12 Barns Ness **L** & 25 St.Abbs **B**.
Further arrivals 15-19 Sep when 41 Fair Is.
Overland passage indicated by last regular inland birds in D&G, Bord, P&K, Ayr & Forth 2-10 Sep and small numbers on W coast during falls.
Last Fife, M&N, Forth, High & Loth 10-13 Sep; Arg 19 Sep; D&G, Is of May & Bord 29 Sep-1 Oct; Caith & NE 14-23 Oct; Shet, Ork & Fair Is 29-31 Oct;
Late records of family party Cashell **Clyde** 28 Oct with 1 Cathkin Braes **Clyde** 3 Nov.

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**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*
Jan records from Ork, Caith, M&N, NE, A&D, Fife (4), Forth (2), Bord (3), Clyde (4) & Ayr . Ork, M&N (4), NE, Fife, Loth, Bord , Clyde(4) in Feb.
First arrivals: Bord 3 Mar, Clyde, Forth 5-9 Mar; Fair Is, Fife & Loth 11 Mar.
Breeding: **Ork** 80prs (75) , 47prs Hoy (52); **Caith** only 7 sites (9); **High** stable 10prs Eigg; **M&N** 35prs with 21prs on inland sites; **NE** many successful broods; **A&D** 14 prs; **P&K** 17prs bred at 8 sites with pairs at 2 other sites and males seen another 8 sites; **Fife** several in suitable habitat, none bred; **Loth** 12prs at 7 sites; **Bord** 5prs with 3 singles, with brood seen on coast at Dowlaw was the first coastal breeding since 1979; **Arg** 22prs Colonsay (14), 10+prs L.Gruinart, Islay; **Clyde** 24prs (27) at 17 sites, with 4br13 noted, MBS 3.25; **Ayr** 32 territories at 28 sites, 12br33 noted, MBS 2.75.
Usual Sep-Nov movements, mostly 1-2 birds on coast, max 9 Collieston **NE** in Sep & 7 Blackdog **NE** in Oct. Several birds driven from hills of P&K, Loth & Bord in prolonged frosts but still 3 at Dinnet & 1 L.Muick **NE** despite -20°C temperatures.

***Eastern Stonechat** *S.t.maura/stejnegeri*
Singles N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 10-12 Sep; Noss Farm **Caith** 10 Sep; Aith, Cunningsburgh **Shet** 12-13 Sep; Norwick **Shet** 1-3 Oct; **Fair Is** 14-21 Oct.
5 *in autumn but several records pending with BBRC.*

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**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*
First Slateford **Ayr**, Ardfern **Arg** & Thurso East **Caith** 12 Mar. Then Bord, D&G, High & Fife 16-19 Mar; P&K, Loth, A&D, Clyde & Shet 23-31 Mar; Forth, M&N, OHeb, NE & Ork 1-3 Apr; Fair Is 9 Apr.
Largest numbers N. Isles with 156 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** & 105 **Fair Is** 11-13 Apr; 188 N.Ronaldsay on 23 Apr; 250 Fair Is 29 Apr; 150-200 daily Fair Is through May, max 270 16 May. Elsewhere 30 St.SAbbs **B** 3 & 30 Apr; 35 Dowlaw **B** & 26 Fife Ness **F** 5 May & 15-40 daily **Is of May** 1-6 May were considered good counts.
Breeding: **Shet** small broods; **Ork** 16prs N.Hoy reserve (6), 15prs elsewhere on Hoy, 11prs Papa Westray reserve (24); **High** very abundant; **Is of May** 1pr bred (2); **Loth** 18 nests Moorfoot Valley; **Bord** 23 sites, 6br21 noted, MBS 3.5; **Clyde** 12prs Culter Glen averaged MBS 2.0; **Ayr** 63mm at 33 sites, 11br28 noted, MBS 2.5.
Exodus from hills and first birds moving through was mainly in late Jul. Passage strong in late Aug-early Sep in N.Isles: 300 Dunrossness **Shet**, 300 Fetlar, 200 Fair Is and 137 N.Ronaldsay. No hint of this movement elsewhere where max count was 12 Is of May in mid-Sep. Last P&K and A&D 9-12 Sep; Bord, Forth, Is of May, High , M&N, Clyde & Caith 6-15 Oct; Loth, NE, Arg , Ayr & Shet 21-27 Oct; Ork 31 Oct.
Latest 1 Fair Is 4 Nov.
**Greenland Wheatear** *O.o.leucorrhoa*
3 Ballantrae **Ayr** 30 Apr; 3 Musselburgh **L** & 1 Endrick Mouth **Clyde** 1 May; 20 Aberlady **L** 3 May; 1 Bracken Bay **Ayr** 4 May; 1 Endrick Mouth 5 May; 1 Aberlady 6 & 19 May; 3 Currarie Glen **Ayr** 11 May; 3 Goosetron Hill **Ayr** 15 May.

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***Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*
1st-w **Fair Is** 19 Oct.
*Second record for Fair Isle and Scotland.*
Photo: *Birding World* 8: 472.

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**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*
First 1 Culter Waterhead **Clyde** 29 Mar. Then P&K, High and A&D 1-4 Apr; Loth & Bord 8-9 Apr; Fife & Fair Is 13-15 Apr; OHeb, Ayr, Is of May, Ork and Shet 22-26 Apr.
Very light passage with most first records of birds on territory. Very few coastal passage birds in most areas, mostly 22 Apr-10 May with 3 Shet, 1 OHeb, none NE, 1 A&D, 1 Fife, none Loth & 3 Bord.
Best counts over period at observatories with 5-15 daily Fair Is, max 13 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 23 Apr & up to 5 daily Is of May.
Breeding: **High** 13 sites; **M&N** 7prs Glen Builg (16 in 1989); **A&D** 22 nests Invermark, Glen Esk with MBS 3.5 and fledging mean 3.4; **P&K** 15 sites; **Loth** 6 sites; **Bord** 14 sites; **Clyde** 5 sites.

Last inland records Bord 20 Aug; High 22 Aug & Loth 31 Aug. Possible movement 15 Sep when singles D&G and P&K and flock 22 L.DSloy **Clyde**. Also 12 Glen Diomham, Arran **Clyde Is** in late Oct.
Passage was extremely light with none M&N, A&D, Fife & Loth and just single records in NE & Bord.
On N.Isles just 4 records Shet, *c*5 Fair Is and 9 Ork, with 27 N.Ronaldsay, 7 Foula **Shet** & 5 Stronsay **Ork** 14 Oct.
Late passage: 4 Laggan Bridge **H** and 1 Creag Meagaidh **H** 4 Nov; 1 St.Kilda **OH** 9 Nov, 1 Carsethorn **D&G** 10 Nov; 1 Is of May 14 Nov. Extremely late birds well into Dec on Fair Is 5 Dec & Culzean **Ayr** 30 Dec.
**[1994]** 1 Glen Quoich **NE** 1 Jan.

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**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
Very light passage N.Isles, max 80 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 21 Feb; 30 **Fair Is** 24 Mar; 56 N.Ronaldsay 26 Apr. Virtually no passage on E.coast but 150 Whiteadder Res. **L** 23 Apr.
Breeding: *CBC* 0%F/+7%W,*CES* ads-10%, juvs-8%. **Ork** 15prs Trumland (14), 23prs Hoy (22); **High** 50prs Insh Marshes; **NE** 32 mm Crimonmogate (24 in 1984); **Fife** 17prs Eden LNR; **Loth** 9-10 Aberlady (12), 27 Roslin (22); **Clyde** 9prs Merryton (15).
56 N.Ronaldsay 8 Sep were only large count in Sep fall.
Very poor autumn with main movements in Oct when 35 Burnmouth **B** 10 Oct; 102 N.Ronaldsay & 80 South Walls **Ork** 14 Oct; 60 Rackwick, Hoy **Ork** 16 Oct; 150 Fair Is, 150 Girdleness **NE**, 100 Dunnet Farm **Caith** & 40 Greameshall **Ork** 30-31 Oct.

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***Eye-browed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*
1 m Auchmithie **A&D** 28-30 May.
*First record for A&D.*
Photo: *Birding World* 8: 171 & *British Birds* 89: 589.

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***Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis*
1 Cleat, Stronsay **Ork** 24-27 Apr. 1st-w f Sumburgh Head **Shet** 1 Oct. *3rd for Ork & 7th for Shet.*
For an account of the Stronsay bird see Holloway (1995) in *Birding World* 8:172.

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**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*
1,100 Aberlady **L**, 1,000+ Muirkirk **Ayr**, 1,000+ Mochrum L. **Ayr**, 1,000 Ruthwell **D&G**, 500 Barrock **Caith** , 5 00 Dunfermline **F**, 5 00 L Macarnie **Forth**, 500 Newmains **Clyde** and 500 Yellowcraig **L** in Jan.
Jan-Feb flocks of 100-400 birds reported 2 Caith, High, 3 M&N, 2 P&K, 2 Fife, 4 Forth, 3 Loth, 7 Bord, 7 Clyde, 9 Ayr and D&G.
Movements from early Mar. Max area counts: 22 Shet, 50 Fair Is, 10 Ork, 200 Caith, 51 High, 20 M&N, 200 A&D, 300 P&K, 40 Is of May, 600 Fife, 450 Clyde, 300 Ayr & 250 D&G. Peak movements again concentrated over SE Scotland peaking 12-23 Apr with 2,500 Oxton **B**, 1,200 Greenlaw Moor **B**, 1,100 Drochil **B**, 600 Skirling Mill **B**, 550 Symington **B**, 500 Dunhog Moss **B** & 500 Mayshiel **L**.
600 Howford **F** on 12 Apr & 450 Crawfordjohn **Clyde** 27 Apr were the only other high counts.
Last M&N, D&G, P&K, High & Ayr 28-30 Apr; Clyde, Loth ,Forth , Fife & Is of May 1-7 May; Bord 12 May; Arg & Fair Is 20-22 May; Shet & Ork 27-28 May.
Breeding: **High** pr held territory E.Ross in May; **M&N** 1 Dulsie Bridge 7 Jun but no evidence of breeding; **Bord** moulting adult Carcant 1 Aug suggests summering at least.
First returned **Fair Is** 9 Aug; Is of May, Loth Ork & Shet 13-23 Aug; Caith, NE & High 9-17 Sep; D&G, Arg, Bord & Ayr 7-11 Oct; Clyde Is., Forth, M&N, P&K, Clyde & Loth 20 Oct-1 Nov.
Very poor and late autumn, perhaps influenced by lack of E winds in Oct/Nov. Just a handful of Sep reports with only 5 Shet, 6 Ork, 2 Caith, 1 High. Virtually none in N.Isles for most of Oct and only minor arrivals anywhere else. Max Oct counts other than 26-31 Oct was 100 Annbank **Ayr** 22 Oct. Numbers slowly built up into early Nov with falls in mid-Nov. Max count N.Isles only 128 N.Ronaldsay in Nov.
Larger numbers arrived 6-10 Nov when 1,000 Insh Marshes **H** & many thousands generally in Spey Valley **H**; 600 Wolfcrooks **Clyde**; 400 Glassock Bridge **Ayr**.
Smaller arrivals into Dec but numbers well down on 1994/95 levels.
Best Dec counts: 2 ,000 Dalmeny **L**, 1,000+ Longniddry **L**, 1,000+ Chapel **L**, 1,000 Montrose Basin **A&D** , 1,000 Windygates **F**, 600 Strathavon **M&N**, 600 Strone **H** & 600 Newmains **B** .

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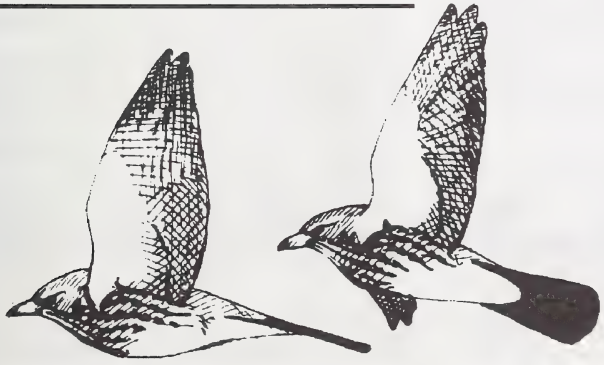

***Fieldfare***
***Andrew Stevenson***
***from Ayrshire Bird Report 1995***

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Wintering: 4 Shet, Fair Is, 7 Ork, 8 M&N, 3 NE, 3 P&K, 1 Forth & 1 Bord First P&K 29 Jan; M&N, Bord & High 2-10 Feb; Clyde 19 Feb; Ork and Shet 9 Mar.

Passage: 10 Reay **Caith** 1 Mar; 16 Portnahaven,Islay **Arg** 3 Mar; max 32 N.Ronaldsay Ork 23 Apr; max 5 **Is of May** 22 Apr-1 may; max 14 **Fair Is** late Apr-early May.

Breeding: *CBC* +5%F/+10%W, *CES*ads-10%,juvs-8%. **Shet** birds sang 1 site but no proof; **Ork** 6 prs Hoy (6), 5prs Trumland, Rousay (3); **High** 30% decline in Eigg CBC, 8prs Insh Marshes; **NE** 14mm Crimonmogate where 15 in 1984; **Loth** 5-6 Aberlady (7), 7 Roslin (4); **Clyde** 3prs Baron's Haugh (10), 4 prs Merryton (4).

Light passage mostly from late Sep with large falls in north during early Oct. 263 N.Ronaldsay, 225 Fair Is, 200 Noss **Caith**, 200 Stronsay **Ork**, 100 Dunscansby Head **Caith** but just 15 Rattray **NE** 1 Oct; 150 Whalsay **Shet**, 150 Out Skerries **Shet** & 150 Fetlar **Shet** 6 Oct; max 15 St.Abbs **B** 10 Oct; 500 Fair Is 12 Oct; 160 **Is of May** 13 Oct. Later movements include 30 Wood of Cree **D&G** 31 Oct. The usual handful of wintering birds in some areas but 50 Aberlady **L** 27 Dec was unusual.

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**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Flocks >40 seen Jan-Feb : 2 Ork, 2 Caith, 2 High, M&N, NE, Fife, 2 Forth, 2 Loth, 7 Clyde & 2 Ayr. 500 Fearn **H** 2 Jan was the only big flock with 150 Bishopton **Clyde** 4 Feb, being the next largest.

Extremely light passage. Max Mar-May counts from mainland were 500 Coll **Arg** in Mar; 177 Pollok **Clyde** 9 Mar; 100+ Glen Fruin **Clyde** 25 Mar; 'several hundred' L.Scridain **Arg** 2 Apr; 80 Skares **Ayr** 20 Apr.

No noteworthy records from E coast reflects scarcity on passage. Good numbers on N&W.Isles: 1,000+ St.Kilda **OH** 9-12 Apr; 330 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 12 Apr, 170 Fair Is 13 Apr and light passage into May.

Last Clyde 14 Apr; Loth, High, Ayr, M&N, NE, Bord & Fife 27 Apr-5 May; Arg & Is of May 7-10 May; Caith, Shet & Ork 21-29 May; Fair Is 12 Jun.

Breeding: **Shet** br3 reared at site for 3rd year running, but 2 killed by cats; **Ork** 2 singing birds late Apr & May, no further proof; **Caith** 1 sang Reay late Apr; **High** 4m+1f Glencassley, 1 sang Canna, 1 sang N.Dalchork, 4 sang Strathcarron where 1 juv; **A&D** 1m singing upland bird wood 8 May; **P&K** 1 sang un-named site 27 Apr but moved on.

First 1 Fetlar **Shet** 23 Aug. Ork 26 Aug; Bord & Caith 4-10 Sep; Ayr, Is of May, M&N, OHeb & Clyde 28 Sep-3 Oct; Arg, Loth & Forth 7-15 Oct.

Only a trickle of birds before late Sep/early Oct with first movement of any numbers 10-15 Oct when series of arrivals with max 6,000 Fair Is, 5,000 Rousay **Ork**, 2,000 Foula **Shet**, 1,940 N.Ronaldsay, 1,200 Hoy **Ork** & 600 Fetlar. Numbers smaller further S, max 500 Is of May & 140 Dawyck **B**. Further arrivals over next fortnight with 2,000 St.Kilda 20 Oct & 500 Lochwinnoch **Clyde** 23 Oct; and 2,000 Wood of Cree 25 Oct.

Main influx 30 Oct-3 Nov when massive movement Clynelish valley, Brora **H** where 5,000+ on 29 Oct but 125,000 on 30 Oct including 75,000 in an unbroken stream 11.15 a.m.-12.15 p.m. plus many more uncounted in the dark. 3,000 Fair Is, 3,000 Queenamidda **Ork**, 2,500 Strone **H**, 2,000 Howburn Mill **B**, 1,200 N.Ronaldsay, 1,100 Balintore **A&D** & 1,000 Bellisle **Ayr**. Smaller-scale arrivals continued well into Dec, peak 2,000 Insh Marshes **H** in Nov.

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**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

15 Connachan **P&K** on 3 Jan; 15 Gailes **Ayr** 21 Jan; 11 Bonkyl **B** 14 Feb; 60 Glen Clova **A&D** on 19 Feb; 10 Kinshaldy **F** 26 Feb were best of Jan-Apr counts.

Breeding: *CBC* -9%F/-1%W. **High** 3prs Eigg(5), only 1 successful, *c*15prs Insh Marshes; **Loth** 5prs Gladhouse; **Arg** 3prs L.Gruinart, Islay.

Possibly a poor breeding season judging from paucity of autumn numbers where very few large Jul-Sep flocks, 38 Capel Hill **P&K** 24 Jul; *c*200 Glen Cochill **P&K** 13 Aug; 32 Tranew **Ayr** 2 Sep with only single flocks 20-30 birds in High, A&D, Loth & Bord and just a single big Oct flock of 35 Cray **P&K** 21 Oct.

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***Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata*

Singles Cott, Weisdale **Shet** 10 Sep & Skaw, Unst **Shet** 1-6 Oct. *None Fair Isle (last miss there 1983! ). 9th &10th for Shetland.* Photo: *Birding World* 8: 371.

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***River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis*

Singles **Fair Is** 27 May; Helendale **Shet** 14 Sep; N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 15 Sep; and Sumburgh Head **Shet** 15-17 Sep.

*First for Ork, 2nd & 3rd for Shet and 8th for Fair Is.*

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***Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinoides*

1 Whalsay **Shet** 29-30 May. *First for Shetland and 5th for Scotland breaks the Fair Isle monopoly.*

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**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

First Aberlady **L** & Barr **Ayr** 14 Apr. Then Fife 23 Apr; Ork, D&G, Clyde, Bord & Fair Is 25-30 Apr; Shet, M&N, A&D, High, Caith and OHeb 1-7 May.

Usual light passage, mostly 1-2 birds, but 5 Ormiston **L** 2 May & 13 Wood of Cree **D&G** 4 May.

Breeding: After mid-May, sites with singing males:

| | Sites | mm |
|---|---|---|
| **Caith** | 4 | 4 |
| **M&N** | 2 | 2 |
| **P&K** | 4 | 4 |
| **A&D** | 3 | 3 |

| | Sites | mm |
|---|---|---|
| **Fife** | 15 | 20 |
| **Forth** | 4 | 6 |
| **Loth** | 14 | 21 |
| **Bord** | 8 | 11 |

| | Sites | mm |
|---|---|---|
| **High** | 11 | 27 |
| **Argyll** | 12 | ? |
| **Clyde** | 36 | 54 |
| **Ayr** | 50 | 122 |

Highest numbers as always in W: **I&R** 17+mm Insh Marshes (11); **Arg** 6mm Taynish (5); **Clyde** 101mm

Strathclyde Park (21); 2mm Baron's Haugh (4); **Ayr** 4mm Knockshinnoch (6).
Last High 7 Aug; Is of May, Clyde, Fife, A&D , Shet, Caith, NE &Loth 7-12 Sep; Ork 16 Sep; Bord 20 Sep. Latest 1 Fair Is 2 Oct
Extremely poor autumn with few even at the observatories and just singles Shet & Ork, 2 Is of May and 1-2 birds Fair Is 3-25 Sep with a straggler to 2 Oct.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
First Chapleton **Ayr** 20 Apr. Then Fife,D&G, Clyde & Bord 25-28 Apr ; Is of May, Loth, Forth, M&N, Fair Is, High, Ork & Caith 30 Apr-4 May; Shet 21 May.
First large numbers: 22 St.Abbs **B**, 20 Wood of Cree **D&G** 4 May & 24 Fife Ness/Kilminning **F** 16 May.
Breeding: ***CBC***+27%F,***CES***ads+28%,juvs+27%,*WBS* +26%. **Ork** 22mm Graemeshall L. (15); **OHeb** 16mm Balranaldl; **High** 77+prs Insh Marshes (108), 16prs Eigg (13); **M&N** 34mm L.Spynie; **P&K** 10prs Vane Farm (5), 14prs Greenloaning, 14prs Carsebeck; **Fife** 51mm Cameron Res., 56mm Eden LNR, 28mm Lochore Meadows; **Forth** 54mm R.Devon ***WBS***; **Loth** 37mm Aberlady (35); **Bord** 14prs St.Abb's (12); **Arg** 17prs L.Gruinart (25) & 34prs Colonsay (17); **Clyde** 30prs N.Haugh ***CES***, 20prs Merryton (8); **Ayr** 276mm recorded.
Another very low-key autumn with just 1-3 birds noted at most sites. Some arrived in Sep falls, max 12 Fair Is & 7 Greameshall L. Ork 17 Sep.
Last birds D&G 4 Sep; NE, A&D, Loth, Caith & Ayr 9-11 Sep; Clyde, Fife, Is of May & Ork 15-20 Sep, Bord 23 Sep; Fair Is 7 Oct. Latest Out Skerries **Shet** 15 Oct.

***Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola*
Single **Fair Is** 9-17 Sep . *11th for Fair Isle.*

***Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*
*17 in spring, with several long-stayers; 2 in autumn,.*
1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 25 May; 2 **Fair Is** 27 -29 May with another there 31 May; singles N.Ronaldsay 28 May; Fetlar **Shet** 29 May and 5 Jun; N.Ronaldsay 3-5 Jun; 3 Fair Is & 1 Sandwick **Shet** 5 Jun; singles Whalsay **Shet** 9-10 Jun; another Fair Is 13 Jun; Baltasound **Shet** 25-26 Jun, presumed same at Haroldswick **Shet** 7-8 Jul; another Fetlar 29 Jun; 1 Fair Is 10-11 Jul.
1 Fair Is 9 Sep; 1 Grameshall Burn, Holm **Ork** 2 Oct.

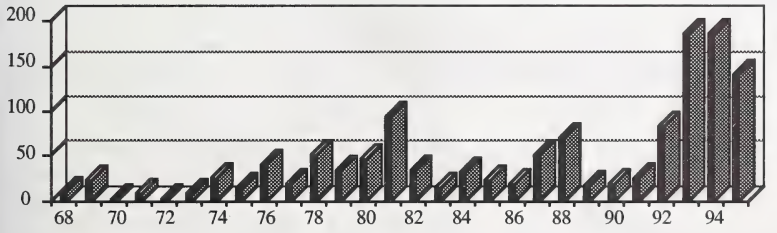
**[1993]** the pair of unstreaked *Acrocephalus* warblers that bred on **Ork** that year have since been identified through biometrics and colouration as being Marsh Warblers.
*This represents the first breeding record for Scotland.*
See Meek & Adam (1997) *British Birds* 90:230.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
*12 in spring but an excellent 147 in autumn.*
1 Grutness **Shet** 25 May; 2 Girdleness **NE** & 1 St.Abbs **B** 27 May; 1 **Fair Is** on 28 May; 1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 29-30 May; 4 Fetlar **Shet** 29-31 May; 1 Fair Is 3 Jun & 12-14 Jun.
Breeding: 4prs bred un-named site Stewartry **D&G**. Song heard May-Aug.

| Autumn: | Aug 1-15 | Aug 16-31 | Sep 1-15 | Sep 16-30 | Oct 1-15 | Oct 16-31 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shetland** | - | - | 28 | 16 | 11 | 2 |
| **Fair Is** | **5** | **2** | **15** | **5** | **-** | **-** |
| **Orkney** | 1 | 1 | 15 | 4 | - | 1 |
| **N.Scot+OH** | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 |
| **NE+A&D** | - | - | 22 | 1 | 1 | - |
| **Fife+IM** | - | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | - |
| **SE Scot** | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | - |
| **SW Scot** | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Totals** | **7** | **3** | **90** | **29** | **14** | **4** |

Numbers Ork, Shet & Fair Is very approximate.

*Yet another bumper year with pattern of autumn records very different from previous bumper years.*
Very small numbers from Aug wholly in N.Isles except for 1 Nithsdale **D&G**, possibly from D&G breeding site. Large influx 8-10 Sep when 100+ birds arrived along E.coast, max 11 Fair Is 10 Foula **Shet**, 10 Girdleness & 9 Sanday **Ork**. A much smaller influx 18-22 Sep. Most last birds 18-22 Sep, singles Girdleness 13-15 Oct, Fife Ness **F** 14-16 Oct, N.Ronaldsay 15 Oct, Scatness **Shet** 16 Oct with latest Helendale **Shet** 24 Oct.




***Autumn Reed Warblers in Scotland 1968-95***

*Note recent increase in numbers but the period of peak passage has varied each year, peaking in first half of September in 1995 compared to late August in 1994 and first half October in 1993.*

***Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
1 **Fair Is** 30 Sep. *11th for Fair Isle but first in autumn.*

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***Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*
1st-s **Fair Is** 5-13 Jun .
*First for Fair Isle, 2nd for Scotland & 15th for Britain.*
See Riddington (1995) *Birding World* 8: 218-220.

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***Booted Warbler** *Hippolais caligata*
Singles Sumburgh Head **Shet** 7-10 Sep and Fetlar **Shet** 11 Sep. *6th-7th for Shetland.*
Photo of Sumburgh bird: *Birding World* 8: 329.

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***Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*
*6 in spring*: 1Skaw,Unst **Shet** 26-27 May; 1 Uyeasound **Shet** 27-31 May; 1 Baltasound **Shet** 27 May; 1 in song Helendale **Shet** 29 May-28 Jun; 1 **Fair Is** 30 May-2 Jun with another there 27 Jun.
*25 in autumn*: 1 Fair Is 18 Aug; 1 Fetlar **Shet** 23 Aug; 1 Quendale **Shet** 26 Aug; 1 Fair Is 6-9 Sep with 2 there 7 Sep. Widespread fall 8-13 Sep when 6 Shet, *c*7 Ork, 1 Caith, 7 NE, 1 A&D, 3 Is of May, 2 Fife, 1 Loth and 5 Bord, max 4 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 8 Sep with 3 Girdleness **NE** & 4 St.Abbs **B** 10 Sep .
A few arrived 14-18 Sep on Shet (3 singles), Fair Is (1) & Ork (1) with last 1 N.Ronaldsay 19 Sep.
*Only average autumn for N.Isles but record fall for some areas of mainland where 14th-21st for NE, 7th for Loth and 15th-20th for Bord.*

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***Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*
1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 8 Sep.
*9th record for Orkney.*

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***Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*
1st-s f Windwick, S.Ronaldsay **Ork** 25 May; ad f Fetlar **Shet** 26-31 May; ad f Whalsay **Shet** 26 May-13 Jun; 1st-s m **Fair Is** 27 May; ad m Stronsay **Ork** 27-28 May; ad f Aywick, Yell **Shet** 6-8 Jun; f Fair Is 13 Jun.
Ad m N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 14-15 Sep.
*10th &11th for Orkney.*

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***Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*
*c107 in autumn.*

| Autumn: | Aug 1-15 | Aug 16-31 | Sep 1-15 | Sep 16-30 | Oct 1-15 | Oct 16-31 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shetland** | 2 | 5 | 16 | 11 | 2 | - |
| **Fair Is** | 3 | 9 | 9 | 1 | - | - |
| **Orkney** | - | 2 | 17 | 5 | 5 | - |
| **O.Heb** | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **N.Scot** | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| **NE+A&D** | - | - | 4 | - | - | - |
| **Fife+IM** | - | 1 | 8 | - | - | - |
| **SE Scot** | - | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| **Total 1995** | **5** | **17** | **59** | **18** | **8** | **2** |
| Total 1994 | 6 | 18 | 39 | 27 | 14 | 3 |

Numbers Fair Is & Ork very approximate.

First singles **Fair Is** 12 Aug & Sumburgh **Shet** 13 Aug. Trickle later in Aug, mostly singles except for 6 Fair Is 26 Aug but main influx from 3 Sep when widespread arrivals, especially 8-12 Sep. As usual mostly singles but 2 **Is of May** on 7 Sep; 5 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 3 Fetlar **Shet** & 2 St.Abbs **B** 8 Sep; 2 West Yell **Shet** & 2 Fife Ness **F** 10 Sep. Several stayed over a few days and some of later 'new' Sep records likely to be birds moving on. Late singles from Fetlar 12 Oct; Sumburgh **Shet** 13 Oct; L.Eynort, S.Uist **OH** 15 Oct; Lochmaddy, N.Uist **OH** 21 Oct & Clachan, N.Uist **OH** 22 Oct.

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**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
First 1 Skateraw **L** 28 Apr. Then Bord, A&D, Is of May & NE 29-20 Apr; D&G, Clyde, Ork, Forth, Shet & Ayr 1-3 May; Fair is 8 May.
Only moderate E coast passage, mostly 1-2 birds, except for 4 Dunglass **B** 3 May; 6 **Fair Is** 24 & 28 May; 10 Whalsay **Shet** 24-28 May; 3 Eswick **Shet** 25 May; 3 Out Skerries **Shet** 27 May; and 4 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 28 May.
Breeding ***CBC*** -9%F, ***CES*** ads +25%,juvs+12%.
A very poor year with little evidence of breeding, just short-lived periods of song in the following areas: **NE** juv Bridge of Don late Jul may have been locally bred; **P&K** 1m Tullibardine; **Fife** pr with 2 broods Kilkenny & 2mm Kippo Wood; **Forth** 1m Stirling; **Loth** 16mm at 11 sites; **Bord** 9mm at 5 sites; **Clyde** *c*9mm at 6 sites; **Ayr** 15mm at 10 sites, bred Burton Farm.
Last reports in breeding areas from 24 Jul.
Port-breeding dispersal late Jun-late Jul from NE & Bord (2), First birds moving through N.Isles mid-Aug. Main passage early Sep when 30 NE coast 8 Sep with 10 Girdleness **NE**; 13 Fair Is , 12 Fife Ness **F**, 9 A&D coast, & 7 Noss Farm **Caith** on 9 Sep; 3 St.Kilda **OH** 9-16 Sep; 16 Sanday **Ork** on 10 Sep; 12 Fair Is 16 Sep; and 3 St.Abbs **B** 21 Sep. A few birds into Oct.
Last A&D, Is of May & Caith 9-12 Sep; Bord 24 Sep; NE, Ork, Fife & Shet 15-17 Oct with latest bird Fair Is 29 Oct.
1 Graemeshall **Ork** 31 Oct showed characteristics of the Siberian race *S.c.blythi*.

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**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*
First 1 Livingstone, L.Ken **D&G** 19 Apr; then Fair Is, Is of May & Ork 23-25 Apr; Ayr, A&D, Loth & Clyde 29-30 Apr; Fife, Bord, Shet, M&N, P&K, NE, Forth, Arg & High 1-4 May.
Main influx in S on 4-10 May when 8 Bracken Bay **Ayr** & 6 Newmains **B** 4 May; 10 **Is of May** & 8 Baron's Haugh **Clyde** 7 May. Widespread by 12 May but small scale passage, 1-3 birds, on N.Isles to end May.
Breeding ***CBC*** +18%F/+33%W, ***CES*** ads+17%,juvs +73%: **High** stable 45 prs Eigg; **NE** 43 ringed Ordiquhill (21 in 1994); **P&K** stable 3prs Vane Farm; **Forth**

13.2prs/km² Doune CBC; **Loth** 11 Ormiston raileway (14), 4mm Aberlady (7), 1 Roslin (2); **Arg** 6mm Colonsay (12), 5mm Taynish (7); **Clyde** 8prs Baron's Haugh (5), 6prs Merryton (7), 8 Cathkin Braes (7); **Ayr** 222mm at 107 sites with 11prs Knockentiber (12), 4br18 noted.
Main movement 8-11 Sep on E.coast: 10 St.Abbs and Girdleness **NE**, 6 Is of May and 9-17 Sep on N.Isles when 15 **Fair Is**, 10 Skerries **Shet**, 10 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 8 Foula **Shet** & 7 Whalsay **Shet**.
Last birds Arg, A&D, P&K, High & Clyde 6-9 Sep; D&G, Is of May, M&N, Caith & Fife 11-17 Sep; Bord 24 Sep; Loth 1 Oct; Ork 7 Oct. Late birds Fair Is 30 Oct-1Nov but 1Seamill **Ayr** 26 Nov was exceptionally late.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*
First Porta Leacach, Arran **Clyde Is.**, 12th Apr; Wood of Cree **D&G** & Haddington **L** 13 Apr were well ahead of next Ayr 24 Apr & Bord 30 Apr. Later still Clyde, P&K, A&D, ARg, High, Fife, NE & Forth 2-5 May with Fair Is, Ork & Shet 17-24 May. On territory 10-14 May but few at migration points. Only 8 singles St.Abbs **B**, 1 Fife Ness **F** & 1 **Is of May**. *c*60 Shet, max 7 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 25 May & max 6 **Fair Is** 31 May.
Breeding ***CBC*** F-2%/W0%,***CES***ad-11%, juv-3%: **High** 7 sites, 2mm Insh Marshes (4); **M&N** record 16mm at 10 sites; **Bord** 81mm at 49 sites (81 at 54); **Clyde** 73mm at 31 sites , 7mm Midross (6); **Ayr** 137mm at 51 sites (111 at 43); **D&G** 14prs Wood of Cree.
Last territorial birds late Jun with first migrants early Aug. Excellent fall in early-mid Sep: 50 Is of May, 50 Girdleness **NE**, 20 Newtonhill **NE**, 12 Cruden Bay **NE** on 8 Sep; 65 Fair Is,25 Foula **Shet**, 20 Tarbetness **H**, 15 Fife Ness **F**, 15 St.Abbs **B**, 13 Balmadie **NE**, 12 Mains of Usan **A&D** on 9 Sep; 75 Noss Farm **Caith** on 9-13 Sep; 100 Out Skerries **Shet**, 69 N.Ronaldsay, 57 Sanday **Ork** & 20 Whalsay **Shet** on 10 Sep.
Last P&K 15 Aug; Ayr 2 Sep; M&N and Fife 10-11 Sep; NE, Bord & Clyde 17-22 Sep; High 6 Oct; Caith &Ork 28-30 Oct. 1 Baltasound **Shet** 7 Nov & 1 Fair Is 8 Nov.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*
Jan-Feb total of *c*48 birds, about 50% of last winter with 1 Caith, 8 High, 7 M&N, 2 NE, 3 A&D, 5 P&K, 8 Fife, 26 Loth, 4 Bord, 6 Arg, 14 Clyde, 4 Ayr and 2 D&G. Also 1-15 Mar in High, P&K, Fife, Bord (3) & Ayr (2).
Return obscured by wintering birds but first N.Isles on 23 Apr. Many directly on to territory, best E.coast count 3 St.Abbs **B** 1 May. Best N.Isles count was 6 N.Ronalday **Ork** 27 Apr & 4 Fair **Is** 31 May.
Breeding ***CBC*** F+11%/W+5% ,***CES*** ad+2%, juv+4%; **High** 6 sites; **M&N** 29mm at 19 sites 7mmFochabers (8); **NE** 12mm at 7 sites; **A&D** 15 sites; **Loth** 12 Roslin (7); **Bord** 67mm at 38 sites, 5mm Duns (10); **Clyde** 139 at 40 sites with 20-30%drop Strathclyde Park (40) and Blantyre (28); **Ayr** 156mm at 41 sites, 36 Cambusdoon-Dalrymple Wood & 21 mm Culzean (13).
Light autumn passage in Sep but N-S contrast in Sep/Oct falls. Very few in S but many more in N. Largest S count in Sep fall: 3 Pease Bay **B** 3 Sep compared to 30 Noss Farm **Caith**, 25 Tarbetness **H**, 6 Auchmithie **A&D** on 9 Sep; 20 Sanday **Ork**, 15 Foula **Shet** 10 Sep; & 35 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 14 Sep. Similarly in Oct the best S counts were 6 **Is of May** 9 Oct & 5 Bogbain Moor **H** 29 Oct; *c.f.* 20 Fetlar **Shet** 3 Oct; 40 Fair Is 30 Oct & 33 N.Ronaldsay 31 Oct. 6 N.Ronaldsay 11 Nov and a scatter of records of arrivals elsewhere.
Good numbers in winter 1995-96, mostly 1-2 birds but 4 Newton Stewart **D&G**, 3 Minard **Arg** , 3 Inverness **H**, & 3 Strathclyde Park **Clyde** in Dec.
Winter reports:

| Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Isles* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3 |
| N.Scot | 7 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 11 |
| NE Scot* | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| E/C Scot* | 15 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 14 |
| SE Scot | 12 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 12 |
| W.Scot | 14 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 14 |
| SW Scot* | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 16 |
| **Total 1995** | **56** | **40** | **26** | **64** | **79** |
| **Total 1994** | **77** | **54** | **49** | **89** | **30** |

*** numbers approximate**

***Greenish Warbler***
***Steven Brown***
***Short-listed for Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report from Borders Bird Report No.16***

***Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
*6 in autumn.* Singles **Fair Is** 7 Sep with another 9 Sep; N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 8-9 Sep, another there 10-15 Sep; St.Abbs **B** 17-21 Sep; 1 Fair Is 18 Sep.
*12th-13th for Orkney, 4th for Borders.*
**[1990]** 1 Fife Ness **F** 28 Jul.

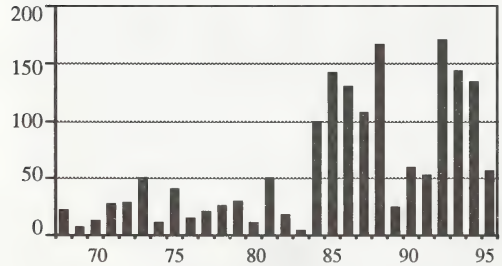
***Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*
*8 singles*: **Fair Is** 27 Jun; Barns Ness **L** 29-30 Aug; Norwick, Unst **Shet** 30 Aug-1 Sep; Swining, Vidlin **Shet** 31 Aug; Fair Is 2-3 Sep; N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 13 Sep; Queenamidda, Rendall **Ork** & Fair Is 14 Sep.

***Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*
*4 singles*: Whlasay **Shet** 5 Oct; Gorie, Bressay **Shet** 10 Nov; Skateraw **L** 11 Nov; Cove **B** 12 Nov.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*
1 Windwick, South Ronaldsay **Ork** 27 Apr is a rare spring record.
First singles Sumburgh Head **Shet** , Aithsetter **Shet** & N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 15 Sep were part of a small influx 15-20 Sep when 10 Shet, 4 Fair Is, 3 Ork & 1 St.Abbs **B**. Next fall was 30 Sep-3 Oct when 8 Shet, 7 Fair Is, 6 Ork and singles Noss Farm **Caith** & **Is of May** 1 Oct. Another 6 birds Shet 6-9 Oct. Later singles Fife Ness **F** 13 & 14 Oct, Graemeshall **Ork** 14 Oct, Whalsay **Shet** 15 Oct, N.Ronaldsay 23 Oct & St.Kilda **OH** 31 Oct

| | 10-16 Sept | 17-23 Sept | 24-30 Sept | 1-7 Oct | 8-14 Oct | 15-22 Oct | 23-30 Oct | 31-6 Nov | 7+ Nov |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N&W Isles | 5 | 12 | 10 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - |
| N.Scot | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| E/C Scot | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| SE Scot | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Totals** | **5** | **13** | **10** | **19** | **5** | **3** | **1** | **1** | **-** |

*57 individuals, the worst year since 1991.*




***Autumn Yellow-browed Warblers in Scotland 1968-95***

***Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
1 Sumburgh Head **Shet** 25-26 May and 1 Barns Ness **L** 11 Nov.
*2nd record for Lothian. 15th for Shetland & only 2nd spring record for Britain.*

*** Western Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Single Sumburgh Head **Shet** 13-18 Sep.
*8th for Shetland.*
Photos: *Birding World* 8: 331 & *British Birds* 89:528.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
First 2 Abbotsford **B** 16 Apr. Then D&G , Clyde & Arg 22-25 Apr; Ayr 29 Apr; High 1 May; A&D, Is of May, Loth, Clyde Is, Ork & Forth 3-8 May. Virtually no birds on mainland coast, all first birds on territory. Just single Is of May, 4 Ork, none Fair Is & 3 Shet.
Breeding : **Caith** 1 held territory; **High** 8mm Insh Marhses(8); **M&N** 8mm at 5 sites is best total since 1980; **P&K** perhaps less common; **Forth** 3prs Cowpark (2); **Loth** 6mm at 5 sites; **Bord** 17mm at 7 sites, stable 5 Plora (3); **Arg** 8mm Taynish (10); **Clyde Is** 6prs Glenashdale, Arran; **Clyde** 580mm at 13 sites with 15prs Inversnaid (8) & 14prs Inchcailloch (5); **Ayr** 50mm at 22 sites with 12prs Cambusdoon-Dalrymple but 4prs Ness Glen (3) & 2prs Culzean (3); **D&G** 37mm Wood Of Cree (50).
Migrants from mid-Aug but few until passage 3-18 Sep when 26 Shet, all singles; record 7 **Fair Is** 14 Sep; *c*15 Ork, max 4 Sanday **Ork** 10 Sep; 1 Caith, 2 Is of May; 1 Loth, 4 Bord & 1 Clyde.
Last High & NE 9-13 Aug; Clyde 3 Sep; Loth & Bord 9-10 Sep; Caith 11 Sep; Fair Is & Is of May 12-14 Sep; Ork 22 Sep; 1 N.Locheynort, N.Uist **OHeb** 23 Sep. Latest 1 Helendale **Shet** 29 Sep.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*
More wintering birds than 1993/4 with singles Scorguie, Inverness **H**, Newport **F**, Yellowcraig **L**, Tweedbank **B**, Kilmarnock **Ayr** & Caerlaverock **D&G** in Jan; Kincardine **F**, St.Andrews **F**, Port Charlotte, Islay **Arg**, Ayr **Ayr** & Monktonhill **Ayr** in Feb; with singles Ochiltree **Ayr** Jan-Apr & Strathkinnes **F** Jan-Mar. Singles in early Mar at Barasssie **Ayr**, Newshot Is. **Clyde** & Glasgow **Clyde** may have been late winterers or early summering birds.
First singles Quendale **Shet** 11 Mar; St.Abbs **B** 12 Mar; D&G, Fife & Clyde 16-22 Mar; Loth & Arg 29-31 Mar; P&K, D&G, Clyde Is., Ork, Fair Is, M&N, High & Forth 1-5 Apr; Caith 13 Apr.
Most arrived on territory 12-15 Apr in S but peak passage 23 Apr-5 May when 12 Toab **Shet**, 15 **Fair Is**, 26 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 6 Rattray **NE**, max 6 **Is of May** & 4 St.Abbs. Further small-scale influxes into late May in N.Isles.
Breeding ***CBC*** F+16%/W+8%,***CES*** ad+5%,juv +28% . **Shet** 1 held territory Kegord; **Ork** singles sang Rackwick, Hoy & Trumland, Rousay; **OHeb** 1m Stornoway Woods; **High** pr bred Eigg (3); **M&N** record 43mm (25); **A&D** 14 sites; **Fife** 22mm at 15 sites; **Loth** 5mm Pressmennan (9) & 4mm Duddinsgton (6); **Bord** 63mm at 30 sites

with 9 Hirsel (3), 11mm Floors; **Clyde** 82mm at 31 sites with 10 Chatelherault (9), 19 Blantyre (15) **Ayr** 203mm at 54 sites with 33mm Cambusdoon-Dalrymple, 21mm Culzean (14). *Higher numbers reported in several areas suggesting a real increase.*

Birds singing mixed Chiffchaff-Willow Warbler song were present at Netherton Apr-Aug, Linn Park in Sep & Mugdock Castle in Jun, all **Clyde**.

Very quiet autumn with first movements from mid-Jul in Ork & Bord. Main passage early-mid Sep when just 1-2 birds at migration sites in NE, A&D, Fife, Is of May & Loth but peaks of 10 St.Abbs 3 Sep; 9 Sanday **Ork** 9 Sep; 3 Wick **Caith** 11 Sep; 20 Fetlar **Shet** 18 Sep. Few after early Oct max 4 Fair Is & 4 N.Ronaldsay 13 Oct. Last reports P&K, D&G, Clyde 4-9 Oct; A&D, M&N and Bord 13-15 Oct; Is of May & High 23-27 Oct; Arg, Caith, Loth & Ork 10-18 Nov; Fife & Shet 24- 25 Nov. Several Dec records :2 Shet, 3 Ork, High, A&D and Fife.

| Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N&W Isles | - | - | 2 | 23 | 5 |
| N.Scot | 1 | - | + | 4 | 1 |
| E./C Scot | 2 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| SE Scot | 2 | - | - | 1 | - |
| W. Scot | - | 1 | 9 | 4 | - |
| SW Scot | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Total** | **8** | **5** | **>20** | **36** | **9** |

**Eastern Chiffchaff** *P.c.abietinus/tristis*

Grey 'northern' birds: 1 *abietinus/tristis* Collieston **NE** 16 Sep; and many of the late birds in Shet. 1 *abietinus*-type St.Kilda **OH** 8 Nov.

*Tristis*-types: 1 Trumland, Rousay **Ork** 23 Oct; 5 St.Kilda 29 Oct, with 1 there 30 Oct; with singles Reay **Caith** 4-6 Nov & St.Ola **Ork** 14 Nov.

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**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

First 4 Cameron House **Clyde** & 1 Kilchattan Bay, Bute **Clyde Is** 2 Apr. D&G, Arg & Ayr 8 Apr; Loth, P&K, Ork, High, A&D, Bord, NE, Fife & Forth 11-12 Apr; M&N, Caith, Fair Is & OHeb 13-15 Apr; Shet 20 Apr. Widespread in S from 11-15 Apr. Coastal passage muted, peaking at 50 **Is of May** 3-6 May; 40 St.Abbs **B** 7 May; but peaks in N.Isles very low, max 7 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 27 May and no more than 7 at anywhere on Fair Is and Shet over period.

Breeding ***CBC*** F+18%/W+5%,***CES***ad-5%, juv+14%. **Ork** min 12 AOTs Hoy, 7mm Finstown/Firth, 4mm Trumland Wood, Rousay (4); **High** 20% increase Eigg ***CBC***, *c*200prs Insh Marshes; **NE** decrease to 23mm Crimonmogate (46 in 1984) was attributed to habitat change; **P&K** 85prs Vane Farm (65); **Fife** 40 Cameron Res. (40), 55 Lochore Meadows; **Forth** no change Blairdrummond, 3.6prs/km² Doune; **Loth** 25 Aberlady (25), 7 Bawsinch (7), 9 Roslin (11); **Bord** 24 Craigurd (15); **Arg** 65 mm Taynish (71); **Clyde** 13prs Merryton (11), 19-21prs Baron's Haugh (15-20); **Ayr** 16 Culzean (12).

Juvs represented 59% of 148 birds trapped Dumfries **D&G** in Jul while 88% of 295 trapped Ordiquhill **NE** were juvs, much better success than 1994 where the total was 194. Post-breeding juv flocks include 200 Lochfoot **D&G** & 100 Caerlaverock **D&G** in Aug; 60 Woodend L. **Clyde** & 50 Johnstone **Clyde** in Sep.

Coastal passage from late Jul with major movement 6-12 Sep when 250 Out Skerries **Shet**, 249 N.Ronaldsay, 180 **Fair Is**, 163 Whalsay **Shet**, 150 Fetlar **Shet**, 100 Is of May, 100 St.Abbs , 60 Barns Ness **L** , 50 Usan **A&D**, 40 Girdleness **NE** & 20 Tarbetness **H**. Only small -scale passage thereafter.

Last P&K, M&N, Forth, Fife & Caith 6-17 Sep; Is of May, Arg, Clyde & Bord 20-29 Sep; Fair Is, Loth, High and Shet 2-8 Oct. Late singles Girdleness 15 Oct and N.Ronaldsay 23 Oct.

1 resembling the E. European population *P.t.acredula* seen Scoughall **L** 8 Sep.

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**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Jan-Feb records: 2 Shet & 6 Ork.

First passage Shet 11 Mar, Ork 13 Mar, Bord 30 Mar, Fair Is 5 Apr. Peaks of 40 St.Abbs **B** 7 Apr; just 3-4 birds Fife coast & Is of May and 10 NE coast 24-26Apr; max 29 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 27 Apr; 25 **Fair Is** 28 Apr; only 1-2 birds at Shet sites well into May.

Breeding ***CBC*** (F+67%/W+36%). **Ork** 8prs Hoy (11), 1 pr Trumland, Rousay; **High** slightly fewer Eigg ,*c*12prs Insh Marshes; **Loth** 10 Aberlady (3), 4 Roslin (3); **Clyde** 2 Merryton (2), 3 Baron's Haugh (6), 22 Chatelherault (20).

20 St.Abbs, 20 Dowlaw **B** and 15 Fife Ness **F** 3 Sep; 100 Girdleness **NE** 8 Sep; 45 St.Abbs 13 Sep; 30 Is of May 30 Sep; 150 Mull of Galloway **D&G** 7 Oct; 40 Fife Ness 13 Oct; 232 N.Ronaldsay, 125 Fair Is, 120 Fetlar **Shet**, 100 Papa Westray **Ork**, 77 Balmedie **NE** and 60 Noss Farm **Caith** 14 -15 Oct; 45 Bracken Bay **Ayr** 21 Oct; 200 Is of May , 50 St.Abbs and 40 Usan **A&D** 12 Nov.

6 sites on Ork in Dec but none Shet.

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***Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

1 (probably male) Blackness **L** 6 Jan-25 Mar.

1 **Is of May** 14 Nov, possibly another 15 Nov.

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**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

First 1 Eigg **H** 29 Apr. Then D&G, Ork & Ayr 5-6 May, Fife and P&K 7-9 May; M&N, A&D, Caith, Clyde , Bord & NE 13-17 May; Loth, Forth, Fair Is, Shet & Is of May 19-23 May. Typically low-key passage with max 8 Fetlar **Shet** 26-27 May and 8 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 28 May. Most birds in S arrived directly on territory with few on coast.

Breeding ***CBC*** F-11%/-15W%. **Ork** pr bred Finstown, first success s ince 1989; **High** 14prs Insh Marshes (9),

10prs L.Brora, 3prs Eigg; **A&D** 6prs Invermark fledged MBS 3.1; **Bord** 11mm Dawyck; **Ayr** 166mm at 76sites with 19mm Cambusdoon.
16 (flock of 12) Douglas Estate **Clyde** 28 Jul .
First movements from early Jul but major fall in early Sep: 110 seen Shet & 76 NE coast 5-16 Sep.
Best counts :20 Tarbetness **H** & 12 Barns Ness **L** 8 Sep; 20 Noss Farm **Caith**, 11 Whalsay **Shet**, 10 Fife Ness **F** & 10 St.Abbs **B** 9 Sep ; 24 Out Skerries **Shet**, 22 **Fair Is**, 20 Collieston **NE**, 15 Kineff **NE**, 13 Sanday **Ork** on 10 Sep; 31 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 14 Sep; 26 Fair Is 16 Sep. Few thereafter with last birds Ayr 2 Sep; D&G, P&K, Forth, Fife , M&N, High & Loth 9-13 Sep; Is of May, NE, Arg , Caith, A&D, Bord & Clyde 15-22 Sep. Late movement N.Isles, mostly singles with last Shet 7 Oct, Fair Is 9 Oct and latest 1 N.Ronaldsay 12 Oct.

***Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*
*4 in spring, 39 in autumn.*
Singles Burray **Ork** 24 May; Eday **Ork** and **Fair Is** on 27 May; & Fair Is 29-30 May.
Singles Sumburgh **Shet** 3 & 7 Sep; Stronsay **Ork** 8 Sep; Fife Ness **F**, Mains of Usan **A&D**, Fetlar **Shet** 9 Sep; singles Fair Is, Out Skerries **Shet**, Rousay **Ork**, Westray **Ork** (2) , Tarbetness **H** & Fair Is 10-13 Sep; Compass Head **Shet**, N.Ronaldsay **Ork** (2), Cruden Bay **NE** & Sumburgh, Kergord **Shet**, Tresta **Shet** 16-20 Sep.
Next influx mostly in N.Isles when singles Fair Is (2), N.Ronaldsay & Stronsay **Ork**, Whalsay(2) ,Uyeasound, Eswick, Quarff & Helendale ,all **Shet** between 30 Sep-6 Oct. Then further singles Fair Is, N.Ronaldsay, Tuimpan Head, Lewis **OH**, Noss Farm **Caith**, Laxford Bridge **H** and Clachan, N.Uist **OH** 10-21 Oct; N.Ronaldsay 31 Oct; Eigg **H** 1 Nov; St.Abbs **B** 4 Nov; with last 1 Toab **Shet** 10 Nov.

***Red-breasted Flycatcher***
***Peter Donnelly***
***Short-listed for Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report from Orkney Bird Report***

***Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis*
1 Treta **Shet** 5 Jun. *5th record for Shetland.*
1 trapped St.Abbs **B** 9 Sep showed mixed features and may have been a hybrid Collared x Pied or an abberrent Collared. See Leyshon & Kerr (1996) *Birding World* 9: 114 for fuller account of the St.Abbs bird.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*
First L.Ken **D&G** 8 Apr & Wood of Cree **D&G** 11 Apr. Tehn Abbotsford **B** 16 Apr. Then Fife, Forth , Is of May & Ayr 30 Apr-1 May; Arg , P&K, Loth & Shet 5-9 May; Fair Is, A&D, Ork & NE 17-25 May
Few passage birds E coast with none Caith, singles A&D, Fife, Is of May & Loth and just 2 Bord. Also poor N.Isles where only 7 Shet, c15 Fair Is & 5 Ork.

| Breeding | | | | MBS | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nest-box schemes** | **prs** | **nests** | **juvs** | 1994 | 1995 |
| Trossachs **Forth** | ? | 57 | 264 | 5.49 | 4.63 |
| Inversnaid **Clyde** | 19 | 10 | 62 | 4.82 | 6.20 |
| Inchcailloch **Clyde** | 3 | 3 | 14 | 3.50 | 4.66 |
| Tarbert **Clyde** | 13 | 12 | 78 | 5.63 | 6.50 |
| Sallochy **Clyde** | 10 | 9 | 54 | 5.67 | 6.00 |
| Comer **Clyde** | 3 | 3 | 18 | 5.00 | 6.00 |
| Bonawe **Argyll** | 7 | 7 | 44 | 5.60 | 6.20 |
| **other Argyll** | 4 | 3 | 18 | 5.20 | 6.00 |

**High** 5 sites, 2br12 at Newtonmore; **P&K** 5 sites; **Loth** 3 sites, br6 at Rosebery; **Bord** 8 at 7 sites, 2br9 noted; **Ayr** 17mm at 12 sites, 3br10; **D&G** stable 60prs & 55-60 nests Wood of Cree (55). No breeding reports NE, A&D and Fife.
First of autumn Fair Is & Shet 4 Aug. Mostly scattered singles in Aug, max 6 **Fair Is** 17-24 Aug, & 3 Noss **Shet** 18 Aug, but major fall on E.coast & N.Isles 3-15 Sep involving min 220 in Shet. 25 **Is of May**, 14 St.Abbs **B** & 12 Fair Is on 3 Sep; 150 **NE** coast, 100 Is of May, 70 St.Abbs , 53 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 35 Sanday **Ork**, 35 Out Skerries **Shet**, 30 Angus coast **A&D**, 30 NE.Fife **F**, 25 Tarbetness **H**, 20 Noss Farm **Caith** on 8-9 Sep; 20 Skateraw **L** 12 Sep; 34 N.Ronaldsay 14 Sep; 25 Fair Is 16 Sep.
Some passed well west and inland with 4 L Druidibeg & 3 Grogarry, S.Uist **OH** & 2 singles Benbecula and N.Uist **OH** 10 Sep; and 1 Laxford Bridge **H** & 4 Hirsel **B** on 13 Sep. Most moved through by 20 Sep.
Last Clyde 3 Sep; Fife, Loth, A&D, Caith, NE & Bord 10-19 Sep; OHeb & High 27-29 Sep; Fair Is & Shet 4-8 Oct; Is of May 13 Oct; last 1 N.Ronaldsay 14 Oct.

*** Bearded Tit** *Panarus biamarcus*
**[1991]** First breeding record for Scotland at un-named site.
**[1992]** At least 2prs bred from a possible population of 2-3prs at a single un-named site in Scotland.
See Campbell, Cayford & Pearson (1996) British Birds 89: 335-346 for their review of the Status of Bearded Tits in Britain.
*Apparently the first Scottish records since a single at Strathbeg in Apr 1976.*

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Breeding: ***CBC*** F+20%/W-8%,***CES*** ads+6%, juvs+17%.
15prs Insh Marshes **H**; 5prs Baron's Haugh **Clyde**; 4prs Knockentiber **Ayr**; 3prs Eigg **H**.
Max flocks sizes: <15 in ; 15-25 in Arg; 26-40 in A&D (2), Loth (3), Bord (2) & Clyde (2).
Biggest flocks: 86 Gartmorn **Forth** in Jan; 50 Glen Afton **Ayr** in Jun; 90 Insh Marshes in Aug; 48 Mundole **M&N** in Sep; 46 Cameron Res. **F** in Oct.

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***Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*

***CBC*** (W-1%) **Bord** 20 sites is best annual total in recent years with 10 sites in breeding season and 10 sites out of the breeding season with 10 Haigsfield in Oct; **Loth** 3 singles Dunglass Mar & Apr (but pr on Borders side); **D&G** 1 New Abbey 24 Feb . *3rd record for D&G.*

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**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

***CBC*** (A+15%) **Bord** 1-2 Hirsel in Feb and Nov-Dec with 1 Piersknowe in Feb; **Clyde** pr bred Strathclyde Park; singles Baron's Haugh Jan-Mar, May & Oct and Garrion Gill in Jul; 2 Harestonhill in Sep; **Ayr** br4 Knockshinnoch, br4 Black L. , 2br8 Dalrymple Wood and juv Barrhill, also seen Bogton Moss in Jan and Glenbuck in Apr; **D&G** 1-2prs Wood of Cree (4) but good numbers L.Ken with 2prs Castle L. with 8 there in Jan; pr bred Collin; also seen Hills Wood, Castle Wood, Milton L., L.Arthur and New Galloway.

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**Crested Tit** *Parus cristatus*

**High** 3prs in boxes Drumguish, reared 2br10 with third brood predated. Also seen W.Shinness in Feb, *the most northerly record to date*, Dog Falls, Glen Affric in May, L.Eye in Apr , May, Jun & Sep , Pitmaduthy Moss in Jul, Glen Strathfarrar in Sep & Monadh Mor in Dec.
**M&N** 10prs in boxes Culbin Forest with MBS 5.3 (4.5), 3prs Lossie Forest had MBS 4.5 (6.0). 2 Dava in Feb and Monaughty Forest in Jun, Nov & Dec.

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**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

25 Crathes Castle **NE** in Jul & 30 Monteviot **B** in Dec.
Breeding ***CBC*** F-11%/W-2%: **I&R** 50% increase Eigg, many young reared, *c*30prs Insh Marshes; **M&N** 7prs at Culbin (6) had MBS 8.2 (7.5) and 6prs at Lossie (2), MBS 8.5 (7.0); **Loth** 7prs Roslin (4); **Clyde** 5prs Cathkin Braes (6).
Poor passage noted St.Abb's **B** , max only 3 on 13 Sept. None N.Isles.

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**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

72 handled Craigurd garden **B** 15 Jan; 123 ringed S.Queensferry **L** Jan-Mar (114) with 77 handled 21 Jan. 36 Caerlaverock **D&G**, 20 Bogton **Ayr** and 34 Torrance House **Clyde** in Jan.

Breeding ***CBC*** F+4%/W+2%, ***CES*** ads+1%, juvs+31%

| Nest-box schemes | Nests | Young | MBS 1994 | MBS 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dunbeath **Caith** | 12 | 76 | - | 6.2 |
| Lossie Forest **M&N** | 6 | 44 | 5.30 | 7.4 |
| Culbin Forest **M&N** | 4 | 8 | 7.30 | 2.0 |
| L.Spynie **M&N** | 10 | 77 | 7.80 | 7.7 |
| Invermark **A&D** | 14 | 109 | - | 7.8 |
| Breafoot Bay **F** | 8 | 70 | - | 8.7 |
| Inversnaid Clyde | 11 | 25 | - | 2.30 |
| Comer Clyde | 13 | 44 | - | 3.30 |

**High** 30% increase in Eigg ***CBC***, *c*15prs Insh Marshes; **NE** 24mm Cromonmogate (23 in 1984), mist-netting suggests very good season there; **Forth** 4.8prs/km² Doune ***CBC***, the commonest species; **Loth** 21 Roslin (19) & stable 8prs Auldhame; **Clyde** stable 20prs Cathkin Braes 11prs Inversnaid only managed MBP of 2.3 while 13prs Comer managed MBP 3.3.
60 Midross **Clyde** in Sep; 60 Lowood **B** in Dec were the best late-year flocks. Single wintered Graemeshall, Holm **Ork** to Mar and 1 Lerwick **Shet** in Dec.

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**Great Tit** *Parus major*

1-2 overwintering birds Lerwick **Shet** , Norwick, Unst **Shet**, Out Skerries **Shet** & West End, Burray **Ork** remained to spring. Additional singles Lerwick and Whalsay **Shet** in Feb/Mar. 1 Lerwick in Oct was the only late-year report from N.Isles.
Early-year counts: 12 Torrance House **Clyde** & Midross **Clyde** in Jan & Mar; max only 3 handled Craigurd garden **B** in Feb (28 in '94).
Breeding ***CBC*** F-3%/W+10%,***CES*** ads-13%, juvs+52%

| Nest-box schemes | Nests | Young | MBS 1993 | MBS 1994 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lossie Forest **M&N** | 12 | 44 | 4.40 | 5.90 |
| Culbin Forest **M&N** | 2 | 0 | 6.10 | 0.00 |
| L.Spynie **M&N** | 8 | 27 | 7.00 | 6.40 |
| Invermark **A&D** | 13 | 49 | - | 3.80 |
| Braefoot Pt. F | 3 | 24 | - | 8.00 |
| Inversnaid Clyde | 6 | 31 | - | 5.02 |

**High** 40prs Insh Marshes, stable Eigg; **NE** 14mm Crimonmogate (10 in 1984); Loth 12prs Roslin (12); Clyde 20prs Cathkin Braes (9), 7prs Merryton (9).
Late-year counts: 30 Monteviot **B**, 25 Glenkinnon **B** and 20 Chatelherault **Clyde** in Dec.

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**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

**Bord** 6-7prs Hirsel (5) with pair at neighbouring Lees House, Coldstream; 5-7prs Floors Castle (3), 3 nests located; pair Langlee, Galashiels raised br2; 2prs Mellerstain where a pr bred in hole in wall; pr Monteviot reared min br2; also single birds seen Newton Don in Apr, a possible breeding site, and at Dawyck Botanic Gardens in Peeblesshire, at least 50kms away from main locus in area.
**D&G** 1 visiting bird-table in Threave 18 Apr (a similar record at site in 1992 suggests continuing local presence).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*
Breeding ***CBC*** F0%/W+35%, ***CES*** +27% juvs +16%: **OHeb** good year Stornoway Woods ; **High** 4prs Eigg (5) only 2 successful, *c*15prs Insh Marshes; **M&N** 12prs in nest-boxes Culbin (3), MBS 3.8 (4.3), 1pr Lossie Forest with MBP 5.0; **NE** 5mm Crimonmogate (8 in 1984); **Clyde** stable 5prs Baron's Haugh & 2prs Cathkin Braes; **D&G** scarce Wood of Cree.
6 Polmood **A&D** in Mar and 6 Glen Feshie **H** in Jun were the largest counts.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*
*13 in spring, 1 in summer.* 1 Tresta **Shet** 23-24 May; singles Stornoway Woods, Lewis **OH** & Out Skerries **Shet** 27 May; Cullievoe **Shet** 29 May; E.Ellister, Islay **Arg** 30 May; Quoyberstane, St.Ola **Ork** 31 May; Scalloway **Shet** & Whalsay **Shet** 4 Jun; 2 Tresta 5-6 Jun; singles Baltasound **Shet** 6-9 Jun; Kergord **Shet** 7 Jun; Muckle Roe **Shet** 10 Jun; 1 Tain **H** 1 Jul.

***Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*
1 ad m Netherstove, Deerness **Ork** 10-17 Sep.
*2nd for Orkney and 11th for Scotland.*

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*
*33 birds in spring.* First singles Fair Is, Tankerness **Ork** & Rattray **NE** 23 May. Singles Sumburgh **Shet** & Lairg **H** on 24 May. 2 Shet, 4 Fair Is, 7 Ork, 1 NE, 1 Loth/Forth & 1 Bord on 25-26 May, max 5 N.Ronaldsay **Ork**.
5 Shet, 1 Fair Is, 2 Ork, 1 NE 27-31 May. 1 Aberlady **L** 3 Jun and singles N.Ronaldsay, and at Skaw, Northdale, Quarff, Toab and Exnaboe, all **Shet** arrived 1-10 Jun.

| **May-Jun '94** | **May** | | | **June** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1-10** | **11-20** | **21-31** | **1-10** | **11-20** | **21-30** |
| **Shetland** | 0 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| **Fair Isle** | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Orkney** | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| **N.Scotland** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **NE Scot** | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **SE.Scot** | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| **Totals** | **0** | **0** | **26** | **7** | **0** | **0** |

First singles Johnshaven **NE** 13 Aug; Kinlochbervie **H** 21 Aug; Fetlar **Shet** 23 Aug & Quarff 24 Aug.
Main passage 8-16 Sep when 9 Shet, 1 Fair Is, 9 Ork, 1 Caith, 2 High, 10 NE, 2 A&D, 2 Fife and 1 Bord , best counts were 4 N.Ronaldsay and 2 at Whalsay **Shet**, Cruden Bay **NE**, Tarbetness **H** and Fife Ness **F**.
Later singles 17-19 Sep on Shet (3) and Is of May (2). Singles Stronsay, Harray (2) and Sanday, all **Ork** from 22-28 Sep but last 1 Fair Is 1-8 Oct. *21 in autumn.*

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*
Singles Lochgelly **F** 6-7 Jan; Glasterlaw **A&D** 13 Jan; Tulloch **H** 16 Jan-15 Mar; Dumbrock Moor 25-26 Jan moving to Mugdock **Clyde** 26 Feb; Beauly **H** 27 Jan; Forest of Birse **NE** 4-5 Feb; Carron Valley Res. **Clyde/Forth** 8 Feb-15 Apr; Burnturk **F** 17 Feb; juv Logie Hill **H** 19 Feb; Rumachroy **M&N** 26 Feb; L.na Craige **P&K** 26 Mar- 8 Apr; singing male Buckhood **A&D** 9 Apr; **Fair Is** 25 Apr; Braewick, Eshaness **Shet** 26 Apr; L.Muick **NE** 29 Apr. *15 in winter/spring.*
Autumn/winter singles: N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 10-12 Oct; Unst **Shet** 6-20 Oct; Fair Is 31 Oct-2 Nov, with another 4-5 Nov; Machrihanish **Arg** 2 Nov; Glen Lochill **P&K** 10 Dec; Orgil, Hoy **Ork** 24 Dec. *7 in autumn/winter.*

***Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*
1 Dowlaw Dean **B** 28 May.
*3rd record for Borders.*

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
***CBC*** F-5%/W-3%. **M&N** reported 16 sites but still no confirmation of breeding despite a party of 6 Craiglug in Jun; **A&D** 20 sites with 3prs Newtyle; **Fife** 28 sites with confirmed breeding Montrave & Saline and party of 10 Devon Common; **Forth** 20 sites; **Loth** 11 sites, still spreading; **Bord** 24 sites, max 8 Duns Castle; **Arg** 6 sites; **Clyde** 25 sites, breeding confirmed at 3; **Ayr** 16 sites. *Still apparently spreading.*

**Magpie** *Pica pica*
***CBC*** F+5%/W-6%. **Caith** 4 sites; **High** singles Coylum Bridge & Laggan area (2) were unusual; **M&N** slight decline noted in Moray but still spreading Nairn; **P&K** consolidated spread to Strathallan where widespread; **Fife** 30prs Saline area; **Loth** 20 sites in E.Lothian confirms eastwards spread; **Clyde** 5-6prs Cathkin Braes (4-5); **D&G** breeding noted Glentrool where rare.
Largest counts: 65 at roost Airthrey **Forth** & 32 Haggs Castle **Clyde** in Jan. 50-60 Knockentiber area **Ayr** Nov-Dec; 40 Bawsinch **L** & 32 Pollok **Clyde** in Dec. 15 North Riccolton **B** in Jan may be local record.

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
**Arg** Islay : 48 sites were visited: 28prs were present, all laid eggs. 18 nests fledged 50 young, an MBP of 1.02 (1.78) and MBS of 2.8 (2.6).
*While 1995 was a better year for production than recent years (40 young from 31 sites in 1994, 54 young from 32 sites in 1993) the actual number of occupied sites was still far lower than it was in the mid-1980s, reflecting the small size of the Islay population.* From: Scottish Chough Study Group.
Colonsay: 10prs bred plus some non-breeders; 4 br10 seen. Mull: 1pr were again unsuccessful. The largest flock was 30 Ardnave, Islay 3 Jul. A colour-ringed bird appeared at L.Don, Mull, presumably wandering from Islay or Colonsay.
**D&G** resident pr present Jan but one disappeared in Mar/Apr leaving a single male alone for the rest of the year. *Pair first appeared in 1988 and reared a total of 9 young, all of which vacated the area after fledging.*
**Bord** 1 Dunglass 26 Jun. *First Borders since 1919.*

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*
Up to 13 Tingwall area **Shet** Jan-Apr with odd birds in summer and max 14 there Oct-Dec. Seen 3 other sites in early year, 8 in late year. Max 3 Fair Is Mar-May and 2 in Oct.
Breeding: ***CBC*** (F-1%/W+20%): **Ork** perhaps declining Stronsay; **High** 10-12prs Eigg (10-15) not a good year, 10prs Insh Marshes; **Loth** 8prs Roslin (5); **D&G** 10prs in owl-boxes Newton Stewart had mean clutches of 4.6 & MBS 3.0.
Roosts: 17,000 The Knock, Crieff **P&K** , 8,000 Fern **A&D** and 6,200 Alford **NE** in Dec.
Further south the largest flocks were 900 Howietown **Forth** in Jan & 400 Duddinsgton **L** in Dec.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*
Breeding: **Shet** 19 nests Kergord (27), MBS 1.4 (2.1) with 20prs (12) Gott plantation which failed totally perhaps, through Crow predation; **Ork** 1,562 nests at 13 sites (not complete survey , 2 sites missed); **OHeb** 120 nests Stornoway (125); **High** 80prs bred Insh Marshes; **NE** 12% decrease to 363 nests Udny Wood (412); **Arg** little change noted on Islay where 168 nests at 6 sites.
Roosts: 13,300 Meikleness **NE** & 3,000 Fern **A&D** in Dec were the only large roost counts.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*
**Carrion Crow** *C.c.corone* **Shet** 7 winter/spring (10) records & 5 in autumn/winter (8); **Ork** 3 birds bred (2), all paired with Hoodies; **Bord** 9prs St.Abbs (10); **Clyde** 6 nests Cathkin Brae (2).
800 Pollok Park **Clyde** & 237 Doonfoot **Ayr** in Jan; 300 Duddinsgton **L** in Dec.

**Hooded Crow** *C.c.cornix*
Scattered reports in S: M&N (5), A&D (5), Fife (2), Is of May, Forth (10), Loth (6), Bord (2), Clyde (10), Ayr (3) and D&G.
Hybrids recorded in Shet, Ork, M&N (4), Forth (2), Loth (4), Bord (4), Clyde (8), Ayr (7), D&G.
Mixed pairs: Strathallan **P&K**, L.Arklet **Clyde**, Lower Glen Fruin **Clyde** & Skelmorlie **Ayr** .
**Ork** 20prs N.Hoy (18).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*
Breeding:

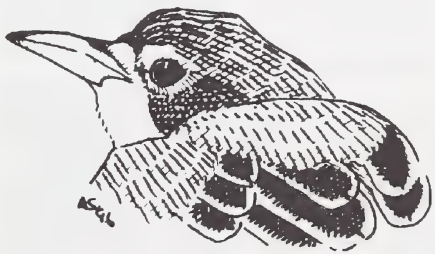
| | Sites checked | Occup. sites | Sites failed | Nest success | Young | MBS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **M'and Ork** | - | **33** | **16** | **17** | **54** | **3.0** |
| Hoy **Ork** | - | 13 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 3.0 |
| Eigg **I&R** | 9 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 3.0 |
| **Forth** | 12 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 3.4 |
| Coll **Arg** | - | 12 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 2.7 |
| **Clyde** | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 | >9 | 2.2 |
| **Ayrshire** | 19 | 19 | 6 | 8 | 27 | 3.3 |

**High** 6prs Canna; **Loth** 2br7 noted; **Bord** 2br6 noted on coast; **Arg** 2prs Colonsay reared 3 young; **Clyde Is** 4prs Bute, 11 juvs seen.
Max counts: **Shet** 52 Gremista in Jun; **Ork** 38 Firth in May; **High** 24 Insh Marshes in Jan; **P&K** 121 at main roost in Feb & 205 in Dec roost census; **Arg** 30 Bridgend, Islay in Jan; 190 at un-named Mid-Arg site in Sep; **Ayr** 15 upper Glen Brisbane in May.

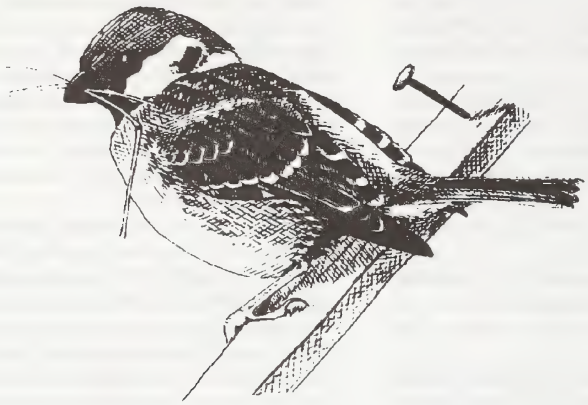
**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*
Winter roosts: 12,000 Crookfur Plantation **Clyde** and 2,200 Stirling centre **Forth** in Jan; 6,000 Glasgow railbridge **Clyde** & 2,000 Rora **NE** in Mar
Breeding ***CBC*** F-5%/W-9%: **Fair Is** 85 nests (71), MCS 4.5 with average MBS 3.4; **Ork** 48 AONs N.Hill, Papa Westray (72); **High** 40prs Eigg, 20prs Insh Marshes; **NE** 12mm Crimonmogate (36 in 1984); **Forth** 12prs/km² Doune; **Loth** 12prs Roslin Glen (12); **Bord** 51 nests Eddleston; **Clyde** 9prs Merryton (10-12).
10,000 Bemersyde **B** in Jun; 3,000 Aird Meadow **Clyde** & 2,000 L.Gelly **F** in Aug &4,000 L.of Kinnordy **A&D** in Sep; 20,000 Glasgow railbridge , 3,500 Stoneyburn **L** in Oct; 12,000 Glentoo **D&G** & 4,000 Lochmaben **D&G** in Nov; 18,000 Ayr **Ayr** in Dec.

***Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*
*10 birds:* ad Scalloway **Shet** 7 Jun- 25 Jul; ad Whalsay **Shet** 22 Jun-1 Jul; ad Port Seaton **L** 5 Jul; ad Brucehill **NE** 6-9 Jul; ad **Fair Is** 16 Jul-1 Sep; ad Drimsdale, S.Uist **OH** 4-16 Sep; juv Out Skerries **Shet** 7-30 Sep; juv Fair Is 8-16 Sep; juv S.Ronaldsay **Ork** 13-14 Sep; juv Largs **Ayr** 17 Oct.

***Rose-coloured Starling***
***Andrew Stevenson***
***from Ayrshire Bird Report 1995***



**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Breeding ***CBC*** A+2%: **Fair Is** 105-125 birds in Apr census; **High** c50prs Insh Marshes, mostly at Insh and Ivertromie; **Forth** 22.8prs/km² Doune garden ***CBC***.
Flocks: 300 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** in Apr; 150 St.Quivox **Ayr** in Jul; 400 Sandyford **Ayr** & 175 Turdistoft **Caith** in Aug; 250 Bathgate **L** & 150 Springfield **F** in Sep; 290 N.Ronaldsay in Nov.



*Tree Sparrow*
*Andrew Stevenson*
*Winner of Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report from Ayrshire Bird Report 1995*

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*
Breeding ***CBC*** F+22%: **Caith** bred 2 sites; **High** 2prs Hill of Fearn and br1 Foulis Ferry; **M&N** 4 sites, max 28 birds Wester Moy; **NE** stable 20prs Longside, bred Hatton & Udny; **A&D** 3 colonies Newtyle with 15prs at one site, breeding noted 2 other sites; **P&K** Blairgowrie study - numbers held up with 76 young (68) and some third broods; **Loth** seen 11 sites; **Bord** prs seen 7 sites; **Clyde** seen 5 sites; **Ayr** 19 sites with 12prs Springside; **D&G** seen at 3 sites.
Winter flocks: 115 Collesie Tip **F**, 90 Lecropt **Forth**, 70 Newmains **B**, 55 Millichen **Clyde** & 52 Glasterlaw **A&D**.; 200+ Abernethy **P&K**, 103 Tarradale **H**, 100 St.Monans **F**, 60 Inverugie **NE**, 51 Knockentiber **Ayr**, 55 Lecropt, 50 Congalton **L** & Yonderton **Clyde**
N.Isles: 1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** all year with 2 on 2 & 8 Oct; 1 Bressay **Shet** 23 Oct.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*
Winter flocks: 3,000 Braco **P&K**, 2,000 Aberfeldy **P&K** & 800 Gladhouse **L** in Jan; 1,500 Kinnaird **P&K**, 1,100 Kingoldrum **A&D**, 1,000 Mount Lothian **L** & 650 Noblehall **B** in Feb; 1,000 Powillimount **D&G** & 600 Lintrathen **A&D** & 510 L.Gruinart, Islay **Arg** in Mar. Flocks of 4-500: M&N (2), NE(2), Forth, Bord (2),Clyde & Ayr. Flocks of 2-400: Caith (2), M&N (2), Bord (2), Ayr (3).
Only light passage N.Isles: mostly 1-3 birds Ork, Fair Is & Shet , max 6 N.Ronladsay **Ork** 11 Apr.
Breeding ***CBC*** F+3%/W+2%, ***CES*** ads +2%, juvs +26%. **Shet** no attempts; **Ork** 15prs Hoy (10-11); **High** stable Eigg , c100prs Insh Marshes; **NE** 65prs Cimondmogate, 41 in 1984; **Fife** 40-prs Eden Est.; **Forth** 40% fewer Blairdrummond transect, 34.8prs/km² Doune ***CBC***; **Loth** 42prs Roslin (45) & 32 Aberlady (34); **Bord** 10prs St.Abbs (8-9); **Clyde** 14prs Cathkin Braes (10).
Moderately poor passage N.Isles, mostly 11-17 Oct when 110 Unst **Shet**, 50 Fetlar **Shet**, 40 N.Ronaldsay and 35 Fair Is. On mainland 250 Strath Brora **H** & max 78 St.Abbs **B** on 11 Oct.
1,200 Shiphorns **B**, 1,000 Blackstoun **Clyde** in Nov; 1,200 Blackford **P&K**, 1,000 Torry **F**, 600 Lanark **Clyde** & 600 Whim **B** in Dec. Flocks 400-500: Caith (2), Loth, Bord, Ayr. Flocks 200-400: M&N, NE, Fife (2), Forth, Loth, Bord, Clyde (2) & Ayr (2).

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*
*A few massive flocks but a dearth of medium-sized flocks.* 1,500 Blackford **P&K** & 500 Craigluscar **F** in Jan; 6,000 Stanmore, Lanark **Clyde**, 1,900 Kinbuck **P&K**, 100 Romannobridge **B** & 450 Braco **P&K** in Feb; 1,000 Newbigging **Clyde**, 600 Powillimont **D&G** & 500 Midlem **B** in Mar; still 1,500 Stanmore 6 Apr.
Flocks of 200-400: A&D, P&K, Bord (4). Flocks of 100-200: A&D, P&K and Loth .
Few good Apr counts: area max were 200 Blackford, 100 Brewland **A&D** , 40 Avoch **H** & 20 Monteviot **B** 2-12 Apr.
Max N.Isles 30 Birsay **Ork** 21 Apr; 45 **Fair Is** 23 Apr; & 22 Voe **Shet** 27 Apr.
Last Forth 15 Apr; Fife 25 Apr; Clyde, Loth, P&K, Clyde Is & AyrAyr 29 Apr-30 Apr; NE, A&D, Caith & Bord 1-7 May. 1 sang Rum **H** 14-15 May. Light passage N.Isles to early Jun: last Fair Is 20 May, Shet 4 Jun and Ork 10 Jun.
Breeding: **Caith** 1m sang Reay Forest 24 May-4 Jun when found dead; **High** pr in suitable habitat near L. Maree, seen carrying nesting material on 1 Jul, but no further observations; **Arg** m in song Moine Mohr NNR 15-27 Jun. *More summering than usual and probably breeding in Highland.*

First back: Bord 9 Sep, Fair Is, Shet & Ork 12-15 Sep, NE and P&K 12-14 Oct; Fife & Clyde Is 21 Oct; Ayr, Loth & Clyde 27-30 Oct.
N.Isles passage 15 Sep-15 Nov: 50+ Whalsay **Shet** , 45 Fair Is, 40 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** & 30 Sumburgh **Shet** 1-2 Oct. Then 60 Quarff **Shet**, 45 Swining **Shet** , 42 N.Ronaldsay, 40 Fetlar **Shet**, 35 Fair Is and 30 Out Skerries **Shet** 14-16 Oct.
Very scarce on mainland in Oct, mostly 1-3 birds seen, until 25 Shiphorns **B** 28 Oct and 50 Balerno **L** 5 Nov. Indeed a real lack of birds compared to most winters. with the largest flock was 1,000 Benrig **B** and the next largest parties just 100 Monteviot **B**, 100 Slockavullin **Arg** and 90 Laurieston **D&G**, all in Dec. Indeed there were few flock reports of even 30-90 birds, just single flocks in NE, P&K, Loth & Clyde with 5 in Bord.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*
Better numbers N.Isles with flocks of 40 S.Ronaldsay **Ork**, 20 Helendale **Shet** & 14 Virkie **Shet** 21-29 Jan with 1-3 being seen at a number of other sites.
Winter flocks: 400 Westerfolds **M&N**, 500 Burnturk **F**, 500 Ardmore **Clyde** & 300 Banff **NE** in Jan; 800 Gardenstown **NE** & 400 Meikle **NE** in Feb. Flocks of 100-300 were noted in A&D (2), Fife, Loth, Clyde & Ayr. Better numbers than in 1994 but still relatively low.
Marked passage Fair Isle where there were 1-4 daily from 15 Apr-10 Jun, with peak 6 on 20 Apr.
Breeding: **Ork** breeding confirmed at 4 sites and birds noted at another 10 sites (16); **High** 9 prs Eigg (9), 6 prs Insh Marshes; **NE** 18 singing mm Crimonmogate (23 in 1984); **Clyde** 5prs Baron's Haugh, 3 prs Merryton (3).
Very light passage , max 3 at any site in Shet & Fair Isle.
Late summer flocks of 400 Fyemouth **B** 29 Jul was probably a post breeding assembly, but no other large flocks at this time.
Very few large winter flocks and nothing to suggest an east coast arrival as in 1994. Best counts: 250 Rouken Glen **Clyde** in Nov; 300 Powillmont **D&G** and 200 Over Forneth **P&K** in Dec. Flocks of >100 seen in NE, Fife, Forth, Arg and Ayr.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*
Largest flocks: 73 Kirriemuir **A&D** and 100 Craigend Hill **B** in Jan; 120 Hirsel **B** in Feb; 130 The Brunt **L** , 100 Tomhommie **M&N** in Mar.Flocks of >20 seen in High (3), M&N (5), NE (2), A&D (2), P&K (3+), Fife (2), Forth, Loth (2), Bord (7), Clyde (6) & Ayr (6).
3 Firth **Shet** 7-18 Mar, 1 **Fair Is.** 3-7 May, 3 birds **Ork** between 4 Mar-27 Apr.
Breeding: **Caith** pr bred Dunnet Forest; br4 Newlands of Forse 29 Aug, juv seen Reay 1 Sep; **NE** 12 terrs Crimonmogate (just 1 in 1984); **Loth** 9 prs Auldhame; **Ayr** 10 prs at 5 sites.
Post breeding flocks in late summer: 130 Midross **Clyde** & 250 Kingholm Quay **D&G** in late Aug.
182 Browhouse Farm **F**, 125 Aberlady **L** , 100 Mossmorran **F** , 80 Gladhouse **L**, 68 Riverside Nature Park **A&D**, 60 Eyremouth **B** & 60 Tweedbank **B** in Sep.
Winter flocks 205 Greenloaning **P&K** 8 Oct , 160 Lees **B** 17 Dec were the only flocks >100 in Oct-Dec. Flocks of >20 were widespread from M&N south.
5 Nov-Dec birds N.Isles and also present Stornoway Woods and Lochs, Lewis **OH** in Nov.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*
All areas reported low numbers and no large flocks, except 200 Lennox Forest **Clyde** in Jan. Spring passage was also slight. Return passage about 19-25 Mar in SE Sutherland, Bord, Clyde and D&G. Few were handled by ringers: only 22 ringed at Killearn **Clyde** 25 Mar - 11 May and a 'poor' 74 at Clochan **M&N** Feb-May.
N.Isles passage was also light with peaks of 10 Asta **Shet** 4 Apr, 5 **Fair Is** and 6 Crantit, St Ola **Ork** 14 Apr.
Breeding: **High** 30 prs bred Insh Marshes, 12 prs Eigg, first juvs Golspie 25 Apr; **Ayr** many reports of breeding but comments that birds arrived late and fed weed seed to young as Spruce cones failed; same in **D&G**.
Post breeding flocks: 170 L. Tummel **P&K** & 150 Aberfeldy **P&K** in Sep indicated a successful breeding season. Other good autumn flocks include 250 Carr Brae **H** & 80 Garabal **Clyde** in Aug; 110 Tranew **Ayr** in Sep; and 100 L.Tay **Forth** in Oct .
Passage was light on E. coast but in N.Isles numbers peaked at 15-20 Oct with 24 Whalsay **Shet** , 90 Fair Is & 117 N. Ronaldsay **Ork.**
Scarce again towards the end of the year but present in higher numbers than earlier with 250 Insh Marshes **H**, 140 Cloich Forest **B**, 100 Monymusk **NE**, 100 Killin **Forth**, 100 Longannet **F** & 40 Alford **NE** in Dec. Once again smaller flocks of >20 were widespread in most mainland areas.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*
Fewer large flocks than in 1994 and these mainly in E. 800 Dunfermline **F**, 600 Rosyth **F**, 600 Craigluscar Res. **F**,400 Drainie **M&N**, 400 Blairlogie **Forth**, 310 Guston **M&N**, 300 Mains of Dun **A&D**, 300 St Monans **F** in Jan; 400 Blackford **P&K** and 300 Mount Lothian **L** in Feb, 650 Covesea **M&N** & 300 Powillmont **D&G** in Mar. 500 Newmains **B** Jan-Mar, Flocks of 200-300 reported from High (2), M&N (3), P&K Fife (2), Forth & Ayr (2).
Very light passage in N.Isles: 5 singles Shet , 3 singles Fair Is. **Ork** peaked at 150 Widewall South Ronaldsay on 8 Mar.
Breeding: **Ork** 9 prs Hoy (9), **Clyde** 3 prs Merryton (4), **Loth** 11 terrs Aberlady (18), **Bord** 11 terrs St Abbs (10).
Autumn/winter flocks: 550 Eyemouth **B** in Jul probably represented a post breeding flock: 1,000 Burgie **M&N**,

500 Hulton of Delnies **M&N** and 600 Gailes **Ayr** in Sep, 1,650 Blackford **P&K** and 1,200 Braco **P&K** in Oct; 1.000 Blackstoun Farm Clyde, 600 Garmouth **M&N**, 500 Cairnie **NE** in Nov; 2,000 Torry **F** , 700 Newtonhill **NE**, 500 Brig of Alford **NE** in Dec. In addition flocks of 200-500 were recorded from Ork, High (3), M&N (3), NE, A&D, Arg (2), Cent, Loth (2), Bord (4), Clyde and Ayr (4) .

Excellent passage N.Isles with record 60 **Fair Is** 7 Oct rising to 100 on 10 Oct. In contrast only 11 birds seen **Shet** with peak of 6 Whalsay 8-9 Oct.

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**Twite** *Cardue/is flavirostris*

Jan-Mar flocks: 1,100 Braco **P&K**, 750 Blackford **P&K**, 320 Greenan **Ayr**, 250 Dipple **Ayr** & 200 Skitten **Caith** in Jan; 500 Deerness **Ork**, 500 Girvan Mains **Ayr** and 150 Asta **Shet** in Feb. The low numbers recorded in late 1994 continued into 1995.

Breeding: **Fair Is** autumn numbers suggest successful season; **High** increased by 50% Eigg; **NE** 2 nests Braemar and a flock of 8 Strathdon 25 Jul; **A&D** bred Glen Clova; **P&K** reported from some "new sites"; **Forth** 1-2 prs at 4 sites; **Loth** 1pr seen Pentlands; **Arg** 39prs Colonsay (28); **D&G** pr bred Mull of Galloway with another pr on Mull peninsula.

Flocks built up in autumn with but numbers were lower than in winter 19944/5 with 400 Fair Is & 350 Strone **H** in Sep; 800 Harrow **Caith** & 600 Noss Farm **Caith** in Oct; 300 Toab **Shet** and 240 Dipple **Ayr** in Nov; 1,000 Blackford, 800 Malindry, Islay **Arg** and 200 Black Neuk **Ayr** in Dec. An interesting report was of several hundred birds moving down the Aberdeen coast **NE** on 24 Dec in a probable hard-weather movement. Flocks >100 were recorded from Shet (2), Ork (3). NE (2), Arg (2), OHeb (3), P&K (2) and Loth.

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**Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Very few large flocks in the first quarter of the year. Best Jan-Mar flocks: 70 Montgarrie **NE** & 60 Pitchroy **M&N** in Jan; 150 Glen Clova **A&D**, 120 Kirkton of Kingoldrum **A&D**, 120 Logie **M&N**, 50 Tarland **NE** & 50 Glendoll **A&D in Feb**; 70 L. Flemington **M&N** and 70 Murrayshall **P&K** in Mar.

Breeding: **High** 15 prs Insh Marshes, 10 prs Eigg (8) but poor season; **M&N** 30 prs Sheanballie; **Loth** 6 prs Harlaw; **Ayr** 43-45 prs Carrick Hills; **Clyde** breeding behaviour at 9 sites with at least 8 prs & 9 singing mm, 10 young seen at Myres Hill 16 Jul; **D&G** 5prs Collin. 50 at Glen Douglas **Clyde** on 12 Jun were mostly juvs and 200 Pitlochry **P&K** on 29-30 Aug were notable.

Very few passage birds at St Abbs **B** with 2 on 12 Sep & 11 on 6 Nov.

Autumn/winter flocks contained good numbers of Mealy Redpolls due to a large scale influx of birds into Britain. The flocks below probably contained many Mealies but are listed as simply Redpolls (unless stated otherwise). 250 (50 Mealies) Vane Farm **P&K**, 220 (max 90 Mealies) Aberfeldy **P&K**, 150 Lennox Forest **P&K**, 120 Langlee **B**, 120 Strathavon **M&N**, 100 Pitlochry **P&K** & 100 St Mary's L. **B** in Dec. Smaller flocks of 30-100 were noted in High (2) M&N (2), NE, P&K (4), Fife, Loth (2), Bord, Arg & Clyde.

**Mealy Redpoll** *Carduelis f. flammea*

The only mainland reports of Mealy Redpolls in the early part of the year were 6 at The Bell **L/B** 4 Feb and 2 Hopes **L** 12 Mar.

In N.Isles 2 winter records in Ork and 8 birds were seen on passage 29 Apr-4 Jun. I5 birds were reported **Shet** with 4 Helendale 25 May and 4 Haroldswick 27 May. 1-3 birds seen various dates **Fair Is** 3 May-9 Jun.

1 Fetlar **Shet** 20 Jul. **Ork** had 5 singles between 6 Jul and 9 Aug. Numbers began to appear in the N. Isles in Sep and Oct but the main arrivals were in Nov and continued through to early Dec. **Shet** peaks were 32 mid Yell 4 Nov, 50 Toab 12 Nov, 40 Quendale 14 Nov, 25 Baltasound, Unst 26 Nov-17 Dec and 35 Out Skerries 7 Dec. Fair Is peaked at 45 on 4Nov, 33 on 15 Nov and 38 on 8 Dec, in all 200 were estimated to pass through Fair Is in Nov and Dec. **Ork** had 34 North Ronaldsay on 4 Nov with max counts of 89 North Ronaldsay and 55 Wideford Burn 14 Nov, 80 Stronsay 15 Nov and several other counts of 50 birds. Numbers fell away until a new influx in Dec when 60 Hoy 4 Dec; 104 North Ronaldsay, 65 Stronsay & 60 Stenness on 8 Dec with 70 Burray on 15 Dec; most had departed by 18 Dec.

On the mainland Mealy Redpolls mixed with flocks of local Redpolls and were recorded in small numbers in Caith,High, M&N, A&D. Fife, Loth, Bord and Ayr. Most were in P&K and NE with 50 at Vane Farm **P&K** 10 Dec rising to 80 on 24 Dec and 12 Aberfeldy **P&K** 24 Dec rising to 90 on 28 Dec. 200 redpolls at Muir of Dinnet **NE** on 17&26 Dec were 'mostly mealies'.

Elsewhere 11 Barns Ness **L** on 11 Nov, 10 St Abbs **B** on 12 Nov, 36 Beneraid **Ayr** on 18 Nov, 25 Newmains **B** 20 Nov; 10 Scarff **M&N** 23-30 Dec and 20 Barry Buddon **A&D** 26 Dec.

1 **Fair Is** 9 Aug with another on 27 Aug-5 Sept were thought to be from the Greenland or Icelandic races *C.f. rostrata/islandica.*

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***Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni*

*There was an unprecedented influx of Arctic Redpolls into Britain coinciding with the mass arrival of the continental 'Mealy' Redpoll* C.f. flammea. *In Scotland this was largely restricted to the N.Isles and NE and involved c101 birds with 34 in Shetland & 40 in Orkney. Many of these would be of the Scandinavian subspecies* C.h. exilepes *and some birds would be very difficult to distinguish from pale Mealies.*

The table shows only minimum nos of new arrivals within each 10 day period according to the local bird reports and BBRC.

| Area | 1-10 Nov | 11-20 Nov | 21-30 Nov | 1-10 Dec | 11-20 Dec | 21-31 Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shetland** | 14 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| **FairIsle** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| **Orkne** | 1 | 14 | 1 | 21 | 4 | 0 |
| **Caithness** | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| M&N | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| **NorthEast** | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| **P&K** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |

*The arrival pattern matches that of the Mealy Redpolls with an influx in mid Nov and again in early-mid Dec. The late Dec birds in NE and P&K were inland, showing the onwards movement of the Mealy flocks. The first records for M&N and the 4th-9th records for NE.*

See Harrop (1996) *Birding World* 8: 422-423 for account of influx.

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**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

The low numbers of late 1994 continued into 1995, with early-year peaks of 100 Harperigg **L** & 20 Camilty Water **L** in Feb; 15 Garbethill **Clyde**, 30 Dunkeld **P&K**, 25 Bowmont Forest **B** in Mar and 10 Harran Hill Wood **F** in Apr. These low numbers were attributed to a very poor cone crop in **D&G.**

Reports of breeding behaviour included 2 prs Strathella, Farnell **A&D** in Feb, family party of 6 Dervaig, Mull **Arg** in Jun and a family party of 6 **Taynish** NNR **Arg** in Jul.

Low numbers continued in the 2nd half of the year with few large flocks. Counts include 40 Dunkeld P&K in Jun; 34 West Cairns Plantation **L** &10 Pearie Law **L** in Oct; 10 Carron Valley **Forth/Clyde** & 28 Glenafton **Ayr** in Nov; 10 Kilmacolm Clyde & 28 Cloich Forest **B** in Dec.

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***Scottish Crossbill** *foxia scotica*

**High** 19 Strath Uilie 12 Mar and birds recorded at 7 sites with juvs Glen Feshie & Clashmore; **M&N** 2 Lossie Forest 12 Mar, 5 Sluie 13 Jun and 2 Cloddymoss 19 Nov were the only records attributable to this species; **NE** 2 flocks of 12 and 15 Glen Tanar 16 Apr with 2 flocks of 20 and 30 othere on 5 Nov.

**Arg** *A review by Argyll Records Committee has concluded that this specieshas never been reliably recorded in the area.*

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***Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

*c96-100 in the spring, c55 in autumn.*

First 1 **Fair Is** 4-11 May was well in advance of a near-record spring influx which was, as usual, mostly confined to the in N.Isles. 1 Eigg **H** 21 May.

Definite influx 24 May when 5 Shet, 2 Fair Is and 2 Ork.. Birds filtered in over the next two weeks to the N.Isles, max 7 Whalsay **Shet** & 5 Stronsay **Ork** 26 May; record 17 Fair Is and 6 Whalsay 31 May. Mostly 1-2 birds but 3 Halligarth **Shet** 26 May, 4 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 1-2 Jun & 3 Fetlar **Shet** 6 Jun. On mainland ,singles Girdleness **NE** 27 May and Seacliff **L** 9 Jun.

Last Ork 6 Jun, Shet 14 Jun & Fair Is 21 Jun.

*c*50 Shet, *c*31 Fair Is & *c*16 Ork. Photo: Birding World 8: 210.

Breeding: 1st-s m, imm f and ad m Kinlochbervie **H** 26 May-3 Jun, 1st-s m Scourie **I&R** 24-25 Jun.

*Midsummer records in the Highlands may indicate possible breeding attempts.*

First 1 on boat 17 miles of Muckle Flugga Shet & 2 Fair Is 12 Aug ; 1 Stronsay **Ork** 19 Aug. 1 Fetlar 30 Aug. Small influx 1-15 Sep when 1-4 daily Fair Is, 15 Shet, & 5 Ork; including 3 Foula **Shet** 9 Sep. On mainland a single Tarbatness **H** 8 Sep. Further trickle of birds N.Isles to end Sep , included last Fair Is 16 Sep, 9 more in Shet and 9 on Ork, all parties of 1-2 birds. On mainland 1 St Abbs **B** 19-20 Sep. Last 1 N.Ronaldsay on 1 Oct and 1-2 Whalsay 1-6 Oct. 1 North Locheynort, S.Uist **OH** 5 Oct and singles Foula 16 & 22 Oct.

*3rd record for Lothian, 4th record for Borders.*

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**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhulla*

Breeding: **High** 14prs bred Eigg (12), 2prs Insh: **A&D** 2prs L. of Kinnordy; **Loth** 4prs Roslin Glen; **Arg** pr bred Taynish; **Clyde** 3prs Baron's Haugh (3).

Largest flocks: 29 Fathie **H** & 24 Blackwater Res. **A&D** in Jan; 20 Glen Tanar **NE** & 20 Benrig **B** in Feb. Then 40 Aulthuish **M&N** and 22 Carrick Hills **Ayr** in Nov; 40 East Lomond **F**, 30 Dinnet **NE** , 22 Monadh Mor **H** & 20 Millbuie Forest **H** in Dec.

Up to 5 remained in Lerwick **Shet** from 1994 with a few groups of 1-3 remaining on islands until 30 May. Small groups of 1-6 were widespread on **Ork** in Jan-Mar with peak 16 Kirkwall 11 Feb. Numbers fell in Apr and May with last birds 11-12 Jun on Hoy. Many of these birds were remanants of the late 1994 inavasion of northern race birds *P.pyrrhula.*

Much scarcer in the autumn with 6 Shet, 1 Fair Is & 10 Ork during Nov- Dec .

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**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

12 Scone Palace **P&K** 16 Jan; 1 Tankerness **Ork** 9 Feb; 3 Camperdown Park **A&D** 12 Feb; 1 Westhill **NE** on 8 Mar; 1Fair Is 22 Apr 1 St Mary's, Holm **Ork** 24 Apr; 1 Reay **Caith** 25 Apr; 1Skateraw **L** 27 Apr, 1 Muckle Roe **Shet** 1 May. 1 Melvich **H** 5 Oct.

Most reports came from **Bord** where seen Monteviot Jan-May & Dec with max 6 on 15 Mar and 5 on 19 Apr; 3m Floors Castle 15 Apr & 1 May and ad +juv 24 Jun; 2 Hirsel 7 Feb and 1 St Abbs 10 Sep.

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***Tennessee Warbler** *Vermivora peregrina*

1 Hirta. St Kilda **OH** 20 Sep.

*The 1st record for the Outer Hebrides and the 4th for Scotland and Britain. Previous records were Fair Isle 6-20 Sep & 24 Sep 1975 and Holm, Ork 5~7 Sep 1982.*

*Yellow-rumped Warbler*
*Peter Donnelly*
*Winner of Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report from Orkney Bird Report 1995*

***Yellow rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata*
1st-w North Ronaldsay **Ork** 13 Oct.
*The first record for Orkney and the 3rd for Scotland.*
Photo in *Birding World* 8: 411.
*Previous records were at Fair Isle 18 May 1977 and at Newton, N.Uist OHeb 22-23 October 1982.*

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponica*
*Extremely poor winter.*
1 Eyemouth **B** 28 Jan and 2 Musselburgh L 8 Mar, possibly the same 2 at Cockenzie **L** 11 Mar; singles N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 12 Apr, 4 & 23 May with 1-3 **Fair Is** 13 Apr-24 May; 1 Northdale. Unst **Shet** 13 May.
Breeding: 1m present in upland area **NE** in June.
First 1 Fair Is 27 Aug, then daily there until 21 Oct; 1N.Ronaldsay 30-31 Aug with another 3 Sep; 8-9 Fair Is on 7 days in Sep; 2 Scatness **Shet** 7 Sep. Then further singles Shet (2) & Ork (5) to end-Sep with max 6 N.Ronaldsay 13 Sep. Elsewhere singles Barns Ness **L** 11 Sep & Baleshare, N.Uist **OH** 22 Sep.
In Oct 8 birds **Shet**, max 3 Lambaness 6-7 Oct; 9 birds Ork, max 3 N.Ronaldsay 13 Oct. Elsewhere 1-2 birds St Kilda **OH** on 9 days 20 Oct-10 Nov ; 1 N. Berwick **L** 13 Oct, 2 St Abbs **B** 21 Oct and 1 Montrose Basin **A&D** 29 Oct.
Later in year just 2 between Fraserburgh and Rosehearty **NE** 30 Dec.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*
Relatively low numbers Jan-Mar with few large flocks, even in north: 120 Foveran **NE**, 86 Whiteness Head **H**, 56 Delnies **M&N**, 50 Greenland Links **Caith**, 40 Conag Craig **Caith** & 30 Nick 0' Balloch **Ayr** in Jan; 50 Nairn Beach **M&N**, 45 L. Heilen **Caith**, 35 Hunda **Ork** and 30 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** in Feb; 30 Marwick Head **Ork** in Mar.
Flocks of 10-30 were recorded in High, M&N, NE, Fife, Loth (2) and D&G.
Passage was marked on **Fair Is** with birds present from Jan but 38 on 19 Apr, 56 on 20 Apr, 20 on 27 Apr and 26 on 29 Apr. 20 N.Ronaldsay 8 Apr was the highest passage count elsewhere in the N.Isles.
40 Ben Dearg **H** & 20 Ben Wyvis **H** 8 Apr were probably also passage birds.
Breeding: **High** 12 prs (15) in the Cairngorms study area, represents a slight drop in numbers f+2 fledged juvs in nearby Glen Affric hills 12 Jul ; **NE** birds seen at 4 sites with 1 confirmed breeding.
First return migrants: 1 Girdleness **NE** 5 Sep; 1 Yesnaby, Sandwick **Ork** 6 Sep, 1 Fair Is 14 Sep & 2 Foula **Shet** 18 Sep. Mostly N.Isles during Sep/Oct, with best counts: 25 Crussa Field, Unst **Shet** 7 Oct, 49 N.Ronaldsay 12 Oct, 40 Papa Westray **Ork** 14 Oct & max 45 Fair Is 29 Oct.
Best Nov-Dec counts were all came from the north, with birds very scarce further south: 215 N.Ronaldsay, 200 Ardivachar, S.Uist **OH**, 200 Haroldswick **Shet**, 185 Fair Is, 170 St Margaret's Hope **Ork**, 120 Stronsay **Ork** & 100 Sandwick **Ork** in Nov; 200 Vensilly Hill, S. Ronaldsay **Ork**, 90 Scatness Shet, 72 Nairn Bar **M&N** and 71 Langside **NE** in Dec.
Flocks of >20 were noted in Shet (3), Ork ("several"), Caith, M&N (2), OHeb (2), Loth and Clyde. 30 Duncryne **Clyde** & 26 Aberlady **L** in Nov was the highest count in the south. Indeed only 26 birds, at 5 sites, appear to have been recorded in southern and central Scotland in Dec.

**Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*
1 m N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 17 Jun; 1 m **Fair Is** 29 Oct was a probable hybrid Pine Bunting x Yellowhammer.
*11th record for Orkney.*

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*
Large flocks: 220 Brotherstone **B**, 205 Waulkmill **A&D** & 200 Howford **M&N** in Jan; 125 GartmornDam **Forth** 118 Menstrie **Forth** & 106 Caerlaverock **D&G** in Feb, and 200 Caracary Farm, Farrel **A&D in** Mar were the only flocks >100 birds. Flocks of 40-100 were reported from High. M&N, A&D (3), Fife (2), Loth (2), Bord and Ayr.
Passage was very light in N.Isles, as usual, with 2 records Shet, 3 Fair Is and 3 Ork.
Breeding: **NE** 1m Crimonmogate (15 mm in 1984); **P&K** 11 prs VaneFarm (11), continues to decline sharply in northern areas; **Fife** autumn flocks suggest good season; **Bord** 4-5prs St Abbs (6-7); **Arg** 'healthy' numbers in N.Jura **Clyde** 6prs Merryton (14); **Ayr** 27prs Mauchline, 14prs Springside-Knockbentier (16). Single records Shet, Fair Is (3) and Ork .
Winter counts: 120 Faughill **B**, 112 Kincraig Pt. **F** and 112 Arnieve **Forth** in Dec were the only counts >100 birds. Elsewhere biggest flocks were : Caith 25, High 80, M&N 90, NE 50, P&K 33, Arg 20, Loth 70, Clyde 56 and Ayr 35.

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**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*
*1 in spring and an excellent 37 in autumn, as usual almosy wholly confined to the N.Isles.*
1 **Fair Is** 1 May was the sole spring record.
First autumn singles Fair Is 6 Sep; N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 8 Sep; Fetlar **Shet** & Foula **Shet** 9 Sep; Stronsay **Ork** and another Fetlar 10 Sep. 4-5 seen daily Fair Is until 18 Sep peaking with 7 on 13 Sep. Also 11 **Shet** to 20 Sep, max 2 Out Skerries on 12 Sep and c7 Ork, max 5 N.Ronaldsay 14 Sep.
On mainland, 1 Mains of Usan **A&D** and 1Fife Ness **F** 9 Sep. Late singles Out Skerries 6 Oct and Fair Is on 13 Oct & 26-27 Oct.
*The 2nd for Angus & Dundee and the 3rd for Fife.*

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**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*
*5 in spring, 5 in autumn*
1 **Fair Is** 29-30 May with 2mm there 30 May-1 Jun; 1m N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 2 Jun and another 1m on 26 Jun.
Singles Out Skerries **Shet** 15 Sep, N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 18-19 Sep; Northdale, Unst **Shet** 1 Oct, Fair Is 2-4 Oct and 8-10 Oct.

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**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pus illa*
*1 in spring, 27 in autumn, all in N. Isles.*
1 f L.Ruthven **H** 15 Apr. was the only spring record.
1 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 5-9 Sep with another there & 1 Out Skerries **Shet** 8 Sep, singles Toab **Shet** & **Fair Is** 9 Sep, Foula **Shet** & Fetlar **Shet** 11 Sep; Hamster, Whalsay **Shet** 12 Sep; Out Skerries 15 Sep. 1-3 present Fair Is. 13-17 Sep.
Interval until next influx when singles Whalsay **Shet** 2-7 Oct and 3 different birds there 3 , 6 Oct & 7-8 Oct, further singles Fair Is on 6 Oct, 21 Oct and 29 Oct. Last 1 L. of Wasdale, Firth **Ork** 1-2 Nov.

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**Yellow breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*
*8 autumn records, as usual all in N. Isles.*
Singles **Fair Is** 6 Sep; Gletness **Shet** 7 Sep, Out Skerries **Shet** 7-8 Sep; 2 Fair Is 8 Sep with 1 staying to 10 Sep; singles Foula **Shet** 9-16 Sep, another Fair Is 10-19 Sep; and another Foula 13-14 Sep.

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**Black headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*
1st-w Cunningsburgh **Shet** 3-18 Oct.
*12th record for Shetland.*
**[1994]** 1 Durness **H** 30 Jul.

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***Reed Bunting***
***Andrew Stevenson***
***from Ayrshire Bird Report 1995***

**Reed Bunting** *EmberLa schoeniclus*

100 L. Gruinart, Islay **Arg** in Jan was the only large flock reported. 20-5O birds noted only in Ork, M&N, NE, Clyde and Ayr.

Passage more marked than 1994 with 28 N.Ronaldsay **Ork** 11 Apr and peak 6 **Fair Is** 11 May. Just 1-2 birds Shet at 10 sites.

Breeding: **Shet** 7 prs at 3 sites; **Caith** 20 prs along 3.7km of Wick River; **High** 64 prs Insh Marshes (44); **P&K** 13prs Vane Farm (11); **Fife** 18prs Eden Est.; **Loth** 41-43 Aberlady (50); **Bord** 2prs St Abbs (4); **Arg** 9prs L. Gruinart, Islay (5); **Clyde** 6-7prs Baron's Haugh (10).

Passage N.Isles peaked Oct /Nov with 7 Whalsay **Shet** 2 Oct, 15 Fair Is 15 Oct, max 35 N.Ronaldsay 19 Oct, . Elsewhere little sign of passage except 5 St Abbs on 20 Sep; 14 Dunnet Head **Caith** 14 Oct. Passage may be unobtrusive however as 82 individuals were ringed Easter Inch Moss **L** 25 Jul-26 Nov.

120 Ester Inch Moss & 50 Blackstoun Farm **Clyde** in Dec were the only large winter flocks.

Flocks of 20-50 birds were reported only from Ork, A&D, Fife (2), Ayr and Bord.

**Corn Bunting** *Milaria calandra*

Breeding: **Ork** 3 sites but only one singing m on Burray; **High** 6 birds at 5 sites; **M&N** 22-23 mm at 12 sites; **A&D** I5mm at 9 sites but may still be contracting breeding range; **Fife** 120 singing mm, mostly in E. Fife, but just remnant in Dunshalt area; **Forth** 1m Powfoulis; **Arg** 6-10 terrs Tiree, a continued decline from 85 in 1977 & 34 in 1987; **Loth** 4 singing mm at 3 sites; **Bord** 3 sites with a rare inland record; **D&G** 3 sites.

Usual winter flocks scarce but best were 85 Mintlaw **NE** ,58 Shell Bay **F** & 27 Seafield, Auchmithie **A&D** in Jan; 39 Ruddon's Point **F** in Feb; 78 Drakemyre **NE**, 40 Mains of Usan **A&D**, 23 Leuchars **F** , 23 Fife Ness **F** & 21 Bowhouse Farm, Dunshalt **F** in Mar; 40 Thirdpart **F** in Apr; 35 Fife Ness and 24 Muchalls **NE** in Aug; 32 Balcomie Farm **F** in Sep; 45 Balranald, N.Uist **OH** & 30 Clochan **M&N** in Nov.

1 Ladykirk **Ayr** in Dec was the only area record for the year. No records Shet, Caith & Clyde and few records Ork (*c* 8), Forth (1), Loth (3) & Bord (6).

*The Corn Bunting is still in an apparent decline. Fife, Angus, the Buchan farmlands and Moray & Nairn remain the strongholds on the mainland.*

***Corncrake***
***Margret Staley***
***Short-listed for Best Artwork in a Scottish Local Bird Report Argyll Bird Report***

## Escapes and Introductions

A fuller account of all such birds will be made in each Scottish Bird Report in future. Observers are requested to include all records of such birds. Escapes amongst birds that occur in the wild are dealt with in the main species accounts.

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*
1ad f Inner Solway from 1 Aug , later at L.Ken **D&G** 18 Dec and Castle Douglas **D&G** 23 Dec when taken into care. Died next day. A fish hook and fish was found to be blocking its stomach. This bird had moved north from Kent to Cumbria through 1995, possibly originating from the Netherlands.
Skin now in Nation Museum of Scotland, NMSZ 1996.51.
Photo: *Birding World* 8: 289 when seen in Cumbria.

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*
1Nairn Bar **M&N** 19 Mar-27 Apr.
*First report from M&N, unringed and very wary.*

**Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis*
1 L.Gelly **F** 28 May, Musselburgh **L** 3 Jun, L.Gelly 4 Jun, then Eden Est. **F** 15 Jun & Birnie L. **F** in Jun/Jul.

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*
1 Lochore Meadows **F** 28-31 Jan, 12 Feb &12 Mar; pr Caerlaverock **D&G** 4-11th Mar; 1 St.John's L. **Caith** 30 Mar and Charleston to 19 Apr, later at Skitten 11 May & L.Watten 28 May; 1 Beauly Firth **H** 17 Apr; 1 Liddel L., S.Ronaldsay **Ork** mid-Apr, present at Echnaloch to end of year; 3 Longman/ Ness Mouth **H** 26 Apr-14 May with 1 there 22 Jul & 12 Aug; 1 Balvicar Bay **Arg** on 6 Jun; 1 Tyninghame **L** 10-11 Jun, 1N Aberlady **L** 14 jun; 3 Alturlie **H** throughout Sep; 1 Munlochy Bay **H** on 11 Sep; 1 Shewalton **Ayr** 18-29 Sep; 1 Bogside **Ayr** on 7 Oct; 1 Musselburgh **L** 8-9 Oct; 1 Threave **D&G** 19 Oct-17 Nov; 1 L.Ken **D&G** 20 Oct; 1 Tyninghame 23 Oct-31 Dec; 1 Mersehead **D&G** 21-23 Nov; 1 Caerlaverock on 25 Nov; 1 Muirtown **H** 2 Dec; 1 S.Kessock **H** 10 Dec.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
1 Rhynie, L.Eye **H** 1 May.

**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*
Singles Musselburgh **L** 13&18 Mar; Ruthwell **D&G** 23 Mar; Shapinsay **Ork** 9 Apr-11 Nov; Hill of Rattnar **Caith** 24 Apr, probably same bird L.Heilen 27 May & 3 Jun; Irvine Beach **Ayr** 3 May-5 Jun; Lochore Meadows **F** 21-22 Jun & 25 Jul; Kilconquhar L. **F** 12 Sep.

**Emporor Goose** *Anser canagicus*
Ad Fairlie **Ayr** all year; ad Tarbolton **Ayr** 5 Feb-16 Apr; 1 Saltcoats **Ayr** 12 Sep.

**Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*
1 Ythan Est. **NE** 18-19 May had metal ring.

**Maned Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*
F Irvine **Ayr** 1 Dec & Blairbowie **Ayr** 4 Dec.

**Cape Shelduck** *Tadorna cana*
1 Mersehead **D&G** for much of year.

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*
1 Howden Burn, Selkirk **B** 30 Dec 1994-3 Jan.

**Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix*
1m Greenan L., Bute **Clyde Is** 1-8 Oct.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*
1 ringed adult Skateraw **L** 9 Sep-5 Nov before moving to Pease Bay **B** into 1996.

**Reeves Pheasant** *Symarticus reevesii*
1 Pluscarden **M&N** 25 Feb was an escape or release.

**Bobwhite** *Colinus virginianus*
Several released Brora **H** in summer.

**Guinea Fowl** *Numida meleagris*
5 Kippenross **Forth** 12 Mar.

**Barbary Dove** *Streptopelia 'risoria'*
1 Crosshill **Ayr** from 1992-end Dec 1995.

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*
1 Lennoxtown **Clyde** 9 May; remains found in Peregrine eyrie at Farr **H** 13 Jun; 1 **Is of May** 30 Jun.

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*
1 Forres **M&N** 23 Jun; 1 Methil **F** 8 Jul; 1 Perth **P&K** 22 Aug; 1 Airthrey **Forth** 13 Sep; 1 Paisley **Clyde** 19 Sep with another there 26 Dec.

**African Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*
2 Chesters **B** 15 Jan; 1 Elgin **M&N** 26-29 Jun.

**Green-winged Macaw** *Ara chloroptera*
2 Fatlips Castle **B** 15 Jan.

**Eagle Owl** *Bubo bubo*
**[1984]** Pr un-named Moray **M&N** site, laid but failed.
**[1985]** pr at new nest, a few kilometres away from 1984 site. 4 eggs laid and 1 chick successfully reared. Ad m found dead, a road casualty, in Sep.
**[1986-95]** Single ad f continued to haunt the area and attempted to nest in 1986-87, 1989-92 & 1994, sometimes laying up to 3 infertile eggs. Still calling in Dec 1995.
See Dennis & Cook (1996) *Moray & Nairn Bird Report 1995*: 79-80 for fuller account.

**Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
1 Glencaple **D&G** 26 Jul.

**Kessler's Thrush** *Turdus kessleri*
1 Muirshiel Country Park **Clyde** 2-23 May.
Photo: *Birding World* 8: 210.

**Long-tailed Rosefinch** *Uragus sibiricus*
1 ad m Drums **NE** 4 May.

**Indigo Finch** *Vidua chalybeata*
1 found dead Musselburgh **L** 7 Aug.

# The winter status of Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* in northern Scotland

by
Alan Vittery

In common with a number of warblers, such as the Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* and to a lesser extent, the Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, the Firecrest has extended its breeding range northwards during the middle part of the twentieth century, colonising parts of southern Britain in the early 1960s (Gibbons 1993), presumably from the near-continent.

The closer proximity of a breeding population to Scotland has resulted in a predictable upsurge in records north of the border since the first report in 1950. Spring migrants are still less than annual and autumn migrants, while more numerous, remain worthy of individual mention in the *Scottish Bird Report* (Figures 1 & 2).

The majority of the autumn migrants typically occur in late autumn during October and early November (Figure 3).

Firecrests are not naturally long-distance migrants and may avoid long sea crossings.

The meagre ringing data suggests that northernmost breeders migrate furthest, some reaching the extreme south of the winter range in North Africa. Continental populations move shorter distances to coastal areas or low-lying valleys in winter There is a marked westward shift to the west coast of France in late September, where the species is not known to breed (*Birds of the Western Palearctic*).

*Figure 1. Spring records of Firecrest in Scotland*

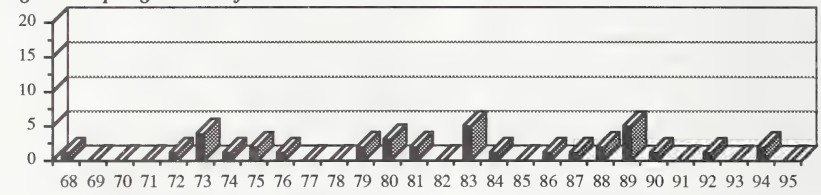



*Figure 2. Autumn records of Firecrest in Scotland*

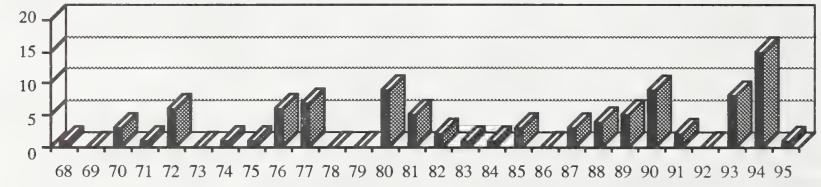
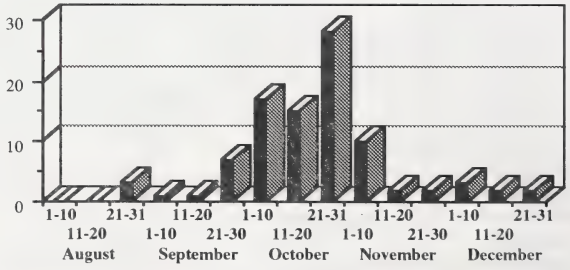



*Figure 3. Arrival dates for autumn/winter Firecrest in Scotland 1968-95*



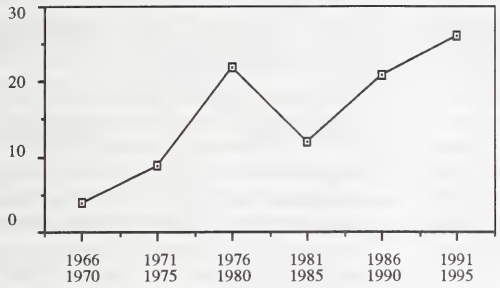



*Figure 4.*
*5-year totals for autumn*
*Firecrest in Scotland*

The numbers of Firecrests recorded in Scotland in the autumn has generally increased since the 1960s in line with the increase in numbers seen elsewhere in Britain (Figure 4).

British breeding territories are vacated during the winter and as it is not known whether British birds remain in the British Isles or go elsewhere. The late migrants probably account for most of the (doubtless under-estimated) numbers of wintering birds in southern Britain, which are presumed to arrive via the English Channel and the southern North Sea. Most remain near the south and west coasts, as far north as North Wales. This winter distribution pattern has remained more or less unchanged since the 1940s, although numbers may well have increased.

Northwards movement through the British Isles in autumn, possibly bolstered by an increasing number of random dispersants from northern Continental and British breeding sites, may account for some of the birds reaching Scotland, but it is perhaps significant that, in bumper years, all but a handful of the late autumn records are from the east coast or the Northern Isles, suggesting a more direct arrival involving a longer crossing of the North Sea. However, the only direct evidence as to the origins of any bird reaching northern Scotland is of one ringed in Holme, Norfolk in October 1975, (possibly a continental migrant) which was found dead in Wick, Caithness the following February (see Table 1).

**TABLE 1: Winter Firecrests in northern Scotland**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1972/73 | 7 Dec-6 Mar<br>14 Dec-mid-Feb | Thurso, Caithness<br>Lothmore, E.Sutherland | 1 bird<br>4-5 in mature gorse, visiting nearby rural gardens |
| 1974/75 | 7-22 Nov<br>through Jan | Wick, Caithness<br>Wick | 1 late migrant lingering into winter period.<br>2 birds |
| 1975/76 | 11 Feb | Wick | 1 found dying, ringed Holme, Norfolk 13 Oct |
| 1979-80 | 27 Jan | Melvich, N.Sutherland | 1 trapped in rural garden |
| 1983/84 | 28 Dec-2 Jan | Lewis, Outer Hebrides | 1 bird |
| 1987/88 | 25 Oct-20 Mar | Kyle of Durness, Sutherland | 1 on vegetated cliff with mostly deciduous scrub. |
| 1989/90 | 28 Dec<br>28 Jan-10 Mar | Isle of Eigg<br>Melvich, Sutherland | 1 bird killed by cat<br>1 bird mainly in mature gorse |

Firecrests have hitherto been regarded as 'exceptional' in winter north of south-east Scotland (Lack 1986). Despite the much larger number of observers south of the Highlands, there are only six published winter records (late November to early March) in the southern half of Scotland between 1968/69 and 1995/96. Yet birds have been found in northern coastal areas in seven of the last twenty-five winters . On the face of it, this may not seem to provide compelling evidence for regular wintering but, given the unobtrusive nature of the species, its preference for dense scrub in winter and the very small number of resident bird-watchers in the far north of Scotland, I suspect that it does.

It is, I suggest, very significant that the four reports of wintering birds in Sutherland all come from the vicinity of resident birdwatchers' homes. How many remain unsuspected in the numerous equally suitable areas where there are no bird-watchers? At the very least, the winter status of the Firecrest should be up-graded from "exceptional" to "occasional".

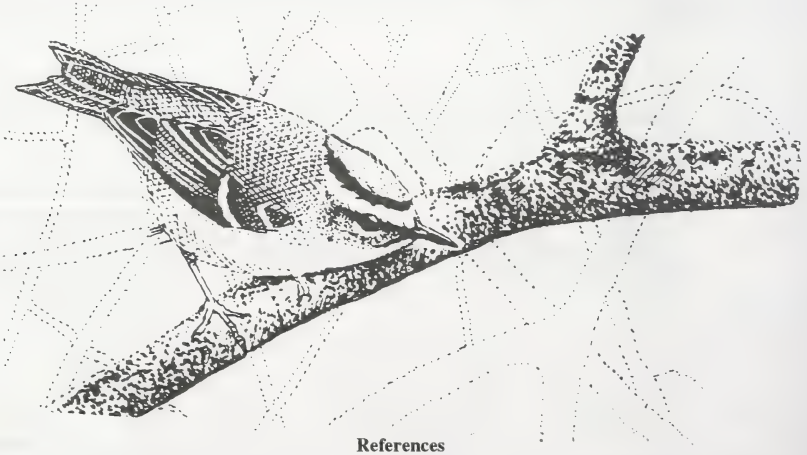
One possibly interesting feature of the records in Table 1, as far as the details are available, is that none of the wintering birds was found associating with mixed bird parties.

It is not too surprising, given the very small numbers of birds so far found in Scotland, that, with the notable exception of 1972/73, there is no correlation between 'bumper' autumns (such as 1972, 1980, 1990 and 1994) and the discovery of wintering birds. Some of those wintering in the far north may well be birds reorientating from the Northern Isles and encountering the first suitable wintering habitat as they continue their migration southwestwards.

Of the regular migrant songbirds, only the Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* has so far demonstrated a tendency for consistent northward dispersal in winter. In Sutherland and Caithness it is an annual winter visitor to coastal towns and villages. Numbers vary from year to year, probably mainly in relation to late autumn weather conditions on the continent. (Ringing returns indicate that most of the Blackcaps wintering in northern Scotland are from the central continent and not, as logic would suggest, from the north-eastern extremity of the species' breeding range in Scandinavia.)

As regular visitors to gardens, Blackcaps are far more likely to be seen than Firecrests, yet there seem to be striking parallels in the movements of the continental populations of the two species. More intensive searching of mixed woodland and scrub in coastal areas of the far north (and perhaps elsewhere in Scotland) may well show that the Firecrest could be almost as regular in its occurrence, albeit probably in smaller numbers.

This paper serves to alert observers to this possibility and to encourage a more systematic examination of suitable habitats throughout Scotland, but particularly in the north, at a time of year when they are most likely to be neglected.



*Firecrest*
*Steven Brown*

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**References**

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Gibbons, D., Reid, J.B. & Chapman R.A. (1993) The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland. BTO, Poyser.

**Alan Vittery, 164 West Clyne, Brora, Sutherland, KW9 6NH**

## LOCAL BIRD REPORT AREAS, SOC RECORDERS and LOCAL BIRD REPORTS

The areas listed below in bold capitals are the areas referred to throughout the systematic list. The number assigned to each recording area is in reference to this map. The fullest details for most areas are available in the Local Bird Report, listed below.

| Map | Recording Area | Local Recorder | Local Bird Report |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **SHETLAND**<br>Shetland Islands, except Fair Isle | Kevin Osborn<br>20 Nederdale, Lerwick<br>Shetland ZE1 0SA | ***Shetland Bird Report***<br>Ian Sandison<br>9 Burnside, Lerwick |
| 2 | **FAIR ISLE** | The Warden<br>Bird Observatory, Fair Isle,<br>Shetland ZE2 9JU | ***Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report***<br>Fair Isle<br>Shetland ZE2 9JU |
| 3 | **ORKNEY**<br>Orkney Islands | Chris Booth<br>34 High Street, Kirkwall,<br>Orkney KW15 1AZ | ***Orkney Bird Report***<br>Mildred Cuthbert<br>Vishabrack, Evie, Orkney. |
| 4 | **OUTER HEBRIDES**<br>Western Isles | Brian Rabbitts<br>6 Carinish, Lochmaddy<br>North Uist, HS6 5HL | |
| 5 | **CAITHNESS**<br>former Caithness District of Highland | Peter Miller<br>10 Harrold Cottages<br>Reiss, Wick, Caithness KW1 4RU | ***Caithness Bird Report***<br>Julian Smith<br>St.John, Broch, Dunnet, Caithness |
| 6 | **HIGHLAND**<br>excluding former Districts of Caithness and Nairn | Colin Crooke<br>6 George Street<br>Avoch, Rosshire IV9 8PU | ***Highland Bird Report***<br>(from Recorder) |
| 7 | **MORAY & NAIRN**<br>Moray and Nairn | Martin Cook<br>Rowanbrae, Clochan<br>Buckie, Banffshire AB56 5EQ | ***Moray & Nairn Bird Report***<br>(from Recorder) |
| 8 | **NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND**<br>Aberdeenshire and City of Aberdeen | Andy Thorpe & Andy Webb<br>30 Monearn Gardens<br>Milltimber, Aberdeen<br>Grampian AB1 0EA | ***North-east Scotland Bird Report***<br>Dave Gill<br>Drakemyre Croft, Cairnorrie,<br>Methlick, Aberdeenshire AB41 0JN |
| 9 | **ANGUS & DUNDEE**<br>Angus and City of Dundee | Mike Nicoll<br>Natural History Museum<br>Barrack Street<br>Dundee DD1 1PG | ***Angus & Dundee Bird Report***<br>(from Recorder) |
| 10 | **PERTH & KINROSS**<br>Perth & Kinross | Ron Youngman<br>Atholl Bank, East Moulin Road,<br>Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5HY | |
| 11 | **FIFE**<br>Mainland, Inchkeith, Inchcolm and small islands, but excluding the Isle of May | Douglas Dickson<br>2 Burrelton Court, Glenrothes<br>Fife KY7 4UN | ***Fife Bird Report***<br>(from Recorder) |
| 12 | **ISLE OF MAY** | Ian Darling<br>579 Lanark Road West<br>Edinburgh EH14 7BL | ***Isle of May Bird Observatory Report***<br>(from Recorder) |

| Map | Recording Area | Local Recorder | Local Bird Report |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | **FORTH**<br>Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, and Stirling (Forth drainage part) | Dr.Cliff Henty<br>7B Coneyhill Road,<br>Bridge of Allan<br>Stirlingshire FK9 4EL | in ***Forth Naturalist & Historian***<br>L. Corbett, University Library<br>University of Stirling,<br>Stirling FK9 4LA |
| 14 | **ARGYLL**<br>Argyll & Bute -except Isle of Bute and former W.Dunbartonshire | Paul Daw<br>Tigh-na-Tulloch, Tullochgorm<br>Minard, Argyll PA32 8YQ | ***Argyll Bird Report***<br>Nigel Scriven, Ardentinny Centre<br>Ardentinny , Dunoon, Argyll |
| 15 | **CLYDE ISLANDS**<br>Arran, the Cumbraes and Bute | Bernard Zonfrillo<br>28 Brodie Road,<br>Glasgow G21 3SB | ***Clyde Islands Bird Report***<br>in ***Clyde Birds***<br>(see below) |
| 16 | **CLYDE** S.Lanarkshire, N.Lanarkshire, City of Glasgow E.Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire Inverclyde, E.Dunbartonshire, W.Dunbartonshire, Argyll & Bute (former Dunbartonshire area), Stirling (Clyde drainage) | Iain Gibson<br>8 Kenmure View, Howwood<br>Johnstone, Renfrewshire<br>PA9 1DR | ***Clyde Birds***<br>(from Recorder) |
| 17 | **AYRSHIRE**<br>S.Ayrshire, E.Ayrshire, N.Ayrshire (excluding Arran and the Cumbraes) | Angus Hogg<br>11 Kirkmichael Road, Crosshill<br>Maybole, Ayrshire KA19 7RJ | ***Ayrshire Bird Report***<br>(from Recorder) |
| 18 | **LOTHIAN**<br>City of Edinburgh, E.Lothian, Midlothian and W.Lothian | Ian Andrews<br>39 Clayknowes Drive, Musselburgh<br>Midlothian EH21 6UW | ***Lothian Bird Report***<br>Paul Speak, 49 Douglas Crescent<br>Longniddry, East Lothian EH31 0LH |
| 19 | **BORDERS**<br>Scottish Borders | Ray Murray<br>4 Bellfield Crescent, Eddleston,<br>Peebles EH45 8RQ | ***Borders Bird Report***<br>Michael Bickmore, Moss Side<br>Hartwoddburn, Selkirk, Borders TD75EY |
| 20 | **DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY**<br>former Nithsdale, Annandale & Eskdale | Steve Cooper<br>WWT Eastpark Farm<br>Caerlaverock, Dumfries DG1 4RS | |
| | former Stewartry & Wigtown | Paul Collin<br>Gairland, Old Edinburgh Road<br>Minnigaff, Newton Stewart<br>Wigtownshire DG8 6PL | ***Dumfries & Galloway Bird Report***<br>Joan Howie, 60 Main Street<br>St.John's Town of Dalry<br>Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire |

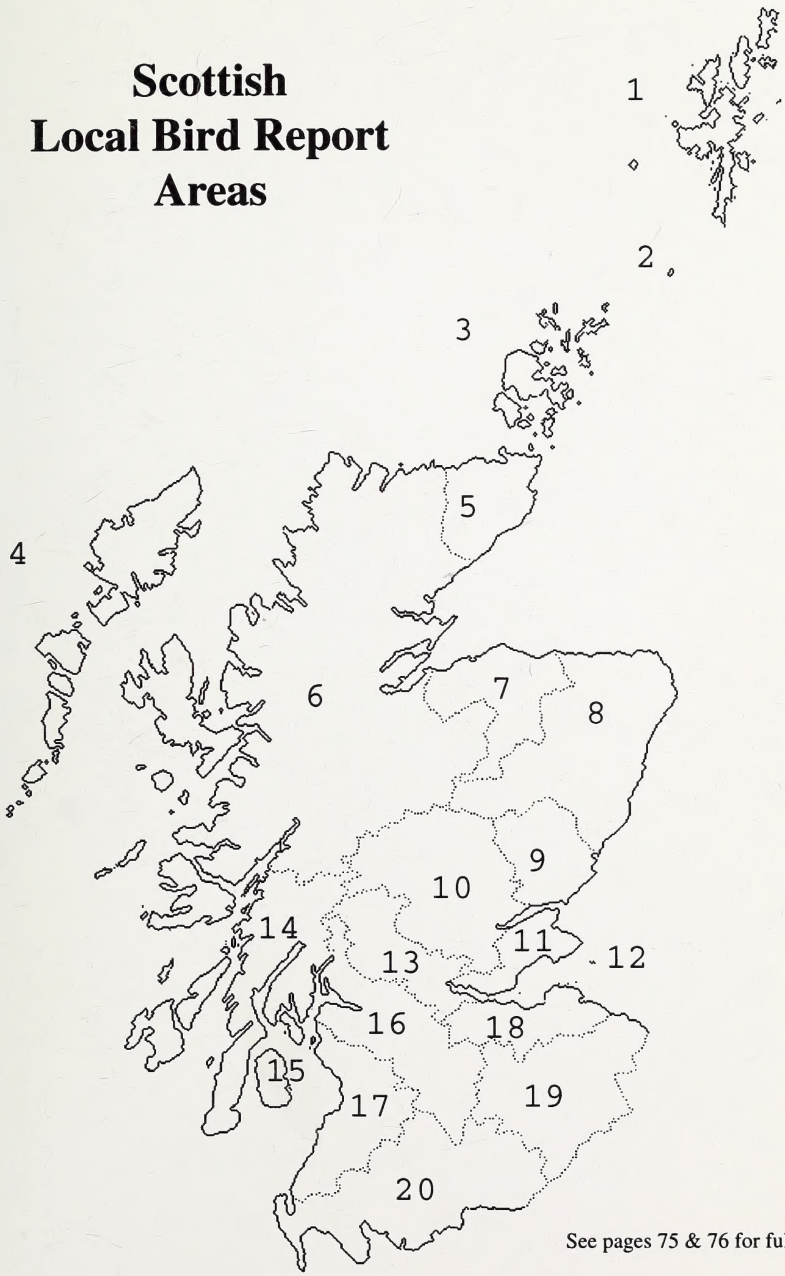
**Abbreviations for recording areas used in text:**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shet | Shetland | M&N | Moray & Nairn | B-Bord | Borders |
| Fair Is | Fair Isle | NE-NE Scot | North-east Scotland | Forth | Forth |
| Ork | Orkney | A&D | Angus & Dundee | Arg | Argyll |
| OH-OHeb | Outer Hebrides | P&K | Perth & Kinross | Clyde | Clyde |
| Caith | Caithness | F | Fife | Ayr | Ayrshire |
| High | Highland | L-Loth | Lothian | D&G | Dumfries & Galloway |

**Abbreviations in tables**: the data for recording areas has been combined as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| N.Isles | Shetland, Fair Isle & Orkney |
| W.Isles | Outer Hebrides |
| N.Scotland | Caithness & Highland |
| NE Scotland | Moray & Nairn, North-east Scotland |
| W.Scotland | Argyll, Arran & Bute |
| E/C Scotland | Angus & Dundee, Perth & Kinross, Forth & Fife |
| SE Scotland | Lothian & Borders |
| SW Scotland | Clyde, Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway |

# Scottish Local Bird Report Areas




See pages 75 & 76 for full details