

FORTH AREA BIRD REPORT 1992

C. J. Henty

University of Stirling

This report is compiled from a larger archive of records submitted to the local recorder under the national scheme organised by the Scottish Ornithologists Club (SOC). The Central Region area covered by the report comprises the Districts of Falkirk and Clackmannan together with Stirling District, but excluding Loch Lomondside and other parts of the Clyde drainage basin. Records from Carron Valley may be published both here and in the report on Clyde birds.

There have already been some changes in the known status of some species since the publication in volume 15 of this journal of the 'Check List of Birds of Central Scotland', which may be regarded as a supplement to the Birds chapter of the forthcoming book *Central Scotland - land, wildlife, people*. That Check List covers the whole area of the present Central Region hence is somewhat more extensive than the SOC reporting area of this Bird Report series.

Thus the first potentially breeding Nightjar for many years was heard in June in Loch Ard Forest whilst a small colony of Lesser Black-backed Gulls now breeds on buildings in Grangemouth and, in the same place, the Herring Gull may have reestablished itself as a breeding species. It is now clear that Eiders are much more regular visitors to our part of the Forth estuary than suggested previously.

There a few changes in presentation this year. There are some species where I have either received no records or cannot make any useful comment but birds have definitely been in the area in 1992 or can be presumed present; these species are now included in the main list with a brief editorial remark. The presentation of localities within the Carse of Stirling has been simplified : Drip Moss should be taken to include what might previously have been specified as Nyadd, Hill of Drip, Blackdub, Westwood and Chalmerston (Road) - this mainly applies to Whooper Swan where a group in the area may move around and split up. It is probably still useful for observers to refer to the detailed location.

The weather this year was not specially remarkable, May and June were warmer and dryer than usual but most of the rest of the year had very windy and unsettled weather. August, September and November were particularly wet and the total rainfall was close to the 20 year average. There were brief cold spells in mid and late January, mid February and mid March. Autumn was generally colder than usual with a spell of snow and frost before Christmas.

The drake American Wigeon at Gartmorn Dam at both ends of the year was an addition to the area list, subject to the decision of the British Birds Rarities Committee; another caution is that the bird could be an escape, a

possibility enhanced by the observation of one in eclipse on the Forth in August, which suggests that it may have hung around the area all year. Numbers of Black-tailed Godwits have been continued to be consistently high around Grangemouth for much of the year, however the autumn passage of the scarcer waders was generally poor. A January record of Quail at Kinneil was noteworthy. A new hazard for breeding grebes was noted with Coots taking the eggs of Little and Great Crested Grebes. Some comments on the abundance of common resident species have been made, quoting data on records per kilometre of transect or per hour, or % frequency out of all species recorded. For less common species I sometimes mention data in terms of the numbers of pairs or apparently occupied territories for particular locations. For many species the records sent in are very unrepresentative of their general distribution; this applies particularly to very common species or to those that are secretive or breed in inaccessible places. Readers can consult the the Check List, but in addition, as last year, I have put, after the species name, a coded summary of general distribution according to this scheme -

B - Breeding status, widespread (in more than five 10 km squares)

b - " " , local, scarce (in fewer than five 10 km squares)

W - Winter status, widespread or often in groups of more than ten.

w - ' , local, scarce (local and usually fewer than ten in a group)

P - Passage (used when species is usually absent in winter, *P* or *p* used for widespread or local as in winter status) *S* or *s* - Present in summer but do not normally breed.

Thus *BW* would be appropriate for Robin, *B* for Swallow, *p* for Ruff and *SW* for Cormorant. No status letter is used if a species occurs less than every other year. An asterisk (*) in front of the species name means that all records received have been quoted.

For several species of waders and duck more information has been received than can be sensibly reported in full detail. In these cases I have mentioned the more striking individual records and summarised the rest for each month or half-month as the minimum number of birds that can reasonably account for the records; this means adding up the maximum numbers recorded for what I take to be distinct localities. These Area summaries clearly have limitations, underestimating when an important locality has not been visited and overestimating if the same flock has been reported from two places that I have assumed to be separate; however, this is the best way of giving a more systematic description of the seasonal pattern of occurrence.

The following abbreviations have been used : AoT - apparently occupied territory, BoA - Bridge of Allan, c/n - clutch of n eggs, CP - Country Park, GP - gravel pit, juv - juvenile, L. - Loch, NR - Nature Reserve, Res - Reservoir, WG - Wildlife Garden, Y - young.

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Henty, J. G. Harrison, A. Knight, D. McEwen, J. T. McEwen, A. Maciver, G. Owens, S. Sankey, J. Sankey, R. Shand, M. Steward, B. R. Thomson, D. Thorogood, M. Trubridge, J. Wheeler.

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

Codes - F and C indicate records from Falkirk and Clackmannan Districts S and SWP those from one time Stirlingshire and southwest Perthshire parts of Stirling District.

*RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* (b,w)

1 Loch A 11 July; Pair Loch E, reared 1 young from c/2 (MT).

*BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* (b)

2 Loch A 25 April, 1 on 1 July and adult with juv on 5 September.
Pair reared 1 young on Loch F (MT).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (B,w)

F 1 Skinflats Pools 20 February, 13 September to 17 October (AB GO).

C 9 pairs Gartmorn but only 2 broods (3 young) reared, many pairs recycled 3 times and failed due to Coot predation (MC).

S At Airthrey 1 on 14 January, 6 by 18 February; 5 pairs nested late and only 4+1 fledged - worst in six years (MVB); 9 still there 17 October and 3 on 21 November but none on 12 December (SH). 1 Cocksburn Res 28 July (CJH).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* (b,W)

F Kinneil: 21 on Mar 3, 2 on 10 May (DT). 18 on 18 July & 120 on 29th, 100 on 21 August & 110 on 23rd, 108 on 13 September & 56 on 21st, 222 on 12 December (AB MVB DMB HEMD CJH DT). 26 Skinflats 19 January & 5 on 23 September (AB MVB).

C Gartmorn Dam : 2 on 19 January, 2 pairs attempted to breed but were predated by Coot (MC). 2 on Forth at Cambus 2 April (CJH).

S 4 Carron Valley Res 9 April (LLBR).

SWP 11 Lake of Menteith 2 March, 3 pairs on 10 April (RAB DT).

*RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* (w)

F 1 Skinflats 5 March (DM).

*SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* (w)

F 1 Skinflats Pools 13 September & 27 October (AB).

SWP 2 Lake of Menteith 11 January (RAB).

*FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* (p)

F 2 Kinneil ->W 30 August (DT).

*MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

F 1 ->E Skinflats 16 September (GO).

*GANNET *Sula bassana* (p)

F All juvs: 11 Skinflats & 8 Kinneil 13 September, maybe same birds (MVB JC). 2 Skinflats 15 September, 1 on 7 November flew with geese and landed with them on a mudbank (GO).

WP 1 juv ->NW Flanders Moss 17 September (DG).

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* (S,W)

Forth estuary 10 December (DMB).

F 80 Bo'ness 10 December (DMB).

C 4 Gartmorn 22 February (BRT). 140 S.Alloa 10 October & 240 on 8 November (CJH).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* (B,W)

F Skinflats: 10 on 20 June, 6 on 7 July, 9 on 8 August, 10 (juvs) on 13 & 29 September, 16 on 31 October, 12 on 10 December (AB MVB GO RS). 7 Kinneil 29 June, 9 Grangeburn 22 July (RS).

C 2 pairs reared 3 young Gartmorn (MC).

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* (B,W)

F 7 Kinneil 1 October (RS), 1 Skinflats 19 July & 25 Oct (AB) - scarce at these sites.

C Gartmorn: max 17 on 3 January, 2 pairs reared 9 young; pair Delph Pond reared 5, pair Cambus reared 4 although 8 on 16 June (WRB MC CJH).

S Pair at Airthrey reared 5 young (MVB).

WHOOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* (W)

F 2 Skinflats 16 February (MVB).

C 15 (5 juv) Gartmorn 19 January (DT). 30 (5 juv) Gogar 14 March, with 11 Mute Swans, 18 (2 juv) on 28th with 9 Mutes (CJH). 2 Ad Tullibody Inch 10 October (CJH). Gartmorn: 58 (max) on 16 December, 20 from W at dusk on 19th (MC CJH) - one of 25 on 21st had a yellow ring CIL on right leg (JC).

S 27 Blairlogie 15 February (DMB).

SWP Totals for Stirling Carse: 44 on 3 January, 45 on 8 February, 54 on 7 March & 73 on 22nd, 10 on 5 April (MVB DT). 23 Drip Moss 18 January, 24 on 3 March & 26 (3 juv + 5 Mute Swans) on 27 March (CJH MT). 1 Lake of Menteith 4 April (DT). L.Katrine (max): 4 on 24 January, 10 on 6 February, 21 on 28 March, 6 on 1 April (MT). 11 adults L.Dochart & 10 on 8 March; 3 (1 juv) L.Lubnaig on 26 January (DMB DT). 1 on Forth at Aberfoyle 10 May (CJH). 2 Thornhill 8 October & 6 on 28th, 18 on 14 November (SS MT). 12 (1 juv) Stirling Carse 31 October & 20->W on 23rd, 22 on 6 December (MVB

DT MT). 70 Kippen 29 November (SS). 33 L.Dochart 23 & 24 October & 25 on 21 December (RAB MT). 2 L.Katrine 1-9 December (MT). 9 L.Venachar 27 December (CJH)*

*BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* (w)

F 94 L.Ellrig 18 October, 100 on 1 December (RS). Feeding in fields near Falkirk with Greylags : 100 on 24, 27 & 30 November , 124 on 15 December & 54 on 20th (AM).*

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* (W)

2870 Forth valley 8 February & 1960 on 7 March (rather low, MVB).

F Skinflats: 25 on 2 February; 7 on 29 September, 745 on 17 October & 1850 on 25th, 1500 on 14 November & 2596 on 22nd, 900 on 12 December (AB DMB MVB WRB CJH GO).

C Alloa Inch: 400 on 25 April & 600 on 26th, 410 on 2 May. 3 Bandeath 28 June (DMB)

S 200 on grass Buchlyvie 21 March (RAB). 67 ->N Dumyat 10 May (CJH). Heard Stirling 16 September (DT), BoA 5 October. 50->S & 40->SE BoA 7 October (CJH).

SWP 2440 Lake of Menteith 8 March & 3700 on 3 April. 3700 Thornhill 12 April (SS). 2370 on grass Gartmore 5 April (RAB). 3 L.Katrine 18 May (MT). 350 Thornhill 20 September to 3100 on 12 November (SS). 5900 Lecroft 6 December (MVB).

*WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* (w)

F 1 Kinneil 28 January; 1 Skinflats 29 October & 12 & 14 November (ABRS). SWP 2 Thornhill 23 February (Greenland race, with Pinkfeet, DT).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* (b,W)

Forth valley: 1345 on 7 March & 830 on 5 April (MVB).

F 3 Skinflats 19 January & 30 April, 8 on 17 May & 5 on 18th; 210 on 22 November, 3 on 10 December (AB DMB MVB). 150 Kincardine Bridge 25 October (CJH).

C 620 Gartmorn 19 January (MVB) & 1200 roosting on Forth at Cambus on 25th (MC), 33 there on 24 December (CJH). 23 flew in at Gartmorn at dusk on 16 December & 35 on 19th (CJH).

S 200 Kippen 5 February (SS). 92 L.Coulter on 11 October & 550 on 19th (WRB CJH). SWP 700 Drip Moss 4 April (DT). 5->S Strathyre 7 October, 18 L.Venachar on 29th (CJH). 100 Thornhill 11 November (SS). 130 Drip Moss 6 December (MVB).

*SNOW GOOSE *Anser caeruiescens*

S 2 (blue form) North Third Res 3 February (presumably escapes MA).

*CANADA GOOSE *Branfa canadensis* (b)

S 2 Airthrey 22 September, driven off by Mute Swans (MVB).

SWP 2 pairs Cromlix 4 April (WRB).

*BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (w)

- F 200 (2 flocks) ->SE Grangemouth 3 October (WRB). Skinflats: 58 on 15 October, 16 on 18th, 23 on 28th; 2 on 14 November, 21 on 7th & 5 on 22nd (with Pinkfeet); 7 on 1 December (AB DMB JC GO RS).
- SWP 1 Drip Moss 7 March; 8 Lecropt 6 December & 1 on 19th (MVB). 4 Thornhill on 26 December (JC).

*BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernida* (w)

- F 16 (light form) Skinflats 18 October (DMB).

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* (b,W)

- 4283 Forth estuary 13 September. In spring 248 territorial pairs between Stirling and Forth Bridge, concentration between Alloa and Cambus where 37 pairs produced 11 broods (DMB).
- F Kinneil: 70 on 7 May & 86 on 28th; 1500 26 July, 4400 on 2 August & 1800 on 21 September (DMB HEMD DT). Skinflats: 430 on 19 January, 574 on 16 February, 100 on 30 May & 3 June, 1000 on 20 September, 500 on 8 October, 504 on 10 December (MVB DMB AB WRB). 1 over M9 at Dalderse 12 December (WRB).

WIGEON *Anas penelope* (b,W)

- 937 Forth estuary 19 January (DMB).
- F 175 Carriden 26 January (DMB). Skinflats: 66 on 19 January, 2 on 16 May, 10 on 28 June, 25 on 23 September, 36 on 4 October, 40 on 10 December (AB MVB). 130 Kinneil 12 December (DT).
- C 1600 Gartmorn 4 January (MC), 300 on 11th (WRB). 173 Bandedeath 20 February (DMB). 5 Cambus 4 June (CJH). S 17 L.Coulter 19 January (WRB).

*AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

- C Gartmorn: Male 3, 11 & 18 January, 3 October to 12 December (WRB JC MC CJH). Male in eclipse Alloa Inch 23 August (DMB). (it seems possible that one bird was in the area all year, Ed).

*GADWALL *Anas strepera* (p)

- C Pair Cambus 25 & 30 April, 9 & 17 May, F on 5 & 16 June (MA DMB WRB CJH). 1 Gartmorn 12 January & 2 on 28 November (DMB RS).

TEAL *Anas crecca* (B,W)

- 1400 Forth estuary 19 January (DMB)
- F 239 Skinflats 19 January & 217 on 10 December, 23 on 17 April & 6 on 24th. - increase here coincident with fewer at East Grangemouth (MVB). 3 Skinflats 4 June, 10 on 25 July to 100 on 28 August (AB GO). Male Green-winged Teal *A.c.carolinensis* 9 & 11 June (AB GO RS). Kinneil: 250 on 9 February, 234 on 15 March, 52 on 21 September, 270 on 12 December (DT HEMD).
- C Max 420 Gartmorn 12 December (MC). 95 on Forth at Manor Powis 19 January & 172 Bandedeath 20 February (DMB). 18 Cambus 2 April & 7 on 8th, 10 on 4 June (CJH).

- S 60 L.Laggan 31 October (DT). 1 Airthrey 22 September (DMB). Female with 6 young Carron Valley Res 2 July (SS). SWP 120 Lake of Menteith & 54 L.Macanrie 2 March (RAB). Pair on pools Meall nan Frean (660m) 17 May (DT).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* (B,W)

- 1333 Forth estuary 19 January (DMB).
 F Skinflats: 455 on 19 January, 104 on 16 February, 240 on 7 July, 125 on 13 September & 334 on 10 December (MVB CJH).
 C 2 broods of 7 young Cambus 17 May (CJH). 32 on Devon at Menstrie 26 December (BRT). Gartmorn, max 780 on 12 December (MC).
 S Airthrey: 602 on 14 January -high count, 274 on 18 February, 410 on 7 July; autumn max 450 on 12 December (MVB SH). A poor breeding season (although 3 early broods on 25 March) - at least 48 broods (9 probably replacements) but 21 total failures and 117 young fledged from 27 broods (MVB). 134 North Third Res 19 January (WRB). 130 L.Laggan 31 October (DT).

PINTAIL *Anas acute* (W)

- F Skinflats: 84 on 9 January, 42 on 1, 14 & 16 February & 48 on 15th, 30 on 5 March; first autumn 3 on 12 September, 15 on 8 October & 26 on 31st, 51 on 13 November, 48 on 6 December & 56 on 10th (AB MVB WRBL DM GO). Kinneil: 1 on 26 January & 3 on 19th, 33 on 16 & 19 February, 24 on March 14, last 4 on 30 April; 6 on 9 September, 16 on 11 October (AB DMB GO RS DT).
 C 1 Banded 20 February, 5 Alloa Inch 30 August (DMB). Area summary:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Dec 85	76	30	19	0	0	0	5	6	16	51
56										

*GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* (p)

- F Male Skinflats 8 & 9 June (GO RS).

*SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* (p)

- F Skinflats: Female on 29 June & with juvenile 25 July (GO), 3 on 2, 10 & 12 August & 2 on 14th (AB DMB RS). 1 Grangemouth 13 September & 1 Kinneil 1 December (MVB RS).
 C Gartmorn: 4 on 6 September & 3 on 27th, 4 on 3 October (MC CJH). 2 Cambus 4 August, 1 on 5 September (MA WRB). 2 Alloa Inch 30 August (DMB). SWP Male Doune Ponds 3 May (WRB). 1 L.Watson 6 August (DMB).

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* (W)

Winter numbers generally low this year (Ed).

- F 1 Skinflats 15 May (GO).
 C Gartmorn: 18 on 3 January, 78 on 31 October, 30 on 19 December (MC CJH).

- S 6 North Third Res 18 February (WRB). 2 Airthrey 2 March (DMB). SWP 6 L.Watson 6 August (DMB).
- TUFTED DUCK *Aythya tuligula* (B,W)
- F Skinflats Pool: 2 on 20 April & 15 May, 1 on 24 & 28 June, 4 on 29th (AB GO).
- C 74 Gartmorn 3 January & 283 on 6 November (MC). M Cambus 9 May (CJH).
- S Airthrey: 56 on 14 January, 85 on 12 December (MVB SH). 9-12 pairs, at least 5 broods fledging 10 young, a poor year (MVB). 1 Cocksburn Res 5 April (CJH).
- SWP 4 Pairs Ashfield May-June, 1 brood of 3 young (WRB).
- *SCAUP *Aythya mania* (w)
- F Kinneil: 4 on 20, 24 & 30 April & 15 October, 3 on 10 May, 1 on 8 August & 2 on 21st, 5 on 29 September (AB DMB JC GO RS DT). Male Skinflats 12 July (AB).
- C 1 Gartmorn 2 April (MA).
- *EIDER *Somateria mollissima* (w/p)
- F 9 Carriden 26 January, 5 Blackness 25 April, 1 Skinflats 25 April & 2 May (DMB). Pair Kinneil 23 April (GO).
- *LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* (w)
- SWP Male Lake of Menteith 8 & 21 March (RAB JC).
- GOLDENEYE *Bucephala dangula* (W)
- 297 Forth estuary 19 January (DMB). Only small flocks noted in autumn (Ed).
- F 145 Carriden 26 January & 14 on 25 April (DMB). Skinflats Ponds: 8 on 19 January & 6 on 16 February; 1 on 3 October, max 12 from 31 October to 8 December (AB MVB GO). 6 Carronmouth 1 February & 12 on 15th (GO).
- C 39 Gartmorn 18 January (MC). 54 Cambus 19 January, 43 Bandeath 20 February, last 4 on 8 April; 11 on 8 November (DMB CJH). 3 on Devon at Menstrie 26 December (BRT).
- S 11 Cambuskenneth 19 January, 52 (15 ad M) on 16 February & 15 on 27 March, 6 on 20 December (DMB CJH). Male Airthrey 26 May (DMB).
- SWP 15 L.Venachar 26 January; 15 Lecropt 27 March (CJH). 160 Lake of Menteith 4 April (DT).
- *SMEW *Mergus albellus* (w)
- C Male on Forth at Manor Powis 1 February, with Goldeneye (MA). Female Gartmorn 28 & 31 March & 2 April (MA MC).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus senator* (B,W)
- 114 Forth estuary 10 December (DMB).
- F Skinflats: 29 on 19 January & 67 on 16 February, 97 on 10 December (MVB).

S 1 North Third Res 20 March (WRB).

SWP Females with broods at Ashfield, 6 on 20 June, 10 in July (WRB BH).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* (B,W)

F Skinflats: 5 on 19 January, 1 on 2 September & 9 on 12th, 8 on 3 October, 3 on 1 November, 12 on 10 December (AB MVB). 6 Carronmouth 1 February (GO).

C 12-18 in January-March on Devon at Dollar (MC). 2F on Devon at Alva 26 December (BRT). 9 on Forth at Bandeath 20 February, 4 on 24 December (DMB CJH).

S 5 Cambuskenneth 19 January, 6 on 16 February & 13 on 27 March (DMB CJH). SWP 7(4M) L.Katrine 15 March (RAB). 2 pairs Ashfield January to March (WRB). Pair Doune ponds 3 March. 13 Lecropt 27 March, 5 on 7 April (CJH).

*RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* (b)

C 1 Gartmorn 22 October (JC).

SWP 6 L.Watson 6 August - 2 adult males, 1 female, 3 nearly full grown young (DMB).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* (b?,W)

C Pair displaying Ochils 23 May (MC).

SWP 1 Flanders Moss 22 March, male Thornhill 12 August, 20 September, 6-9-18 October (SS AK). 1 Strathyre 7 October (CJH). Braes of Doune: 2 Ringtails (1 interacting with Peregrine) Slymaback 4 April, none seen 21 June (WRB); Male Dalbrack on 12 December (JGH).

*GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

S 1 over Airthrey 13 April, left S (DMB).

SWP 1 Balquhidder 5 March (JC).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* (B,W)

F Seen through year at Skinflats, Jupiter WG (AB WRB GO RS).

C Pairs reared 3 young Woodhill, 4y Brucefield (MC). In garden at Menstrie 5 January & 3 August - latter chased by House Martins (BRT). 1 Red Carr Wood 13 January (CJH).

S Regularly BoA, especially in late afternoon (JMC).

SWP occasional Dunblane (BH), Loch Ard Forest (CJH).

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* (B,W)

F Torwood: 1 on 1 May, 4 on 5 September, 7 on 16 September (AB). 2 at M9/M876 junction October & December (WRB DT JW).

C Pair reared 3 at Dollar (MC).

S Pair bred Plean CP (RAB & M Swan). 10 Kippen Muir 8 March, 1 Mains of Glinn & 4 Boquhan 9 February, 1 Stronend 8 October (CJH) DT). 1 ->N BoA 21 August (CJH). Pair through year at Airthrey, 7 on 22 September (DMB). SWP 5 At Loch Ard Forest in July-early August. 4 L.Venachar 25 January

& 1 on 3 February (CJH). 3 Glen Ogle 20 April (WRB). 1 Lanrick 26 January, 1 L.Rusky 28 December, 4 N of Doune Ponds 3 March & 5 on 3 May (WRB CJH DM). 1 Blairdrummond 26 April, 4 Hill of Row 23 January & 3 March. 1 Keir 27 March; 1 Kippenrait 25 January, 4 on 14 March & 4 in April (not seen 6 June), 3 on 23 August (BH CJH). 2 Sheriffmuir 10 October. 1 Glensherup 17 June with white carpal patches on upper wing (CJH).

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* (b,w)

SWP Nine home ranges were monitored with birds present in eight, of these, six sites definitely were occupied by pairs. The vacant site is really a notional one, not having been occupied for several years. Breeding was confirmed at four sites, chicks hatched in three with single chicks fledged from two of them. (RAB PS-A).

*OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* (p)

S 1 or 2 Carron Valley Res May to early September (LLBR). 1->N BoA 21 June (DMB).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* (B,W)

F 8 regular hunting locations along M9 (WRB). All year at Skinflats, in July females feeding fledged young (AB).

C Pair Alva Glen reared 4 young, 2 pairs Wood Hill reared 5 young (MC).

*MERLIN *Falco columbarius* (b?, W)

F 1 Skinflats 10 & 22 January, 1 February, 13 September, male on 12 February (AB GO). 2 Airth Shore 13 September (AB).

S 1 found injured Corriearklet 23 November, died next day (MT). SWP pair Braes of Doune (MC). 1 Thornhill 6 October (SS).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* (B,W)

Area summary: Of 20 territories checked 17 were occupied (two apparently by single birds); 11 pairs known to be successful rearing at least 26 young (PS-A et al).

F Around Grangemouth January, March, August, September, October, November, December, max 3 Skinflats 22 January (AB WRB DM DT). 1 at Kinneil on 14 October stooped 3 times at a Spotted Redshank which apparently escaped in a sluice pipe (RS); pair on 12 December were hunting in concert (DT).

C 3 pairs reared 8Y, 1 Cambus 10 March (MC).

S 1 Airthrey 8 October (MVB). SWP The female of a pair at a new site was pink in plumage and hatched two pink chicks, neither of which fledged (MT- see Scottish Birds Vol 17: 68). 1 Thornhill January, April, October; Glen Ogle July (BH JS SS). RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus* (B,W) SWP Calling Ward of Goodie 13 March & 5 April (SS). 4 Ledard 19 August (SS). 9 Kippenmuir 31 October (DT). Small

numbers Cromlix Moor 4 April & 21 June (WRB).

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus mutus* (b,w)

- S 4 juveniles Ben Lomond 4 September - regularly noted here but few reports of successful breeding (LLBR).

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* (B,W)

- C Lek of 7 males Commonedge Hill in April (MC).
 S 7 males (display and sparring) Carron Bridge 19 October (CJH).
 SWP 3 F Balquhidder 12 January; 7M Ardeonaig 19 February (RAB). 4 NE of Callander 14 March (RS). 10 L.Voil 5 March, 6 Glean a'Chroin 10 March & 23 (20M) on 11 October (JC). 1 M Menteith Hills 1 November (AK). Lek with 7 males L.Arklet (LLBR).

CAPERCAILLIE *Tetrao urogallus* (b,w) No records received.

*REDLEGGED/CHUKAR PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa/chukar* (b,w)

- S In BoA, on road at edge of Mine Wood , pair on 9 April & 1 on 29 May presumably lost, released hybrids (MA CJH). 2 pairs Pendreich
 - Kippenrait in May-June (MA).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* (B,W)

- F Skinflats: 6 on 12 January (GO). 5 on 3 June, 10 on 12 September & 15 on 23rd; 23 in 2 coveys 8 October, 17 on 27th & 10 on 31st (AB WRB). 10 Grangemouth in April (WRB). C 9 in stubble at Alva 26 December (BRT). SWP max 12 at Ashfield (WRB).

*COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

- F 1 Kinneil 17, 25 & 26 January (AB WRB GO RS).
 SWP 2 calling Thornhill (West Moss Side) 2 June to 7 July (SS).

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* (B,W)

- C In small numbers on bank of R.Devon at Menstrie (BRT).

*WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* (w)

- F 1 Kinneil 6 January (RS). 2 Carron Dam 1 February (WRB).
 C 1 Gartmorn 23 February & 19 March (MC). 2 Tullibody Inch 10 October (CJH). SWP 1 L.Watson 6 August (DMB).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* (B,W)

- C 4 pairs Cambus (WRB).
 S Airthrey: 56 on 14 January, 64 on 12 December (MVB SH). 24 pairs fledged 55 young (1 triple & 1 double brooded, 6 total failures) MVB). SWP 3 pairs Doune Ponds, 2 pairs Ashfield (WRB).

COOT *Fulica atra* (B,W)

- F Skinflats max 7 on 20 April (GO).

- C 800 Gartmorn 3 January, 57 on 23 February & 34 on 1 April (MC). Cambus: 16 on 16 February, 23 on 15 March, 15 on 2 April (CJH), 4 pairs reared young (WRB).
- S 86 Airthrey on 14 January, 95 on 12 December (MVB SH). 26 pairs of which 24 nested, but only 10 were successful rearing 31 young—Mink predation (MVB).

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* (B,W)

- 809 on Forth estuary 10 December (DMB).
- F Kinneil: 165 on 26 July, 140 on 12 December (DT). Skinflats: 69 on 19 January & 80 on 16 February, 211 on 28 July, 54 on 10 December (MVB GO).
- C First heard Menstrie 26 February (BRT).
- S 310 Cragforth 23 February, 400 on 3 March; 26 Kippenmuir 8 March (CJH DT).
- SWP First heard Ashfield 13 February, 35 Barbush GP 3 April (WRB). 6 Glen Lochay 22 March (DT).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* (b,W)

- Forth estuary: 160 on 13 September (DMB).
- F Skinflats: 1 on 20 April, 22 on 15 May & 53 on 17th (GO); 20 on 8 August, 12 on 13 September (DMB MVB). 5 Higgins Neuk 13 September (AB).
- C Pair reared 2Y Gartmorn (MC).
- SWP Pairs at Barbush GP 3 & 20 April & at Argaty GP in May (WRB).

*DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

- C Pair Ben Cleuch 10 May (MC).

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* (B,W)

- 702 Forth Estuary 10 December (DMB).
- F Skinflats: 35 on 22 January, 91 on 13 February; 200 on 17 October, 660 on 10 December (AB MVB GO). Kinneil: 500 on 18 January, 96 on 3 October & 520 on 11th (DMB GO DT). Many Bo'ness 30 August & 700 on 26 September (DT). 140 Blackness 4 October & 570 Higgins Neuk on 25th (CJH). 40 L.Ellrig 6 October (SS).
- C Pairs on Kings Seat & Ben Cleuch (MC). 165 Tullibody Inch 1 October & 84 on 15 November (MC CJH).
- SWP Pair Slymaback 21 June, probably with young (WRB). Scarce inland in winter even on low ground - 9 Thornhill 26 January (DT), 19 on 20 April (SS).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* (W)

- F 1 Kinneil 23 April & 23 August (GO). 1 Skinflats 13 September & 13 on 8th October (WRB MVB). (Scarcer than usual this year, Ed).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* (B,W)

4588 Forth Estuary 13 September (DMB).

F Skinflats: 1410 on 19 January, 160 on 4 September, 1200 on 13 September, 1125 on 10 December (MVB AB). Kinneil: 500 on 18 January, 300 on 9 February, 200 on 26 July, 400 on 21 September (HEMD DT).

C 4 pairs Cambus 8 April & 17 May (CJH). 2000 Tullibody Inch 30 August & 1 October, 2810 on 13 September (DMB CJH). 65 Alva 20 December & 68 on 26th (BRT). SWP Displaying at Lecropt 3 March (CJH). 12 pairs Ashfield, 8Y reared (WRB). 190 Lecropt 29 November (MVB).

KNOT *Calidris canutus* (W)

2644 Forth Estuary 19 January (DMB).

F Kinneil: 2500 on 17 January strafed by Peregrine (WRB), 600 on 2 February (AB), last 1 on 24 April (GO); 1st of autumn 1 on 27 July (RS), 500 on 12 December (DT).

*SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

F 2 Skinflats 15 May (GO).

"LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (p)

F 2 Skinflats 1 September (GO).

"CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (p)

F 1 Skinflats 17 May & 2 on 18th, 1 on 8 June (AB GO RS), 1 on 27 August *in red plumage* (WRB).

C 1 Tullibody Inch 1 October (CJH).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* (b?,W)

5369 Forth Estuary 19 January (DMB).

F Skinflats: 4400 on 19 January, 2420 on 16 February; 115 on 15 September, 110 on 14 November, 1325 on 10 December (AB MVB).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* (p)

F Kinneil: 1 on 28 June & 2 on 29th, 1 on 7 August, 4 on 16 & 6 on 17th, 8 on 20th, 3 on 22 August to 7 September, 1 to 20 October (AB GO RS DT). Skinflats: 1 on 24 & 28 June, 1 from 8 to 30 August & from 9 to 21 September, max 2 on 28 August and 3 on 14 September (AB HEMD GO RS).

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Kinneil	01	00	48	31	11
Skinflats	01	00	12	31	00

C 6 Alloa Inch 23 August and 20 on 30th (DMB). 1 Tullibody Inch 22 October (JC).

Monthly Area Totals

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
	2	0	30	6	2

*JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus (w)*

F Kinneil: 2 on 6 January, 5 on 19th, 13 on 22nd & 4 on 28th; 3 on 9 February & 2 on 11th; 9 on 12 October, 14 on 14th & 7 on 20th; 7 on 1 December (AB GO RS DT).

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago (B,W)*

F 17 Kinneil 20 August & 18 on 23rd (GO DT), 52 on 12 October to 32 on 20th (RS). Up to 3 Jupiter WG November - December (WRB).
 C 25 Longcarse 30 August & 9 on 10 October (DMB CJH), 32 by Devon at Tillicoultry on 31st (MC).
 S 10 Cambuskenneth 27 March. 23 Haws Marsh (BoA) 13 February & 26 on 26th (CJH).
 SWP 10 Lecropt 27 March (CJH). 1 Ashfield 3 April but no drumming (WRB). 1 at 600m Meall na Frean (Balquhider) 17 May (DT).

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola (B,W)*

F 2 Carron Dam 1 February, 1 Jupiter WG 1 December (WRB).
 C Pair with 3Y (2nd brood) Gartmorn 23 August (MC).
 S 3 Torwood 2.1 June (AB).
 SWP In January singles at Sheriffmuir, Ashfield, L.Ard Forest (WRB BH CJH). 1 Thornhill 15 November (SS). (Certainly an underrecorded species at all seasons, Ed)

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa (W)*

F Kinneil: spring max 57 on 25 April (DMB), autumn 77 on 18 October (RS). 21 Bo'ness 26 January (DMB). Skinflats: max 56 on 14 May (GO). 11 Carron mouth 11 to 15 February (GO). 22 ->E Bo'ness 7 December (RS). Half-monthly summaries (from notes by AB DMB WRB JC HEMD JTM GO RS DT)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kinneil	26	34	34	0	51	24	54	57	42	0	0	0
Skinf	0	5	0	6	0	0	3	56	25	48	46	10

C 10 Tullibody Inch 10 May, 22 Cambus on 24 May & 12 on 28th (MA). 18 Cambus 28 June, 2 in full red plumage (CJH), 18 at Bandeath same day, presumably same birds, also 15 on 1 July, 10 on 8 August & 8 on 30th (DMB).

Up to the end of April birds were mainly at Kinneil with up to 34 from January to mid-February and then fewer until mid-March, when numbers increased markedly. Counts stayed high, at Skinflats, through May and June but dropped in July - flocks seen higher up the estuary may indicate a departure. Numbers increased again through August to October, with Kinneil increasingly favoured, and large flocks were seen to the end of the year.

Area Summary

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
34	34	51	60	68	48	25	70	66	91	35	59

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (W)

354 Forth Estuary 19 January (DMB).

F 150 Kinneil 17 January & 2 February, last spring record 1 Skinflats 17 April. 1st of autumn 1 Kinneil 18 July (AB WRB GO).

*WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* (p)

F Skinflats: 2 on 28 April. 3 on 19 July & 4 on 31st, 3 on 8 & 13 August, 1 on 16 September & 8 October (AB WRB GO RS DT). Kinneil: 2 on 14 July to 6 August, 4 on 23rd (AB DMB RS DT).

C 2 Tullibody Inch 23 August (DMB).

	Apr	/	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Kinneil			22	23	00	00
Skinf	02		04	31	11	10

Area summary

	Apr	/	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
	2		6	8	1	1

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* (B,W)

1440 Forth Estuary 10 December (DMB).

F Skinflats: 360 on 19 January, 150 on 2 February, 182 on 14th & 257 on 16th; 320 on 13 September & 275 on 10 December (AB MVB GO). 160 Powfowlis 7 July (CJH). Kinneil: 200 on 26 July & 300 on 16 August (DT). (Note return to estuary in early July, Ed).

C 300 Tullibody Inch 15 March, 60 on 1 October & 80 on 24 December (CJH).

S 60 Kippen Muir 8 March (DT) - (rather early spring return to moors, Ed). SWP Pair Ashfield (WRB). Frequent Glensherup 17 June (CJH).

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* (p)

F Kinneil: 1 on 17 August; 7 between 6-13 September, max 3 on 7th; 1 on 11 & 14 October. Skinflats: 1 on 3 & 18 September, 2 on 16th (AB DMB GO RS DT). 2 Airth shore 13 September (AB). Area Totals : August 1. September 7. October 1.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* (B,W)

2637 Forth Estuary 19 January (DMB).

F 2 pairs Skinflats (WRB). Kinneil: 250 on 17 January, 240 on 27 July (WRB CJH). Skinflats: 860 on 19 January, 840 on 16 February; 35 on 29 June, 150 on 17 July, 660 on 13 September, 300 on 22 November, 885 on 10 December (AB MVB). SWP 2 pairs Ashfield (WRB). 5 Watershoot Res (Sheriffmuir) 6 June (CJH).

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* (p)

F 1 Dunmore 19 April. Skinflats: 1 on 13 June; 1 on 19-24 July & 2 on 25-31st; regular through August & September with max 6 on 11th August and 9 on 13th September; 4 on 4th October. Kinneil: from 14 July to 23 August, max 4 on 21 August. (AB DMB JC HEMD GO RS DT).

C Alloa Inch: 6 on 23 August & 10 on 30th, 5 on 13 September (DMB).

Summary

	Apr	/	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Kinneil	0 0		1 1	1 4	0 0	0 0	
Skinf	1 0		0 2	6 4	9 8	4 0	
Area totals							
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
	1	0	1	3	20	14	4

*GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* (p)

F Skinflats: 3 on August 3, 4 on 10th, 1 on 28th (AB RS). Kinneil: 2 on 21 to 23 August, 1 on 6 September (AB DMB)

SWP 1 Thornhill 27 & 28 August (SS).

Area totals: August 7, September 1.

*WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* (p)

F 1 Kinneil 21 July (RS).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* (B)

No reports on breeding status

F 2 Skinflats 24 April (GO), 1 Carronshore on 28th (AB). Skinflats: 1 on 3 June, autumn passage started with 4 on 17 July, regular till 1 September with peak of 9 on 24 July; last 2 on 13 September (when also 2 Grangemouth) (AB MVB GO DT). Kinneil: 3 on 26 July; peaks 6 on 2 & 6 August, last on 23rd (AB GO RS DT). 5 Higgin's Neuk 10 August (RS)

C 1st 4 Cambus 30 April, 2 on 4 June (DMB CJH).

S 1 Airthrey 28 July (MVB). 10 Carron Valley Res 29 July (DT).

SWP 1st Barbush 24 April (WRB).

Autumn passage summary

Jul	Aug	Sep
023	135	50

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* (W)

30 Forth Estuary 19 January (DMB).

F Max 2 Skinflats January-February, July, December (MVB GO RS).

*POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* (p)

F 1 Kinneil 23 September (RS).

*ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* (p)

F 9 (8 adult) Kinneil 30 August - 6 flew high to W (DT). 1 ->W Skinflats 6 September (DMB).

*GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

C 1 ->E at S. Alloa 30 August (DMB). (seems to be the 1st record for Clackmannan, Ed).

*LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

F 1 Immature Skinflats 3 June (AB).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* (B,W)

F 300 Skinflats 11 October (AB).

C 1450 Tullibody Inch 24 December (CJH).

SWP 200 pairs early in breeding season at Ashfield, only 80 by late May and 50 young reared (WRB).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* (B,W)

SWP 1800 Lake of Menteith 22 March (CJH). 6 pairs Barbush, only 2 bred (WRB).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (S,w)

F 20 pairs Grangemouth, nest on Zeneca buildings, 1 through December (WRB). 6 Skinflats 31 October (GO). 2 Kinneil 6 January (RS).

S 1 Stirling 29 February (DT) & 1 on 11 March (CJH). 50 Fallin tip & 50 over Cocksburn Res 28 July, 70 Gargunnoch 22 August, 22 Myot Hill 5 October (CJH). SWP 3 adults L.Venachar 5 January (CJH).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* (S,W)

F 1 pair Grangemouth, nesting not proved (WRB).

S 1300 Fallin tip 14 March & 1200 on 28 July (CJH). SWP 460 on roost at L.Venachar 5 January (CJH).

*GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* (w)

F 1 sub-adult Kinneil 20 August (DT). 1 2nd winter 10 October (JC).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* (S,W)

SWP 49 (25 Adult) roost L.Venachar 5 January (CJH).

*KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* (P,w)

F 150 ->W Kinneil 23 March (RS). Flock circling high over Grangemouth 10 May (WRB). 75 Kinneil 30 August, 65 high to W (DT).

C 1 Alloa Inch 30 August (DMB).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* (P)

F 99 Carriden 31 July; 50 Higgin's Neuk 10 August (RS). 50 Kinneil 21 August (DMB). 2 Skinflats 8 June, 6 on 29 July, 150 on 16 September (AB GO).

C 60 Tullibody Inch 8 August (DMB). 2->NW Cambus 20 August (CJH).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* (B)

F 4 Kinneil 24 April (GO). 19 Skinflats 2 May, 73 pairs Grangemouth colony 23 June (DMB WRB).

*BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

F 1->E Skinflats 16 September (GO). 2 (1 adult) Kincardine Bridge 13 September (MVB).

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* (W)

No reports received.

ROCK DOVE / FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* (B,W)

F 300 at Zeneca, Grangemouth, through year (WRB).

C 540 in tilled field at Alloa 24 October (CJH).

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* (B,W)

C 2 Myreton 28 April (CJH). 20 Cambus 23 August (DMB).

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* (B,W)

F max 177 Skinflats 31 January (GO).

C 90 Alva 26 December (BRT).

SWP 1200 L.Watson 25 October (MVB).

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* (B,W)

C 20 feeding on tideline Tullibody Inch 1 October (CJH). Max 17 Menstrie 24 December (as last year, BRT).

S 8 BoA 19 January & 11 on 2 February, similar to last five years (JMC).

SWP 1 pair Ashfield WRB).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* (B)

C 1 Muckhart 9 May (DMB).

S At Cockburn Res and Sheriffmuir 16 May (MA). SWP 1st Thornhill 24 April (SS), 1 L.Ard Forest 7 May (CJH) & 2 on 14 May (WRB).

*BARN OWL *Tyto alba* (b,w)

SWP Pair raised 3 young in chimney cavity on Main Street Callander (MT). 1 Keir 24 January (WRB). 1 Thornhill 12 September (SS).

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* (B,W)

C heard Menstrie early August (BRT).

SWP 2 calling Dunblane 5 January (WRB).

(As with other nocturnal species, greatly underrecorded, Ed)

*LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* (b,w)

F 1 Skinflats 5 July (GO) - presumably breeding not far away? (Ed).

S 1 Carron Valley in September (LLBR).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asia flammeus* (b,W)

F Kinneil: 4 on 18 January, a few records till 2 on 13 April; 3 on 12 December. Skinflats: 1 on 10 January, a few records till 2 on April 5 & 1 on 20th. 1 on 29 June, autumn from 1 on 24 August with max of 5 on 29 September, 4 on 3 October, then 1 or 2 to end year (AB HEMD GO DT).

Half monthly summary for estuary:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Oct 14	21	01	21	00	01	00	01	25

- C Pairs present at E.Ochils site, predated on by peregrine (MC).
 SWP 1 Braes of Doune (Slymaback) 4 April, 4 in young conifers 26 April (WRB). 2 Glen Sgione (Balquhidder, young plantation) 12 January (RAB). 2 Lecropt 19 December & 1 Sheriffmuir on 20th (MVB).

*NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

- SWP 1 singing L.Ard Forest 24 June (Forest Enterprise per MS).

SWIFT *Apus apus* (B)

- F 1st Grangemouth 8 May (WRB)
 S At Stirling 11 May to 18 August (DT), 50 in late July, 17 on 8 August, last on 31st (WRB CJH). 2 Airthrey 13 May (MVB). BoA: 10 on 10 May, 20 on 11th (DMB), 50 on 6 July & 40 on 21st, 17 on 7 August (CJH). 1 Hill of Kinnaird 23 August (DT).
 SWP 2 Blairdrummond 11 May (CJH). 3 pairs Ashfield, max 12 in early August (WRB).

*KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* (b,w)

- F 1 Skinflats 23 September; 2 Stenhousemuir 24 October, 1 Carronshore 5 November (AB). 2 Jupiter WG 24 March (WRB).
 C Pair reared two broods (11 young) on Devon (MC). 1 Cambus 25 April (WRB).
 S 1 Airthrey 18 February & 3 March (MVB), & from 13 March to 15 December (DMB). SWP 1 Ashfield 15 April & in September (WRB). (Seems to be maintaining its sparse status, no doubt long stretches of suitable lowland rivers are not covered, Ed)

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* (B,W)

- C Calling Menstrie from 4 March and on 27 December (BRT). Successful breeding at Woodhill and in Hillfoots Glens (MC).
 S Recorded in spring Carron Valley Res, Plean CP, Mine Wood, Airthrey, Blairlogie (MA DT). SWP 1 L.Katrine oaks 3 February, L.Ard Forest 22 March (CJH).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major* (B,W)

- No spring/summer reports from main breeding areas, only straying birds or winter records. * indicates known breeding locality.
 F 1 Skinflats 12 January (GO).
 C 1 by Forth, Blackgrange 2 & 4 April (WRB CJH).
 S 2 Mine Wood* 9 January, 1 Abbey Craig* 11 February (CJH).
 SWP 1 Drumore Wood* 14 January, 1 L.Katrine* oaks 3 February, L.Ard Forest* 22 March (CJH).

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* (B,W)

F 20 Kinneil 10 January (GO). 20 singing on reclaimed land
Grangemouth 8 April (WRB).

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* (B)

F 1st Carronshore 12 April (AB).

S 4 Airthrey 1 April, in blizzard, 6 on 2nd (MVB DMB).

SWP 5 Lake of Menteith 29 March (DT). 1st Thornhill 13 April (JS). 4 Barbush 6
April (WRB), 516 occupied nests (M.Alves). 50 nests Argaty (WRB).

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* (B)

F 1 Kinneil 24 April (GO). 2 Skinflats 20 April, 10 on 28th; last 2 on 4
October (AB RS).

C 20 Gartmorn 18 April (MC). 1 Menstrie 22 April (CJH).

S 2 Airthrey 12 April (MVB), 1 BoA on 13th (DMB). Last Stirling 30
September (DT). SWP 3 L.Iubhair 20 April, Thornhill on 21st; 30 Port of
Menteith 28 September, last Ashfield 10 on 3 October (WRB DM SS).
Last Dunblane 10 October (MVB).

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* (B)

F 1 Skinflats 28 April (RS).

C 20 Menstrie 30 September, last 6 on 3 October (BRT). 1 Airthrey 22
April, 140 on 10 September (MVB). Last Stirling 30 September (DT).

SWP 2 Lake of Menteith 3 May, 15 on 28 September with pair still feeding
young (WRB DM); arrived Ashfield 20 May, 7 pairs (WRB).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* (B)

SWP 2 L.Ard Forest 14 May (WRB), frequent on 20th (CJH). Last numbers 6
on 6 August (CJH).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* (B,W)

F 10 Kinneil 5 January (AB).

C 250 Alloa Inch 13 September (DMB). 3 high on Wood Hill 20 December
(BRT).

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* (w)

F 1 Higgin's Neuk 4 March (MA).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motadilla cinerea* (B,w)

F 4 at Jupiter WG in late February, pair nested nearby (WRB). 2 Kinneil 5
January & 1 on 16 February (AB). S Post breeding dispersal: Female +
2 juveniles Airthrey from 22 May (MVB).

SWP Pair bred Ashfield (WRB).

PIED WAGTAIL *Motadilla alba* (B,W)

F 7 White Wagtails Kinneil 10 May (DT).

*WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* (w/W)

S 7 Stirling 9 & 10 March (M.Stewart per DT). No autumn reports.

*RED-BACKED SHRIKE (*Lanius collurio*)

SWP Male Thornhill 8 July (SS).

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* (B,W)

C present on all Hillfoots burns (MC).

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* (B,W)

SWP In January-February scarce but regular in Trossachs spruce and oakwoods, frequent in lowland deciduous. In May-June one of commonest species in mixed woodland at Blairdrummond, 3.9 records per Km transect (CJH).

HEDGE SPARROW *Prunella modularis* (B,W)

SWP Much scarcer than Robin in mixed woodland at Blairdrummond May-June (CJH).

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* (B,W)

SWP 2 records per Km transect in mixed woodland at Blairdrummond May-June (CJH).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (B)

F 1 in garden at Carron 11 August, 1 Skinflats on 24th (AB). SWP 2 singing Drumore Wood 14 May (WRB). At Trossachs nestbox site 33 attempts raised 159 young (HR).

WHINCHAT *Saxicola torquata* (B)

F 1 Kinneil 10 May. Skinflats: Male on 29 June, 5 immatures on 5 July (bred locally ? Ed), autumn max 10 on 31 July, 3 on 23 August & 4 on 14 September, last on 16 September (nb no records 2 to 22 August) (AB GO DT).

C Pair Commonedge Hill, 3 pairs Burn of Sorrow (MC).

S 3 Carron Valley Res 13 September (DT). SWP 1st Thornhill 29 April (SS). 2 L.Ard Forest 14 May (WRB). Family party Glen Ogle in July (BH).

*STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* (b,w)

SWP Breeding pairs Beinn Uamha (L.Chon) & QEFP NN405088 (MT). Male Easter Poldar (Flanders Moss) 10 May (SS). 3 (2M) Milour Moor plantation 25 October (WRB).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* (B)

F 2 males Kinneil 24 April (GO), 4 (2 characteristic Greenland race) on 2 May (DMB). 1 Jupiter WG 18 July (WRB) & 3 Kinneil on 29th (CJH). 1 Skinflats 7 September (AB).

SWP 3 Glen Kendrum 5 April (RAB), 1st Thornhill on 22nd (SS). 2 Glen Ogle 20 April (WRB).

*RING OUSEL *Turdus torquatus* (b)

- SWP 1 Monachyle Glen 29 May. On 30 May singing Inverlochlarig & 2 Glen Gione (Balquhidder) (RAB). Probably under-recorded due to remoteness of many breeding sites (Ed).

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* (B,W)

- SWP Slightly commoner than Song Thrush in mixed woodland at Blairdrummond in May-June (CJH). *FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris* (W)
- F 3 Skinflats 11 October & 200 on 31st (AB).
- C 95 Menstrie 6 December, 40 Silver Glen on 20th, 55 Gartmorn on 25th, 60+40 Menstrie on 26th (BRT).
- S 150 Stronend 9 February, 110 Sheriffmuir 5 April (CJH). 150 Kippen Muir 31 October & 200 Frew Toll (DT). Airthrey: 120->W 11 November, 200-W on 13th & 80-W on 17th (MVB). SWP 20->WNW Braes Doune 15 October (CJH), 500->SW Ashfield 5 November (WRB). 150 Kinbuck 29 November, 100 Drip Bridge 6 December (MVB). 187 Callander 12 December (DM).

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* (B,W)

- F 30 with Fieldfares & Redwings Skinflats 31 October (AB).
- S Much scarcer than Blackbird in January in lowland deciduouswoods (CJH).

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* (W)

- F max 22 Grangemouth in January (WRB). Many Skinflats 31 October (AB), 15 on 6 November (GO).
- C 12 with Fieldfares Menstrie 26 December (BRT).
- S 20 BoA 6 & 7 March, much subsong (JMC). 34->W Airthrey 6 October (MVB). 50 Kippen Muir 31 October (DT).
- SWP 50->WNW Braes Doune 18 October (CJH).

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* (B,W)

- No reports of large flocks in Autumn. SWP Pair Ashfield (WRB).

*GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* (B)

- F 2 singing Carronshore 25 April (AB). Skinflats: 1 on 28 April, 9 May, 2 on 10th, 3 on 15th, present to 24 July (GO RS).
- C 1 Cambus 19 May (WRB).
- S 1 singing R.Allan at BoA 27 April & 1 May (JMC).
- SWP Singing Flanders Moss (E Poldar) 10 May (SS), Blairdrummond Moss on 5 May & 10 June (CJH), Inverlochlarig on 30 May (RAB).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (B)

- F 1 Skinflats 28 April (RS), 7 on 10 May (GO RS). 2 Kinneil 10 May (DT). 1 Carronshore 14 May (AB).

- C 5 AoT Gartmorn (MC). 1 AoT Cambus (CJH).
SWP 1st Blairdrummond Moss 11 May (CJH).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* (B)

- F Singing Carronshore 3 May (AB). 1st Skinflats 9 May (GO), 1 Kinneil 10 May (DT). 3 AoT Jupiter WG, at least 1 pair bred (WRB).
C 4 AoT Gartmorn (MC). SWP 1 pair Ashfield (WRB).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* (B)

- F 1 Skinflats 13 August (GO).
C Breeding pairs: 3 Brothie Burn, 1 Gartmorn, 2 Dollar Glen, 2 Alva Woodland Park (MC).
S Singing Airthrey 5 May (MVB). SWP 2 singing Aberfoyle 10 May (CJH).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* (B,w)

- F Male Bo'ness 20, 22 & 23 January (RS). Migrants: Male Skinflats 26 April, 1 on 27 September (AB GO). Present Grangemouth mid May (WRB).
C Pair reared 5 young Gartmorn (MC).
S Singing BoA 20 April (CJH), Airth 2 June (AB). Male Airthrey 10 May (MVB), last on 6 November (DMB). SWP 1 Aberfoyle 6 January (MT).

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (B)

- C 2 AoT Wood Hill 23 May (MC).
S Singing Mine Wood 4 May (WRB).
SWP Singing Fairy Knowe 10 May (CJH). Present in May Drumore Wood, Kilmahog (WRB).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* (B)

- F 1 Kinneil 19 December (JC).
S Singing BoA 7 April (JMC). 1 Torwood 1 May (AB). 1 by Forth at Manorneuk 29 November (JC).
SWP 1 Lake of Menteith 29 March (DT). Singing Ashfield 1 April, Doune Ponds on 17th (WRB).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* (B)

- F 1 Carronshore 24 April (AB), 1 Skinflats on 26th (GO). 3 AoT Jupiter WG, 1st on 27 April (WRB).
C Frequent Menstrie 28 April (CJH). 6 at Gartmorn (MC).
SWP 1 Kinbuck 19 April (MVB). Singing Blairdrummond 26 April, one of commonest species in mixed woodland, 4.7 records per Km transect (QH).

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* (B,W)

- F Through year at Skinflats (AB).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* (B)

- C 2 pairs reared 9 young Gartmorn (MC).
- S 1st BoA 31 May (DMB).
- SWP 2 L.Ard Forest 14 May (WRB). 1st Rhuveag 17 May (DT). 1 pair Ashfield (WRB).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* (b)

- SWP At Trossachs colony 50 nest attempts fledged 288 young (HR). Male Gartmore 10 May (CJH). 2 Males Rhuveag 17 May (DT). Singing Kilmahog 19 May (WRB).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* (B,W)

- F 12 Carronshore 10 January & 10 on 23 October ; 15 Skinflats 25 October (AB). Regular Jupiter WG Oct-Dec, max 15 on 1 December (WRB).
- C 8 pairs bred Gartmorn, nests : 3 gorse, 3 birch, 1 blackthorn, 1 ivy; 1st egg 23 March (MC). 12 Gartmorn 9 December (CJH). 12 Menstrie 14 November & 10 on 20th (BRT).
- S 7 Mine Wood 9 January (CJH). SWP 20 Loch Ard Forest 10 August (CJH). 30 in 5 flocks L.Katrine oakwoods 4 October (DM).

COAL TIT *Parus ater* (B,W)

- SWP Commonest species Strathyre (spruce) 19 January - 22 (81%) in 2 hrs; also L.Achray spruce on 26th - 9 in 111 min; (compare 4 (5%) in 90 min Mine Wood 9 January; 6 (11%) in 80 min Red Carr on 13th; 8 (13%) in 70 min Abbey Craig 11 February). 33 Loch Ard Forest 30 July (CJH). 30 in 5 flocks L.Katrine oakwoods 4 October (DM).

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus* (B,W)

- F Through year at Skinflats (AB).
- C Commonest species Red Carr 13 January - 26 (47%) in 80 min; 8+5 in reeds Tullibody Inch 1 October (CJH).
- S Commonest species Mine Wood 9 January -23 (31%) in 90 min; Abbey Craig 11 February - 19 (31%) in 70 min (CJH). SWP Just commoner than Coal Tit in mixed woodland at Blairdrummond May-June, 2.9 records per Km transect (CJH).

GREAT TIT *Parus major* (B,W)

- S Winter frequencies: Mine Wood 15 (20%) on 9 January; Red Carr 6 (11%) on 13th; Abbey Craig 8 (13%) on 11 February (CJH).

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* (B,W)

- Winter frequency in 3 deciduous woods Jan-Feb: 7 (3.6%) in 240 min (CJH).
- F 1 at Skinflats 2 February & 1 November (AB).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* (B,W)

- C 2 pairs Forestmill (MC).
- S Pair Torwood 1 May (AB), Mine Wood 7 May (MA).

Whilst widespread west of Stirling these sites are toward the east of the region where the species is much more thinly distributed.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* (B,W)

- C Nest building in Menstrie 1 March (BRT).
- S 22 Stirling bypass 4 March (BRT). 3 Mains of Glinn (Stronend) 8 October - exposed site at 160m (CJH). SWP 1 Ashfield November-December (WRB).

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* (B,W)

- SWP 20 pairs Ashfield (WRB).

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* (B,W)

- C 330 Menstrie 27 December (BRT).
- S 5000 in stubble at Plean in early December (WRB). 3000 BoA 27 January flying, with Jackdaws, S at dusk; 1600 (with many Jackdaws) Mine Wood 31 December, at dusk from NE, presumably to roost (CJH). Rookery nest counts: BoA(N) 62 in pines & 37 in deciduous on 19 April. BoA(S) 172. Witches Craig 40 on 22 April. 82 Myreton 28 April (CJH). 123 at Gartmorn (MC).
- SWP Post breeding visits to hill grazing: Glensherup 200 Green Knowes & 30 Mailers Knowe 17 June (CJH).

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* (B,W)

- C 70 Alva (on grass) 26 December (BRT).

RAVEN *Corvus corax* (B,W)

- 15 territories checked, 13 occupied; 9 pairs successful of which 6 reared 18 young (PS-A)
- SWP Pair Kirkton Glen 19 January (SS). 3 Menteith Hills 23 February, 5 Ben Chabhair 15 March, pair Rhuveag 17 May (RAB DT). 2 Braes of Doune 10 October (CJH). 2 Ben Ledi (1 v.tame) 6 July (WRB). 1 L.Ard Forest 4 August (CJH). 27 Glen Kendrum 26 January (RAB).

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* (B,W)

- F Feeding flocks in Bo'ness garden down from 50 in 1991 to 20 in 1992 (RS).
- S 200 Sheriffmuir 6 June. 2000 Banded at dusk 7 November, probably roosted (CJH).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* (B,W)

- F Feeding flocks in Bo'ness garden reduced from 30 in 1991 to 12 in 1992; 150 Skinflats 8 August (RS).

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* (B,W)

- F Skinflats: Recorded January, May to October with max 13 on 27 August, 20 on 27 & 15 on 3 October (AB GO).
- S 1 singing BoA 7 March (JMC). 6 Bannockburn 13 November (WRB). SWP 1 Lecropt 24 May (WRB), 105 Drip Moss 12 December (MVB).

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* (B,W)

In January very scarce (1 in 8.18 hr) in Trossachs spruce & oak, regular but scarce in lowland deciduous (4 in 5hr); by 11 February frequent and singing in Abbey Craig (CJH).

S 200 BoA 9 October (CJH).

SWP 300 Arnprior 8 March (DT). 300 Drip Moss 22 November (MVB). 20 ->S L.Lubnaig 7 October (CJH). Commonest breeding passerine in mixed woodland at Blairdrummond, 12.5 record per Km transect (CJH).

*BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* (w)

S 1 Arnprior 8 March & 50 on 31 October (DT). SWP 12 Thornhill 18 October (AK). 2 Kinbuck 8 November & 1 over Ashfield early in month (MVB WRB).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis Moris* (B,W)

C 12 Menstrie 23 & 27 December (BRT).

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* (B,W)

F 7 Jupiter WG October-December (WRB). Present all year at Skinflats (AB).

C 84 Grassmainston 27 September (MC). 26 Tullibody Inch 1 October (CJH). 4 on burdock & thistle Menstrie 14 November (BRT).

S 8 Kippenrait 25 January. 20 L.Carron 7 November (CJH). 20 Airthrey 8 December (MVB). SWP 19 Cromlix 1 February (MVB). Probably bred Ashfield (WRB). 32 on rough grazing Callander 12 December (DM).

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* (B,W)

F 15 Skinflats 20 April (AB); regularly 4 in Bo'ness garden January-February (1st occurrences), max 30 (RS).

C 6 Myreton 28 April (CJH). 27 in alders Menstrie 26 December (BRT).

S Singing BoA 18 May, no evidence of nesting (CJH).

SWP Small flocks Glensherup spruce 17 June (CJH). 12 L.Katrine 4 October (DM), 50 L.Venachar 29 October (CJH). Seems to have been a distinct increase in the breeding season in the Hillfoots-Devon Valley since the Devon Survey (Ed).

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* (B,W)

F Present all year Skinflats (AB); 3 Jupiter WG April-May (WRB). 6 in spring around Grangemouth High School, pair nested but the 6 eggs disappeared (JW). SWP 200 Thornhill 25 January, 200 Lecropt on 29 November, 200 Baad 12 December (MVB). 80 Chalmerston 27 December (CJH).

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* (B,W)

F 187 on Saltmarsh at Skinflats 21 November (GO), 5 on Pools on 14th (AB). 140 Kincardine Bridge 30 December (JC).

- S Birds singing above Fintry 14 May (LLBR).
- SWP 80 Kinbuck 19 February & 45 on 23rd, 30 on 1 March (MVB JC), 32 Ashfield 11 April & 8 on 25th (WRB). These are probably offshoots of a much larger wintering population in Strathallan just over the Tayside border, eg huge flock here in autumn (MVB).
- REDPOLL *Carduelis ilammea* (B,W)
- SWP 1 Blairdrummond 11 May; several singing L.Ard Forest (Garbeg, Clashmore) on 20th. Throughout Glensherup on 17 June (CJH). 34 in birches Callander 12 December (DM).
- BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (B,W)
- F Pair Jupiter 7 January, 1 Carron Dam 1 February (WRB)
- SWP 27 in deep heather at 600m, Monachyle Glen 12 January (RAB). 4 in heather L.Achray Forest on 26 January (CJH). 5 males in birches Callander 12 December (DM).
- COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* (b,W)
- S 3 BoA 26 April (CJH). Small numbers Carron Valley at end of year (LLBR). SWP A few L.Ard Forest 10 August (CJH). (only record, Ed)
- HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (b?,w)
- No records received.
- *SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (W)
- C 18 Kings Seat 12 December (MC).
- SWP 45 Ardeonaig (RAB SS). 6 Glen Gyle 13 March, 4 Glen Lochay (Badour) on 19 December & 1 on 28th, 1 Meall nan Tarmachan 21 December (RAB). 38 + 64 Braes of Doune 8 December (MC) & 2 Glen Finglass on 5th (JC). 2 Females Ben Lomond 19 April (LLBR) (quite late date for this area, Ed).
- YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* (B,W)
- F 11 Carronshore 11 February (AB).
- C 4 Menstrie 26 December (BRT).
- SWP 2 AoT Ashfield & 2 Doune railway mid-May (WRB). Commonestfinch-bunting on carse farmland Blairdrummond Moss in May-June (CJH).
- REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoenoides* (B,W)
- F Present all year Skinflats (AB). Singing Jupiter WG April (WRB).
- C 3 AoT Cambus 17 & 19 May, 2 on 4 June, 3 on 5th (WRB CJH).
- S 11 in stubble Cambuskenneth 20 December (CJH).
- SWP Pair Ashfield (WRB).
- *CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* (b,w)
- F 1 singing Powfoulis-Skinflats through May & 23 June (AB DMB WKH RS). Singing Powbridge (Higgin's Neuk) 10 May (DT).

Additions and corrections to 1991 Report

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

SWP Female with 6 young L.Venachar 15 June (BH).

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

One also seen and photographed on Ben Cleuch on 21 August
by JP & CJ Davis.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

SWP 1 Glen Ogle 29 June (BH).

WAX WING *Bombycilla garrulus*

Correction to 1991: delete "SWP 50->W L.Arklet 27 November";
substitute

S 50->W Stirling 27 November" - apologies to MT, Editor's mistake.

EDITORIAL NOTE - forthcoming book

We hope to publish by Christmas a substantial new book to promote knowledge and study of the environment of our area - *Central Scotland - land, wildlife, people*.

Considerable labours over the last year are about to achieve this new survey to succeed the 1974 *Stirling Region* produced by the University for the British Association. The book's 14 illustrated and indexed chapters give a readable authoritative review of the region's -Land - Geology; Climate; Soils; Vegetation and Flora Wildlife - Birds; Mammals; Butterflies; Aquatic Life; Nature Conservation People - Agriculture; Industry; Population; Politics; Sport and Recreation

Thanks to sponsorship by BP, Scottish Natural Heritage and United Glass, Alloa we are holding the price low at £12.50.

Order inquiries welcomed - L. Corbett 30/10/93