

## **FORTH AREA BIRD REPORT 2008**

A.E. Thiel and C.J. Pendlebury

This report is the 34<sup>th</sup> bird report for the Forth Valley (or Upper Forth) bird recording area. The area covered by the report comprises the council areas of Falkirk, Clackmannan and Stirling, excluding Loch Lomondside and other parts of the Clyde drainage basin. Please note that we do not include the Endrick Water, i.e. Fintry and Balfron.

The report was written by Chris Pendlebury (non-passerines, excluding waders) and Andre Thiel (waders, passerines and escapees) with Cliff Henty contributing the half-monthly summaries to the wader accounts. Chris Pendlebury, as SOC recorder can be contacted by e-mail at [chris@upperforthbirds.co.uk](mailto:chris@upperforthbirds.co.uk), by leaving a message on 07798 711134 or by mail to 3 Sinclair Street, Dunblane FK15 0AH.

The main part of the report consists of detailed species accounts presented in a systematic list now arranged in the new order, as adopted by the BOU, and using the new nomenclature, as recommended by the SOC. This is preceded by a summary of the main bird news from the past year and a Ringing Report, both compiled by Andre Thiel.

### **ROUND-UP OF THE YEAR**

#### **January**

January started with a Spotted Redshank at Kinneil on 1<sup>st</sup>. On 2<sup>nd</sup> the overwintering Spotted Sandpiper that had been present since 24<sup>th</sup> December 2007 made its first appearance in the new year. As it drew the crowds to Kinneil, at nearby Polmonthill a Firecrest – another first for the recording area – was an excellent find on 3<sup>rd</sup>. It remained rather elusive during its stay until 26<sup>th</sup>. As in the two preceding years, a Ruff overwintered at Skinflats where it was seen on 4<sup>th</sup>. On 5<sup>th</sup> an overwintering Common Greenshank was on the River Avon at Grangemouth and the next day two birds were at Skinflats and one at Kinneil. The first Barnacle Goose of the year was seen at Skinflats on 11<sup>th</sup>. The next day was pretty productive. The first evidence of overwintering Green Sandpipers came with two birds on the River Carron. The drake Green-winged Teal that had been present at Kinneil since 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007 was spotted again there. Fifty Common Snipe on the Forth along the Stirling-Upper Taylorton stretch was a good count, while the first two Bramblings of the year were at Longleys, Carse of Lecropt with further singles in Dunblane on 20<sup>th</sup> and Blairdrummond Moss on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A small remnant flock of Bohemian Waxings from 2007 remained in Dunblane where 24 birds were seen on 15<sup>th</sup>. An immature White-tailed Eagle from the Fife reintroduction scheme at Argaty, Braes of Doune on 23<sup>rd</sup> was the first of a run of sightings in our area.

#### **February**

A mini influx of Snow Buntings saw five birds at Craigmore in Aberfoyle on

2<sup>nd</sup>, two birds at the Duke's Pass, Aberfoyle on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2 birds at Earlsburn on 9<sup>th</sup>. An overwintering Green Sandpiper was on Loch Daira at Blairdrummond on 3<sup>rd</sup> as were two Bramblings at Bows, Braes of Doune. Another Green Sandpiper was at Gilston Park in Polmont on 7<sup>th</sup>. A Eurasian Woodcock taking its time to cross a road near Dollarbeg on 7<sup>th</sup> was an amusing sight. A Rock Pipit at Tullibody Inch on 9<sup>th</sup> was the only one of the year. Presumably the same adult Ring-billed Gull as in 2007 was again seen at Kinneil on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Seventy Northern Pintail at Skinflats on 10<sup>th</sup> was the largest flock of the year. Also on 10<sup>th</sup> an adult Mediterranean Gull at Kinneil was the 13<sup>th</sup> record for the area and started a run of four more sightings of a species that is spreading. A count of 60 Willow Ptarmigan (Red Grouse) at Cringate Muir also on 10<sup>th</sup> must have been satisfying. Twenty Common Pochard at Carron Valley Res on 12<sup>th</sup> was, surprisingly, the largest flock of the year. A Spotted Redshank was at Skinflats on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

### March

Good numbers of Pink-footed Geese were counted in the Forth catchment area with 3000 birds on Thornhill Carse on 9<sup>th</sup> and 2500 at Lake of Menteith on 27<sup>th</sup>. A drake Green-winged Teal at Cambusmore on 17<sup>th</sup> constitutes the 5<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area, while a drake Lesser Scaup at Vale of Coustry on 19<sup>th</sup> was the fourth record. Three Red-throated Divers off Kinneil on 29<sup>th</sup> was the largest count of the year. The advent of spring was heralded by the first Sand Martins of the year in Doune on 30<sup>th</sup>, albeit rather late. The same day also saw the first Common Chiffchaffs arrive in Falkirk and Doune.

### April

Late Redwings left Auchinlay, Dunblane on 4<sup>th</sup>. The next day 30 Black-legged Kittiwakes passed Kinneil. The first Barn Swallow of the year at Gart gravel pits on 6<sup>th</sup> was rather late as were the first Northern Wheatears north of Menstrie. The 8<sup>th</sup> saw the first Willow Warbler at Skinflats. A small spring passage of Common Greenshank started at Kinneil on 12<sup>th</sup> with a single bird, rising to three individuals by 28<sup>th</sup>. On 14<sup>th</sup> the long-staying Spotted Sandpiper was last seen at Kinneil bringing to an end an almost four-month long presence. Two days later a Wood Nuthatch at Blairdrummond caravan park was the 6<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area, continuing a good run since the first bird was recorded in 1999 and constitutes another piece in the jigsaw of the northwards spread of the species in Scotland. The same day saw the first House Martins arrive in the same location and slightly later than in the past. On 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> a ringed Black-tailed Godwit of the Icelandic race that had been ringed the previous winter on the Atlantic coast of France was spotted at Kinneil. The first Whimbrel of the year appeared at Skinflats on 18<sup>th</sup> with two birds there on 26<sup>th</sup>. The 23<sup>rd</sup> saw the first Common Grasshopper Warbler at Blairdrummond and the first Garden Warbler at Cocksburn, followed by the first Common Whitethroat at Skinflats on 24<sup>th</sup> and the first Common Cuckoo at Flanders Moss on 25<sup>th</sup>. Four Hooded Crows at Skinflats on 26<sup>th</sup> were in a rather unusual location. 27<sup>th</sup> was a good day for witnessing the spring arrival of

migrants with Common Swifts in Bridge of Allan, Tree Pipits at Argaty, Braes of Doune and Dumyat Stirling, a Common Redstart at Menteith and a Sedge Warbler at Skinflats. A poor passage of Green Sandpipers consisted of three birds at Kinneil on 28<sup>th</sup>. The month finished with the first Wood Warbler of the year at Kippenrait Glen, Bridge of Allan on 30<sup>th</sup>.

## May

Whinchats arrived slightly later than in previous years with the first near Clackmannan on 2<sup>nd</sup>. A moulting Spotted Redshank on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May at Kinneil had apparently been present there since the start of the year. Two Little Gulls at Skinflats, on the other hand, were definitely the first of the year. The 7<sup>th</sup> saw the last flock of 74 Pink-footed Geese as well as four Eurasian Wigeon at Alloa Inch. A pair of maybe the same birds was seen at the nearby Blackdevon Wetlands two days later. On 10<sup>th</sup> a White Stork flew SE past Fallin. A pair of Spotted Flycatchers on 13<sup>th</sup> at Doune Lodge, Braes of Doune spearheaded a rather poor showing of this declining African migrant. Likewise two Pied Flycatchers at Brig o' Turk on 24<sup>th</sup> were, surprisingly, the only record of the year. The second Mediterranean Gull of the year was at Blairdrummond on 25<sup>th</sup>, while a Ring Ouzel on Ben Ledi on 29<sup>th</sup> was the only one seen this year.

## June

A pair of Eurasian Teal at Blackdevon Wetlands on 4<sup>th</sup> could have been breeding there. On 11<sup>th</sup> three first-summer Little Gulls were spotted at Skinflats. A showy male Common Rosefinch in Tyndrum on 19<sup>th</sup> was an excellent find. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area and continues a run since 1997, prompting thoughts of when rather than whether breeding will occur. Two Eurasian Wigeon and 6 Eurasian Teal at Loch Dochart on 21<sup>st</sup> fall into the same category of possible breeders. A good autumn passage of Common Greenshank started at Skinflats on 25<sup>th</sup> with two birds. A flock of 50 Common Crossbills in Hermitage Wood, Bridge of Allan on 28<sup>th</sup> was a good showing.

## July

Two adult Eurasian Spoonbills at Kinneil on 2<sup>nd</sup>-the 6<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area – livened up the 'quiet' month with a protracted stay that lasted until the end of August. A Common Quail at Thornhill on 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> would have enlivened the observer's day. The autumn passage of Common Greenshank at Skinflats gathered speed with seven birds on 7<sup>th</sup>. The first two Arctic Skuas of the autumn flew past Kinneil on 10<sup>th</sup> with one there on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Four Sanderling at Kinneil on 16<sup>th</sup> was only one of two sightings of the species this year. A Ruddy Turnstone was at Kinneil on 27<sup>th</sup> and on the same day the third Mediterranean Gull of the year at Skinflats. Whimbrel passage peaked with ten birds at Kinneil on 29<sup>th</sup>.

## August

Two more Ruddy Turnstones were at Kinneil on 1<sup>st</sup>. A moulting flock of 3259

Common Shelduck was seen in the Grangemouth area on 2<sup>nd</sup>. A European Shag at Kinneil on the same day as well as on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> was a unusual record. Autumn passage of Ruff started on 13<sup>th</sup> with three birds at Skinflats and quickly increased to eight birds on 19<sup>th</sup>. The 13<sup>th</sup> also saw the continuing Common Greenshank passage with five birds at Skinflats increasing to eight on 16<sup>th</sup>, 11 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Also on the same day there was an adult Little Gull at Kinneil that was also seen there on 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The adult Ring-billed Gull made another appearance at Kinneil on 14<sup>th</sup>. Green Sandpiper passage was poor with singles at Kinneil and Gilston on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Single Whimbrel on 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at Kinneil increased to a second peak of ten birds on 25<sup>th</sup>. Black-tailed Godwit numbers at Kinneil peaked at 325 on 29<sup>th</sup>. The first sighting of two juvenile Curlew Sandpipers at Skinflats on 31<sup>st</sup> was rather late.

### September

A Wood Nuthatch on feeders in Bridge of Allan on 5<sup>th</sup> constitutes the 2<sup>nd</sup> records of the year and the 7<sup>th</sup> for the Forth Valley recording area. Five Arctic Skuas and 50 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Kinneil on 6<sup>th</sup> were good sightings. The Ring-billed Gull made another intermittent stop at Kinneil on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Eight Curlew Sandpipers at Skinflats from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> was a good showing. Seventeen adult Little Gulls flying past Kinneil on 17<sup>th</sup> was an excellent observation. If confirmation that autumn had arrived was needed, it came in the form of four Pale-bellied Brent Geese at Skinflats on 20<sup>th</sup> increasing to 11 on 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. A juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper at Tullibody Inch on 26<sup>th</sup> was only the 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Forth Valley, the first two records being in May and September 1987, respectively. A single Brent Goose at Kinneil on 28<sup>th</sup> was probably one of the Skinflats birds.

### October

A drake Green-winged Teal moulting out of eclipse plumage at Kinneil on 5<sup>th</sup> – possibly the same bird that was present there in January – is the earliest recorded in Scotland. Fifteen immature Northern Gannets passing Skinflats on 10<sup>th</sup> was a good count. Two Snow Buntings were on Ben Ledi on 11<sup>th</sup>. A Slavonian Grebe at Loch Coulter on 14<sup>th</sup> was the first of three birds this year with the second at Lake of Menteith on 17<sup>th</sup> close on its heels. A Red-necked Grebe at Blackness on 18<sup>th</sup> was the first of two birds this year. A Brambling was in Dunblane on 20<sup>th</sup>. On 25<sup>th</sup> a first winter Mediterranean Gull was at Kinneil. On 26<sup>th</sup> the Whooper Swan flock at Skinflats peaked at a good 65 birds. Two days later saw the only White-fronted Geese of the year make landfall there, consisting of 11 birds of the Greenland race.

### November

November started with the first Bohemian Waxwings of an invasion in South Alloa, Fallin and Strathyre on 1<sup>st</sup>. Single figure arrivals quickly grew to over 200 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Stirling, 200 as well in Dunblane on 21<sup>st</sup> and 220 on

22<sup>nd</sup> before starting to dwindle again. The first day of the month also saw a Snow Bunting over Blairdrummond with two more birds at Loch Ard on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1 at Kinneil on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two overwintering Common Greenshank were at Kinneil from 11<sup>th</sup>, while up to five birds were at Skinflats from 15<sup>th</sup>. An immature Long-tailed Duck there from 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> was one of only two this year. Greater Canada Geese continue to thrive with a peak count of 260 at Loch Venachar on 16<sup>th</sup>. The same day an overwintering Green Sandpiper was on the River Carron between the M876 and Larbert with another one at Quarry Pond, Blairdrummond on 24<sup>th</sup>. A female Common Scoter at Kinneil on 18<sup>th</sup> was the only one of the year. The third Slavonian Grebe of the year was seen at Cambusmore on 21<sup>st</sup>; the fifth Mediterranean Gull at Skinflats on 23<sup>rd</sup> and the second Red-necked Grebe of the year at Cocksburn Reservoir on 26<sup>th</sup>. The 25<sup>th</sup> was the last time the Ring-billed Gull was spotted at Kinneil.

## December

A count of 50 Red Kites at Argaty, Braes of Doune on 4<sup>th</sup> would have been an impressive sight. There were several records of Barnacle Geese this year. A flock of seven birds at Brackenlees Fm, Powfoulis on 7<sup>th</sup> was the largest one. An adult Iceland Gull at the Avondale landfill site in Polmont was the only record for the year. Another overwintering Green Sandpiper was at Coustry Pond on 18<sup>th</sup>. The second Long-tailed Duck of the year was at Carron Valley Reservoir on 21<sup>st</sup>, while the largest count of Greater Scaup was made at Kinneil on 24<sup>th</sup> with 35 birds. A flock of 80 Common Eider off Kinneil on 26<sup>th</sup> was another good count. An overwintering Ruff – possibly the same bird as the one that overwintered previously – was seen at Skinflats on the same day. The year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> with still a sizeable flock of 50 Bohemian Waxwings in Tullibody.

## RECORD SUBMISSION AND REPORT FORMAT

Annual Bird Reports depend largely on contributions from the local birdwatching community. Due to the ever growing (and welcome) volume of data that are submitted, some data that may be of relevance in one year may not be so in another year. This should not discourage contributors from submitting data that they feel are of relevance to their local area, as it will only become obvious whether a particular record should be included or not once the entire dataset is available. Several observers send in a list largely or entirely for their home locality. Much of this information is not suitable for inclusion in these annual reports but is valuable to have on record (e.g. for conservation action). These data are kept in a special file. At the moment there are fifteen such lists referring to the whole district from Falkirk to Killin. Several contributors send in data, often of common species, from repeated transect visits to the same locality, e.g. Airthrey; King's Park, Stirling; Cobleland, Aberfoyle. This has become more common since the advent of the BTO's Birdtrack on-line project. Such data reflect birds per walked route rather than flock sizes. These data are especially useful, if collected repeatedly and using the same effort between years, in which case they allow valid comparison between seasons and years to be made.

To facilitate the preparation of the report, contributors are strongly encouraged to submit their data as soon as possible after the end of the year. Electronic files are much the preferred format, as it greatly speeds up cross-checking and summarising of data. A standard spreadsheet is available from Chris Pendlebury. Special thanks are due to those contributors who are submitting their data in this format.

Following appeals for more complete information, most records now include the name of the nearest village and an increasing number of records are also submitted with 6-figure grid references. This is very much appreciated, as it enormously speeds up cross-checks and is a valuable resource for conservation action.

The sparse information available about common breeding species is improved by data from the Breeding Birds Survey (BBS). For less common species data can sometimes be summarised in terms of the numbers of pairs or apparently occupied territories for particular locations. The organisers for both the estuary and the inland waters parts of the national wildfowl counts (WeBS) have also made available the results from these for this report. Where appropriate, these data are included in the species accounts.

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 locations. The status of species is detailed in a check list, published in the *Forth Naturalist and Historian*, Vol 15. In addition there is a coded summary of general distribution after the species name. This often apparently contradicts the detailed records that are published for the year. The codes are thus:

B - Breeding status: widespread (present in more than five 10 km squares)  
 b " " : local, scarce (present in fewer than five 10 km squares)  
 W - Winter status: widespread or often in groups of more than ten  
 w - " " : local, scarce (usually fewer than ten in a group)  
 P or 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 : Summer visitor (used for species present in summer but  
 which do not normally breed; S or s used for  
 widespread or local as in winter status).

Thus BW would be appropriate for European Robin, B for Barn Swallow, p for Ruff and SW for Great Cormorant. No status letter is used if a species occurs less than every other year.

Vetting of records of species that are unusual locally is carried out by a panel of five members, which currently consists of C. Pendlebury, C. Henty, D. Orr-Ewing, D. Douglas and A. McIver. The panel has produced a list of species that are scarce locally and where the records need to be supported by either a full description or sufficient evidence to remove any reasonable doubt. The list is available from Chris Pendlebury. Any species which is a vagrant to the area and

some of those which are asterisked (\*) in this report will fall in this category. At the discretion of the panel a description may also be required for more common species. The first twenty occurrences of a species in our recording area are highlighted. Vetting of national rarities is done by the BBRC and that of Scottish rarities by the SBRC; descriptions need to be submitted to these committees, as appropriate.

The British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) has appealed in the past for introduced/escaped species to be recorded locally. As the published information on these species is not necessarily complete, it is important to monitor changes in the status of these species more accurately. The BOU therefore encourages observers to record and monitor all naturalised species (particularly but not exclusively breeding records and interactions with native species) and escaped species seen in the wild to assist it to make future recommendations for category C status, if a self-sustaining naturalised population is established.

The following abbreviations have been used in the report: Ad(s) - adult(s), AoT - apparently occupied territory, b/lkm - birds per linear kilometre, Br - bridge, BoA - Bridge of Allan, BoD - Braes of Doune, ca - circa, c/n - clutch of n eggs, conf. - confluence, BBS - Breeding Bird Survey, CP - Country Park, E - east, Est - estuary, Fm - farm, F - Female, G - Glen, GP - gravel pit, Imm - immature, incl - including, Juv - juvenile, L - Loch, N - north, NR - Nature Reserve, nr - near, M - Male, Max - maximum, ON - on nest; pr - pair; Res - Reservoir, R - river, Rd - road, S - south, SP - summer plumage, W - west, WeBS - Wetland Bird Survey, Y - young, > flying/flew.

## CONTRIBUTORS

This report has been compiled from records submitted by the contributors listed below. Where initials are given, the contributors are listed in the species entries of birds which are rare, uncommon or otherwise noteworthy.

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WeBS estuary counts are made available by M. Bell and N Bielby. Apologies to anybody who has been inadvertently missed out of the above list.

## RINGING REPORT

This is the fifth ringing report. The following section lists all ringed birds seen in the recording area during the year. Contributors are encouraged to report colour-ringed wildfowl to the relevant organisers and/or the BTO and not to assume that somebody else has already done so, as all movements are of interest to the ringers and add to our understanding of bird ecology and migration patterns. Thanks are due to Allan and Lyndesay Brown and Kirstie Hemple for making available data on movements of birds seen in the recording area. Allan and Lyndesay Brown, who are ringing Mute Swans in Fife and the Lothians, are particularly keen to learn if any of the birds ringed by them (green or white Darvic rings) breed outside their study area.

Twelve recoveries (excluding multiple sightings of the same bird) were made in 2008. Most are of Mute Swan (11) with one recovery of a Black-tailed Godwit. The total number of species for which ringing recovery information is now available for our area (since 2004) stands at 23 species.

Recoveries are listed in the new order, as for the systematic list, under the headings shown below. Where an asterisk appears behind a ring number, further details of sightings are given in previous ringing reports.

Ring number	Date ringed	Location ringed	Date seen in 2008	Location in recording area (codes as in main list)	Recorder
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followed by the location(s) where the bird was seen in between

### •MUTE SWAN

Green IVU	13 Aug 2005	Union Canal, Viewforth, Edinburgh	4 Jan 2008	Gartmorn Dam (C)	KH
Green IXZ	14 Aug 2004	Union Canal, Polmont (F)	11 Oct 2008	Forth and Clyde Canal, Bankside (F)	KH

In care Middlebank 20 Oct 2005 to 4 Dec 2005. Released Linlithgow Loch 4 Dec 2005. Seen there 27 Aug 2006; Forth and Clyde Canal, Bankside 4 Nov 2006, 19 Jan and 22 May 2007 and Cramond 1 Sep 2007.

Green JNB	28 Jun 2006	Riccarton Pond, Edinburgh	4 Jan 2008	Gartmorn Dam (C)	KH
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Green JUN	24 Aug 2002	Linlithgow Loch (West Lothian)	12 Apr 2008 17 May 2008 8 Sep 2008 11 Oct 2008	Falkirk stadium (F)	KH
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Seen Falkirk Stadium 6 Jul 2007; taken into care Middlebank same day; back at Falkirk Stadium 21, 22 and 29 Sep 2007. Bred there in 2008 with Orange 3DFE and had 4 cygnets.

Orange 3BJC*	2 Nov 2002	Gartmorn Dam (C)	4 Jan 2008	Gartmorn Dam (C)	KH
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A regular at Gartmorn Dam where present on several dates in 2003 and 2004. In 2005 bred there with unringed F and seen with 6 cygnets.

Orange 3CHT (lost) W12225	18 Sep 2004	Colzium, Kilsyth	4 Jan 2008	Gartmorn Dam (C)	KH
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Seen Banton Loch 22 Jan and 12 Feb 2005; Gartmorn Dam 22 Feb, 26 Feb, 5 Mar, 19 Mar and 21 Mar 2005 and 19 Mar 2007 and Delph Pond, Tullibody 5 Apr 2007.

Orange 3CPV	10 Sep 2005	Lennoxton (F)	4 Jan 2008	Gartmorn Dam (C)	KH
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A well traveled individual. Seen Lennoxton 2 Jan 2006; Gartmorn 19 and 31 Mar 2007 and River Leven, Dumbarton 4 Aug 2007.

Orange 3CZN	23 Sep 2006	Forth and Clyde Canal, Bankside, Falkirk (F)	4 Jan 2008	Gartmorn Dam (C)	KH
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Seen Forth & Clyde Canal, Bankside 12 Jan 2007; Grangepans, Bo'ness 17 Feb 2007 and 3 Mar 2007.

Orange 3CZX	23 Sep 2006	Forth and Clyde Canal, Auchinstarry	4 Jan 2008	Gartmorn Dam (C)	KH
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Seen Broadwood Loch, Cumbernauld 21 Apr 2007.

Orange 3DFE	22 Sep 2007	Falkirk Stadium (F)	12 Apr 2008 17 May 2008 8 Sep 2008 11 Oct 2008	Falkirk Stadium (F)	KH
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Seen Falkirk stadium 29 Sep 2007. Bred there in 2008 with Green JUN and had 4 cygnets.

Metal W12294	19 Mar 2005	Gartmorn Dam (C)	4 Jan 2008	Gartmorn Dam (C)	KH
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No known sightings in between probably due to lack of Darvic ring.

• **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (Icelandic race)**

L: Orange flag above yellow ring	11 Nov 2007	Moëze (Atlantic Coast) FRANCE	17 & 24 Apr 2008	Kinneil (F)	GFB
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R: Yellow ring  
above blue  
ring

Metal ring  
FS 68010

Also seen 12 Nov 2007 Les Mattes, Yves, FRANCE

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

Codes - S, F and C refer to Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Council Areas.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* (B,W)

Inland WeBS counts: 190 in Jan, 155 in Feb, 160 in Mar, 154 in Sep, 175 in Oct, 192 in Nov, 110 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS): 4 in Jan, 2 in Feb, 6 in Mar, 1 in Sep, 6 in Oct, 6 in Nov, 8 in Dec.

F Ten Skinflats 2 Oct. 26 Underhill – R Carron, Forth/Clyde Canal 18 Oct and 16 Dec.

C Breeding: pr and 4 Y Blackdevon Wetlands 19 Jun; pr and 2 Y Cambus Village Pool 19 Jun; pr and 6 Y Kersiepow Pond, Alva 1 Sep; no successful breeding at St Helen's Loch or Black Loch. Site max: 49 Gartmorn 27 Jan; 25 Blackdevon Wetlands 30 Jan.

S Breeding: pr and 9 Y Polmaise Lagoons 22 May-Aug; pr and 1 Y Cambusmore 29 Jun; pr and 6 Y Ochloch Pond, Dunblane 1 Sep; pr and 1 Y Doune Ponds; pr and 2 Y Cocksburn Res, BoA; no successful breeding at Vale of Coustry. Site max: 29 Airthrey Loch 14 Sep; 28 R Forth, Stirling 31 Mar; 10 Lake of Menteith 3 Dec.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* (W)

Inland WeBS counts: 18 in Jan, 28 in Feb, 21 in Mar, 0 in Sep, 10 in Oct, 39 in Nov, 17 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS): 65 in Oct, 43 in Nov.

F Winter/spring: 4 Kinneil 12 Jan. Autumn/winter: 1 Skinflats 2 Oct, 2 there 10 Oct, 11 there 12 Oct, rising to 37 by 18 Oct and 65 on 26 Oct; 2 Kinneil 9 Oct; 33 Airth 18 Nov; 6 < Kinneil 22 Nov. 11 Darnrigg Moss 25 Dec.

C Autumn/winter: 7 Blackdevon Wetlands 18 Oct; 1 Gartmorn Dam 27 Oct.

S Winter/spring: 18 Carron Valley Res 14 Jan; 8 Upper Taylorton, R Forth 9 Feb. Autumn/winter: 3 Polmaise Lagoons 20 Oct; 10 Teith/Forth conf., Stirling 21 Oct, 36 there 16 Nov; 8 Cambus 28 Dec.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* (W)

F Slamannan plateau: 50 Bean Fm and 70 Wester Jawcraig Fm 4 Jan, 6 Easter Jawcraig 23 Jan, 80 Wester Lochgreen 30 Jan, 86 Bandominie 5 Feb, 70 Slamannan 21 Oct, 23 Hillend Fm 23 Oct (BGSG).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* (W)

Last spring record: 74 Alloa Inch 7 May (RSX). First autumn return: 20 Alloa Inch 9 Sep (RSX).

Forth Est (WeBS): 465 in Jan, 960 in Feb, 3235 in Mar, 1333 in Oct, 751 in Nov, 31 in Dec.

F Winter/spring: 960 Skinflats 10 Feb. Autumn/winter: 1450 S Alloa 28 Oct.

C Winter/spring: 600 Old Throsk Bridge 2 Feb; 1300 Cambus 19 Mar; 1600 Alloa Inch 9 Apr and 3 Mar; 1100 Tullibody Inch 2 May. Summer: 1 Blackdevon Wetlands 23 and 27 May; 1 Tullibody Inch 8 Jun.

S Winter/spring: 1200 Flanders Moss 6 Jan; 2000 Lecropt 11 Jan; 200 Blairdrummond Moss 10 Feb; 3000 Thornhill Carse 9 Mar; 2500 Lake of Menteith 27 Mar; 1100 Thornhill Carse 9 Apr. Summer: 1 Cambusmore 28 July; 1 Lake of Menteith 4 Sep.

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

F Eleven (9 ad, 2 imm) birds of the Greenland race at Skinflats 28 Oct (MVB).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* (b, W)

Forth Est (WeBS): 5 in Jan, 133 in Feb, 25 in Mar, 133 in Oct, 28 in Nov.

F Winter/spring: 304 High Bonnybridge 4 Mar. Summer (feral): 131 Skinflats 11

- Aug; 310 Blackness 14 Aug. Autumn/winter: 196 Skinflats 28 Oct; 116 Bonnybridge 6 Dec.
- C Winter/spring: 370 Alva 3 Jan. Autumn/winter: 450 Alloa Inch 9 Sep; 100 Gartmorn Dam 12 Nov.
- S Winter/spring: 595 L Coulter 11 Jan; 135 Cambuskenneth 21 Mar. Summer: 210 (incl Imms) N Third Res 27 Jun. Autumn/winter: 689 Bandeath, R Forth 11 Oct; 101 Killin 18 Nov; 305 L Coulter 6 Dec.
- GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* (b W)  
 Inland WeBS counts: 431 in Jan, 407 in Feb, 484 in Mar, 593 in Sep, 264 in Oct, 304 in Nov, 360 in Dec.
- F Max: 113 St. Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 11 Jan, 99 there 6 Dec.
- C Max: 4 Gartmorn Dam 4 Aug; 90 Tullibody Inch 17 Sep.
- S Breeding: pr and 5 Y Cambusmore 20 May, 2 broods (4 and 2) there 11 Jun; pr and 4 Y North Third Res 27 Jun. Max: 200 Nether Carse 27 Mar; 204 Cambusmore 4 Sep; 260 L Venachar 16 Nov; 123 Lake of Menteith 3 Dec.
- \*BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (w)  
 F One Skinflats 11 Jan (AB). 7 Brackenlees Fm, Powfoulis 7 Dec (AB, GO).  
 S Two Dochart Haughs 16 Jan (NB). 4 Easter Tarr, Ruskie 6 and 10 Feb (DT). 4 Cambushinnie 7 Feb (DOE). 1 Drip Moss 27 Feb (ACR). 6 Lower Auchinlay, Dunblane 30 Mar (CJP). 4 Drip Moss, Stirling 15 Nov (DMB). 2 Cambusbarrow 23 Dec (GC).
- \*BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* (w)  
 Four of pale-bellied race Skinflats on 20 Sep, with 11 there on 21-23 Sep (RP, DMB, GO *et al.*). 11 Kinneil 28 Sep with 7 there 27 Oct (DT, JRC).
- COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* (b, W)  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 1451 in Jan, 1311 in Feb, 858 in Mar, 1844 in Sep, 1986 in Oct, 1886 in Nov, 1394 in Dec.
- F Breeding: 8 Y Kinneil 13 Jul, and 3 new Y on 1 Aug. Moulting flock: 3259 Grangemouth area 2 Aug (DMB); 691 Skinflats Pools 6 Jul.
- C Max: 84 Tullibody Inch 9 Feb; 64 Blackdevon Wetlands 19 Mar; 50 Alloa Inch 9 Apr.
- S One L Achray 17 Oct.
- EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* (b, W)  
 Inland WeBS counts: 671 in Jan, 666 in Feb, 510 in Mar, 36 in Sep, 118 in Oct, 496 in Nov, 236 in Dec.  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 514 in Jan, 615 in Feb, 489 in Mar, 66 in Sep, 708 in Oct, 386 in Nov, 310 in Dec.
- F Winter/spring max: 207 Skinflats 10 Feb; 398 Kincardine Br 24 Feb; 65 Kinneil 3 Mar. Summer: 3 Skinflats 3 Jul. Autumn/winter max: 143 Skinflats 13 Dec.
- C Winter/spring site max: 100 Alloa Inch 2 Mar; 42 Blackdevon Wetlands 18 Mar. Summer: 4 Alloa Inch 7 May; pr Blackdevon Wetlands 9 May. Autumn/winter max: 50 Alloa 1 Nov; 85 Cambus Village Pool 6 Nov.
- S Winter/spring max: 80 Cambusmore 14 Jan; 105 Killin 16 Jan; 137 L Dochart/Lubhair 12 Feb; 163 Nether Carse 19 Feb. Summer: 2 L Dochart 21 June. Winter/spring max: 76 Killin 18 Nov.
- \*GADWALL *Anas strepera* (s, w)  
 F One pr Kinneil 2 Feb (DT). 1 M Kincardine Br 9 Mar (MVB). 2 pr Skinflats 4 May (GO). 1 pr Kinneil 5 Dec (GO).  
 C Two Gartmorn Dam 13 Mar (PMA). 1 pr Blackdevon Wetlands 14 Mar, 2 Apr and 3 May (CJH, NB, DMB). Cambus Pools: 4 pr 19 Mar, 2 on 23 Mar and 20 Apr, 1 pr on 9 May (DAC, ACC, PMA, NB). 3 Tullibody Inch 31 Mar (DMB).  
 S One Airthrey Loch 16 Jan (ACC). 1 R Forth, Fallin 22 Nov (ACC). 1 pr N Third Res 28 Dec (BO).

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca* (b, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 1089 in Jan, 1195 in Feb, 939 in Mar, 445 in Sep, 337 in Oct, 901 in Nov, 1009 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS): 1163 in Jan, 1123 in Feb, 823 in Mar, 440 in Sep, 1057 in Oct, 1322 in Nov, 1392 in Dec.

F Winter/spring max: 450 Kinneil 2 Feb; 296 Skinflats 9 Mar. Autumn/winter max: 200 Kinneil 11 Oct; 550 Skinflats 13 Dec (record count for site).

C Winter/spring max: 233 Kennetpans 6 Jan. Summer: 1 M Blackdevon Wetlands 9 May, 1 pr there 4 Jun. Autumn/winter max: 180 Cambus Pools 18 Sep; 132 Blackdevon Wetlands 28 Oct; 118 Tillicoultry 24 Dec.

S Winter/spring max: 146 Fallin 10 Feb; 154 Blairdrummond Carse 9 Mar. Summer: pr Doune Lodge, BoD 26 Apr; 6 L Dochart 21 Jun. Autumn/winter max: 133 Lake of Menteith 3 Dec; 245 Fallin 31 Dec.

\*GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

F One M Kinneil 12 Jan, seen also in Dec 2007 (AET). 1 M Kinneil 5 Oct to 2009 (DT, GO, RS *et al.*). The record of the M moulting out of eclipse plumage on 5 Oct (DT) is the earliest recorded in Scotland (*Birds of Scotland Vol 3*). The latter, albeit possibly the same bird as the January bird, is the 6<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area. All of the above as well as the December 2006 record may refer to the same returning individual.

S One M Cambusmore 17 Mar (JC, NB). This is the 5<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* (B,W)

Inland WeBS counts: 2575 in Jan, 1780 in Feb, 1091 in Mar, 1473 in Sep, 1792 in Oct, 2137 in Nov, 1752 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS): 152 in Jan, 265 in Feb, 81 in Mar, 235 in Sep, 249 in Oct, 247 in Nov, 303 in Dec.

F Breeding: F and 6 Y Carronshore 19 Jun. 22 Union Canal 22 Oct.

C Breeding: F and 6 Y Gartmorn Dam 15 Apr; broods of 8 and 4 Blackdevon Wetlands 12 Jun; F and 6 Y Inglewood Pond, Alloa 1 Sep. Winter: 45 Dollar 28 Nov; 50 Gartmorn Dam 8 Dec.

S Summer: 1 pr David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle 1 Apr. Max: 150 Airthrey Loch 14 Oct; 40 L Coulter 9 Feb.

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta* (W)

Forth Est (WeBS): 88 in Jan, 87 in Feb, 51 in Mar, 61 in Oct, 86 in Nov, 61 in Dec.

F Majority of above at Skinflats and Kinneil. Site max: 70 at Skinflats 10 Feb; 52 at Kinneil 19 Feb.

S One Airthrey Loch 11 Jan (ACC).

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* (p)

F Kinneil: M 2 Feb; 2 on 28 Sep; 2 prs on 23 Nov, 1 pr on 25, 2 birds on 28 Nov; 3 birds on 5 Dec, 4 on 20 and 26 Dec (DT, GO, DAC). Skinflats: 1 on 17 Aug, 2 on 3 Sep (GO, RS, AB). First winter M St Helen's Loch 14 Oct (NB).

C Blackdevon Wetlands: 1 pr 9 Jan, 2 M 31 Mar and 2 Apr, 1 M 14 Apr, 2 pr and 1 M 22 Apr, pr on 3 and 16 May (CJH, NB, DMB). Pr Tullibody Inch 31 Mar (DMB). F Cambus Village Pool 1 Sep (NB). Pr Alloa 28 Oct (DAC).

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina* (W)

Inland WeBS counts: 47 in Jan, 35 in Feb, 12 in Mar, 2 in Sep, 6 in Oct, 32 in Nov, 10 in Dec.

F One M Kinneil 24 Sep. 1 Forth/Clyde Canal, Bonnybridge 16 Nov.

C Seven Gartmorn Dam 20 Jan, 2 on 12 Feb. 1 M Blackdevon Wetlands 19 Aug. 14 Gartmorn Dam 22 Nov.

S Seventeen Carron Valley Res 14 Jan, 20 there 12 Feb. 11 Cambushinnie 14 Jan. 4

- L Coulter 9 Feb. 4 Cambusmore 28 Jul. 11 Carron Valley Res 18 Nov.
- TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (B, W)  
 Inland WeBS counts: 379 in Jan, 277 in Feb, 463 in Mar, 223 in Sep, 396 in Oct, 405 in Nov, 224 in Dec.
- F Max: 20 Kinneil House 15 Mar. Summer: 1 pr Skinflats 30 Mar; 1 pr Kinneil 10 Jul.
- C Max: 238 Gartmorn Dam 22 Mar.
- S Breeding: 6 ad and 8 Y Carron Valley Res 16 Jun; broods of 2, 5 and 9 Cambusmore 28 Jul. Max: 28 Airthrey Loch 3 Jan; 63 Vale of Coustry 19 Mar; 60 Lake of Menteith 3 Dec; 37 Carron Valley Res 20 Dec.
- GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marina* (s, w)  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 4 in Jan, 11 in Mar, 1 in Sep, 21 in Oct, 26 in Nov, 40 in Dec.
- F Kinneil: up to 5 in Jan; up to 6 in Feb; up to 5 in Mar; 14 on 4 May; 1 on 28 Jun; up to 4 in Jul; up to 2 in Aug; up to 15 in Sep; up to 20 in Oct; up to 31 in Nov; up to 35 in Dec (AB, DAC, GO *et al.*). Skinflats: 1 on 5 Aug; 2 on 30 Sep; max of 9 in Oct, 1 on 24 Nov (CJP, GO, MVB *et al.*).
- S One M Airthrey Loch 26 Jan to 6 Feb (CJP, ACC).
- \*LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*  
 S One M Vale of Coustry 19 Mar to 17 Apr (NB, AL). This bird was accepted by BBRC and is the forth record for the area.
- COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima* (w, s)  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 2 in Jan, 18 in Feb, 26 in Mar, 5 in Oct, 46 in Nov, 72 in Dec.
- F Kinneil: 1 on 5 Jan; 4 on 2 Mar; 20 (10 M, 10 F) on 29 Mar; max of 6 M on 3 Jun; 4 on 18 Jul; max of 10 on 23 Sep; max of 11 on 5 in Oct; max of 66 on 18 Nov and 80 on 26 Dec (DAC, DT, AB, GO). Skinflats: 18 on 10 Feb; 23 on 9 Mar (MVB). 2 Kincardine 6 Jan, 10 on 17 Mar and 3 on 18 May (MVB, DMB, ACC).
- C Two Kennetpans 18 May (DMB).
- LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* (w)  
 F Imm Skinflats 15-24 Nov (MVB, GO, AB).  
 S Imm/F Carron Valley Res 21 Dec (CJP).
- \*COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*  
 F F Kinneil 18 Nov (DT). This is the 13<sup>th</sup> record for the recording aera since systematic recording began in 1974.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* (W)  
 Inland WeBS counts: 428 in Jan, 394 in Feb, 483 in Mar, 0 in Sep, 59 in Oct, 333 in Nov, 350 in Dec.
- F Forth Est (WeBS): 66 in Jan, 71 in Feb, 29 in Mar, 3 in Oct, 18 in Nov, 52 in Dec.  
 Max: 19 Kinneil 6 Jan; 8 Drumbowie 11 Jan; 14 Airth 11 Feb; 31 Black Loch 4 Mar; 18 Skinflats 8 Apr.
- C Max: 73 Gartmorn Dam 27 Jan; 14 Silverhills Pond, Alva 4 Feb; 54 Cambus 9 Feb; 43 R Devon, Tullibody 20 Feb.
- S Max: 37 Carron Valley Res 14 Jan; 124 Lake of Menteith 11 Mar; 38 L Dochart/Lubhair 1 Nov.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* (B, W)  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 36 in Jan, 40 in Feb, 22 in Mar, 68 in Sep, 57 in Oct, 76 in Nov, 84 in Dec.
- F Majority of above at Kinneil; site max: 95 on 5 Oct. 15 Skinflats 13 Dec.
- C Two M Cambus 4 Feb, 6 on 19 Mar; 1 on 8 Apr. 1 M Delph Pool, Tullibody 4 Feb. Two R Devon, Alva 2 Apr. 12 Alloa landfill ponds 1 Nov.
- S Three R Forth, Craigforth 6 Jan, 5 on 9 Feb, 2 on 4 Mar, 1 on 14 Mar, 1 on 25 Dec. Two Blairdrummond Safari Park 22 Feb. 1 Carron Valley Res 15 Mar. 4 Allanwater, Kinbuck 6 May. 2 L Katrine 13 Jun.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* (B, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 132 in Jan, 134 in Feb, 94 in Mar, 61 in Sep, 52 in Oct, 65 in Nov, 97 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS): 3 in Feb, 22 in Mar, 28 in Sep, 13 in Oct, 9 in Nov, 4 in Dec.

F Breeding: F and 8 Y R Carron, Carronshore 19 Jun; F and 6 Y Kinneil 10 Jul. Max: 11 Kinneil 29 Aug.

C Max: 15 R Devon, Alva 3 Jan; 36 Cambus 19 Mar.

S Breeding: 2 F and 10 Y Allan Water, Dunblane 11 May; F and 9 Y Cambusmore 11 Jun. Max: 16 Airthrey Loch 25 Jan; 15 Allan-Teith conf., R Forth 9 Feb; 23 Aberfoyle 7 Jun; 27 L Ard 18 Jul; 28 L Achray 14 Sep.

\*WILLOW PTARMIGAN (RED GROUSE) *Lagopus lagopus* (B, W)

S Sixty Cringate Muir 10 Feb (CJP). Also recorded from BoD, L Coulter, L Lubnaig, Beinn Uird (DOE, ABu, DK).

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* (B, W)

S Records from Cringate Muir; Callander; L Katrine; L Ard Forest (DOE, ABu, CJP).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* (B, W)

F Skinflats/Powfoulis: 2 pr 23 Feb and 10 Apr, pr in Mar; max of 14 on 10 Oct (GO, RDZ, AB *et al.*).

C Two Cambus 26 Apr (DK). 2 Blackdevon 4 Jun and 11 Aug (CJH). 1 Menstrie 20 Sep (RSX). 6 Tullibody/Alva 29 Oct and 15 Nov, with 9 there 7 Dec (DAC).

S Six Lecropt 5 Jan (DOE). 2 Doune 2 Nov (DOE).

\*COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

S One Thornhill 7 and 17 Jul (DT).

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* (B, W)

Very large numbers released on shooting estates, otherwise widespread but in small numbers.

F 18 Kinneil 28 Dec (record count for site; GO).

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

F Kinneil: 1 on 3 Jan, 2 on 6 Jan, 3 on 29 Mar, 1 on 13 Sep, 2 on 21 Sep, singles on 5 Oct, 18 Nov and 13 Dec (JRC, DT, JT).

S Trossachs: pr at undisclosed site 25 May (DAC).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (B, w)

Inland WeBS counts: 83 in Jan, 82 in Feb, 51 in Mar, 128 in Sep, 108 in Oct, 77 in Nov, 63 in Dec.

F Site max: 13 Drumbowie Res 12 Sep; 11 Black Loch 12 Sep; 5 St. Helen's Loch 12 Sep.

C Breeding: 2 Y Clackmannan 6 Jun; ad and 2 Y Gartmorn Dam 14 Aug; pr and 4 Y Blackdevon Wetlands 19 Aug; ad and 1 Y Aberdona 1 Sep. Max: 8 Silverhills Pond, Kersiepow 1 Sep.

S Breeding: 1 pr David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle 1 Apr; 8 ad and 4 Y Cambusmore GP 28 Jul; 1 Y Polmaise Lagoons 21 Aug. Max: 19 Cambusmore 4 Sep; 19 L Dochart 8 Sep (site record); 17 L Lubnaig 22 Sep; 14 L Voil 12 Feb; 8 L Ard 18 Jan; 7 Vale of Coustry 11 Sep; 6 Carron Valley Res 12 Feb.

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

Inland WeBS counts: 5 in Jan, 16 in Feb, 29 in Mar, 32 in Sep, 18 in Oct, 14 in Nov, 14 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS): 7 in Jan, 2 in Feb, 2 in Mar, 9 in Sep, 14 in Oct, 10 in Nov, 25 in Dec.

F Site max: 39 Kinneil 23 Jul.

C Site max: 5 Gartmorn Dam 9 Jul.

S Breeding: 2 prs Cambusmore, none fledged; pr Vale of Coustry 5 Apr. Max: 24 Lake of Menteith 4 Sep (site record).

\*RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

F One Blackness 18 Oct (MA). This is the 14<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area since 1974.

S One Cocksburn Res, BOA 26 Nov (ACR). This is the 15<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area.

\*SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

S One L Coulter 14 Oct (NB). 1 Lake of Menteith 17 Oct (NB). 1 Cambusmore 21 Nov (NB). These constitute the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> inland records for the recording area.

\*NORTHERN GANNET *Morus bassanus* (p)

F Two Imm Skinflats and 1 Imm Kinneil 13 Sep (ACC, DT). 2 Imm Kinneil 24 and 28 Sep (DT). 15 Imm Skinflats 10 Oct (AB). 2 Imm Kinneil 22 Oct (DMB) and 7 there 27 Oct (JRC). 2 Imm Skinflats 18 Oct (CJP).

S Two Imm flew up Allan Water, Dunblane 22 Sep (CJP).

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* (S, W)

Comparatively small numbers. An update on the S Alloa roost is needed.

Inland WeBS counts: 73 in Jan, 75 in Feb, 47 in Mar, 48 in Sep, 77 in Oct, 78 in Nov, 56 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS): 77 in Jan, 62 in Feb, 73 in Mar, 104 in Sep, 68 in Oct, 31 in Nov, 28 in Dec.

F Twenty-five Skinflats 14 Sep.

S Max: 18 Lake of Menteith 12 Nov; 14 Fallin, R Forth 14 Sep; 11 Carron Valley Res 18 Nov; 10 Airthrey 25 Jan.

\*EUROPEAN SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

F One Kinneil 2, 17 and 24 Aug and 14 Sep (DH, DT, JRC).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* (B,W)

Inland WeBS counts: 92 in Jan, 71 in Feb, 64 in Mar, 94 in Sep, 86 in Oct, 89 in Nov, 55 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS): 21 in Jan, 32 in Feb, 6 in Mar, 66 in Sep, 38 in Oct, 41 in Nov, 36 in Dec.

F Breeding: 40 birds / 5+ nests Kinneil Woods 6 Mar. Max: 30 Skinflats and 10 Kinneil 14 Sep.

C Max: 13 Blackgrange 27 Oct; 12 Alva floods 15 Nov; 12 Dollar – Tillicoultry, R Devon 23 Sep.

S Max: 11 L Coulter 9 Feb; 8 Vale of Coustry 26 Oct.

\*WHITE STORK

S 1 > SE at Fallin 10 May (RHD).

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> record of a bird considered as wild for the recording area, the first one dating back to May 1982, although the picture is complicated by feral populations, such as north-east England.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

F Two ad Kinneil 2 Jul to 29 Aug (JFo, RS, GO *et al.*). This is the 6<sup>th</sup> record for the recording area.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* (b, W)

F One Kinneil 25 Nov (EG).

C One Ben Cleuch 10 May (CJP).

S Breeding: 20 prs laid eggs, 13 successfully fledging 31 Y (DOE, DA). Max at Argaty, BoD: 50 on 4 Dec (DOE). Away from BoD: 1 Lacropt 5-6 Jan; 1 Dunblane 31 Mar and 25 May; 1 Airthrey Loch and BoA 10 and 19 Apr; up to 3 Callander in Apr/May; 1 Sheriffmuir 6 May; 1 Stirling 15 Jun; up to 2 BOA/Cornton Jul/Aug; 1 Kilmahog 26 Oct; 1 Lacropt 12 Nov; 1 L Venachar 16 Nov.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

S At least one imm from the Fife reintroduction scheme seen Argaty, BoD 23 Jan

(DOE); near Blairdrummond 3 Feb, 16 Apr, 30 Oct (GEL, KS); 1 Doune 10 Jul (DOE); 1 Callander 18 Dec (DOE).

\*HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* (b, w)

F One Darnrigg Moss 7 Jan and 25 Dec (TF).

S One M Dumyat 6 Feb. 1 Strath Gartney, L Katrine 6 and 19 Feb, and 1 Beinn Bhreac 12 Feb (ABu). 3 Flanders Moss 18 Feb and 1 Nether Carse 19 Feb (ACR). 1 M Kinbuck 25 Feb (NB). 1 Blairdrummond Moss 4 and 31 Mar, and 1 Flanders Moss 16 Mar (ACR). 1 M Gleann Dubh 11 May (HY). 1 F Ben Each 3 Aug (CJP). 1 F/Imm L Coulter 6 and 7 Dec (NB).

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* (B, W)

F Records from: Dunmore Woods, Kinneil House; Skinflats; Blackness; Bonnybridge, Limerigg.

C Records from: Alva; Menstrie; Tullibody; Tillicoultry; Cambus; Gartmorn; Dollar.

S Records from: Fallin; Stirling; Airthrey; BoA; Blairdrummond; Drumloist and Lundie, BoD (bred); Dunblane; Sheriffmuir; Deanston (bred); Doune (bred); Callander; Carron Valley Res; L Doine; Lake of Menteith; L Ard Forest; Lanrick.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* (B,W)

Breeding: 142 occupied sites; of 76 prs confirmed to lay eggs, 67 fledged 110 Y and 5 prs failed (DOE, DA).

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* (b, w)

S One Imm G Finglas 21 Jan (RR). 2 L Katrine area Jan/Feb (ABu). 2 Monachyle Glen 20 Apr (DK). 4 G Lochay 3 May; ad F and imm M there 27 Jun (GS, KDS, AC). 1 BoD 11 May (DOE). 1 Balquhiddier Glen 13 Jul (DOE). 1 Tyndrum 29 Jul (WM).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* (B)

F One Kinneil 28 Aug (DG).

S Breeding: of 15 prs 14 laid eggs, 13 successfully fledging 26 Y (DOE, RAB, DA). First records: 1 L Katrine 18 and 27 Feb; 1 Lake of Menteith 25 Feb. Other records from: Duke's Pass on 1 Apr; L Venachar on 1 Apr, 5 May, 4 Sep; Doune in Apr and Jun (2); Lake of Menteith Apr to Jul; Blairdrummond on 18 Apr (2); Carron Valley Res Apr and Jun (2); Touch Res on 12 Sep; L Venachar on 14 Aug.

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* (B,W)

F Records from: Plean; Kincardine Br; Skinflats; Kinneil; Falkirk.

C Records from: Blairlogie; Blackdevon Wetlands; Tullibody; Alva; Gartmorn Dam.

S Four prs BoD; 2 prs N of Callander. Other records: Abbey Craig; Airthrey Loch; Dunblane; Lecropt; Cambuskenneth; Stirling; Blairdrummond; Flanders Moss; Carron Valley Res; L Achray.

\*MERLIN *Falco columbarius* (b?, w)

F One Kinneil 11 Jan (BRG). 1 F Skinflats 19 Jan and 10 Feb (AB, MVB). 1 Airth 11 Feb (DMB). 1 Kinneil 19 Feb (GFB). 2 Skinflats 26 Oct, 1 on 15 Nov (MVB). 1 Kinneil 25 Nov (ACR). 1 F/Imm Skinflats 7 Dec (AB, GO).

S One F Lecropt 5 Jan (DOE). One M Doune 23 Jan (DOE). 1 Gleann Dubh 8 Jun (HY). 1 Stirling 20 Oct (RS).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* (B, W)

F One Skinflats 19 Sep. 1 Kinneil 22 Aug, 24 Sep, 2 and 16 Nov and 24 Dec.

S Two BoD 6 Jan. 1 Cairnoch Hill, Carron Valley 19 Jan. 1 M Argaty, BoD 26 Jan. 1 L Coulter 3 Feb. 2 Airthrey 2 May; 1 Lake of Menteith 8 Jul; 1 Tyndrum 29 Jul; 1 Fallin 2 Aug.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* (b, w)

F Kinneil: single 6 Jan, 3 on 12-13 Sep, 1 on 24 Sep and 2 Nov and 2 on 13 Dec (DT,

- DMB, AB, JRC). Skinflats: 1 on 9 Mar, in Aug and on 17 and 24 Nov (MVB, AB, RS *et al.*).
- C One Gartmorn Dam 14 Aug (CJH). 1 Blackdevon Wetlands 29 Nov (DMB).
- S One R Teith, Lecropt 6 Jan (CJP). One Airthrey Loch 21 Jan (ACC).
- COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* (B,W)  
Inland WeBS counts: 108 in Jan, 102 in Feb, 94 in Mar, 88 in Sep, 100 in Oct, 129 in Nov, 97 in Dec.
- F Breeding: 3 ad and 14 Juv Kinneil 23 Jul. Max: 6 Kinneil House 15 Mar; 22 Underhill – R Carron, Forth/Clyde Canal 12 Sep; 8 Millhall Res, Polmont 15 Nov; 29 Callendar Park, Falkirk 15 Dec.
- C Breeding: 3 pr Blackdevon Wetlands 24 Jun; 2 broods of 2 and 3 Cambus Pools 19 Aug. Max: 11 Gartmorn Dam 12 Oct.
- S Breeding: 3 Y Polmaise Lagoons 17 Jul, 2 Y still 21 Aug; 2 Imm L Dochart 8 Sep; 3 Imm St Helen's Loch 12 Sep; 3 Imm Castle Park, Stirling 12 Sep; 1 Imm Drumbowie Loch 12 Sep. Max: 12 Airthrey Loch Jan/Feb; 5 Vale of Coustry and 5 Blairdrummond Safari Park 24 Nov.
- COMMON COOT *Fulica atra* (B, W)  
Inland WeBS counts: 339 in Jan, 184 in Feb, 146 in Mar, 54 in Sep, 115 in Oct, 117 in Nov, 53 in Dec.
- F Breeding: 2 ad and 2 Imm Braeface Pond 23 Jun.
- C Breeding: pr Blackdevon Wetlands 24 Jun. Max: 186 Gartmorn Dam 27 Jan.
- S Breeding: 1 pr and 3 Y Cambusmore 28 Jul; 1 pr and 2 Imm Castle Park, Stirling 12 Sep. Site max: 76 Airthrey Loch 21 Jan; 39 Lake of Menteith in Feb and Nov. 6 E Frew, R Forth 19 Feb.
- EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* (B, W)  
WeBS Forth estuary peaks were 298 in Feb and 167 in Nov.
- F Return inland: 17 birds at Skinflats on 28 Feb increased to 40 by 18 Apr, with 66 there on 12 Jun, 74 on 29 Aug and 45 on 13 Sep. 123 birds were at Kinneil on 29 Aug and 75 at the Avon mouth on 2 Nov.
- S Return inland: 1 at Craigforth 12 Jan increased to 56 by 9 Feb and 129 on 27 Feb. A small flock seemed to overwinter with 15 birds there on 22 Nov and 13 Dec and 8 still into early Jan 2009. Further upstream 3 birds were at the Br of Frew-E Frew stretch on 29 Jan. 10 Airthrey L 27 Jan. Vale of Coustry held 73 birds on 12 Feb, increasing to 229 by 22 Feb. Elsewhere 1 BoA 12 Feb, 10 Cocksburn Res 14 Feb increasing to ca. 30 by 5 Mar, 61 Ashfield 15 Feb with 79 there 20 Mar. 1 L. Dochart and 6 Lochearnhead 17 Feb; ca. 30 Carse of Lecropt 19 Feb; 18 Fallin waste disposal site 9 Mar; 35 Ardeonoig, L Tay 14 Mar. Pr at North Lodge roundabout, BoA 2 Jun.
- RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* (b, W)  
WeBS estuary peaks were 1 in Mar and 34 in Sep.
- F As in 2006 and 2007, smaller numbers than before. 6 Kinneil 12 Feb with 2 there 5 May and 5 Jul, 5 on 27 Jul, 8 on 14 Sep, while 8 on 5 Oct included a leucistic bird. 2 Kincardine Br 18 May. A pr at the Grangemouth oil refinery in late May was believed on a nest. 30 Skinflats 20 May, 15 on 22 Aug and 16 on Carron mouth 14 Sep. 16 Blackness 12 Oct.
- C Two Cambus Pools 8 Apr. 50 Kennetpans 2 Sep.
- S Gart GP, Callander held between 4 to 10 birds between 28 Feb and 21 Apr. A single there 12 May was absent by 4 Jun, suggesting poor breeding success.
- EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* (B, W)  
WeBS estuary peaks were 82 in Feb and 977 in Oct.
- F Numbers low during the first part but higher in second part of year. Ca. 150 Kinneil 6 Jan increased to ca. 200 by 26 Jan with 2 remaining 3 Apr. Return to

the estuary: 2 Blackness 1 Jul was followed by 1 Skinflats 7 Jul, then 15 there on 9 Aug with 11 on 4 Sep, 40 on 18 Sep, 95 on 14 Oct and 730 during the Forth WeBS count of 26 Oct. At Kinneil 210 there 24 Sep and 250 11 Oct, 150 on 21 Oct and 25 on 24 Dec. 560 Powfoulis 10 Oct.

S Thornhill Carse: 5 Littlewood 9 Mar & 70 Myme Fm 7 Apr. 1 Callander 26 Jul.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* (W)

F One Kinneil 30 Aug. 22 Skinflats area 19 Sep, 16 on 26 Oct with 3 there on 10 Dec. 2 Kincardine Br 13 Dec.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* (B, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 632 in Jan and 1562 in Sep.

F As in 2007 numbers were generally low again. Kinneil: ca. 350 1 Jan was followed by 772 on 8 Jan and 200 on 12 Feb. 50 on 5 Jul increased to 200 on 27 Jul, then 360 on 29 Aug, ca. 650 on 13 Sep, 200 on 23 Sep and 200 on 25 Nov. Skinflats: 117 on 6 Jan, 30 there 25 Jun, 50 on 31 Jul, 560 on 29 Aug, 250 on 13 Sep, 964 in the general area (WeBS) on 14 Sep and 200 on 18 Nov. Elsewhere 2 ads with 2 downy Y Carronshore to Skinflats path 11 Jun.

C Tullibody Inch: 450 on 13 Jan and 1270 there 16 Aug. 8 on Alloa Inch 7 May. 4 on pools at Blackdevon Wetlands 30 Jan rose to 28 by 27 Feb (1 AOT), max in Mar 52 and 8 AOT in May; 55 birds on 9 Sep, 40 on 21 Oct and 80 on 1 Nov. 25 R Devon, Alva 17 Feb; 20 Woodland Park and Drove Rd, Alva 22 Apr. 200 nr Menstrie 6 Oct. 80 Blackgrange and 150 Cambus 27 Oct with 70 there 21 Nov. 111 Blackgrange 22 Nov.

S Two Doune 3 Jan. 156 L Coulter 9 Feb with 112 there 4 Mar. 200 Vale of Coustry 10 Feb. 165 Gart GP 28 Jul. R Forth: Fallin-Cambus 150 on 27 Oct; 111 Up Taylorton-Fallin 22 Nov; 133 Br of Frew-E Frew 25 Nov.

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus* (W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 781 in Jan and 597 in Dec.

F Airth-Dunmore: 300 on 11 Feb with 1500 there 24 Feb. Kinneil: 1000 on 12 Feb. First returning bird 6 Jun, 8 by 27 Jul, 50 on 1 Aug, 19 on 14 Aug, 60 on 14 Sep, ca. 150 on 28 Sep, 80 on 11 Oct and 700 on 24 Dec. Skinflats: 140 on 29 Aug, 210 on 26 Oct, 237 on 13 Dec and a good count of 5000 on mudflats on 28 Dec.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

F Two Kinneil 6 Jan and 4 there 16 Jul (JRC, GO, RS).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

C Juv Tullibody Inch 26 Sep (GW). This is the third record of this species for the recording area since 1974.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (p)

F Skinflats: 2 juvs on 31 Aug and 2 Sep. 5 on 13 Sep and 8 on 14 to 18 Sep; 2 on 16 Sep. Kinneil: 5 juvs 13 Sep with 2 there 14 Sep and 18 Sep. 1 Kennetpans 14 Sep.

Autumn passage, area summary (minimum number/half month)							
Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct	
0	0	0	2	14	10	0	0

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* (b?, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 3733 in Jan and 5097 in Dec.

F Kinneil: ca. 500 on 6 Jan with 400 there 12 Feb down to 47 on 3 Mar; ca. 400 on 18 Nov rose to 1000 on 24 Dec. Skinflats: 1855 on 6 Jan rose to 2200 on 10 Feb. 2 on 12 Jun, 4 on 3 Jul rose to 60 on 13 Sep, 1655 on 26 Oct, 2500 on 15 Nov, 3560 on 13 Dec and 2000+ on 28 Dec. Elsewhere 1 St. Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 3 Nov.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* (w, p)

F As in 2006 and 2007 one bird overwintered at Skinflats where it was seen 4 Jan. Either a passage or the same bird in summer plumage was at Kinneil on 24 and

28 Apr and 5 May (RS, GFB, AET). Autumn passage started at Skinflats with 3 birds on 13 to 16 Aug, 5 on 17 Aug, increasing to 8 on 19 Aug before dropping to 4 by 29 Aug with a single(s) seen on several dates up to 22 Sep (CT, RS, GG, AB, MVB, RD, GO, GFB, DOE, AB). At Kinneil 3 birds on 23 Aug, 13 and 14 Sep dropped to 2 on 24 and 28 Sep, with an ad on 3, 5 11 and 12 Oct (GFB, AB, ACC, DT, RD). Elsewhere a single was at Strathavon Fm, Slamannan 4 Oct (TF). An overwintering bird again at Skinflats 26 Dec (RS).

Autumn passage, area summary (minimum number/half month)							
Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct	
0	0	5	11	7	3	2	0

JACK SNIBE *Lymnocyptes minimus* (w)

- F 1 Skinflats 14 Jan. 3 St. Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 11 Jan with 1 there 4 Mar. 2 Feughlin Res, Carron Br 11 Jan. 2 Kinneil 19 Feb. 2 Skinflats on saltmarsh 7 Dec; 2 there at Muirdyke Burn 12 Dec and 1 Kinneil 18 Dec (RS, NB, DT, AB, DMB).
- S 2 Netherton Marsh, Carse of Lecropt 11 Jan and 1 on the carse 21 Dec (DT, DOE).

COMMON SNIBE *Gallinago gallinago* (B,W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 6 in Jan and 16 in Nov.

- F Six Kinneil 6 Jan with 7 there 26 Jan, 5 on 14 Sep and 9 on 24 Sep. 38 St. Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 11 Jan with 26 there 15 Feb, 13 on 4 Mar, 12 on 12 Sep, 63 on 3 Nov and 7 on 6 Dec. 6 Faughlin Res, Carron Br 14 Oct. 9 Muirdyke Burn, Skinflats 7 Dec.
- C Three Cambus Village Pools 30 Jul. 5 Blackdevon Wetlands 1 Nov. 12 Aberdona Pond 6 Nov.
- S River Forth: 19 at Carse of Lecropt, 50 on Stirling-Upper Taylorton stretch, 19 between Teith and Allan confluences all on 12 Jan. 32 Upper Taylorton-Fallin 20 Jan, 30 Stirling-Upper Taylorton 9 Feb with 37 there 9 Mar. 15 Br of Frew-E Frew 27 Mar with 11 there 28 Oct. 7 Teith-Allan confluences 12 Oct and 22 Stirling-Upper Taylorton 16 Nov. Elsewhere 37 Netherton Marsh, Carse of Lecropt 12 Jan. 12 Allan, county boundary-Ashfield 12 Jan. 7 Cambusmore 14 Jan with 28 there 27 Feb, 12 on 17 Mar and 6 on 11 Nov. 6 Hillhead Pond, Thornhill 19 Mar. 6 Blackwater Marshes, L Venachar 16 Nov. In breeding season: 1 drumming Sheriffmuir 16 Jun.

EURASIAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* (B, W)

Grossly under-recorded during the breeding season.

- F Singles Darnrig Moss former opencastr site 28 Jan and Drumbowie Res, Denny 6 Dec.
- C One crossed road nr Dollarbeg 7 Feb. Singles R Devon Alva-Menstrie 24 Mar and R Forth nr Alloa 6 Dec.
- S Five at Teapot, Kinlochard 16 Jan with 1 there 30 Jan. 22 Brenachoile Lodge, L Katrine 16 Jan. 2 Lundie, BoD 17 Jan. 5 Bad Dearg, L Ard 18 Jan with 1 there 22 Jan. 6 Cambusbarron 19 Jan. Singles Bigg Wood, Dunblane 27 Jan; Stronmacnair, L Ard Forest 28 Jan; L Coulter 3 Feb; Barr Wood, Bannockburn 3 Feb; Touch Hills 10 Feb; R Forth, Stirling-Upper Taylorton 9 Mar; Stable Point, L of Menteith 11 Mar; Lundie, BoD 21 Mar; Tom an t-Seallaidh, Duke's Pass, Aberfoyle 1 Apr; 2 Cobleland, Aberfoyle 7 Jun. Single L Rusky 11 Nov and 1 flushed by Hen Harrier L Coulter 6 Dec. R Forth: Br of Frew-E Frew 9 Dec; 2 Ladylands-Br of Frew 11 Dec and 1 Stirling-Upper Taylorton 13 Dec.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* (W)

WeBS estuary peaks were low with 62 in Jan and 453 in Sep.

- F Present most year in Grangemouth area, except January. 69 R Forth, Airth-

Dunmore 11 Feb. Monthly peaks at Kinneil: 80 in Mar, 91 in Apr, 73 in May, 60 in Jun, 187 in Jul, 325 in Aug, 307 in Sep, 276 in Oct, 40 in Nov and 187 in Dec. Much smaller numbers at Skinflats, where monthly peaks: 1 in Feb, 15 in Mar, 68 in Apr, 1 in May, 9 in Jul, 17 in Aug and 18 in Sep.

- C Low numbers upstream of Kincardine Br this year. 10 Cambus area 19 Mar. 6 Blackdevon Wetlands 18 Apr with 8 there in breeding plumage 4 Jun and 5 on 12 Jun.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 33 in Jan and 40 in Sep.

- F Numbers were again low at Kinneil and the species virtually absent from Skinflats. 105 Kinneil 8 Jan with c. 115 there 2 Feb, 9 on 28 Jun, 10 on 27 Jul, 80 on 14 Sep, and 150 on 24 Dec. Singles Skinflats 6 Apr and 24 Nov. 14 Kincardine Br 14 Sep.

- C 5 Kennetpans 13 Dec.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* (p)

- F Spring: 1 Skinflats 18 Apr with 2 there 26 Apr and 5 on 5 May. Singles Kinneil 6 and 18 May (AB, GO, AET, DT, GFB). Autumn: 2 Kinneil 4 Jul, singles 8 and 10 Jul, 3 on 23 Jul, rising to 10 on 29 Jul, then singles on 1 and 2 Aug, 3 on 8 Aug, singles 16 and 22 Aug, 10 on 25 Aug and 1 on 30 Aug. Skinflats: singles on 1 and 3 Sep, 2 on 14 Sep, singles on 22 Sep and 2 Oct. 2 Kincardine Br 14 Sep (GO, DT, RDZ, GFB, ACC, AB, MVB).

Autumn passage, area summary (minimum number/half month)			
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
2 10	3 10	4 2	2 0

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata* (B, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 1088 in Jan and 1195 in Oct.

- F Skinflats Est: 538 on 6 Jan with 502 there 10 Feb, 398 on 14 Sep, 778 on 26 Oct and 393 on 15 Nov. 200 Kinneil 14 Sep and 100 there 23 Sep. 180 Old Throsk Br 2 Feb.

- C 177 Cambus Village Pools area 3 Jan with 293 on 4 Feb, 153 on 3 Nov and 225 on 21 Nov. 260 Tullibody Inch 13 Jan. 180 Kennetpans 9 Mar. 256 Blackgrange 22 Nov.

- S R Forth: ca. 150 Upper Taylorton-Fallin 20 Jan; 225 Fallin-Cambus 21 Nov; 256 Upper Taylorton-Fallin 22 Nov and 226 Fallin-Cambus 28 Dec. Ca. 215 Carse of Lecropt 2 Mar and ca. 180 there 8 Mar. 181 R Teith, Wester Row-Forth conf 9 Mar.

\*SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* (p)

- F Single Skinflats 28 and 29 Feb, 8, 28 and 29 Mar and 6 Apr (AB, BRG, GO, RS). Single Kinneil 16 and 27 Apr, 4 May and 5 May when moulting (RS, GO) but apparently present throughout from 1 Jan to 14 Apr (BRG).

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* (B, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 1923 in Mar and 2538 in Oct.

- F Skinflats Est: 937 on 6 Jan, 847 on 10 Feb, 1128 on 9 Mar, 1007 on 14 Sep, 1506 on 26 Oct, 954 on 15 Nov and 1390 on 13 Dec. The ponds themselves held 50 birds 30 Mar, 18 Apr and 29 Jun and 300 on 13 Sep. Kinneil: ca. 350 on 26 Jan, 500 on 12 Feb, 80 on 3 Mar, 300 on 27 Jul, 805 on 29 Aug, 250 on 14 Sep, 100 on 23 Sep and 25 Nov.

- C 6 Cambus Pools 23 Mar. 3 AOT Blackdevon Wetlands 13 May with 20 there 1 Nov. 14 Gartmorn 22 Nov.

- S 17 Carron Valley Res 14 Jan with 20 there 12 Feb and 11 on 18 Nov. 70 flying along Forth past S Alloa Br 2 Feb. 11 Cambusmore/Gart 14 Jan. 5 Nether Carse 19 Feb. In breeding season: 2 nr N Third Reservoir 9 Apr; 2 Carron Valley Res

29 Apr and 1 there 18 Jun; 2-4 L Mahaick 8 May; 3 Gart GP 11 May and 2 Blairdrummond 16 May.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* (w, p)

WeBS estuary peaks were 4 in Jan and 11 in Sep.

- F Present at Skinflats all year, except May. Max early in the year: 2 Jan, 3 Feb, 4 Mar, 4 Apr (RS, MVB, AB, GFB). A good autumn passage started with 2 on 25 Jun, increasing to 7 on 7 Jul, then 3 on 22 Jul, 2 on 31 Jul, 1 on 1 Aug, 3 on 11 Aug, 5 on 13 Aug, 8 on 16 Aug, increasing to 11 on 22 and 25 Aug, 10 on 29 Aug and 2 Sep, 7 on 7 and 9 Sep, 9 on 14 and 15 Sep, 7 on 18 Sep, 3 on 22 and 23 Sep and 3 Oct, 6 on 14 Oct and 4 on 28 Oct (AB, RDZ, CT, GFB, GO, GG, MVB, RS, DOE). Up to 5 birds (same as above ?) overwintered, being present on 15, 16, 22, 23, 24 Nov and 26 Dec (MVB, GO, BRG, AB, RS). At Kinneil all year, except June. A single overwintered being seen repeatedly 6 Jan to 3 Apr (DT, BRG, CJP, ACC, DM, GFB). There was a small spring passage with 1 bird 12 Apr, 2 birds 17 and 18 Apr, 3 on 28 Apr and singles 4 to 6 May (GFB, GO, AET, DT). Another good autumn passage started with 1 on 2, 5, 10, 17 and 18 Jul, then 2 on 23 Jul, 4 on 24 and 27 Jul, 2 on 1 Aug, 3 on 8 Aug, 4 on 13 Aug, 2 on 16, 22 and 31 Aug, 3 on 6 Sep, 12 on 18 Sep, 4 on 24 Sep, singles on 3, 11 and 12 Oct and 2 on 12 Oct (RS, BRG, DT, GO, ACC, AB, GFB, GO, EH). Up to 2 birds overwintered being seen on several dates from 11 Nov to 28 Dec (DT, RS, GO, AB, CT). Elsewhere 1 flew over Liddle Drive, Bo'ness 18 Nov (RE, RS)
- C Singles Blackdevon Wetlands 18 Mar and Cambus Pools 23 Mar (CJH, ACC).
- S 3 R Forth, E Frew-Gargunnoch Br 27 Mar and 3 Nether Carse 27 Mar (ACR).

Autumn passage, area summary (minimum number/half month)							
Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct	
6	7	12	12	13	19	8	4

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* (w, p)

This species now occurs as a wintering bird in small numbers as well as a passage migrant.

- F As in the winter of 2006/07 2-3 birds overwintered with 2 on the R Carron, Carronbridge-Langlees stretch on 12 Jan and 9 Mar and 1 at Gilston Park, Polmont 7 and 8 Feb (AB, RS, GO). The only spring passage birds were 3 Kinneil 28 Apr (AET). A poor autumn passage saw singles at Kinneil 14 and 28 Aug and at Gilston on 14 and 15 Aug (DT, RS, DG, GO). An overwintering bird (same as early in year ?) was seen on the R Carron, M876-Larbert stretch 14 Sep, 26 Oct, 16 Nov and 14 Dec (MA).
- S Singles Blairdrummond at L Daira 3 Feb and at unspecified location there 19 Apr (GEL, DOE). Singles Blairdummond at Quarry Loch 24 Nov and Coustry Pond there 18 Dec (NB). Are all of these the same bird ?

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* (B)

- F Kinneil: 1 on 14 Apr rising to 2 on 17 and 18 Apr. 4 on 2 Aug and 5 on 6 Sep. Skinflats: 1 on 5 and 12 May and 2 on 7 Jul.
- C One Cambus Pools 20 Apr.
- S One Gart/Cambusmore GP, Callander 15 Apr with 2 there 30 Apr, 4 on 11 May and 1 on 28 Jul. Singles L Ard 16 Apr and Airthrey L 21 Apr. 4 Carron Valley Res 29 Apr. 2 Arivurichardich Res, nr Callander 2 May. 1 Carse of Lecropt 3 May. 2 Cocksburn Res 7 May. 3 L Dochart 21 Jun. 2 Braeleny, BoD 30 Jun.

\*SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia*

- F The overwintering bird from 2007 continued its stay at the R Avon mouth, Kinneil, being repeatedly seen Jan to Mar and last seen on 14 Apr (CJP, RS, GO, JTMT, AB, DT, CT, AET, MMcG, BRG).

- RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* (W)  
 WeBS estuary peaks were 6 in Jan and 5 in Nov.  
 C One Kennetpans 13 Dec.  
 F Five Carron mouth, Skinflats 6 Jan with 1 there 10 Feb (MVB). 1 Kinneil 6 Jan and 27 Jul, 2 there 1 Aug and 5 on 14 Nov (JRC, GO, AB). 3 Bo'ness 14 Sep, 1 on 27 Oct and 3 on 13 Dec (JRC).
- \*ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* (p)  
 F Kinneil: 2 on 10 Jul, 1 on 23 Jul, 5 on 6 Sep and 1 on 24 Sep (DT).
- \*BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* (P, w)  
 F Thirty > W at Kinneil 5 Apr (GFB). 50 Kinneil 6 Sep (DT).
- \*MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*  
 F Ad Kinneil 10 Feb, and first winter 25 Oct (BRG, GO). Ad Skinflats 27 Jul and 23 Nov (GO, BRG). These are the 13-14<sup>th</sup> and 16-17<sup>th</sup> records for the recording area.  
 S One second summer bird Blairdrummond Safari Park 25 May (CM). 15<sup>th</sup> record for recording area.
- \*LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*  
 F Skinflats: 2 on 4 May; 3 first summer birds on 11 Jun (GO, AB). Kinneil: 1 ad on 31 Jul; and 13, 17, 23 Aug (GFB, GO, DH). 17 ads >W at Kinneil 17 Sep (DMB).
- BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* (B,W)  
 Inland WeBS counts: 1058 in Jan, 722 in Feb, 933 in Mar, 449 in Sep, 969 in Oct, 1360 in Nov, 794 in Dec.  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 1272 in Jan, 1423 in Feb, 279 in Mar, 1341 in Sep, 597 in Oct, 1693 in Nov, 944 in Dec.  
 F Max counts: 428 Kinneil 6 Jan and 415 there 14 Sep.  
 C Max counts: 640 Blackdevon Wetlands 6 Feb; 250 Gartmorn Dam 12 Feb; 1650 S Alloa 15 Nov.  
 S Breeding: c200 Carron Valley Res incl 37+ juvs counted 23 Jun.
- \*RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*  
 F Returning ad at Kinneil from 2007 to 17 Feb and from 14 Aug to 25 Nov (RS, DT, GO *et al.*). This record is pending with SBRC.
- MEW GULL (COMMON GULL) *Larus canus* (B,W)  
 Inland WeBS counts: 215 in Jan, 287 in Feb, 424 in Mar, 599 in Sep, 369 in Oct, 304 in Nov, 331 in Dec.  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 100 in Jan, 201 in Feb, 124 in Mar, 21 in Sep, 77 in Oct, 110 in Nov, 64 in Dec.  
 F Max counts: 364 Skinflats 19 Sep. 60 Kinneil 12 Feb with 100 there on 25 Nov. 79 Bo'ness 14 Nov.  
 C Max count: 75 Cambus 10 Feb.  
 S Breeding: 6 ON Cambusmore 20 May. Max counts: 2029 King's Park, Stirling 2 Jan; 350 Thornhill Carse 9 Mar.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (b, S)  
 Inland WeBS counts: 0 in Jan, 2 in Feb, 92 in Mar, 59 in Sep, 83 in Oct, 11 in Nov, 3 in Dec.  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 13 in Feb, 53 in Mar, 40 in Sep, 9 in Oct, 6 in Nov.  
 F Max counts: 157 Skinflats 8 Mar; 52 Little Denny Res 14 Oct.  
 C Max count: 40 Cambus 9 Mar. 13 Blackdevon Wetlands 11 Mar.  
 S Max counts: 64 Lake of Menteith 11 Mar; 204 Thornhill Carse 4 Sep; 30 Airthrey Loch 22 Oct.
- HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* (b, W)  
 Inland WeBS counts: 173 in Jan, 173 in Feb, 100 in Mar, 42 in Sep, 172 in Oct, 93 in Nov, 97 in Dec.  
 Forth Est (WeBS): 24 in Jan, 249 in Feb, 178 in Mar, 574 in Sep, 60 in Oct, 70 in

- Nov, 325 in Dec.
- F Max count: 400 Kinneil 28 Jun.
- C Max count: 208 S Alloa 14 Sep.
- \*ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*
- F Ad Avondale Landfill, Polmont 13 Dec (CJP).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* (S,W)
- Inland WeBS counts: 10 in Jan, 5 in Feb, 4 in Mar, 4 in Sep, 2 in Oct, 5 in Nov, 7 in Dec.
- Forth Est (WeBS): 8 in Jan, 11 in Feb, 32 in Mar, 7 in Sep, 2 in Oct, 9 in Nov, 7 in Dec.
- F Max count: 72 Kinneil 25 Aug.
- C Max count: 17 Cambus 9 Mar.
- S Nine Fallin 20 Jan. 1 R Forth, E Frew 28 Oct.
- SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* (P)
- WeBS Est peak: 104 in Sep.
- F Kinneil: 2 on 3 Jul; 2 on 17 Aug; 2 on 14 Sep; 5 on 5 Oct. Skinflats: 3 on 31 Jul; 24 on 2 Sep; 12 on 13 Sep; 24 on 14 Sep; 2 on 18 Sep; 15 on 23 Sep. 65 Bo'ness 14 Sep. Blackness: 6 on 12 Oct and 14 on 13 Oct.
- COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* (B)
- F First: 3 at Skinflats 4 May (GO), and 25 on 11 May. 1 Kincardine Br 18 May. Skinflats: up to 14 on 12 Jun. 1 Kinneil 17 Aug. 1 Kincardine Br 14 Sep.
- ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*
- F One Kinneil 28 Jun (ACC). This is the 16<sup>th</sup> record fro the recording area since 1974.
- FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* (B,W)
- F 200 Kinneil 25 Nov.
- STOCK PIGEON *Columba oenas* (B, W)
- F Two Kinneil 5 Jul. 9 Skinflats 6 Jul. 1 Parkhill, Polmont 8 Aug.
- C Two Woodland Park & Drove Rd, Alva 7 Jan. 1 Cambus Pools 20 Apr. 2 Blackdevon Wetlands 8 Jul and 1 Aug.
- S 15 Keir Estate, BoA 3 Apr. 2 Arnprior 7 Apr.
- COMMON WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* (B, W)
- BBS: recorded at 3.8 b/lkm
- F 200 Skinflats 13 Sep.
- S One singing BoA 6 to 29 Jan and 7 to 18 Feb where fledged juv 10 Apr. 80 Cambuskenneth 4 Jul with 150 there 17 Aug and 80 on 5 Sep.
- EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* (B, W)
- Greatly under-reported. No significant records were received this year
- COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* (B)
- Arrival in Apr: Easter Poldar, Flanders Moss 25<sup>th</sup> was same date as in 2007 and 4 days later than in both 2005 and 2006 but with the next birds several days later than in 2007, i.e. in May where birds at Low Botaurnie, G Lochay 3<sup>rd</sup>; Ben Ledi 5<sup>th</sup>; Sherifmuir 6<sup>th</sup> (2 birds); Braeleny, BoA 7<sup>th</sup>; Argaty, BoD 8<sup>th</sup>; Ruskie 10<sup>th</sup>, Carron Valley 10<sup>th</sup> (2 birds) and 2 at Gleann Dubh 11<sup>th</sup>.
- F Two California 7 Jun.
- S In late May: singles at Upper Lanrick, Callander 17<sup>th</sup>; Cromlix Moor 23<sup>rd</sup>; Brig o'Turk 24<sup>th</sup>; 2 Silver Strand, Loch Katrine 24<sup>th</sup>; Falls of Leny, Callander 25<sup>th</sup>. In June: singles Cobleland, Aberfoyle 7<sup>th</sup>; Gleann Dubh 8<sup>th</sup>; Cocksburn Res 11<sup>th</sup> and 3 at Sherifmuir 20<sup>th</sup>.
- BARN OWL *Tyto alba* (b, w)
- The increasing number of reports from a wider area, suggesting that the species is spreading.

- F Singles Champany 1 Jan, Inchyra 22 Apr and Darnrig Moss former opencast coal site 16 Jun (RS, RDZ).
- C One nr. Dollarbeg 1 Jan and 20 Nov. 1 dead on B9140 west of Fishcross 21 Mar. 1 Muirside Roundabout, Tullibody 2 Apr and Dumyat View Roundabout, Tullibody 12 Dec. 1 dead on A977 at Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill 29 Oct (AET, JTMT, DAC)
- S L Ard: singles Bad Dearg 9 Jan, Dun Dhamh 15 Jan, High Stiles Road 16 Jan, L Ard Forest 31 Jan with 2 Gleann Dubh 10 Mar and 1 there on 11 Mar. L Katrine: singles Rubha na Moine 21 Jan and Glengyle 31 Jan (ABu). BoD: 1 Dalbrack 3 Feb, 1 Argaty 12 Feb with 2 prs there 2 Jun, pr Kilbryde 26 Jun (DOE). Elsewhere singles Strathyre 6 Feb; Shaw of Touch, Gargunock 18 Feb; Boquhan 20 Feb; Flanders Moss 16 Mar; catching prey below Stirling Castle at 2pm on 28 Apr; 1 dead on verge of Duthieston slip northbound A9 16 May; singles Barrowmeadow 16 Jun; Barbush Estate, Dunblane 1 Nov and Doune 25 Nov (Abu, DOE, ACR, CJM, MVB, NB).
- TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* (B, W)
- F One Liddle Drive, Bo'ness 5 Jul.
- C One calling Aberdona 18 Mar. 2 calling to each other Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill 5 May.
- S One calling Springwood Avenue, Stirling throughout year; singles Stronmacnair and Bad Dearg, L Ard 10 Jan; South Mid Frew, Kippen 29 Jan; Doune Rd, Dunblane 6 Feb and 5 Mar and Flanders Moss 18 Feb. Pr on eggs Cromlix 21 Mar. 4 prs Argaty, BoD 20 Apr. 1 at midday W of Gargunock 21 May. Singles Cairnoch Hill, Carron Valley 24 May; Newton Crescent, Dunblane 28 Jul; Low Botanurie, G Lochay 29 Jul; A91 at Springkerse Retail Park 1 Nov and Stirling 20 Dec.
- LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* (b, w)
- F Bird at Skinflats in former breeding location but no sign of breeding this year 4 May (AB).
- S One heard L Mahaick 8 Jun. 1 Drumloist, BoD 14 Jun. 1 Burnside, Blairdrummond Moss 31 Oct (DOE, DI).
- SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* (b, W)
- For this rather local breeder, a more systematic survey of known breeding areas and potential breeding sites would be of value.
- F One Darnrig Moss 27 Mar. One seen most of Jun and found dead in Aug at Strathavon Fm, Slamannan (TF). 1 Falkirk Stadium injured by electric cables 27 Oct, died two days later (MW). 2 Kinneil 21 and 22 Nov with 1 there 30 Nov (RS, GO).
- C Two Blackdevon Wetlands and 1 there 21 Nov. 1 Tullibody Inch 17 Sep (CJH, DOE, DMB).
- S Two G Finglas 21 Jan. 1 at Culligart, Loch Katrine 27 Mar. 1 Touchadam Muir 14 May. 2 Braeleny, Callendar 30 June and 1 Bochastle, Callendar 6 Jul (RR, Abu, DT, DOE).
- COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus* (B)
- Spring arrival: 5 BoA 27 Apr were 1 day earlier than in 2007, 4 days earlier than in 2006 and 2 days earlier than in 2005. This was followed by 1 Carron Valley Res and 2 Dunblane 29 Apr, 5 Doune Castle 3 May, 3 Stirling and 1 Alva Glen 4 May, 2 BoA 5 May and 3 Alloa 6 May. The first larger flock was 25 in Callander on 24 May.
- Autumn departure in Aug: 22 Doune 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 Queen Elizabeth Forest Park 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 BoA 4<sup>th</sup>, 3 Carse of Lecropt 10<sup>th</sup>, 1 Coneyhill, BoA 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 Stirling 16<sup>th</sup> and 1 Carronshore 30<sup>th</sup>, which was 20 days later than in 2006, 2 days later than in 2006

and 11 days later than in 2005.

- C 50 Gartmorn Dam 7 Jul.  
 S Flock of between 20 and 37 birds BoA on various dates in July.
- COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* (b, w)  
 F Kinneil: singles 2, 4 and 8 Jan, 13 Aug (imm), 14 Sep, 11 and 12 Oct, 18 and 30 Nov.  
 R Carron: 2 M876-Larbert 9 Mar, singles Larbert-Carron Br stretch 13 Jan and 10  
 Mar, Carron Br-Carron House 10 Feb, 14 Sep and 10 Oct, Langlees 10 Feb and 14  
 Sep and Carron Works 26 Oct. Skinflats: singles 2, 3 and 19 Sep and at Muirdyke  
 Burn there 10 Oct. Elsewhere West Mains Industrial Estate Pond 15 Sep.  
 C R Devon: 1 on B934 to Crook of Devon stretch 21 Sep with 2 there 18 Nov and  
 1 on 9 Dec, singles at Dollar 28 Nov, Dollar-Tillicoultry 19 Mar, 23 Sep and 26  
 Nov, Tillicoultry-Alva 14 Sep and 10 Oct. Elsewhere 1 at Cambus Pools 21 Nov.  
 S Airthrey L: singles 11, 16, 21 Jan, 6 and 13 Feb, 25 Mar and 25 Oct. R Forth:  
 singles Ladylands-Br of Frew 23 Sep, E Frew-Gargunnoch Br 27 Mar, Teith-Allan  
 confluences 15 Mar and 16 Nov (2), Allan-Stirling Br 30 Nov, Cambus-Fallin 21  
 Nov and 28 Dec (2). Elsewhere singles Nether Carse 27 Mar; Gart GP, Callendar  
 4 Apr and nearby on Keltie Water 19 Sep; Polmaise lagoons 26 Jun; Doune 9 Jul;  
 Gartmore, Aberfoyle 4 Sep; The Meadows, Callander 15 Sep; Blairdrummond  
 25 Oct and 1 Nov; R. Teith, Doune Br-W Row 6 Dec (2) and Ashfield 15 Dec.
- GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* (B, W)  
 More records away from SE needed to establish true status.  
 F Single Plean CP 15 Apr and 16 Jul.  
 C Singles Alva Woodland Park and Drove Road 7 Jan and Alva Glen 16 Mar. 1 old  
 railway E of Clackmannan 2 May. 1 above Menstrie 8 Oct.  
 S One calling Argaty, BoD 13 Jan. 2 calling Crinigtart Woods, Gartartan 11 Mar. 3  
 Blairdrummond 16 and 28 Apr. Singles Lundie, BoD 19 Apr; Doune Lodge 26  
 Apr; David Marshall Lodge 5 May; Airthrey L 17 May and 24 Jun; F and juv by  
 Dumyat 24 Jul. 1 Dunblane 31 Aug and juv there Ochloch Rd 1 Sep. 2 above  
 BoA 23 Sep. Singles E of Blairlogie 6 Oct and Kilbryde, BoD 26 Oct.
- GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* (B, W)  
 F Singles Kinneil 4 Jan; Langlees woodland regeneration 12 Jan; Dunmore Woods  
 6 Mar; Denny 12 May. At least 2 prs Plean CP with Y at nest hole 6 Jun. Singles  
 Wallacestone 16 Jun; Skinflats 19 and 30 Aug, 22 Sep and 28 Dec; Drumbowie  
 Res, Denny 14 Oct; St Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 14 Oct; Airth Castle 29 Oct  
 and Grangemouth garden 6 Nov.  
 C Singles Kennetpans 6 Jan (M); old railway E of Clackmannan 7 Jan with ad and  
 juv there 16 Jun and single on 21 Oct; around Gartmorn 12 and 20 Jan and 13  
 May. Pr N of Cambus 8 Apr with single there 3 Nov. Along R Devon, Alva-  
 Menstrie stretch 11 Apr, 15 Jun (2) and 27 Jul. Singles at Alva Glen 4 May;  
 Blackgrange 27 Oct; N of Tullibody 15 and 18 Nov and 22 Dec.  
 S Singles Flanders Moss 6 Jan and 2 at East Poldar there 25 Apr; Argaty, BoD 13  
 Jan; Airthrey L 29 Jan; Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill 6 and 11 Feb;  
 Carron Valley Res 2 Feb, 18 Nov and 20 Dec, 29 Apr and 18 Jun; Blairdrummond  
 Moss 14 Feb; drumming Port of Menteith 11 Mar; David Marshall Lodge area 13  
 Apr; Blairdrummond caravan park 16 Apr; Falls of Leny, Callander 25 May;  
 Dunblane 14 Jun; Gallow Hill, BoA 22 Jun (M); Clash, Callander 24 Jun;  
 Stronachlachar 1 Nov; L Lubnaig 2 Nov;
- SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis* (B, W)  
 BBS: recorded at 1.5 b/lkm.  
 F Three singing Skinflats 18 Apr with 30 there 22 Sep and 15 on 2 Oct.  
 S Ten Nether Carse 31 Jan. 10 Drip Moss 4 Mar. 121 Litleward, Thornhill Carse  
 with 40 there 7 Apr.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* (B)

Arrival: 4 Doune 30 Mar were 11 days later than in 2007, 10 days later than in 2006 and 13 days later than in 2005. This was followed by 2 BoA and 1 Lake of Menteith 1 Apr; 1 E of Tillicoltry 2 Apr; 10<sup>+</sup> Gart GP, Callander 4 Apr; 2 Carron Valley 5 Apr; 50 Gartmorn 5 Apr, 300<sup>+</sup> there 6 Apr but none 9 Apr; 25 Airthrey L 8 Apr and 30 there 18 Apr. No departure dates were received this year.

- C 40 Old Stirling R, Tullibody 13 May. 30 Gartmorn 17 Jun but no sign of having used artificial nest bank there.
- S 15 L Watson 16 Apr with 80 there 18 Apr. 90 Blairdrummond caravan park 16 Apr. 30 Callander 10 May. Ca. 60 active nest holes Cambusmore GP 29 Jun. 30 Gart 28 Jul.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* (B)

BBS: recorded at 2.8 b/lkm.

Spring arrival in Apr: 1 Gart GP 6 Apr was 31 days later than in 2007, 6 days later than in 2006 and 3 days later than in 2005. This was followed by 1 Airthrey L 8<sup>th</sup>; nr N Third Res and Argaty, BoA 9<sup>th</sup>; 1 Skinflats 10<sup>th</sup>; 1 Blairdrummond 13<sup>th</sup>. Autumn departure: 3 Kinneil 28 Sep; 1 Thornhill 30 Sep; 6 Old railway, E of Clackmannan 21 Oct; 6 Carron Dam 28 Oct and 2 Blackness 30 Oct, which was 25 days later than in 2007, 14 days later than in 2006 and 3 days earlier than in 2005.

- F 42 Skinflats 11 May with 550 there 12 Sep and 40 on 13 Sep.
- C 25 Blackgrange 14 Sep.
- S 33 L Coulter 24 Apr. 40 Glenhead 24 Jul. 80 Queen Elizabeth Park, Aberfoyle 30 Aug.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* (B)

Arrival in Apr: 6 Blairdrummond caravan park 16<sup>th</sup> was 7 days later than in 2007, 2 days later than in 2006 and 9 days later than in 2005. This was followed by 15 Kippenross House, Dunblane 21<sup>st</sup>; 1 Carronshore 25<sup>th</sup>; 3 Cambus and 4 Kinbuck 26<sup>th</sup>.

Departure: singles Airthrey L 21 Sep and Viewforth, Stirling 1 Oct, which was 20 days later than in 2007, on the same date as in 2006 and 10 days later than in 2005.

- F Six<sup>+</sup> nests with Y Bryce Avenue, Carron in Jul.
- C One nest Coalsnaughton centre 12 May.
- S 21 Falls of Leny, Callander 25 May. 20 Dunblane 6 Jul. 25 Queen Elizabeth Park, Aberfoyle 3 Aug. Ca. 30 BoA 28 Aug. 5 nests Gatincaber Steadings 4 Sep.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* (B)

Arrival: 1 Argaty, BoD and 3 singing Dumyat, Stirling 27 Apr were 14 days later than in 2007, 10 days later than in 2006 and 15 days later than in 2005. Then none until 1 Cromlix 4 May and 2 Gartmorn 7 May. No departure dates were received this year.

- C One Gartmorn Dam 17 Jun.
- S In breeding season: 2 Brae of Boquhapple, Thornhill 17 May; 2 Loch Doon Forest Drive, Loch Ard Forest 20 May; 1 Brig o' Turk and 5 Letter, L of Katrine 24 May; 1 Falls of Leny, Callander 25 May; ca. 15 AOT Coille Coire Chuilc, Tyndrum 12 Jun; 1 L Dochart 21 Jun and 1 singing G Lochay 27 Jun.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* (B, W)

BBS: recorded at 4.1 b/lkm. Continues to be scarce mid-winter.

- C Two Blackdeven Wetlands 24 Jan. 30 Blackgrange 27 Oct.
- S 18 Craighton Farm, Kinbuck 12 Jan. 30 Blairdrummond Moss 14 Feb. 35 Lower Auchinlay, Dunblane 30 Mar. 72 Gart GP 6 Apr. 100 Littleward, Thornhill Carse 7 Apr. 150 nr Inn, Sheriffmuir 23 Aug.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* (w)

C One Tullibody Inch 9 Feb (DMB).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* (B, w)

F R Carron: 2 M876-Larbert 16 Nov and 14 Dec; 3 Larbert-Carron Br 13 Jan with 1 there 12 Feb; 2 Carron Bridge-Carron House 12 Jan with 1 there 12 Feb; 2 Carron House-A905 12 Jan, 9 Feb, 1 on 9 Mar, pr on 11 Jun and pr on 26 Oct. Elsewhere Millhall Res, Polmont 9 Feb. 2 Kinneil 28 Nov.

C R Devon: 3 Tillicoultry-Alva 12 Jan with pr there 2 Apr and 1 on 15 Nov; pr Alva-Menstrie 24 Mar and 2 Apr and 1 on 27 Sep. Cambus: 3 on 23 Mar with pr there 4 Aug and 1 on 3 Nov. Elsewhere 4 Alva Glen 16 Mar; 1 Gartmorn and 2 to E of site 6 Apr. Old railway, E of Clackmannan 21 Oct. 2 Tullibody Inch 31 Oct. 1 Kersiepow 6 Nov.

S Allan Water: 1 Ashfield-Dunblane 12 Jan with 2 there 14 Dec; 4 Dunblane 10 Jun with pr there 8 Nov; 1 N of BoA 27 Oct. Singles R. Teith, Wester Row-Forth confluence 10 Feb; Cocksburn Res 3 Apr; collecting food Coneyhill, BoA 19 May; Airthrey L 20 May. Pr E of Kippen 21 May. Singles Lossburn Reservoir 23 Jul; Logie Church 27 Oct; Malling Lake of Menteith 12 Nov; R Forth, Fallin-Cambus stretch 21 Nov; The Meadows, Callendar 15 Dec and Springwood Avenue, Stirling 5, 6 and 12 Oct and 21 and 22 Dec.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* (B, w)

Fewer records in both the first and second winter seasons. 3 Jan records (9 in 2007, 3 in 2006 and 4 in 2005): 1 Flanders Moss 6 Jan; 1 Blackdevon Wetlands 9 Jan with 2 there 30 Jan. 3 Feb records (11 in 2007, 6 in 2006 and 1 in 2005): 1 on Forth, S of Cambus and 2 W of Alloa 2 Feb; 36 Stonehouse Fm, Skinflats 10 Feb. No November records (6 in 2005, 2006 and 2007) and 2 December records (7 in 2005, 2006 and 2007): 1 by Forth nr Alloa 6 Dec; roost at Stirling railway station 16 Dec.

F Skinflats: 46 on 12 Feb; 6 on 30 Mar. White Wagtails (*M.a.alba*): 8 Skinflats 18 Apr and 11 there 28 Apr.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* (w)

Following the large invasion in 2004, this autumn saw another, albeit not quite as large, invasion in the UK. Unlike in 2004 the berry crop (especially Rowan and Whitebeam) was generally poor and birds appeared to move to southern Britain comparatively quickly. Although total flock sizes are very difficult to establish in any one location, there is some evidence of this from well watched locations, such as Dunblane and Stirling.

F 75+ Falkirk 12 Nov with 50-60 there 18-19 Nov and 21 on 4 Dec. 36 Grangemouth 16 Nov with 22 there 21 Nov and 25 on 30 Nov. 120+ Larbert 18 Nov. Up to 22 Carron 27 Nov to 6 Dec. 21 Bo'ness 29 Nov. Ca. 50 Skinflats 4 Dec with 130+ there 8 Dec.

C Five South Alloa 1 Nov increased to 25 birds in the Alloa area by 15 Nov. Elsewhere 15 Alva 21 Alva; 120+ Gartmorn 2 Dec; 1 Cambus 12 Dec; 55 Clackmannan 25 Dec and up to 50 Tullibody 31 Dec.

S Small flock from 2007 early in the year in Dunblane where 24 on 15 Jan and up to 26 birds between 14 and 23 Mar. 3 Bannockburn 18 Jan. The autumn influx began with 1 Fallin and 2 Strathyre 1 Nov. Dunblane: present on several days in Nov with 41+ on 2<sup>nd</sup> rising to 65 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 80 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 200 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 220 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, with smaller flocks thereafter with 25 on 24<sup>th</sup>, 40 and 70 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> moving S though to be on passage, then in December 15 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 19 on 15<sup>th</sup> the largest flocks. Stirling: 1 on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov increased to ca. 20 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 80 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 200+ on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, then dropped to ca. 50 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, with 60+ on 8<sup>th</sup>, 20+ on 10<sup>th</sup> and at least 50 still on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. BoA: 20 on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov with 40 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 32 on

19<sup>th</sup>, 60 on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec and ca. 30 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 5 Callander 5<sup>th</sup> Nov rising to 34 by 18<sup>th</sup>. 20 Doune 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov and 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. 18 Carron Valley Res 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 30 Fallin 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.

WHITE-THROATED DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* (B, W)

- F R Carron: 1 Carron Glen 19 May; 2 Denny 18 Feb and 8 Sep; 1 Carron Works 10 Feb and 14 Sep. R Avon: 2 Polmonthill 3 Jan and 1 singing there 7 Jan.
- C R Devon: 7 on B934 to Crook of Devon stretch 27 Oct with 5 there 18 Nov and 6 there 9 Dec; 6 Dollar-Tillicoultry 18 Feb with 7 there 23 Sep, 9 on 26 Nov and 6 on 28 Nov; 6 Alva-Tillicoultry 12 Jan. Elsewhere 2 Cambus 3 Nov.
- S Allan Water: 4 Dunblane 19 Feb; 1 BoA 31 Jul. 2 Earlsburn, Carron Valley 10 Feb. 1 R Dochart at Ledcharrie 30 Dec.

WINTER WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* (B, W)

Widespread and common. Under-recorded. BBS: recorded at 2.4 b/lkm.

- C 12 Gartmorn 9 Apr with 16 there 7 May and 11 on 9 Jul. 20 Cambus 19 Sep.
- S 10 Airthrey 16 May.

HEDGE ACCENTOR (DUNNOCK) *Accentor modularis* (B, W)

Widespread and common. Under-recorded.

- S Six Blairdrummond Moss 14 Feb. 6 Woodland Park and Drove Road, Alva 28 Feb. 7 King's Park, Stirling.

EUROPEAN ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* (B,W)

Widespread and common. Under-recorded. BBS: recorded at 1.2 b/lkm.

- F Ad and 3 recently fledged Y Bryce Avenue, Carron 5 May.
- C 20 Cambus Pools 19 Sep.
- S 14 King's Park, Stirling 14 Feb.

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (B)

Arrival: 1 Menteith 27 Apr was 5 days later than in 2007, 4 days later than in 2006 and 8 days later than in 2005. The next bird was not seen until 5 May at Buchany, BoD with 2 M there 10 May; 1 Kilbryde, BoD 9 May (KO, DOE).

- S Singles Upper Lanrick, Callander and Brae of Boquhapple, Thornhill 17 May; Brig o'Turk, Callander, Letter-L Katrine and Silver Strand-L Katrine, all 24 May; Cromlix 3 Jul (DK, NR, DP).

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* (B)

Spring arrival: 1 old railway, E of Clackmannan 2 May was 5 days later than in 2007 and 7-9 days later than during 2003-2006. This was followed by 1 G Artney path, Callander 5 May; pr Sheriffmuir 7 May with 2 prs there 8 May; 1 Ben Cleuch, 2 M Flanders Moss, 4 M Braeleny, Callander, and 2 M Carron Valley all on 10 May.

Autumn departure: 2 Skinflats 3 Sep with 1 there 13 Sep and 22 Sep. This was 45 days later than in 2007 and 21 days later than in 2006<sup>1</sup>.

- F One Kinneil 3 Jul. Skinflats: 1 on 27 Jul, 4 on 28 Jul, 2 on 31 Jul and 1 Aug and 5 on 5 Aug.
- S Six Brig o'Turk 24 May. Pr and 1 Y Carron Valley Res 18 Jun. Pr and 3 Y Sheriffmuir 24 Jun with M there 9 Jul. 5 Low Botaurnie, G Lochay 29 Jul.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* (b, w)

- F Kinneil: 13 on 26 Jan with 2 there 9 Feb, 1 on 5 Apr, M on 22 Aug, 2 on 28 and 29 Aug. Skinflats: F on 28 Feb, M on 30 Mar; ad feeding recently fledged Y 25 Jun, 2 on 7 Jul, 1 on 1 and 5 Aug, 2 on 12 Sep, 4 on 25 Sep, 1 on 2 Nov, pr on 18 Nov and 2 on 13 Dec. Elsewhere 1 California 7 Jun. 2 Carbrook Mains 27 Jun. 2 Kirkton Tip 27 Dec.

<sup>1</sup> The arrival and departure dates for some species may be affected by an increasing amount of data submitted, especially via Birdtrack.

- C R Devon: 2 Alva-Menstrie 14 Jan with pr there 11 and 16 Apr and 2 on 9 Nov. Blackdevon Wetlands: pr 24 and 30 Jan with F there 27 Feb, M 14 Mar, 20 and 23 May, 2 prs on a few dates in May-Jul, F/juv 1 Aug, 1w M 21 Sep, 2 on 28 Oct and 1 Nov. 1 N of Tullibody 9 May and 16 Jun with pr there 22 Sep and 6 Oct, 2 prs 29 Oct and 1 pr 22 Dec. Elsewhere 1 Gartmorn 12 Feb. Pr Cambus 3 Nov. Pr S of Coalsnaughton 5 Nov.
- S Three Flanders Moss 6 Jan with 2 prs there 10 May and 2 on 21 Oct. Pr Carse of Lecropt 12 Jan and 12 Oct with single at nearby Netherton Marsh 12 Jan. Carron Valley Res: 1 on 14 Jan with 2 there on 5 Apr, 1 on 29 Apr, 18 Jun, 18 Oct, 18 Nov and pr on 20 Dec. Polmaise Lagoons: pr on 16 Jan, 21 Feb, 31 Mar with pr and 4 Y on 22 May, juv on 26 Jun and 1 on 18 Dec. Pr Hillhead Pond, Thornhill 26 Jan and 19 Mar. Pr Lundie, BoD 17 Feb. 2 Cambuskenneth 26 Mar. 1 Dumyat, Stirling 27 Apr with pr there 27 Jul. Callander: 1 G Artney path 3 May; 4 M Braeleny 10 May, 1 Clash 24 Jun. Sheriffmuir: 1 on 6 May with 3 there 7 May, 3 on 20 Jun, 8 ad and 3 Y 23 Jun, pr at Lairhill on 23 Jul and 3 on 30 Nov. 5 Letter, L Katrine 24 May. Pr G Finglas 25 May. 2 Gartrenich, BoD 27 May and 8 Jul. 8 Low Botaurnie, G Lochay 29 Jul. 4 Queen Elizabeth Forest Park 3 Aug. 1 L Walton 14 Sep. 1 Kippen Muir 14 Sep. 2 prs Cromlix 21 Oct. 1 Dochart Haughs 15 Nov. 2 R Forth below Kippen 30 Nov.
- NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* (B)  
 Spring arrival: pr N of Menstrie 6 Apr was 12 days later than in 2007, 3 days later than in 2006 and 16 days later than in 2005. The next birds (3) at Bows, BoD were not until 12<sup>th</sup> Apr with 3 M Kinneil 24<sup>th</sup>, 1 Cambus 26<sup>th</sup>, and 3 Dumyat, Stirling 27<sup>th</sup>.  
 Autumn departure: 2 Skinflats 3 Sep and 1 Higgins Neuk 14 Sep, which was 25 days earlier than in 2007, 29 days later than in 2006 and 10 days later than in 2005.
- F 4-6 Kinneil 28 Apr.  
 C F Blackdevon Wetlands 6 May.  
 S F at nest Sheriffmuir 24 Jun. Singles Cononish, Tyndrum 29 Jul and Lairhill, Sheriffmuir 23 Aug.
- \*RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* (b)  
 S One Ben Ledi 29 May (AW).
- COMMON BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* (B, W)  
 BBS: recorded at 2.1 b/lkm.  
 C 20 Gartmorn 12 Nov with 25 there 8 Dec.  
 S 24 King's Park, Stirling 18 Mar, with 20 on 22 Apr and 25 on 19 May.
- FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* (W)  
 Spring departure: 50 Manor Loan, Tullibody 23 Apr, 220 Easter Buckieburn Carron Valley 24 Apr and 50 Nether Carse 27 Apr, which was 31 days later than in 2007, 17 days earlier than in 2006 and 2 days earlier than in 2005.  
 Autumn arrival in October: 10 Ashfield 18<sup>th</sup> was 11 days later than in 2007, 9 days earlier than in 2006 and 2 days earlier than in 2005. This was followed by ca. 60 L Doine 22<sup>nd</sup> and 80 Dunmore Home Farm, Forth 30<sup>th</sup>.
- F 92 Myot Hill, Denny 11 Jan. 80 Skinflats 15 Nov with 260 there 10 Dec and 240 on 13 Dec.  
 C 100 Gartmorn 13 Jan. 75 Cambus 21 Nov. 60 Blackgrange 22 Nov.  
 S 120 Lecropt 7 Jan with 500+ there 2 Nov. 100 Boquhan, Kippen 1 Nov. Ca. 60 Hutchison, Dunblane 10 Nov.
- SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* (B, W)  
 Under-recorded.  
 Fewer winter records than in 2007. Jan: N of Buchlyvie 6<sup>th</sup>, Ochiltree, Dunblane

12<sup>th</sup> and singing Coneyhill, BoA 27<sup>th</sup>. Feb: Dunblane 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>; BoA 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>; 9 King's Park, Stirling 14<sup>th</sup> and 5 Woodland Park and Drove Road, Alva and singing Skinflats 28<sup>th</sup>. Nov: 2 regular in Dunblane garden all month till year end. Dec: Alloa by R Forth 6<sup>th</sup>; N of Tillicoultry 22<sup>nd</sup> and E of Tillicoultry 24<sup>th</sup>.

C 6 Kinneil 30 Aug.

S 5 Ardeonaig, Loch Tay 14 Mar. 5 King's Park, Stirling 18 Mar.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* (W)

Spring departure: 31 King's Park, Stirling 14 Mar, 70 Pool of Muckhart 28 Mar and 5 Auchinlay, Dunblane 4 Apr, which was 29 days later than in 2007, 32 days later than in 2006 and 24 days later than in 2005.

Autumn arrival in Oct: 15 SW Stonehill, Dunblane 9<sup>th</sup>, which was 12 days later than in 2007, 3 days earlier than in 2006 and 1 day later than in 2005. Then 20 BoA 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 N of Tullibody 14<sup>th</sup>, ca. 50 Malling, Lake of Menteith, 10 Ashfield and 103 >SW Stockbridge, Dunblane all on 18<sup>th</sup>.

F 65 Union Canal 7 Dec. 240 Skinflats 10 Dec.

C 50 Gartmorn 2 Nov.

S 81 King's Park, Stirling and 100 Airthrey 22 Oct.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* (B, W)

Under-recorded. No noteworthy records received this year.

COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* (b)

Spring arrival in Apr: 1 Blairdrummond 23<sup>rd</sup> was 2 days earlier than in 2007, 4 days earlier than in 2006 and on same day as in 2005. This was followed by 1 Carron Valley Res 29<sup>th</sup> where also 18<sup>th</sup> Jun.

C One Cambus Pools 7 May was heard on several subsequent dates. 1 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie stretch 30 May.

S Two Flanders Moss 2 May. 1 Carse of Lecropt 3 May and 5 Jul. 2 Blairdrummond 16 May. 1 Cornton caravan park, Stirling 3 Jun. 1 Aberfoyle 21 Jul.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (B)

Spring arrival in Apr: 1 singing Skinflats 27<sup>th</sup> was 2 days later than in 2007, on same day as in 2006 and 4 days earlier than in 2005. Then 1 singing Kinneil 29<sup>th</sup>. Autumn departure: singles Skinflats 19 Aug, 29 Aug and 22 Sep, which was 43 days later than in 2007, 39 days later than in 2006 and 16 days later than in 2005.

F Eight singing Skinflats 4 May with 7 there 7 May.

C Four Gartmorn and 6 Cambus 7 May. 11 R Devon, Alva- Menstrie stretch 9 May. In breeding season also recorded at Tullibody and Blackdevon Wetlands.

S In breeding season at: Blairdrummond; Cromlix; Ruskie, Thornhill and Cambuskenneth.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* (B)

Winter records: Stirling; F Springwood Avenue 1 Jan to 31 Mar and M Queen Street 13 Jan. F Tillicoultry garden 28 Nov.

Spring arrival: M Springwood Avenue, Stirling 5 Mar; single Cocksburn Res 22 Mar and pr Alexander Drive, BoA 5 Apr could have been early migrants or overwintering birds. 1 singing Kinneil Wood 19 Apr. M Lanrick, BoD 24 Apr. M singing Coneyhill, BoA 26 and 27 Apr. 3 Menteith and 1 Skinflats 27 Apr.

F Five singing Plean CP 5 May. 3 singing Skinflats 6 May with 1 there 19 Aug and 4 Sep, 3 on 12 Sep and M on 16 Sep. 2 Kinneil 21 and 24 Sep.

S Two Airthrey 7 May and 17 Sep. 1 L Dochart 21 Jun.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* (B)

Spring arrival: 1 Cocksburn 23 Apr was 5 days earlier than in 2007, 11 days earlier than in 2006 and 9 days earlier than in 2005.

Autumn departure: 1 Skinflats 4 Sep was 23 days later than in 2006 and 6 days later than in 2004.

- F Three Plean CP singing 8 May.
- C One old railway, E of Clackmannan 2 and 13 May. 3 Gartmorn 10 May and 9 Jul.
- S Singles Carse of Lecropt 3 May and Kinbuck Br 6 May. 2 singing Gartmore, R Teith 7 May. 1 Lanrick, BoD 8 May. 4 SE end L Katrine 24 May. 2 Kilmahog, Callander 25 May. Dunblane: 1 N of Cathedral 4 Jun and 2 at Allan Water 10 Jun.
- COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* (B)
- Spring arrival in Apr: 1 singing Skinflats 24<sup>th</sup> (2 there 26<sup>th</sup>) was 1 day later than in 2007, 2 days earlier than in 2006 and 6 days earlier than in 2005. Then singles Carronshore 25<sup>th</sup> and Dunmore 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Autumn departure: 3 Ashfield 16 Aug, 2 Kinneil 29 Aug, 1 Skinflats 12 Sep, 1 Kinneil 13 and 24 Sep, which was 53 days later than in 2007, 32 days later than in 2006 and 19 days later than in 2005.
- F Five singing Skinflats 4 May. Elsewhere in breeding season at: Grangemouth garden, Kinneil and Chasefield, Denny.
- C Seven R Devon, Alva-Menstrie stretch 9 May. Elsewhere during breeding season at: old railway, E of Clackmannan, Gartmorn; old Stirling road path, Tullibody.
- S Five Kinbuck Br 5 May. In breeding season also in Dunblane; Doune and Cornton caravan park, Stirling.
- WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (B)
- Under-recorded.
- Spring arrival: 1 singing Kippenrait Glen, BoA 30 Apr was 3 days later than in 2007, 1 day later than in 2006 and on the same day as in 2005. Then 1 Ben Ledi 5 May. 1 E of Gartmorn 10 and 13 May. 2 Braeleny, Callendar 10 May. 2 Brig o' Turk 17 May.
- S Loch Katrine: 3 Letter, 1 Silver Strand and 6 at SE end, all on 24 May. Callander: 2 Falls of Leny and 5 Kilmahog 25 May. 1 Lake of Menteith 26 May.
- COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* (B)
- Winter record: singles Kinneil 4 Jan and Cambus 28 Nov.
- Spring arrival: singles Union Canal Tunnel, Falkirk and Doune 30 Mar were 15 days later than in 2007, 1 day earlier than in 2006 and 6 days later than in 2005. Then 1 E of Clackmannan 2 Apr. 1 BoA 3 Apr. 1 Drumloist, BoD and 3 Laighills to Ashfield, Dunblane 4 Apr. 1 Viewforth, Stirling 5 Apr. 1 Gartmorn 6 Apr. 2 N of Menstrie 7 Apr and 1 Skinflats 8 Apr.
- Autumn departure: 1 Langlees, Carron 14 Sep and 1 singing N of Clackmannan 25 Sep, which was 11 days earlier than in 2007, 9 days earlier than in 2006 and 1 day earlier than in 2005.
- F Breeding season: 3 Plean CP. Singles Skinflats; Kinneil Wood and Callendar Park, Falkirk.
- C Breeding season: Tillicoultry.
- S Breeding season: BoA.
- WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* (B)
- Spring arrival in Apr: 1 singing Skinflats 8<sup>th</sup> was 3 days earlier than in 2007, 6 days earlier than in 2006 and 5 days later than in 2005. Then singles R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 11<sup>th</sup>, Blairdrummond 13<sup>th</sup>, Airthrey 14<sup>th</sup>, Gartmorn 15<sup>th</sup> after which widespread.
- Autumn departure in Sep: 2 Skinflats 12<sup>th</sup> and 1 Blackgrange 14<sup>th</sup>, which was 21 days earlier than in 2007, 3 days earlier than in 2006 and 20 days earlier than in 2005.
- F Eight singing Skinflats 24 Apr. 8 singing Plean CP 8 May. 20+ Skinflats 19 Aug. In breeding season also: Carronshore, Plean and Skinflats.
- C Fourteen Gartmorn 7 May with 12 there 17 Jun and 4 Aug. In breeding season

also: Cambus and Alva.

- S Ten Airthrey 16 May. 14 Brae of Boquhapple 17 May. In breeding season also: Dunblane, Flanders Moss, Sheriffmuir, Stirling, Loch Rusky and Monachyle Glen.
- GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* (B, W)  
Under-recorded. Again no notable records were received.
- FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*  
F One Polmonthill, Grangemouth 3 Jan (SP) was also seen 6, 7, 19 and 26 Jan (RS, GO, AB, CJP, SP). This is the first record for the recording area since systematic recording began in 1974.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* (B)  
Spring arrival in May: pr Doune Lodge, BoD 13<sup>th</sup> were 6 days earlier than in 2007, 4 days later than in 2006 and 1 day earlier than in 2005.  
Autumn departure: 2 Skinflats 13 and 30 Aug. 2 Killin Marshes 8 Sep were 15 days later than in 2006.
- F One Strathavon Fm, Slamannan 17 Jun.  
C One Woodland Park & Drove Road, Alva 29 Jun.  
S Two at nest site W of Gargunnock 21 May. 1 Brig o'Turk 24 May. Prs Doune and Callander 28 May. 3 prs Stronachlachar 13 Jun. 1 Stockbridge, Dunblane 18 Jun. 1 Clash, Callander 24 Jun. 1 G Lochay, Killin 11 Jul. 1 feeding Y Inverlochlarig 13 Jul.
- PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* (b)  
S Two Brig o'Turk 24 May (DK).
- LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* (B, W)  
F Eleven Skinflats 14 Oct. 17 Kinneil 30 Oct.  
C Nine Gartmorn 20 Jan with 12 there 12 Nov. 12 Craigknowe, Ochil Road, Alva 26 Jan.  
S Ten Old Stirling Br 3 Jan. 11 Barr Wood, Bannockburn 3 Feb. 15 Airthrey 17 Sep, 12 there 30 Oct and 15 on 24 Nov. 12 E of Blairlogie 6 Oct. 12 Doune Rd, Dunblane 25 Dec.
- BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* (B, W)  
Under-recorded. BBS: recorded at 1.5 b/lkm.  
S 22 King's Park, Stirling 18 Mar.
- GREAT TIT *Parus major* (B, W)  
Under-recorded.  
C Twenty-one Woodland Park and Drove Road, Alva 7 Jan with 10 there 14 Feb. 10 Gartmorn 12 Feb with 12 there 9 Apr and 10 on 17 Jun.  
S One singing Coneyhill, BoA 12 Feb. 10 Blairdrummond Moss 14 Feb. 18 BoA 22 Mar.
- COAL TIT *Periparus ater* (B, W)  
Widespread but under-recorded.  
S Six+ Springwood Avenue, Stirling 1 to 30 Nov.
- WOOD NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*  
S One Blairdrummond caravan park 16 and 18 Apr (KS). 1 calling in woodland behind Blairlowan, Sheriffmuir Road, BoA (DMB) and what was probably the same bird on feeders by Mine Wood, BoA 5 Sep and 30 Nov (RSX). These are the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> records of this species for our area since 1974 and continue the recent run since 1999.
- EURASIAN TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* (B, W)  
Under-recorded.  
F Three Plean CP, including 1 gathering insects 8 May.  
S Breeding season: 2 Airthrey 21 Apr.

EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius* (B, W)

- F One Airth 16 Jan. 1 Plean CP 8 May. 2 Chasefield, Denny 13 Aug. 2 Torwood 11 Dec.
- C One W of Forestmill 6 Apr with 2 at Forestmill 28 Apr. Singles Gartmorn 13 May, 5 and 12 Nov. Two old railway, E of Clackmannan 16 Jun with 5 there 21 Oct. 1 Castle Campbell, Dollar 24 Jul with 1 at Dollar 28 Nov.
- S Jan-Feb: Flanders Moss; Argaty, BoD; L Venachar; Baxter's Loan, Dunblane; Sommer's Lane, Blairdrummond; N of BoA; Brig o'Turk (2). Breeding season: 2 Blairdrummond caravan park 16 Apr. Singles Bonnybridge 23 Apr and Carron Valley Res 29 Apr. 2 Chartershall, Stirling 17 May with 1 there 6 Jul. Singles Cromlix Moor 23 May and E of Brig o'Turk 25 May. 2 L Voil 12 Jun. Singles Queen Elizabeth Forest Park 3 Aug and Dunblane 16 Aug. Oct-Dec: 7 L Doine. Singles Auchlyne, G Dochart and Blackwater Marshes, L Venachar. 2 Callandrade, Callander.

EURASIAN MAGPIE *Pica pica* (B, W)

- Continues to be very scarce NW of Dunblane. Abundant around Stirling but is not usually as frequent in the west; large groups now widespread in Falkirk
- F Five Chasefield, Denny 21 Jul and 13 Aug. 6 Kinneil 30 Aug. 30 Carronshore 19 Nov.
- C R Devon, Alva: 5 on 12 Jan with 8 there 9 Mar and 5 on 14 Sep. 12 Cambus 6 Jan with 36 there on 13 Jan.
- S Six Airthrey 11 Jan with 12 there 13 Feb were again low counts compared to past roost counts. 7 Bannockburn 20 Feb. 10 Bonnybridge 25 Sep. 5 King's Park, Stirling 22 Oct. 1 Callandrade, Callander 12 Dec.

EURASIAN JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* (B, W)

- Under-recorded. BBS: recorded at 2.4 b/lkm.
- F At least 3 prs with Y at ruin, Plean CP.
- S Stirling: 280 King's Park 2 Jan with 404 there 28 Oct. 60 Airthrey 4 Nov. 50 Nyadd Fm 9 Nov. 80 Barr Wood, Bannockburn 3 Feb. 110 Blairdrummond caravan park 16 Apr. 120 Cambuskenneth 17 Aug.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* (B, W)

- BBS: recorded at 4.2 b/lkm. Systematic counts of known rookeries (e.g. BoA, Gartmorn, Forth and Clyde Canal, Lake of Menteith, etc.) needed.
- F Rookeries: 14 nests at Westbourne Avenue, Falkirk 22 Mar; 32 nests at Lock 16, Union Canal, Camelon 22 Mar; 20 occupied nests at William Simpsons House, Plean.
- C Alloa W: 64 nests in railway poplars 22 Apr. 150 birds Blackgrange 22 Nov.
- S 210 King's Park, Stirling 2 Jan. 178 Drip Moss 27 Feb. 126 Blairdrummond caravan park 16 Apr. 120 Blairdrummond Moss 30 Jun. 150 Airthrey 4 Nov.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* (B, W)

- BBS: recorded at 2.8 b/lkm.
- F Fifty Kinneil 23 Sep.
- C Alva: 30 River Devon at Alva 17 Feb, 5 Oct and 7 Dec. 30 Woodland Park and Drove Road 28 Feb and 3 Mar. 30 Blackgrange 14 Sep and 27 Oct with 40 there 22 Nov.
- S Forty-four L Watston 4 Jan.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* (b, w)

- F Four Skinflats 24 Apr feeding on seeded field with 1 there 26 Apr.
- S One L Lubhair and 2 Croftchois, Dochart Haughs 16 Jan. Singles Rhuveag, L. Voil 12 Feb; Brig o'Turk 16 Feb; Tyndrum 12 Apr and 22 Jun and at Balquhidder 17 Apr. 5 Monachyle Glen 20 Apr. Singles Low Botaurnie, G Lochay 3 May and L Voil 7 May. G Dochart: 2 Ledcharrie 8 Sep and 12 Auchlyne 15 Nov.

COMMON RAVEN *Corvus corax* (B, W)

There were again a number of reports from south/southwest of the core Callander-Doune-Dunblane area but now possibly well established outside.

- C Two flying over Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill 17 Jun. 1 Colnsaur Hill 24 Jun. 1 Menstrie Glen 15 Nov.
- S Core area: two Inverlochlarig 12 Jan. 4 Couligartan, Loch Ard 7 Feb. 1 Vale of Coustry 10 Feb. 9 L Mahaick 17 Mar. Singles incubating Drumloist, BoD 20 Mar; Argaty, BoD 21 Mar and Cromlix 21 Mar where 2 on 3 Jul and 17 Dec. 4 Low Botaurnie, G Lochay 3 May. 1 Gleann Dubh 11 May. 1 Falls of Leny, Callander 25 May. 2 Gleann Breac-nic 8 Jun. 2 David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle 4 Sep. 4 over Newton Crescent, Dunblane 5 Sep. 3 Kilbryde, BoD 26 Oct. 13 Doune Lodge, BoD roost 21 Nov. Outside of core area: 2 Cairnoch Hill, Carron Valley 19 Jan. 5 S L Coulter 9 Feb and 1 there 16 Feb. 3 Carron Valley Res 12 Feb. 1 Sheriffmuir 14 Feb with 3 there 6 May, 1 incubating 8 May and 1 on 20 Jun. 1 Dumyat, Stirling 27 Apr. 1 Whins of Milton, Stirling 6 Jul. 2 Malling, Lake of Menteith 4 Sep. 1 Flanders Moss 14 Sep. 2 Airthrey 30 Oct. 2 >W BoA 27 Nov. 2 R Forth, Kippen 30 Nov.

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* (B, W)

Greatly under-reported. BBS: recorded at 5.0 b/lkm.

- F 500 Chasefield, Denny. 100 Bonnybridge 28 Oct.
- C 100 Blackgrange 27 Oct with 65 there 22 Nov.
- S 200 Carron Bridge, Carron Valley 16 Feb. 300 Glenhead 2 Mar with 100 there 18 Jun, 16 Jul and 8 Oct. During breeding season also reported from Bonnybridge and Thornhill.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* (B, W)

Under-recorded. BBS: recorded at 1.7 b/lkm.

- F Breeding season: 8 Kincardine Br 18 May. 30 Falkirk 20 May. 12 Chasefield, Denny 19 Jul. Non-breeding: 25 Langlees, Carron 26 Oct and 15 there 18 Nov.
- C Twenty Gartmorn Dam 23 Sep.
- S Breeding season: 6 Argaty Fm, BoD 18 Mar; 1 Glenhead 13 May and 6 Callander 24 May. Non-breeding: 20 Kinbuck 27 Jan with 30 there 6 Mar. 26 Blairdrummond Moss 14 Feb. 20 Nether Carse 19 Feb. 25 S Mid Frew, Kippen 21 Mar. Ca. 20 Broomridge, Stirling where absent for years 23 Nov. None Springwood Avenue, Stirling where common 10 years ago.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* (B, W)

Only small flocks this year.

- F Newton Rd, Skinflats: small flocks of 1 to 14 birds in Feb, Apr, Jun and Nov. Elsewhere Skinflats 2 on 11 Jan; 1 to NW on 3 Mar; 8 on 21 Apr, 9 on 28 Jul, 6 on 13 Aug and 15 at ponds 13 Sep. 1 on sea wall, Kinneil 22 Aug.
- C Old railway, E of Clackmannan: 2 on feeders 7 Jan with 3 there 2 May and 4 on 16 Jun. 3 Kennetpans 18 May. 4 Gartmorn 12 Oct. 2 Blackgrange 27 Oct.
- S Kinbuck: 1 to 6 birds on several days Jan-Mar. Doune Rd, Dunblane: 1 to 4 birds on several days Jan, Feb, May- Jul and Sep. Blairdrummond: 1 to 4 birds on several days Feb and Apr-Jun. Carse of Lecropt: 1 on 5 Jul, ca. 30 on 13 Sep, 25 on 22 Nov and 13 on 14 Dec. Elsewhere: 1 Brig o'Turk 16 Feb. 9 Littleward, Thornhill Carse 9 Mar. 2 S Mid Frew, Kippen 21 Mar. 2 Carbrook Mains, Plean 8 May with 5 there 27 Jun. 3 BoA 22 May.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* (B, W)

BBS: recorded at 3.2 b/lkm.

- S One singing Coneyhill, BoA 12 Feb. Carse of Lecropt: 850 on 7 Jan with ca. 400 at Longleys 12 Jan. 185 Baxter's Loan, Dunblane 20 Jan with 140 at Stonehill Fm 22 Oct. 350 Westerton Fm, Doune 22 Jan. BoD: 200 Argaty 23 Jan with 470 there

28 Feb and 430 on 28 Oct. 120 Blairdrummond Moss 14 Feb.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* (W)

- S Two Longleys, Carse of Lecropt 12 Jan. Singles Baxter's Loan, Dunblane 20 Jan and Rossburn Lane, Blairdrummond Moss 22 Jan. 2 Bows, BoD 3 Feb. 1 Ochiltree, Dunblane 20 Oct.

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* (B, W)

Under-recorded.

- F Fifty roosting Strathavon Fm, Slamannan Nov-Dec.  
S Sixty Baxter's Loan, Dunblane 20 Jan. 20 Tyndrum 24 Jun.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* (B, W)

Again no significant flocks reported from the Doune-Dunblane area.

- F Skinflats: 40 on 31 Jul; 20 at Muirdyke Burn, Powfoulis 10 Oct; 110 on saltmarsh 28 Oct with 40 there 24 Nov and 110 on 10 Dec.  
C Ca. 50 Cambus 1 Sep. Ca. 12 Kersiepow, Alva 1 Sep. 120 Blackgrange 14 Sep.  
S Forty-five Baxter's Loan, Dunblane 20 Jan. 36 Little Denny Res 12 Sep. 40 Doune 14 Dec.

EURASIAN SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* (B, W)

- F Twenty Polmonthill 7 Jan. 21 Falkirk 28 Feb. 15 in woodland regeneration Langlees, Carron 20 Nov.  
S Thirty Conehill, BoA 14 Jan. 45 Ochiltree, Dunblane 19 Jan. 70 Bigg Wood, Dunblane 27 Jan. 55 Scout Head, Gargunnoch 17 Feb. 50 Tyndrum 22 Jun with 30 there 24 Jun. 120 Newton Crescent, Dunblane 12 Sep with 130 there 16 Sep.

COMMON LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* (B, W)

No records from the Doune and Carse of Lecropt areas; only one small flock in the Dunblane area.

- F Sixty-five Skinflats 6 Jan with 25 there on saltmarsh 22 Sep and 120 on 10 Dec.  
C Twenty Gartmorn 20 Jan and 13 Mar. 25 Tullibody Inch 9 Feb. 56 N of Tullibody 28 Nov.  
S 100+ in newly planted Willow coppice Netherton, S of Thornhill 6 Feb. 70 Stonehill Fm, Dunblane 13 Sep.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* (b, W)

- F Eighty Airth-Dunmore 9 Feb. 4 Strathavon Fm, Slamannan 27 Feb. 4 Kinneil 25 Nov. 45 on saltmarsh at Skinflats 10 Dec.  
C Eleven Longcarse, Alloa 13 Jan. 2 Tullibody Inch 9 Feb. 8 old railway E of Clackmannan 21 Oct.  
S BoD: 10 Waterside 6 Jan; 60 Argaty 19 Jan; 12 Lerrocks 22 Jan with 90 there 28 Feb and 16 on 31 Mar; 2 Lundie 4 Apr; 4 Bows 12 Apr; 11 Argaty Fm 18 Apr and 1 Mid Lundie 1 Jul. Elsewhere 49 Dunblane 10 Jan. 100 Doune 27 Jan. Ca. 80 in newly planted willow coppice Netherton, S of Thornhill 10 Feb. 1 Balquhidder 14 Apr. 2 Braeleny, Callendar 10 May with 5 there 30 Jun. 1 Gleann Breac-nic 8 Jun. 3+ prs G Lochay 27 Jun. 4 prs with Y Inverlochlarig 13 Jul.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* (b, W)

- F Thirteen Kinneil 4 Jan. Grangemouth garden: 15 on 20 Jan, 34 on 22 Jan and 21 on 7 Feb.  
S Forty-five Darn Walk, BoA 1 Jan. 15 Doune 23 Jan. 10 Ardchullarie, L Lubnaig 15 Feb. 30 Newton Crescent, Dunblane 16 Sep. 32 Carron Valley Res 18 Nov. 16 Argaty, BoD 2 Dec. Ones or twos during breeding season at Carron Valley Res, Balquhidder, Airthrey, Kinbuck and Brig o' Turk. 8 Letter, L Katrine 24 May. 10 Inverlochlarig 13 Jul.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* (b, W)

- F Three Kirkton tip 27 Dec.  
S BoD: 4 Doune Lodge 6 Jan; 6 Argaty 19 Jan; 7 Kilbryde 24 Jan and M Lerrocks

28 Feb. Carron Valley: 4 Cairnoch Hill 19 Jan; 10 Cringate Muir 10 Feb; 1 at reservoir 12 Feb with 2 there 15 Mar, 7 (incl juvs) 29 Apr and 5 on 11 Jun; 2 there in unspecified location on 16 Apr and 11 on 5 Apr. Elsewhere 10 L Ard Forest 19 Jan. 1 Sheriffmuir 14 Feb. 4 L Rusky 19 Feb. 2 Monachyle Glen 20 Apr. 20 Hutchinson L, Cromlix 5 May with 2 at Cromlix Moor 23 May. 40 Real Food Café, Tyndrum 25 May. 50 Hermitage Wood, BoA 28 Jun. 1 Blairdrummond 25 Oct. 2 flying over Springkerse, Stirling 1 Nov.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

S M on feeders at Real Food Café, Tyndrum 19 Jun to 14 Jul (BA, AET, JTMT, WT, BG, DMB, BRG). This is the fifth record for the recording area with previous records from 1997, 1998, 2002 and 2005.

COMMON BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (B, W)

C Six old railway, E of Clackmannan 7 Jan with 8 there 21 Oct.

S Five M, 1F throughout Jan Springwood Avenue, Stirling feeding on Sycamore seeds with 5M, 2F there 21 Feb feeding on *Forsythia* buds and Sycamore seeds. Three prs Flanders Moss, N of Buchlyvie 6 Jan. 6 Lerrocks, BoD 22 Jan. 6 Airthrey 26 Sep. 8 Harperstone, Sheriffmuir 1 Nov. 11 King's Park, Stirling 28 Nov. In breeding season: R Teith, Gartmore and Coneyhill, BoA where a juv seen food begging 9 Jul.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (W)

F One Kinneil 22 Nov (GO).

S Five Craigmore, Aberfoyle 2 Feb with 2 at Duke's Pass, Aberfoyle 3 Feb. 2 Earlsburn 9 Feb (AB, DOE, DB). 2 Ben Ledi 11 Oct. 1 flew over Blairdrummond 1 Nov. 2 L Ard 3 Nov (WR, CJP, DOE).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* (B, W)

F Skinflats: 19 on 6 Jan with 8 there 11 Jan, 20 on 3 Mar, 12 on 9 Mar and 15 on 13 Sep.

C Five Old Stirling Rd, Tullibody 13 May.

S Ca. 30 Rossburn Lane, Blairdrummond 22 Jan and 27 Feb with 21 on the Moss 14 Feb. 25 Littleward, Thornhill Carse 9 Mar with 14 there 23 Mar. 24 S Mid Frew, Kippen 21 Mar.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* (B, W)

F Skinflats: 18 on 6 Jan; 30 Newton Rd 28 Feb; 5 at ponds 13 Sep; 15 on 18 Nov. 6 R Carron, B902-Carron House 14 Sep.

C Six Gartmorn 20 Jan with 7 there 12 Feb, 6 on 23 Sep and 6 on 8 Dec. 6 Blackdevon Wetlands 12 Feb with 2M there 6 May and 6 birds on 1 Nov. 20 Blackgrange 27 Oct and 5 on 22 Nov.

S Ca. 20 Rossburn Lane, Blairdrummond 22 Jan with 15+ on 27 Feb and 17 on the Moss 14 Feb. 45 Littleward, Thornhill Carse 9 Mar with 5 there 23 Mar.

### ESCAPED SPECIES

SWAN (CHINESE) GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

S Three Airthrey 26 Jan with singles there 6 Sep, 2, 14 and 28 Oct and 20 Nov (CJP, MIA). Probably the same bird(s) present since at least 2003. This therefore remains the first record of this species for our area since 1974.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

This is the second record of this species for our area.

F One Blackness 14 Aug in flock of 310 Greylag Geese (DAC). Could be the same bird as at Thornhill Oct 2006.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

This is the fourth record of this species for our area. Although the male may be

the same bird as the long-staying Stirling bird last seen in Jan 2006, the female is a new bird.

- F Union Canal: pr near Falkirk Tunnel 4 Jan and 17 Feb; one at Greenbank 29 Mar; M Summerford-Glen village 14 Sep (RDZ, SM, CMO). These probably all relate to the same individual(s).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

This is the first record for our area of a bird that was clearly not wild.

- S One Blairdrummond 25 May to year end had a plastic ring (CJP).

BARBARY DOVE *Streptopelia roseogrisea* var. *risoria*

This is the first known record of this domesticated species for our area.

- F One Liddle Drive, Bo'ness 5 and 6 Jul (RS).

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH *Vidua macroura*

This is the first known record of this species for our area.

- C One Craigknowe, Ochil Road, Alva 13 Nov (PA).



## BOOK REVIEW

### Light on Dark Age Scotland

Vol. 1 and 2 of the **New Edinburgh History of Scotland**

Vol. 1 **From Caledonia to Pictland: Scotland to 795** by James Fraser (2009). ISBN 0978 07486 1232 1.

Vol. 2 **From Pictland to Alba (789-1070)** by Alex Woolf (2007). ISBN 978 07486 1234 5

When Duncan published in 1975 *Scotland: the Making of the Kingdom* as Volume 1 of the Edinburgh History of Scotland it was hailed as a landmark in the writing of Scottish history, and the passage of a quarter of a century has not altered that verdict. That volume covered the period up to about 1286. In the interval a very great amount of work has been done that has transformed our knowledge of that difficult early period. A beginning was made by Professor Smyth, 1984, with *Warlords and Holy Men: Scotland AD 80-1000*. Now we have two volumes of the New Edinburgh History of Scotland, written by two of the experts who are doing so much to increase our understanding of that time.

These are the first volumes of the proposed ten volume History of Scotland, which promises to be as great a success as the earlier Edinburgh History. Volume 1 deals with the period between the departure of the Romans and the arrival of the Vikings. The end of Roman hegemony left Britain with regional groups competing for power. In Northumbria Anglo-Saxon mercenaries brought in by the Romans soon controlled Bernicia and Deira. The Votadini tribe known to us from Ptolemy's map occupied the Lothian area, and the name changed to the Goddodin. Their language was apparently a British p-Celtic language akin to Old Welsh, and later they, or at least part of their ruling class, moved to North Wales. To the west other British tribes controlled Cumbria and Strathclyde, forming the shadowy kingdom of Rheged and the better known Alt Clyd, based on Dumbarton Rock, the 'Fort of the Britons.' Kintyre and Argyll were occupied by speakers of a q-Celtic Irish Gaelic linked with their tribal relations in Ireland. Around the head of the Forth estuary were the Miathi, with the Manau area containing Clackmannan and Slammanan. To the North were the Picts. Their language was a form of p-Celtic.

The early history of North Britain, that was to become Scotland, is very difficult to discover because of the lack of documentation from the locality. We have to rely on records from elsewhere, especially from annals maintained in the Irish monasteries, such as the *Annals of Ulster*, *Annals of Tigernach*, etc. These were often in Old Irish, not Latin, whose exact translation may be unsure. Moreover we have no originals, only copies of copies, so there are likely to be scribal errors. Some information comes from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, and some from Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*, two more languages if it is necessary to work with the earliest copies! Works usually dismissed as mythology can also yield valuable clues if treated with due caution, for example Gildas' *The Ruin of Britain*, and many lives of the Saints, when disentangled from their standard hagiographical miracles. The *Prophecy of Berchán* has been shown to be history masquerading as prophecy, and although written in cryptic language can be useful. This list is by no means exhaustive. Clearly there is plenty of scope for anyone looking for puzzles to solve!

Historians are nowadays able and ready to supplement documentary evidence with the evidence from archaeology, so for example Fraser notes that recent archaeological work has shown that the Roman occupation lasted longer than we have usually believed, and that Tacitus gave credit to Agricola for what may have been the efforts of others. We have relied on the *Agricola* without allowing for it being a eulogy for Tacitus' father-in-

law. Fraser says 'Certainly *Agricola* is open to the full range of critical analysis that has so revolutionised our understanding of such Early Historic writers as Bede and Adomnán'.

Fraser emphasises that although North Britain was only partly and for a relatively short time part of the Empire, Roman influence extended beyond its frontiers, and lasted after the withdrawal of its army. Things were never the same again, it was not a matter of a short Roman interlude then a return to the Iron Age, though of course many aspects of the lives of ordinary people hardly changed. Not least among the forces perpetuating the influence of Rome was the spread of Christianity. Fraser explains how this was carried out by such men as Ninian (Nyniau, Uinniau – names written in the different languages are often difficult to recognise as referring to the same individual), usually by persuading the king of the locality of the advantages of this strong new religion. There were of course then many 'kings', often no more than powerful war lords. Like Columba, Ninian had connections with the monasteries of Ireland, and monasteries began to be established in North Britain.

Pictish studies have made progress in many other ways in recent years. For example, matrilineal succession has been shown to be unnecessary to explain peculiarities in the King lists, and has been abandoned by modern scholars. (These lists, known as the *Chronical of the Kings of Alba* come to us in a medieval manuscript as a copy of much earlier documents. They are dealt with in detail by Marjorie Anderson in *Kings and Kingship in Early Scotland*). The Pictish region of Fortriu was taken by Skene in 1867 to be Strathearn, and has been accepted so long that its identity has become a 'factoid', i.e. a myth or hypothesis unchallenged for so long that it becomes accepted as a 'fact'. Only in 2006 was this challenged by Woolf; both he in Vol. II of this series and Fraser in Vol. I have shown that its position in Forres and Inverness as the Pictish zone north of the Mounth makes sense of much history of the periods in question.

Fraser is not content with the undoubted progress that has been made, and presents many questions that still remain to be answered. Nor is he always happy with accepted solutions, for example he is severely critical of the identification of Bede's *Giudi* with Stirling which has been accepted, among others, by the Ordnance Survey map of Dark Age Britain. He suggests that Cramond deserves consideration, but gives other possibilities.

It is impossible to list here in the space available all the topics dealt with in this volume of 436 pages. There are 25 genealogical tables with nearly 300 names, with little overlap. A Time Line from 69 A D to 795 is extremely useful, and there is an extensive Bibliography and Guide to Further Reading.

Woolf's Volume 2, (789-1070), in 384 pages deals with developments after the arrival of the Vikings. They came to the south coast of England in 789, and raided Lindisfarne in 793. Raids in the Hebrides brought them to Iona in 802. Monasteries were tempting targets likely to possess valuable (and portable) objects, perhaps vessels of gold or silver. They also housed the only people able to leave written records. These emphasised the sudden raid, the destruction and looting, and hence may have given a one-sided picture of the more complex activities of the vikings. The invaders soon began to stay on, demanding tribute. In c. 871 Olaf (Amláib) was killed when trying to collect tribute. They captured slaves and sold or exchanged these and their loot in emporia which they set up around the coasts of Europe, for example in Dublin and York, thus making a hugely important development of trade. No trading post has as yet been identified in Scotland, though Woolf discusses the possibility that Dumbarton could have been a *longphort* like Dublin.

The arrival of the Vikings did not stop the struggle for supremacy between the forces – war-bands, chiefdoms, petty kingdoms, etc., but it added a complicating factor. It may have had a decisive influence, for example, on the success of Kenneth Mac Alpin (Cinioid mac Elphin) in becoming King of the Picts.

These involved struggles are dealt with in detail in this volume. Woolf manages to disentangle the threads of the narrative with some skill, but to show the development of the kingdom of Scotland is not easy, and the reader must not expect an easy read.

Similar struggles for control were going on in southern Britain. The power of Wessex and Mercia were combined, so that by the first part of the tenth century Athelstan felt able to style himself 'King of all Britain'. In 925 he expelled Gothfrith the Viking king of York and gained Northumbria. In 927 at Eamont Bridge Constantine son of Áed, King of Scots and other kings of North Britain met Athelstan and acknowledged him as overlord. Perhaps to drive home the point, Athelstan invaded Scotland in 934 and having reached Dunottar withdrew apparently without meeting much opposition. Constantine reacted by forming an alliance with Sictric, son of Gothfrith, and a combined force of Irish Northmen and Scots met Athelstan at the battle of *Brunanburh*, the site of which has not yet been discovered. This was one of the great decisive battles of British history, effectively deciding the extent of English territory. Although Constantine was defeated, and one of his sons killed, he escaped, and reigned for 40 years, retiring to the monastery of St Andrews. Few kings survived in those times to retire. Constantine was a great Scottish king, deserving greater recognition.

Other north British kingdoms failed to survive. Woolf recounts what is known of, for example, Rheged and Strathclyde, and tells of the Battle of Carham (1018) gaining Lothian for Scotland and so establishing the main outlines of the kingdom.

Great progress towards understanding the history of this period has been made in recent years, although many puzzles remain. The contributions of ideas and discoveries of a number of other historians are acknowledged by both authors. These volumes throw much light on the history of early Scotland. It is no longer possible to talk of 'Dark Age Scotland', we must now call it 'Early Historic Scotland'.

No one interested in the period can afford to neglect these volumes.

Ron Page



## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

### Title

Titles should be short. Authors' names should appear below the titles.

### Contents

Any article relevant to the history, natural history or archaeology of the Forth Valley will be considered for publication. Articles describing the lives of locally important people or events are particularly welcome.

Articles should normally not exceed 8000 words; longer articles could be accepted if there is available space.

### Text

Manuscripts should be submitted as Word documents on disc with an accompanying hard copy. High resolution figures and illustrations should be attached as separate TIFF or JPEG files.

Citations in the text are by name, followed by year e.g. Jones (1978); (Marwick, 1967; 1972).

Sources such as newspapers, books, etc. should be italicized e.g. (*Stirling Journal* 26 April 1890).

Archive citations should be written (Scottish Record Office AD58/48/74).

For historical papers sources may be noted in the text by a number and listed in the references.

Footnotes are not desirable.

Words of Latin origin e.g. *in situ* and Latin names of species should be italicized.

Common names of organisms should be in lower case throughout.

As far as practical metric measurements should be adopted using international standards.

Numbers should be used for all measurements e.g. 6 mm; 40 mm; 1000 ha.

In other use numbers ten and below should be spelt out, those above should not be e.g. six scientists, 40 flowers.

Abbreviations should be standardized: i.e. e.g., pers. comm., viz. etc. and not italicized.

Acronyms should be spelt out in full at the first mention and written without punctuation thereafter e.g. RSPB.

Notes and acknowledgements should precede the references, appendices should follow.

### Figures and Tables

Illustrations and Tables should be submitted on separate sheets.

Illustrations should be of good contrast and the originals made available if required.

The dimensions of the printed page should be borne in mind viz.: – 172 x 110.5 mm excluding the running head.

Captions for Tables should appear above the Table, legends for Figures below.

Abbreviations should not be used to denote Table or Figure numbers e.g. Figure 1 not Fig 1.

### References

These should be listed alphabetically in chronological order except that authorship with others should follow all sole publications by the same author irrespective of the year of publication.

Authors' names are not capitalized.

Titles of Journals should be in full, italicized and not abbreviated.

Volume number and inclusive pagination must be given.

Book titles should be italicized and the reference should give page numbers, place of publication and publisher in this order.

Titles of technical reports should not be italicized.

### Examples of references

Thompson, D.B.A. and Hudson, P.J. 1992. Uplands moors and heaths. In *Managing Habitats for Conservation* (ed. W.J. Smith and D.A. Jones) pp. 290-310, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Burnett, J.H. 1964. *The Vegetation of Scotland*. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd.

Evans, J. 1990. Managing to diversify forests. *Arboricultural Journal* 14, 373-378.

1 *Stirling Saturday Observer* 22, April 1882 p3.

2 *The Chronicle of Walter Guisborough*, ed. H. Rothwell. Cambden Society London 1957 pp299, 295-6.

3 National Archives of Scotland. CC21/5 Stirling Commissionary Court, register of testaments.