

DUNBLANE WEATHER REPORT 2007

Neil Bielby and Malcolm Shaw

Introduction

It is with regret that we must record that the University meteorological station at Parkhead is probably dead. After refitting with new automatic recording features in 2004 it offered the prospect of being able to monitor the weather of Stirling semi-automatically with an increased number of parameters, including hourly measurements of temperature and of sunshine becoming available. The availability of a set of normals established over the 30 years (1971-2000) made its use very attractive. The station last recorded useful data in 2006.

It seems to have been a problem of vandalism and failing power supply – batteries, or was it just our expectation that “automatic” meant “maintenance free”.

The 2007 weather report has been prepared from data taken from a private recording station in Dunblane. Data from this station has been used before whilst Parkhead was off line.

Neil Bielby has recorded the weather in Dunblane since 1995 and all averages etc. refer to the last 13 years. The Parkhead normals figures are included after the Dunblane 13 year averages, for this year, for comparison. It should be born in mind that the averages also cover different years.

The weather station is in a suburban back garden in Ochiltree, Dunblane, situated 50 metres to the east of the Dunblane Hydro ridge, 100 metres a.s.l., in a shallow, sheltered valley.

Daily rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures, barometric pressure, cloud cover and wind direction and speed (Beaufort Scale) are recorded. All except the maximum daily temperatures are recorded at 09.00h. A brief description of the day's weather is also recorded along with notes on exceptional and unusual weather phenomena across the UK and worldwide.

2007 – Highlights

The overall mean temperature was only 0.02°C above the long term average of 8.6°C with night lows 0.03°C below the norm and day highs 0.08°C above it. This was a full degree below the annual mean for the UK of 9.6°C, the latter being the second warmest year on record. In Scotland, it was the third warmest since records began in 1914 and April, with a mean temperature of 10.2°C, was the warmest yet.

There were, as usual, seasonal variations. The mean temperature for the winter period (Dec-Feb) was +0.97°C on the average with the spring (Mar-

May) mean also up by 0.6°C. By contrast, it was the coolest summer since 1998, 1.57°C below the average and 4.55°C below the previous summer! The maximum temperature of 23.8°C was the lowest yearly high to date – some 3.64°C below the mean. The night-time high of 14.2°C was also the lowest annual one yet. Autumn temperatures were just 0.02°C above average.

Total precipitation of 1075.2 mm was slightly below the annual mean of 1101 mm. This however masked some marked seasonal variations. The winter period (Dec–Feb) was the wettest to date, 65 % above the mean. Spring (Mar–May) was only 1 % below normal but it was a wet summer with rainfall 39 % up on the average – the third wettest to date. Autumn was uncharacteristically dry with only 60 % of the normal precipitation – the second driest on record.

January was milder and much wetter than normal with a mean temperature of 3.77°C, 1.2°C above the norm. The average daily temperature was the highest to date at 6.18°C, 1.4°C above the mean and 0.28°C above the previous high. The maximum daily high of 11.7°C was equal to the previous high. 192.1 mm of precipitation made it the wettest January to date, 62.4 % up on the mean and 12 % above the previous high. This made it the seventh wettest month overall in 12 years with the last three months all being in the top seven. Average pressure was below the mean and the ten frosts were three fewer than normal. The garden pond was frozen on five mornings with snow lying on three. It was the warmest January since 1921 for England & Wales.

February was a little milder and drier than the norm with the mean average temperature of 3.75°C up 0.56°C on the mean. The average low was +0.54°C and the average high +0.6°C above the mean. The coldest temperature recorded was -8.1°C (7th) with the warmest being 11.2°C (1st). Precipitation at 81.3 mm was only 76 % of the norm, being measurable on 20 days with a day max. of 19 mm (27th). Air pressure fell to 974 mb (28th), equal to the lowest for the month. There were ten air frosts, two less than the norm with the pond being frozen on seven mornings and snow lying twice at 9 am.

Overall for the UK, the winter quarter of 2006/7 was the equal second warmest after 1868/9 since records began in 1659.

March was slightly warmer and wetter than normal with the mean temperature of +0.32°C and rainfall 20 % above average at 89.9 mm. There were eight frosts – two less than the norm.

April was the warmest to date with the mean temperature of 9.82°C being 2°C above the average and 0.89°C above the previous high in 1997. The average daily high of 14.96°C was 0.93°C higher than the previous best in April 2003. The lowest daytime max of 11°C was also a new high. These warm temperatures also coincided with the second driest April with only 26.5 mm being recorded (21.5 mm in 1995). The average barometric pressure of 1019 mb was equal to the previous high and there was only one air and one ground frost. It was also the warmest April for England & Wales since records began back in 1659 with a mean temperature of 11.1°C – 3.2°C above the average. It was also the sunniest since 1893 and the driest since 1984. UK wide there was

only 37 % of normal rainfall with 50 % more sunshine than the norm. In 2006 temperatures didn't breach 20°C anywhere in the UK until the 3rd of May; this year there have been twenty such days before the end of April.

May was cooler & wetter than normal with the mean temperature of 10.13°C being 0.79°C below the average. The average daily high was 0.08°C below that of the previous month! Rainfall, at 90.4 mm, was 25 % above average.

Elsewhere many fared much worse. The late-spring bank holiday weekend was one of the most miserable, with prolonged heavy rain and daytime temperatures the lowest in late May for over half a century. Afternoon temperatures of 5 to 7°C were the lowest in the last week of May since 1948 and play at the Headingley Test Match started on Monday morning (28th) with the temperature reading only 7°C, the lowest in recorded Test cricket history!

June was a little warmer and quite a bit wetter than normal. The mean temperature was +0.11°C with night lows 1.0°C above average and daytime highs 0.8°C cooler. Rainfall was 35 % above the norm with 106.5 mm falling on 20 days. June was the wettest in England & Wales since 1860 and the east coast of Scotland established new lows for sunshine with a total of only 64 hours in Edinburgh – barely a one third of the normal amount.

Daytime maximums remained depressed to the end of the month, the highest being 16.8°C (26th). Heavy downpours badly affected the Midlands & North of England on the 24th / 25th with much flooding in which four people were drowned. 112 mm fell at Fylingdales during this period. The area around Hull and Sheffield was particularly badly affected.

July was the coldest to date with the mean temperature 1.39°C below the average. Daily highs were 1.64°C below the mean with night lows 1.13°C below. It was also the wettest July since 2002 with 96.5 mm – 31 % above the mean, with rainfall recorded on 22 days. Averaged over England & Wales, July was the wettest since 1936 and the coolest since 1993.

The unsettled theme continued until the end of the month depressing temperatures with a maximum of only 13.5°C on the 19th. Such cold air-streams are prone to be very unstable under the summer sun. Hence, hailstones half the size of golf balls fell on Canterbury (15th), when the temperature peaked at 27°C at nearby Herne Bay. Daily maximums were a little better for the 23rd onwards, hovering around the 20°C mark. Torrential downpours occurred across southern Britain on the 20th with several sites in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire recording over 100 mm which resulted in much flooding in the river Severn, Avon, Thames and Great Ouse catchments areas. In Gloucestershire more than a third of a million people were left without freshwater. This was the most remarkable July rainstorm since 1969. By contrast, the Western Isles were virtually dry all week.

August was the coldest to date with a mean temperature 0.87°C below the previous low and 1.47°C below the mean. Averaged nationally, it was the

coolest since 1993. The average daily low was 1.06°C and the daily high 1.89°C below the mean. The daily high of 13.5°C (18th) was the lowest during August to date and the monthly max day high of 18.4°C was the lowest for August. The monthly precipitation total of 114.9 mm was 50 % above the norm and the third highest August total. Surprisingly, there were only 12 days when recordable amounts of rain fell and only 0.4 mm was recorded during the last 13 days of the month. Most of the rain fell during the first three weekends causing havoc with local cricket fixtures. The 35.4 mm which fell on the 18th was the highest ever daily amount for August.

September was cooler and drier than average with the mean temperature 0.88°C below the norm. The average night low was 1.47°C below the norm – the second lowest to date after September 1995. Precipitation at 57.9 mm was only 66 % of average with almost half of this amount falling on one day. There was measurable rainfall on only 12 days. The air frost on the 27th was the first September frost in 12 years

October was warmer and drier than normal with the mean temperature being +0.62°C above the mean, both the day and night means were above the average. There was only one frost. Rainfall of 63.1 mm was only 46 % of the norm making this the third driest October to date, with measurable rainfall recorded on only 15 days – the lowest number ever. Average pressure of 1020 mb was not only the highest yet for October but also for any month of 2007. The minimum recorded was 1004 mb, the first time that pressure in October hasn't fallen below 1000 mb.

Unsurprisingly then we had to wait until the 24th for the second frost of the winter -1.8°C on the 24th (-5°C in Aboyne, 25th) with dense mist persisting in the Carse of Stirling on both these days although it dispersed quickly in Dunblane to give sunny days .

November was milder and drier than average with the mean temperature 0.58°C above the norm and rainfall, at 80.3 mm, only 73 % of the mean. The min. temperature of 12.2°C during the night of the 1st / 2nd was the warmest November night to date being followed by the warmest November day, 15.2°C (2nd). There were an average number of air frosts with seven.

December's mean temperature of 2.36°C was exactly the same as the long term average with nights 0.33°C below and days 0.36°C above the norm. A succession of Atlantic fronts brought strong winds at the beginning of the month, particularly in the south of Britain with 67 mph recorded at Mumbles (Glamorgan, 1st) and 81 mph (Jersey Airport, 2nd). Pressure rose progressively to the 16th (1035 mb), reaching a UK high of 1040 mb on the 18th). The more settled conditions brought 16 air frosts, the pond was frozen on eight mornings and no snow fell. There was 75.8 mm of rain, 73 % of the norm, with measurable rain fall on 19 days. No more than 0.3 mm fell daily between the 9th and 21st – 13 days.

Table 1. Temperature and rain 2007. N. Bielby Climatological Station Dunblane

	Temp mean maxima	Temp mean minima	Number of Air Frosts	Total rain (mm)	Greatest fall (mm)	Number of days measurable rain
January	6.2 (4.8/6.5)	1.4 (0.4/0.5)	10 (13.5/13)	192 (118/110.7)	21.2 (40.0)	24 (19)
February	6.6 (6.1/6.9)	0.9 (0.4/0.8)	10 (13/11)	81.3 (106/73.2)	19 (31.8)	20 (16)
March	9.0 (8.6/9.1)	1.7 (1.3/1.9)	8 (10/7)	89.9 (74.9/81.4)	22 (44.0)	1 (17)
April	15.0 (12.2/11.8)	4.7 (3.4/3.4)	1 (5/4)	26.5 (60.4/47.5)	10.9 (35.3)	10 (13)
May	14.9 (16.1/15.3)	5.4 (5.8/5.8)	1 (1/1)	90.4 (72.3/56.9)	17.9 (28.3)	20 (14)
June	19.4 (18.2/17.7)	10.0 (8.9/8.4)	0 (<1)	106.5 (79/57.1)	29 (35.8)	20 (13)
July	19.4 (21.0/19.8)	9.6 (10.7/10.6)	0 (0)	96.5 (73.8/62.9)	28 (65.5)	22 (13)
August	18.4 (20.3/19.4)	9.5 (10.5/10.2)	0 (0)	114.9 (76.5/68.1)	35.4 (30.0)	12 (14)
September	15.8 (16.0/16.3)	6.9 (8.4/8.3)	1 (<1)	57.9 (87.6/87.7)	26.5 (44.2)	14 (15)
October	12.7 (11.8/12.9)	5.7 (5.4/5.4)	1 (3/2)	63.1 (137.7/97.9)	14.9 (66.2)	15 (17)
November	7.7 (7.5/9.2)	3.0 (2.1/2.6)	7 (8/8)	80.3 (109.8/98.9)	12.9 (68.3)	24 (17)
December	5.7 (4.4/7.2)	0.0 (0.3/1.1)	13 (13.5/11)	75.8 (103.2/101)	22 (43.8)	19 (18)
Year January-December 2007	13.6 (12.3/13.2)	6.2 (4.9/5.3)	52 (68/58)	979 (1045/943.3)	35.4 (68.3)	216 (186)

The Climatological Normals Bielby/Parkhead are shown in ()s

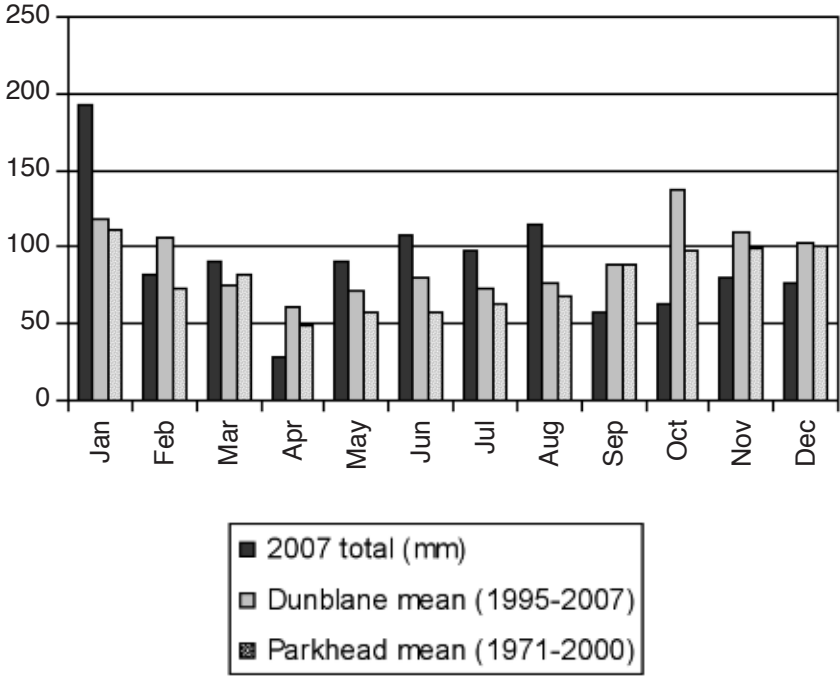


Figure 1. Rainfall 2007.

FORTH AREA BIRD REPORT 2007

A.E. Thiel and C.J. Pendlebury

The present report is the 33rd bird report for the Forth Valley (or Upper Forth) bird recording area. The report was written by Chris Pendlebury (waterfowl, excluding waders, raptors and gamebirds) and Andre Thiel (waders, passerines and escapees) with Cliff Henty contributing the half-monthly summaries to the wader accounts. This autumn Cliff is retiring as SOC Recorder and handing over to Chris Pendlebury who can be contacted by e-mail at chris@upperforthbirds.co.uk or by leaving a message on 07798 711134. However, Cliff will for the present be acting as assistant recorder and, until further notice, as receiver of records or queries from observers. He can be contacted by e-mail at cjh@cliffhenty.plus.com, by mail to 7b Coneyhill Road, Bridge of Allan, FK9 4EL or by phone on 01786 832166.

The main part of the report consists of detailed species accounts presented in a systematic list arranged in the traditional Voous order. 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 started with a decent flock of 34 Bramblings at Wester Jawcraigs, Slamannan on 7th. A redhead Smew was at Gart GPs the following day. The Kincardine Bridge area held two Rock Pipits on 16th, while the Forth estuary supported good flocks of 123 Pintail and 10 Scaup on 20th. As in recent years the mild winter encouraged a handful of scarce waders to stay in the Grangemouth area. A Green Sandpiper was on the R. Carron at Carronshore on 15th, up to 3 Greenshanks were recorded at Skinflats during January, dropping to 2 in February and March, and a Ruff overwintered there, being seen between 27th January and 1st March. The Barrow's Goldeneye, which was first seen on 19th Nov 2006 and has now been accepted by the BBRC, continued its stay in the Callander and L Venachar area until 27th April.

The highlight of February was the first Red-breasted Goose for the recording area at Haugh of Blackgrange, Cambus, between 3rd and 11th (and again on 15th April). Observers looking for the bird also spotted 3 Greenland White-fronted Geese there between 5th and 10th. Two immature Golden Eagles were seen over Stuc a' Chroin on 6th when 5 Jack Snipe were at Kinneil. A female Common Scoter was at Kinneil on 25th (as well as on 22nd March). In addition there were three Green Sandpipers: one at the River Avon mouth, Kinneil on 9th, one on the Allan Water at Kinbuck, Dunblane, on 18th and one on the River Forth at Nether Carse on 26th.

March was fairly quiet. A Great Grey Shrike on the western shore of Carron Reservoir on 12th was a good find as was a Spotted Redshank at Kinneil the

following day. Two Black-throated Divers at a Trossachs site on 18th were probably birds returning to their breeding grounds. A flock of 8 Gadwall at Cambus Pools on 20th was a good count for our area. Two Waxwings were at Airthrey on 27th and 28th. A Ruff at Skinflats between 31st March and 24th April could have been the overwintering bird or a bird on passage.

April started with a Lesser Scaup at Airthrey on 4th. The first British record of this species was as recently as 1987. There have been over 120 records since, as observers have become increasingly familiar with the identification criteria of this species. This will be the third record for our area, if accepted. Also on 4th two Ptarmigan were seen at Ben More. A Little Ringed Plover at Skinflats on 14th was followed by a pair at Gart GPs on 26th and 27th. Their behaviour seemed to indicate that they were going to breed but the nest site had been bulldozed over by 20th June. A Whimbrel passed at Skinflats on 22nd. Meanwhile numbers of Black-tailed Godwits were building up upstream of the Kincardine Bridge, as they have done so increasingly in recent years. Thirty birds in the Cambus area on 30th March rose to 73 on 11th April, 157 on 21st and 200 on 22nd, while at Devonmouth Pool 61 on 6th rose to 425 on 23rd. These do not seem to be birds moving there from the Grangemouth area, though, at least not in April when numbers there were higher than in 2006. Flocks of 262 at Kinneil and 419 at Skinflats were boosted by an influx of birds of the *islandica* race with 60 of these at Skinflats on 19th and up to 620 on 24th.

Wader spring passage was rather muted this year with a Wood Sandpiper at Skinflats on 12th and 15th May, 4 Whimbrel there on 13th and a Curlew Sandpiper on 20th followed by Sanderlings at Tullibody Inch on 26th and at Kincardine Bridge on 30th. Elsewhere 3 Dotterel on Ben Ledi on 12th was a good find. The same day 3 male Pied Flycatchers were seen at Glen Lochay, while Quail were singing near Gartmorn on 21st and at Blairdrummond Moss on 22nd.

June highlights included a Hobby at Carse of Lecropt on 20th and, as in the preceding two years, a 1st summer Little Gull at Skinflats. Another immature bird was at the Blackdevon Wetlands on 26th. Wader autumn passage started with a Greenshank at Skinflats on 29th.

Wader passage continued at a rather slow pace in July with 2 Whimbrel at Skinflats on 6th and 24th and singles at Kinneil on 10th and 29th and 2 Curlew Sandpipers at Skinflats on 22nd. Elsewhere a sub-adult male Golden Eagle was seen flying over the Braes of Doune on 30th.

August started with the second Hobby of the year flying over Uamh Mhor, Braes of Doune on 2nd. A male Common Scoter was at Kinneil and 2 Curlew Sandpipers at Skinflats, all on the same day. Things picked up during the second week of the month when there were maximum counts of 7 Greenshank at Skinflats on 7th and 16th, 5 Whimbrel and a juvenile Black Tern at Kinneil on 9th, 7 Ruff at Skinflats on 14th rising to up to 13 between 24th and 30th August as well as 14 Snipe there on 25th. Waterside, Braes of Doune, hosted an immature Marsh Harrier on 15th. Two of the highlights of August arrived late

in the month. A Little Egret was at Kinneil from 20th to 24th, then at Skinflats on 29th and again at Kinneil on 9th September. This was the 7th record for the recording area, while a Spoonbill at Skinflats on 25th August was the 5th for our area.

September started with the two Fulmars, the only record of the year, at Kinneil on 4th. The only wader highlights of September were up to 8 Ruff at Skinflats between 4th and 9th and a Little Stint there on 9th. Two days later a male Marsh Harrier at Invertrossachs was not a bad sighting. 11 Arctic Skuas and an exceptional 480 Kittiwakes passed Kinneil on 14th. A Manx Shearwater there on 19th was only the 14th record of that species to be seen in our area. The only Great Skua of the year was logged there on 24th. Two Razorbills at Skinflats on 24th, one at Fallin on 28th and 11 at Bo'ness on 29th coincided with the after-effects of strong westerlies during the first part of the month which pushed large numbers of Razorbills into the North Atlantic. An immature White-tailed Eagle from the Tay estuary re-introduction scheme was recorded at Flanders Moss on 27th and was subsequently radio-racked around Argaty in November and December.

October was quieter with the most interesting sightings coming from the Grangemouth area. Two Little Stints at Kinneil on 5th and one at Kincardine Bridge on 13th were the last ones of the year. The monthly Forth estuary count logged a maximum winter count of 58 Scaup on 7th, 45 of which were at Skinflats. On 13th a Black-throated Diver at Kincardine Bridge was the only winter record. An adult Ring-billed Gull at Kinneil was seen on 28th October and subsequently on 4th November and 30th December. This may be the returning bird from 2005 and 2006 and represents the 3rd record for our area, if accepted. Finally an overwintering Ruff was seen repeatedly at Skinflats from 31st to the end of the year.

The start of November saw a good count of Snipe west of Dollar where 15 birds were present on 3rd. At this time of year, there is often an influx of migrants of this species. On 6th there were 3 Greenland White-fronted Geese at Skinflats and an adult Mediterranean Gull at Kinneil. The latter is the 12th occurrence of what is becoming an increasingly regular species in Scotland. The following day a flock of 29 Red Kites were recorded at Argaty. Four days later at Mill of Argaty the only Goshawk of the year was seen, while the only Purple Sandpiper was at Kinneil the same day. A Red-necked Grebe there on 21st was the 14th record of that species. The month finished with an excellent count of 120 Twite at Blackdevon Wetlands on 25th.

December started with the sole Waxwing of the latter part of the year at St. Ninians on 10th. A Great Grey Shrike at Menstrie Glen on 15th was a good find, as were 45 Snow Buntings there the following day. A Green-winged Teal at Kinneil on 21st was only the 4th for our area but this was eclipsed by the undoubted highlight of the year in the form of the first Spotted Sandpiper for our area on the River Avon mouth from 24th till the year end and beyond. The year ended with 80 Ravens at their traditional roost of Doune Lodge on 30th.

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 appropriate for inclusion in these annual reports but it is valuable to have on record (e.g. for conservation action). These 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, as it allows 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 now submitting their data in this format.

Following on from the past years, an increasing number of records are submitted with 6-figure grid references. This is strongly encouraged, as it enormously speeds up cross-checks and is a valuable resource for conservation action. Also more contributors add the name of the nearest village which, too, is very much appreciated.

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 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. Additional information along with guidelines for the submission of records can be obtained from N. Bielby, 56 Ochiltree, Dunblane, FK15 0DF (tel. 01786 823830, e-mail: n.bielby@sky.com). 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 :	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 Robin, B for Swallow, p for Ruff and SW for Cormorant. No status letter is used if a species occurs less than every other year.

The SOC has in the past pressed for a more systematic vetting of records of species that are unusual locally. Our area has an informal panel of five members: C. Henty, C. Pendlebury, D. Orr-Ewing, M.V. Bell, 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 judging of Scottish or national rarities continues as before and descriptions need to be submitted to the relevant committees. The first twenty occurrences of a species in our recording area are noted.

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, self-sustaining populations of such species may exist which are not known about or adequately recorded. 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.

The area covered by the report comprises the council areas of Falkirk and Clackmannan together with 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.

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.

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WeBS estuary counts are made available by M. Bell. Thanks are also due to J. Nadin for the kind permission to use his photo of the Spotted Sandpiper. Apologies to anybody who has been inadvertently missed out of the above list.

RINGING REPORT

This is the fourth 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, Les Hatton and Shirley Millar (Tay Ringing Group-TRG) and Bob Swann for making available data on movements of birds seen in the recording area.

Fourteen recoveries (excluding multiple sightings of the same bird) were made in 2007. Most are, not surprisingly, of Pink-footed Geese (4), Greylag Geese (3) and Mute Swan (1). Others related to Black-tailed Godwit (2), Pied Wagtail, Sedge Warbler, Great Tit and Chaffinch. The total number of species for which ringing information is now available for our area (since 2004) currently stands at 22 species.

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.

Recoveries are listed in Voous 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	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

•PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Grey neck ISX	28 Jul 2000	Nautalda, Thjorsarver, Arness, ICELAND	17 Feb 2007	Netherton, Thornhill (S)	JT
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This bird was re-sighted the same year in NW England where it was seen at Martin Mere (Lancashire) in Oct, Kirkby (Merseyside) in Nov and Pilling (Lancashire) in Dec. The following year it stopped over at Loch of Strathbeg in Oct 2001 before heading back to Martin Mere (Lancashire) two weeks later and then Fylde (Lancashire) in Dec 2001. A similar story in 2002 when it was re-sighted at Loch Meikle (Aberdeenshire) in Oct. There were no further re-sightings until the Thornhill record.

Grey neck IZH	29 Jul 2000	Oddkelsalda, Thjorsarver, Arness, ICELAND	17 Feb 2007	Netherton, Thornhill (S)	JT
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Although showing similarities to the above bird (both were ringed as adult males in Iceland), this bird seems to have been more faithful to Central Scotland. It was first re-sighted near Perth (Perth and Kinross) in Oct 2000, then near Flanders Moss and Blairdrummond Moss the next month where it was again seen in April 2001. By Nov 2001 it was present near Auchterarder (Perth & Kinross), then at North Mid Frew Farm, Stirling in Jan 2001, Culmore Farm, Stirling in Mar 2001. There were no further sightings until the Thornhill record.

Grey neck PJI	20 Nov 2005	Loch of Lintrathen (Angus)	17 Mar 2007	Gogar, Menstrie (S)	AET
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No sightings in between.

Grey neck TUI	22 Oct 2006	Loch of Lintrathen (Angus)	26 Oct 2007	Tullygarth, Alloa (C)	AET
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First re-sighted at Munloch (Ross & Cromarty) in April 2007.

•GREYLAG GOOSE

Grey neck BZV*	28 Jul 1997	Masvatn, S-Ping ICELAND	14 Jan 2007 19 Jan 2007 21 Jan 2007	Kersiepow Kersiepow East Gogar (C, S)	AET
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Having spent most winter visits between 1998 and 2003 in Fife, this bird was first recorded in Clackmannanshire in Feb 2004. It has since been recorded repeatedly in Clackmannanshire with the occasional foray back into Fife. The above sightings refer to its fourth consecutive winter appearance in our area.

Grey neck HCA*	24 Feb 2000	Loch Eye (Easter Ross)	14 Jan 2007 21 Jan 2007 21 Jan 2007 17 Mar 2007	Kersiepow Kersiepow Gogar Gogar (C, S)	AET
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Following sightings nr. Montrose (Angus) and in Iceland in 2001, this bird was seen at Drymen, Stirlingshire, in Jan 2003. It has since been a regular visitor to Clackmannanshire, notably Sheardale nr Dollar (Mar 2003, Feb 2004) and the area between Alva and Tillicoultry (Oct 2004 to Jan 2005), before relocating to the Cambus-Gogar area in Jan and Mar 2005 and in 2006. In 2007 It returned to our area for its 5th consecutive winter.

Red neck BKL	13 Nov 2004	Loch Eye (Easter Ross)	14 Jan 2007 19 Jan 2007 21 Jan 2007 21 Jan 2007	Kersiepow Kersiepow Kersiepow Gogar (C, S)	AET
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In Nov 2005 at Kinbeachie, then Udale Bay (both Cromarty Firth) Dec 2005. After its stay in Clackmannanshire in Feb and Mar 2006, the bird was seen at Akurbrekka, Hrutafjordur, Iceland on 28 Sep 2006. It returned to Clackmannanshire for its second consecutive winter.

•MUTE SWAN

Green IFT*	21 Aug 2004	Stenton Pond, Glenrothes (Fife)	19 Mar 2007	Gartmorn Dam (C)	AET
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Last seen at Stenton Pond on 7 Feb 2005, then at the Boll, Alva in Feb, Mar and Apr 2006 and again there in Jan and Feb 2007.

•BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Colour-ringed	27 Jun 2005	Flaga, Arnessysla, SOUTH ICELAND	23 to 31 Aug 2006	Kinneil (C)	DT
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Also seen 14 Aug 2005 Olonne-sur-Mer, Vendée, WESTERN FRANCE

Colour-ringed	5 Jul 2004	Langhus, Fljot NORTH ICELAND	23 to 31 Aug 2006	Kinneil (C)	DT
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Also seen 18-21 Apr 2006 Kralingerploder, Midden-Delfland, Zuid Holland, WEST NETHERLANDS and 24 Apr 2006 Leidschendam, Zuid Holland, WEST NETHERLANDS

•PIED WAGTAIL

T120944	3 Jun 2005	Letter, Loch Katrine (S)	16 Nov 2005	Tarleton, nr. Preston (Lancashire)	TRG
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Found dead at a distance of 306 km SSE after 166 days.

•SEDGE WARBLER

T387550	21 May 2005	Blackgrange (C)	9 Aug 2005	Titchfield Haven, Fareham (Hampshire)	TRG
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Caught and released at a distance of 614 km SSE after 80 days.

•GREAT TIT

TC44596 11 Jun 2005 Brenachoile NW,
Loch Katrine (S) 1 Jan 2006 Tarbert, Cnoc,
Loch Lomond
(Argyll & Bute) TRG

Caught and released at a distance of 15 km WSW after 204 days.

•CHAFFINCH

R273088 5 Apr 2003 Allt Beithe, Strathyre (S) 14 Apr 2006 Strathyre (S) TRG

Remarkably this bird was found dead at the same locality as it was ringed after 3 years and 9 days.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Codes - S, F and C indicate records from Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire "Districts".

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

F Singles Kinneil 20 Jan and 18 Feb (JRC). 2 Kinneil 19 Sep (DT). 2 off Skinflats 24 Sep (CJP, BD). 1 Bo'ness 29 Sep (DT). Singles Kinneil 5 and 28 Oct (DT). 1 Skinflats 25 Oct (MVB). 1 Kinneil 21 Dec (GO).

Addition from 2006: 7 Kinneil 26 Nov (DT).

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

F 1 Kincardine Br 13 Oct (CJP, BD).

S 2 undisclosed sites in the Trossachs: 2 birds on 18 Mar (RR); 1 pr 5 May (DAC).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (B, w)

Inland WeBS counts: 53 in Jan, 59 in Feb, 32 in Mar, 46 in Sep, 87 in Oct, 76 in Nov, 79 in Dec

F Max: 6 Drumbowie Res 1 Oct; 11 Little Denny Res 1 Oct; 5 Black Loch 1 Oct; 5 Kinneil 31 Dec.

C Breeding: 1 pr and 2 Y Lawmuir Pond, Dollar 26 May. Site max: 6 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 13 Feb; 8 Gartmorn Dam 24 Aug; 6 Silverhills Pond, Kersiepow 19 Sep and 20 Oct; 3 Blackdevon Wetlands 21 Sep.

S Breeding: 1 pr David Marshall Lodge Pond 8 Mar; 1 pr Doune Ponds 20 Mar; 2 prs L Ard 12 May; 1 pr Upper Lanrick 27 May; 2 prs Cambusmore. Site max: 24 Cambusmore 22 Sep; 16 L Dochart 22 Nov; 9 L Voil 3 Feb; 8 Carron Valley Res 8 Oct; 7 Airthrey Loch 12 Mar; 7 Blair Drummond 4 Oct.

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

Inland WeBS counts: 6 in Jan, 32 in Feb, 36 in Mar, 26 in Sep, 22 in Oct, 5 in Nov, 6 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 8 on 20 Jan; Sep to Dec max: 49 on 7 Oct.

F Site max: 44 Kinneil 5 Oct.

C Site max: 6 Gartmorn Dam 31 Mar.

S Breeding: 2 prs Cambusmore fledged 1 Y; pr Blair Drummond 6 Apr; pr L. Rusky 17 Apr; ad and imm Carron Valley Res Sep and Oct. Max: 21 Lake of Menteith 9 Feb; 7 Carron Valley Res 12 Mar.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

S 1 L Coulter 5 Dec (NB).

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

F 1 Kinneil 21 Nov (DMB). This is the 14th record for the recording area.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

F 2 Kinneil 4 Sep (GO).

Addition from 2006: 2 Kinneil 16 Sep (DT).

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

S 1 Kinneil 19 Sep flew low over mudflats before flying E (DT). This is the 14th record for our area since modern recording began in 1974.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* (p)

- F Juv Kinneil 14 Sep (MVB); 15 juvs there 19 Sep (DT); 18 juvs Skinflats 21 Sep (GO); 4 > Carron 22 Sep (AB); 32 Skinflats 23 Sep (GG), 45 there 24 Sep (CJP, BD); juv Bo'ness 29 Sep (DT); 6 juvs Kinneil 5 Oct (DT); juv Skinflats 7 Oct (MVB); 3 juvs Kinneil 28 Oct (DT).
- S 5 juvs > W at Stirling 19 Sep. 3 > N at Dunblane 20 Sep (KD). 6 Doune 24 Sep (GG). 30 > W at Flanders Moss 28 Sep (DAP). 7 > W at Plean 28 Sep (RS).

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* (S, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 82 in Jan, 80 in Feb, 66 in Mar, 44 in Sep, 64 in Oct, 96 in Nov, 81 in Dec.

- F 38 Alloa 25 Mar.
C 11 Blackgrange 23 Oct.
S Max: 19 N Third Res 13 Nov; 15 Lake of Menteith 28 Sep; 11 Carron Valley Res 10 Nov; 11 Airthrey 3 Dec.

*LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* (S, W)

- F 1 Kinneil 20-24 Aug, also at Skinflats 29 Aug and at Kinneil again 9 Sep (DMB, RS, GO, DT). This is the 7th record for our area since modern recording began in 1974, reflecting the recent spread of this species in Britain. The first bird was recorded in 2002.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* (B, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 108 in Jan, 90 in Feb, 60 in Mar, 65 in Sep, 116 in Oct, 90 in Nov, 93 in Dec.

BBS: recorded at 0.1 b/1km, similar to annual mean.

- F Max: 40 Skinflats 15 Sep; 15 Powfoulis 10 Jul.
C Max: 11 Alloa 22 Jan.
S Max: 19 Teith / Forth conf 21 Jan; 13 Alloa, R Forth 15 Dec.

*SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

- F 1 Skinflats 25 Aug (GG). This is the 5th record of this species since modern recording began and the 4th since 2000. Like Little Egret, this species is also expanding its range in Britain.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* (B, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 195 in Jan, 208 in Feb, 179 in Mar, 132 in Sep, 157 in Oct, 178 in Nov, 195 in Dec.

- F 13 Skinflats 24 Apr.
C Breeding: pr Blackdevon Wetlands 27 Apr; pr with 7 Y Naemoor Pond 12 Jun; pr with 7 Y R Devon, Menstrie Jun to Aug. Max: 37 Gartmorn 26 Nov; 28 The Boll, Alva 19 Jan; 24 Cambus Village Pool 13 Apr.
S Breeding: pr and 5 Y Cambusmore 17 Jun, 3 juvs still 15 Aug; pr Doune Lodge, BoD. Max: 25 Airthrey Loch 29 Oct; 26 R Forth, Stirling 18 Feb; 13 Lake of Menteith 8 Mar.

WHOOPE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* (W)

Inland WeBS counts: 58 in Jan, 90 in Feb, 29 in Mar, 3 in Sep, 11 in Oct, 31 in Nov and Dec.

- F Winter/spring: 12 ads Bonnybridge 3 Mar; 9 > W off Blackness Castle 27 Mar. Autumn/winter: 5 Skinflats 4 to 11 Nov, 4 still there 23 Nov; 13 > W at Carron 6 Nov; 3 St. Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 3 Dec.
C Winter/spring: 2 > W at Alva 2 Apr; 1 R Forth, Cambus 4 Apr; 37 > W at Alva 11 Apr. Autumn/winter: 7 Blackgrange 23 Oct; 1 > at E Cambus 2 Nov; 4 > at Clackmannan 25 Nov; 2 Gartmorn Dam 26 Nov.
S Winter/spring: 14 > SW at Dunblane 6 Jan; 10 ads > E at Lecropt Carse 14 Jan; 17 Nether Carse, Forth 29 Jan; 10 L Coulter 6 Feb; 25 L Dochart 16 Feb; 12 Carron Valley Res 18 Feb; 13 L Mahaick 19 Mar. Autumn/winter: 1 Lake of Menteith 28

Sep; 26 > W at Lecropt Carse 2 Dec; 18 L Dochart 15 Dec; 10 Carron Valley Res 15 Dec.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* (W)

F Slamannan plateau: 160 on 12 Feb; last spring record of 40 on 27 Feb; 81 on 28 Sep were the first autumn birds with 271 on 21 Oct and 300 (2007 max.) on 22 Nov (BGAG).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* (W)

Last spring record: 1 G Finglas 27 May. First autumn return: 6 > W at Kinneil 14 Sep (DT).

F Winter/spring: 3380 Airth 23 Feb; 740 Skinflats 1 Mar. Autumn/winter: 2000 Skinflats 31 Oct.

C Winter/spring: 2000⁺ Alloa Inch 22 Jan and 3 Mar; 3000 Haugh of Blackgrange 5 Feb, 1500 there 15 Apr; 1810 Kennetpans 18 Feb. Autumn/winter: 325 Alloa 26 Oct; 550 Alva 29 Dec.

S Winter/spring: 2000 Thornhill 17 Feb; 1500 Flanders Moss 20 Feb; 1720 Ashfield 12 Mar. Autumn/winter: 1815 > NE at Ashfield 28 Sep; 1500 > W at Flanders Moss towards Lake of Menteith 4 Nov; 1750⁺ Lecropt Carse 2 Dec.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* (w)

F 3 birds of the Greenland race at Skinflats 6 Nov (AB).

C 3 birds of the Greenland race at Haugh of Blackgrange 5-6 Feb, with 2 there till 10 Feb (RS).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* (b, W)

F Winter/spring: 310 Airth 18 Feb. Summer (feral): 90 Skinflats 27 Jul. Autumn/winter: 200 Skinflats 12 Sept; 130 Bonnybridge 9 Dec.

C Winter/spring: 432 Alva 19 Jan; 520 Cambus Pools 21 Jan; 320 Tullibody Inch 4 Feb. Autumn/winter: 233 Alva floods 10 Dec.

S Winter/spring: 216 Ashfield 12 Mar; 300 Thornhill Carse 21 Mar. Summer (feral): 26 Cambusmore 5 Jun. Autumn/winter: 600 L. Coulter 23 Oct; 320 Gogar 7 Dec.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* (b, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 474 in Jan, 379 in Feb, 194 in Mar, 150 in Sep, 502 in Oct, 310 in Nov, 334 in Dec.

F Site max: 201 St. Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 16 Jan, 147 there 3 Dec; 31 Airth 19 Sep.

C Site max: 70 Alloa Inch 6 Sep; 15 Blackdevon Marshes 20 Sep.

S Breeding: pr and 5 Y Cambusmore, 4 Y still 5 June. 13 May. Site max: 101 Lake of Menteith 21 Jan; 176 L Venachar 1 Feb; 257 G Finglas Res in July; 318 L Coulter 1 Oct; 119 Killin 15 Dec.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (w)

F 1 St. Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 16 Jan (NB); 50 > SW at Bo'ness 27 Sep (RS); 55 Skinflats 30 Sep (RS); 34 > W at Skinflats 5 Oct (RS); 1 Skinflats 6 Oct (GG).

C 1 Haugh of Blackgrange 8 to 11 Feb (DT, NB).

S 7 Ashfield 12 Mar (MVB); 3 Lecropt Carse 2 Dec (DT); 1 Ledcharrie, G Dochart 15 Dec (NB).

Addition from 2006: 6 Lecropt Carse 9 Dec (DT).

*RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* (w)

C 1 Haugh of Blackgrange 3 to 11 Feb, and again 15 Apr (RHD *et al*). This is the first record for the Upper Forth area and has been accepted by BBRC.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* (b, W)

Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 767 on 17 Mar; Sep to Dec max: 2621 on 15 Sep.

F Breeding: 3 prs with broods of 6, 8, and 9 Y Avon Mouth, Kinneil 25 Jun, broods of 3 and 6 still 21 Jul. Moulting flock: 2220 Kinneil 28 Jul; peaking at 3929 at Kinneil and 571 at Skinflats on 20 Aug.

- C Breeding: 2 prs Blackdevon Wetlands 27 Apr; 4 prs Cambus Village Pool and 1 pr Devonmouth Pool 28 Apr. Site max: 64 Blackdevon Wetlands 1 May.
- S 2 Lecropt Carse 18 May.
- WIGEON *Anas penelope* (b, W)
Inland WeBS counts: 681 in Jan, 822 in Feb, 461 in Mar, 67 in Sep, 303 in Oct, 520 in Nov, 741 in Dec.
Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 1020 on 18 Feb; Sep to Dec max: 459 on 19 Dec.
- F Winter/spring site max: 241 Skinflats 20 Jan; 50 Dunmore 11 Feb. Summer: pr Skinflats throughout. Autumn/winter site max: 50 Kinneil 29 Sep.
- C Winter/spring site max: 130 Dunmore, R Forth 11 Feb; 168 Blackdevon Wetlands 13 Feb; Summer: pr Blackdevon Wetlands 4 May. Autumn/winter site max: 52 Kersiepow 7 Dec.
- S Winter/spring site max: 187 Cambusmore 1 Feb; 100 E Frew 26 Feb. Summer: 2 prs Cambusmore 26 Apr, 1 pr there 5 June. Winter/spring site max.: 114 L Coulter 2 Nov; 123 Killin 15 Dec.
- Addition from 2006 breeding record: F and Y Gart GP 26 Jun.
- GADWALL *Anas strepera* (s, w)
F 1 Skinflats 31 Mar (GO). 2 Kinneil 15 Dec, also on 22-24 Dec (GO, RS, AB).
- C Cambus Pools: 2 on 18 Mar; 8 on 20 Mar; up to 7 (3 prs) in Apr; 1-2 prs in May (RLG, DMB, NB, CJH). 1 pr Blackdevon Wetlands 25 Apr and 4 May (CJH).
- S Pr Culnagreine L 1 Feb (NB). 1 L Voil 18 Nov (NM).
- TEAL *Anas crecca* (b, W)
Inland WeBS counts: 1101 in Jan, 988 in Feb, 685 in Mar, 143 in Sep, 497 in Oct, 871 in Nov, 1084 in Dec.
Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 1146 on 20 Jan; Sep to Dec max.: 775 on 7 Oct.
- F Winter/spring site max: 287 Skinflats 18 Feb. Summer: 1 Skinflats 12 May. Autumn/winter site max: 88 A905-Carronhouse, R Forth 17 Feb and 64 Carronhouse-Carronbridge, R Forth 19 Feb; 400 Kinneil 23 Dec.
- C Winter/spring site max: 215 Dollar-Tillicoultry 23 Jan; 95 Cambus Pools 9 Apr. Autumn/winter site max.: 99 Blackdevon Wetlands 5 Dec; 106 Dollar - Tillicoultry 19 Dec.
- S Winter/spring site max: 170 Fallin 21 Jan; 79 L Voil 3 Feb; 86 L Mahaick 18 Feb. Summer: F and 6 Y Flanders Moss 26 Jun, still 9 Aug. Autumn/winter site max: 85 Carron Valley Res 10 Nov; 118 Fallin 10 Dec.
- *GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*
F M Kinneil 21 Dec to year-end (GO *et al.*). This is the 4th record for the area since modern recording began in 1974.
- MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* (B, W)
Inland WeBS counts: 2239 in Jan, 2071 in Feb, 1080 in Mar, 1178 in Sep, 2129 in Oct, 2339 in Nov, 2567 in Dec.
Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 243 on 20 Jan; Sep to Dec max: 294 on 7 Oct. BBS: recorded at 0.3 b/1km, lower than the annual mean.
- F 60 at Kinneil 28 Jul.
- C Breeding: F and 12 Y Blackdevon Wetlands 25 Apr, 7 Y still 16 May; F and 6 Y Gartmorn Dam 26 Apr; 2 broods of 15 Y and 9 Y Cambus Village Pool 10 May.
- S Summer: F and 6 Y Polmaise Lagoons. Site max: 151 Airthrey Loch 22 Oct; 52 Nether Carse 26 Nov.
- PINTAIL *Anas acuta* (W)
Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 123 on 20 Jan; Sep to Dec max: 37 on 9 Dec.
- F Majority of above at Skinflats and Kinneil. Site max: 87 at Skinflats 20 Jan; 50 at Kinneil 5 Jan.
- S 1 Callander 8 Apr. 2 L Tay 29 Apr.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* (p)

- F Skinflats: pr on 18 Jun; 2 F on 26 Aug; 4 on 30 Aug (GO, AB).
- C 2 M and F Blackdevon Wetlands 30 Mar; 2 prs on 25 Apr; 2 pr. and 1 M on 1 May; 2 M on 4 May; 1 M on 31 May; 2 on 16 Oct; 1 on 25 Nov; 1 M on 5 Dec (CJH, DMB). 3 Tullibody Inch 3 Mar and 15 Apr (DMB). 2 M and F Cambus Village Pool 9 Apr; 1 M on 11 Apr and 23 May; 1 F on 19 Sep (NB).
- S 1 M Cambusmore 26 Apr (DT). 2 Doune Lodge, BoD 28 Apr (DOE).

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* (W)

- Inland WeBS counts: 8 in Jan, 3 in Feb, 17 in Mar, 2 in Sep, 7 in Oct, 69 in Nov, 47 in Dec.
 - F 2 Kinneil 5 Sep; 1 on 14 Sep; 7 on 19 Sep; 2 M on 5 Oct. F Skinflats 14 Oct.
 - C 1 Blackgrange 21 Jan. 6 Gartmorn Dam 7 Aug.
 - S 16 Cambusmore 6 Mar. 22 Carron Valley Res 10 Nov. 27 Lake of Menteith 29 Nov and 16 Dec.
- Addition from 2006: 38 Cambusmore 5 Nov.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (B, W)

- Inland WeBS counts: 371 in Jan, 378 in Feb, 225 in Mar, 245 in Sep, 568 in Oct, 531 in Nov, 327 in Dec.
- F Site max: 30 Black Loch, Limerigg 6 Feb; 30 St Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 2 Nov.
- C Site max: 141 Gartmorn Dam 20 Jan; 36 Silverhills Pond, Kersiepow 19 Jan; 7 Alva 11 May.
- S Breeding: 2 broods Cambusmore 8 Jul, 1 Y still 15 Aug. Site max: 77 Lake of Menteith 30 Oct; 64 Vale of Cousty 20 Mar; 59 L Coulter 1 Oct; 49 Airthrey Loch 31 Jan; 37 L Walton 18 Feb; 37 N Third Res 13 Nov.

SCAUP *Aythya marina* (s, w)

- Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 10 on 20 Jan; Sep to Dec max: 58 on 7 Oct.
- F Kinneil: up to 6 in Jan; F on 7 Mar; F on 6-24 April; M on 12 Apr; 3 on 6 Aug and 29 Sep; max of 9 (4 M and 5 F) in Oct on 19th; max of 9 in Nov on 25th; max of 7 in Dec (DAC, DMB, GO *et al.*). Skinflats: F on 30 Sep; 45 on 7 Oct, 4 F on 19th and 2 F on 29th (MVB, AB, DAC). F Dunmore 14 Oct (AB). 1 Drumbowie 30 Dec (JS).
- S M Airthrey L from previous year to 18 May (CJP, ACC). 1 Coustry Pond 4 Oct (NB). 1 Polmaise Lagoons 23 Nov (DAC).

*LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

- S M Airthrey Loch 4 Apr (IH). This bird was photographed and will be the third record for area if accepted by BBRC.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* (w, s)

- Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 32 on 8 Feb; Sep to Dec max: 15 on 15 Sep.
 - F Kinneil: imm M on 25 Feb; 8 on 22 Mar; imm. M on 24 Apr; F and 5 M on 4 May; max in Jul of 7 on 29th; 3 on 6 Aug; max in Sep of 26 on 19th; max in Oct of 21 on 5th; max in Nov of 7 on 6th; 11 on 20 Dec (DT, DMB, GO). Skinflats: 6 on 20 Jan; 12 on 18 Feb; 11 on 17 Mar; 5 on 9 Dec (MVB). Blackness: 22 on 17 Feb; 6 on 10 Aug; 4 still 2 Sep (AD). 13 Bo'ness 29 Sep (DT).
- Additions from 2006: Kinneil: 11 on 21 Sep, 21 on 29 Oct, 27 on 26 Nov (DT).

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* (w)

- F F Skinflats from previous year to 22 Apr with second bird 18-23 Feb and 24-27 Mar; 4 F on 20 Apr (GO, CJP, MVB *et al.*). F Forth/Clyde Canal, Bonnybridge 21 Jan and 17 Feb (AA).
- S F Lake of Menteith 21 Jan (NB).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

- F F Kinneil on 25 Feb and 22 Mar; M there on 2 and 9 Aug (DT, GO).
- Addition from 2006: 10 Kinneil 10 Jul (DT).

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Addition from 2006: F/imm Kinneil 26 Nov (DT).

*BARROW'S GOLDENEYE *Bucephala islandica*

S M, found on 19 Nov 2006, continued to commute between the R Teith and Eas Gobhain, Callander and L Venachar until 27 Apr (NB *et al.*). This has been accepted by the BBRC as the first for the Upper Forth area and third for Scotland (and Britain). The BBRC noted that this may be a returning bird first seen on the Ythan Estuary in May 2005.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* (W)

Inland WeBS counts: 471 in Jan, 557 in Feb, 450 in Mar, 6 in Sep, 30 in Oct, 381 in Nov, 457 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 78 on 28 Jan; Sep to Dec max: 57 on 9 Dec.

F Site max: 36 Kincardine Br 23 Feb; 25 Skinflats 9 Dec; 23 Kinneil 20 Jan; 14 Drumbowie Res 6 Feb.

C Site max: 62 Cambus-Tullibody Br 20 Feb; 48 Gartmorn Dam 20 Jan; 35 R Devon, Menstrie 20 Feb.

S Site max: 101 Lake of Menteith 8 Mar; 63 L Venachar 25 Feb; 35 L Dochart 24 Jan; 28 Teith-Forth conf 21 Jan; 27 L Ard 24 Jan; 25 Carron Valley Res 18 Feb.

SMEW *Mergus albellus* (w)

S One redhead Cambusmore 8 Jan, 6 Mar, 26 Mar, 8 Apr and 26 Apr (NB, DT).

RED-BREADED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* (B, W)

Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 73 on 20 Jan; Sep to Dec max: 106 on 7 Oct.

C 2 Cambus 8 Feb; 1 on 20 Mar; 1 on 30 Dec. 1 Kersiepow 13 Feb. 2 F Manorneuk 18 Feb. Pr Blackdevon Wetlands 20 Mar. 2 Blackgrange 25 Mar. 1 Devonmouth Pool 7 Dec.

S 3 Craigforth, R Forth 14 Jan; 6 on 17 Feb; 2 on 11 Dec. 1 Cambusmore 6 Mar. 1 pr L Katrine 5 May. 2 L Tay 12 May. 2 Ashfield 3 Jun.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* (B, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 122 in Jan, 152 in Feb, 123 in Mar, 46 in Sep, 50 in Oct, 112 in Nov, 145 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 19 on 20 Jan; Sep to Dec max: 15 on 15 Sep.

F Site max: 14 Skinflats 15 Sep; 13 Kinneil 24 Aug; 10 Greencraigs Pool 25 Mar; 9 Union Canal 17 Feb and 15 Dec.

C Site max: 16 Cambus Pools 17 Sep; 13 Tillicultry, R Devon 19 Dec; 7 Blackgrange 18 Feb.

S Site max: 16 Airthrey Loch 8 Jan; 12 Allan-Teith conf, R Forth 21 Jan; 9 G Finglas Res 11 Nov.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* (b, W)

5 birds recorded on BBS (previous annual range: 0 - 11 birds).

S Breeding: 26 AOT; 20 prs laid eggs, 15 successfully fledging 35 Y (DOE, DJC). Other sightings: 1 BoA 30 Jan (CL), 2 Dunblane 25 Aug (CJP); 1 Dunblane 2 Nov (RS); 1 Kinbuck 5 Nov (DK); 29 Argaty 7 Nov (CT).

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

S Imm from the reintroduction scheme to Tay estuary seen at Flanders Moss 27 Sep (DAP) and radiotracked around Argaty area in Nov and Dec (KD).

*MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* (p)

S Imm Waterside, BoD 15 Aug (DOE). 1 M Invertrossachs 11 Sep (DOE).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* (b, w)

F M and F Slamannan area 6 and 28 Dec (TE, BGAG).

C F Blackdevon wetlands 10 Jan, 22 Jan and 6 Feb (CJH). M G Devon 16 Oct.

S Present in BoD throughout year, especially in winter, with M and F in Autumn (KD). M Kippen 16 Jan (DAC). 1 Lecropt Carse 20 Jan (RSx). Ringtail Flanders

Moss 31 Jan; 3 on 18 Feb; M on 6 Mar; M on 15 Sep; M and F in Nov and Dec (DAP, ACR, DK). 1 Callander 17 Feb (RE). M Kinbuck 18 Feb (CJP). 1 Thornhill Carse 6 Mar; 1 on 18 and 29 Dec (DK, PAL). Pr Touch Res 7 Mar (ES). F Brecklinn 7 Dec (DOE). F Kippen Muir Dam 10 Dec (DAC).

*GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

S 1 Mill of Argaty, BoD 11 Nov (CJP).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* (B, W)

7 birds recorded on BBS (previous annual range: 1-6).

F Records from: Airth; Kinneil; Skinflats (bred); Wallacestone; Borrowstoun.

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

S Records from: Plean; Blairlogie; Stirling; Airthrey; BoA; Braes of Doune; Dunblane; Sheriffmuir; Callander; Gargunnoch; Carron Valley Res; Killin; Inverlochlarig; Lanrick (bred).

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* (B, W)

BBS: recorded at 0.3 b/1km, slightly below the annual mean.

S Breeding: 139 prs in 151 territories checked; 92 prs fledged 173⁺ Y (DOE, DJC).

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* (b, w)

S 2 Stùc a' Chroin 6 Feb (JGR). Sub-ad M BoD 30 Jul (KD).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* (B)

C 1 Tillicoultry Glen 12 May (CVW).

S Breeding: of 16 prs 14 laid eggs, 12 successfully fledging 24⁺ Y (DOE, DA, RAB). First record: 1 Doune 31 Mar. Other records from: L Tay in Apr and May; L Rusky from 6 Apr; Lake of Menteith on 7 Apr (2), 20 May (3), 17 Jun and 17 Aug; L Venachar on 11 Apr; L Dochart on 13 Apr; Flanders Moss on 25 Apr; Carron Valley Res on 26 Apr; Callander on 18 Jun; 1-2 Lecropt Carse in Jun; 2 Cambusbarron on 7 Jul; 1 Touch on 7 Jul.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* (B, W)

4 birds recorded on BBS (previous annual range: 3 - 13 birds).

F Bred at Skinflats: brood of 2 on 15 Aug. Other records: Fallin; Kinneil; Falkirk; Bonnybridge; Castlecary; Shotts.

C Records from: Blackgrange; Blackdevon Wetlands; Menstrie; Tullibody; Alva; Alloa; Fishcross; Gartmorn Dam.

S 3 prs bred BoD. Other records: Dunblane; Lecropt; Stirling; Thornhill Carse; Gogar; Cocksburn Res; Kippen; Gargunnoch; Killin.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* (b?, w)

F M Skinflats 27 Apr. F/imm Skinflats 4 Nov (AB). Imm M Skinflats - Kincardine Br 11 and 18 Nov (MVB, DMB). 1 flew into shop window at Carronshore 16 Nov (AB).

C 1 Slamannan 21 Feb (RS). 1 Tullibody Inch 20 Oct (DMB).

S Seen throughout year at BoD, with juv present Jul-Sep (KD). Ad M Lecropt Carse 3 Mar (CJH). 1 M S Kirkclane, Blairdrummond Moss 10 Mar (DT).

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

S 1 Lecropt Carse 20 Jun (DMB). One > W over Uamh Mhòr, BoD 2 Aug (KD).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* (B, W)

F Breeding: 1 pr Grangemouth with birds present in area throughout year. Other records: 1 Dunipace in Jan.

C 1 Blackgrange 5 Feb. 1 Devonmouth Pool 9 Apr. 1 Menstrie-Tillicoultry May and Jun.

S Single birds at: Flanders Moss 17 Jan, 17 Oct, 26 Oct and 11 Dec; Watston 11 Feb; Nether Carse 23 Mar; Airthrey 2 and 13 Apr; M BoA 15 May; M Argaty 17 Sep; Gargunnoch 11 Dec. 2 Gillies Hill, Stirling 5 Dec.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus* (B, W)

BBS: 5 recorded, similar to annual mean.

S 69 Cringate Muir 16 Dec (CJP). 2 Stùc a' Chroin 6 Feb (JGR).

*PTARMIGAN *Lagopus muta*

S 2 Ben More 4 Apr at 1050m a.s.l. (JT).

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* (B, W)

C 1 male recorded (CSBGCG).

S From the basis of on-going monitoring since 1998 by CSBGCG, evidence suggests there are roughly 40 leks in the Stirling Council area, supporting around 180 cocks. In 2007, lek size ranged from 20 down to 1, with a mean lek size of 4.5. Trends in lek size vary but some evidence is beginning to suggest that the rapid rate of decline over recent years in numbers and range has slowed. Strongholds remain in the Campsies and SW L Tay, with significant increases around L Katrine.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* (B, W)

2 birds recorded on BBS (previous annual range: 0 - 8 birds).

F Skinflats: pr Feb-May; max was 20 on 4 Nov (AB, MVB, AET). 2 Airth 20 Mar (AET). 8 Kerdieshill Fm Maddiston 25 Feb (MWO).

C Site max: 2 Blackdevon Wetlands 20 Mar (CJH); 9 R Devon, Alva 13 Feb (DAC). 5 Tullibody 8 Dec (DAC).

S 2 Carbrook Mains, Pleau 27 Jun (JF).

*QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

S M Gartmorn Dam 21 May (DT). M Blairdrummond Moss 22 May (JRC).

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* (B, W)

BBS: recorded at 0.5 b/1km, similar to the annual mean. Very large numbers released on shooting estates, otherwise widespread but in small numbers.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* (b, w)

F 1 Kinneil 6 Feb (RS). Skinflats: 1 on 9 Feb; 2 on 9 Mar; 1 in Aug-Nov with 2 on 6 Oct (DAC, GO, GG, RS).

C 2 Blackgrange 21 Jan (ACC). 1 Tullibody Inch 3 Mar and 26 Nov (DMB).

S 2 Upper Taylorton-Fallin, R Forth 21 Jan (ACC). 3 Easter L of Daldorn 18 Feb (BB). F Gartmore Curling Pond 23 May (RW). 1 Polmaise Lagoons 18 Oct and 23 Nov (DAC).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* (B, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 118 in Jan, 125 in Feb, 90 in Mar, 106 in Sep, 142 in Oct, 156 in Nov, 153 in Dec.

F Site max: 18 Forth/Clyde Canal, Bonnybridge 9 Dec; 17 Callendar Park, Falkirk 21 Jan; 10 Kinneil House 25 Mar; 10 Millhall Res, Polmont 20 Feb; 9 St Helen's Loch, Bonnybridge 1 Oct.

C Site max: 6 Cambus Pools 16 Nov; 5 Gartmorn Dam in Jan and Feb.

S Breeding: pr and 2 Y L Venachar 29 Jul; 10 Y Torriellochan 15 Aug; pr and 4 Y Castle Park, Stirling 1 Oct; 1-3 prs bred Airthrey Loch. Site max: 19 Airthrey Loch 7 Nov; 10 Vale of Coustry; 6 Doune Ponds 23 Jan.

COOT *Fulica atra* (B, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 287 in Jan, 213 in Feb, 151 in Mar, 107 in Sep, 159 in Oct, 224 in Nov, 259 in Dec.

F Ad Kinneil 29 Jul.

C Breeding: pr Cambus Village Pool in Apr and May; pr with 3 Y and 1 ON Naemoor Pond 12 Jun. Site max: 174 Gartmorn Dam 20 Jan.

S Breeding: 15 ON Airthrey Loch 30 Mar; pr with 5 Y Polmaise Lagoons 25 May, 3 Y on 30 Jul. Pr with 3 Y Cambusmore 8 Jul, 1 Y on 15 Aug; 1 Y Ochlochdy Pond, Dunblane 28 Sep. Site max: 77 Aithrey Loch 22 Oct; 47 Lake of Menteith 17 Dec.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* (B, W)

WeBS Forth estuary peaks were 397 Feb and 223 Oct.

- F Return inland: 3 Fallin 6 Feb; 1 Bo'ness Walk 18 Feb. There were no counts from Skinflats in the early part of the year. 35 birds returned there 8 Jun with 106 there 2 Aug and 79 on 25 Oct. 94 Kinneil 2 Aug was the only count of note at that location. 35 Blackness 10 Aug.
- C Return inland: 17 around Cambus Pools 5 Feb with 39 there 17 Feb. 25 on newly excavated pool at Blackdevon Wetlands 21 Feb with 43 there 26 Feb. Similar counts at Blackdevon with maxima of 30 on 17 Mar, 35 on 20 Mar, 11 on 16 Apr and 11 on 31 May. Elsewhere 8 on R Devon at Alva 2 Apr; up to 10 Devonmouth Pool 13 Apr. 1 bird alarm-called from roof of old Coop building in Alloa 18 Apr. 2 prs bred at Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill: 1 pr raised 1 Y, outcome of other pr unknown, 1 Y killed by crow.
- S Return inland: 11 Craigforth 6 Jan with 44 there 14 Jan and ca 230 on 13 Mar. 1 Doune and 4 Airthrey 30 Jan with up to 6 at latter location to Jul. 5 Cocksburn Res, BoA 2 Feb with 36 there 14 Mar; 10 Gart, Callander 3 Feb; 37 R Forth, Nether Carse and 38 Ashfield 26 Feb with 81 at latter locality 12 Mar. 58 L Walton also 12 Mar. 12 L Dochart 13 Apr. Pr nested Duckburn Park Industrial Estate, Dunblane. 2 AOT Cambusmore GP. 1 Craigforth 20 Nov is thought to have wintered (DT).

*LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

- F 1 Skinflats 14 Apr (ACC). Pr Gart GP 26 and 27 Apr were display fighting and copulating, 1 still there at probable nest site 15 May but site bulldozed by 20 Jun (DT). These are the 12th and 13th records, respectively, for the area since modern recording began in 1974.

Addition from 2006: M 10 Apr to 30 May Gart GP displayed 5 May but no F ever seen (DT).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* (b, W)

- C Up to 7 on newly excavated pool at Blackdevon Wetlands 21 Feb to 1 May giving display calls in Mar; 1 AOT assumed (CJH). 4 Cambus Village Pool 14 May.
- F As in 2006, much smaller numbers than before. 12 Kinneil 25 Mar with 16 there 28 Oct. 7 Skinflats 20 May with 2 there 10 Jul, 21 on 24 Aug, 10 on 29 Aug, 5 at the Carron mouth on 15 Sep and 4 on 9 Dec. 31 Kincardine Br 30 May.
- S 2 L Tay, Killin throughout Apr. Pr Touch Res 16 Apr, 26 May and 9 Jul. 1 L Venachar 27 Apr. 2 Gart GP 26 Apr with 5⁺ there 15 May, 1 confirmed and 1 probable nest on 5 Jun but site bulldozed by 20 Jun.

*DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* (p)

- S 3 Ben Ledi 12 May (FCS).

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* (B, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were very low in the first part of the year with max of only 8 birds in Jan but 1001 in Oct.

- F Another poor year. 150 Slamannan 4 Jan. 22 flying over former peat works, Darnrigg Moss 23 Feb. 22 Kinneil 14 Feb; ca. 53 there 25 Feb included 2 northern race birds in breeding plumage. Return to the estuary was not noted until 1 Skinflats 12 Aug with 30 there 26 Aug and 20 on 29 Oct. At Kinneil 5 on 14 Sep, rising to 17 on 19th, 253 on 29th dropping to 25 on 6 Nov and 110 on 31 Dec. 132 Kincardine Br 15 Sep rose to a max 570 on 7 Oct.
- S 6 Balquhiddier 25 Mar. 22 BoD, Drumloist 20 Apr. 3-5 AoT at BoD, Uamh Beg-Slymaback.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* (W)

- F 18 Kinneil 14 Feb with 2 there 2 Oct. 1 Blackness 17 Feb. 1 Skinflats 29 Aug with

48 there 25 Oct and 6 on 23 Nov. 2 Bo'ness 29 Sep. 3 Carriden 23 Nov.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* (B, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 447 in Jan and 1942 in Oct.

- F Flocks were down. 190 on the Skinflats estuary on 20 Jan was a poor showing. 300 there on 15 Sep, 805 on 7 Oct and 140 on 11 Nov were also small compared to previous years. An ad with 3 chicks at Skinflats itself on 25 Feb was very early, 25 there on 8 Jun included 2 downy chicks, 250⁺ on 26 Aug and 225 on 29 Oct. Ca 350 Kinneil 9 Aug with ca 500 there 24 Aug, 300 on 1 Oct and 400 on 31 Dec were also comparatively small flocks.
- C 48 on newly excavated pool at Blackdevon Wetlands 2 Feb rose to 92 on 21 Feb with 39 still on 2 Mar; there were up to 12 AoT between Mar and May; good numbers in Oct saw a max of 120 on 23rd (CJH). 260 flew upstream at Haugh of Blackgrange 18 Feb. 18 along R Devon Alva-Menstrie 4 Mar with 230 there 11 Sep. 1 AoT Blackdevonmouth 27 Apr. 2 prs with 3 chicks Menstrie Br 11 May and 26 Jun. 700 Tullibody Inch 2 Nov.
- S 80 Netherton, Thornhill 5 Jan. Ca 300 Carse of Lecropt 21 Jan. 450 nr Polmaise 20 Feb. 4 prs Doune Lodge, BoD 6 Apr and 3 prs there at Drumloist 15 May. 3 prs Hill of Row 13 May. 150 Muir Park Fm, L Coulter 9 Jul. 300 nr SE of Flanders Moss 2 Nov with 50 there 11 Dec.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* (W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 2840 in Jan and 505 in Dec.

- F The peak of the winter/spring period was 2800 Kincardine Br 20 Jan. 6 G Artnay 25 Jan (RSx). 22 Blackness 17 Feb. 4 Kinneil 31 Mar with ad and 5 juvs there 30 Aug, ca 110 on 29 Sep, 1300 on 23 Nov (most at Bo'ness) and 1000⁺ on 23 Dec. Up to 3 birds Jan to Aug at Skinflats with 40 there 29 Aug and 107 on 25 Oct.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

- F 1 Tullibody Inch 26 May and 1 Kincardine Br 30 May (DMB).

*LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

- F 1 Skinflats 9 Sep (BRG). 2 Kinneil 5 Oct (DT). 1 Kincardine Br 13 Oct (CJP, BD).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (p)

Much smaller numbers than in 2006.

- F 1 Skinflats 20 May with 2 there 27 Jul, 2 on 2 Aug, 1 on 30 Sep and 1 on 25 Oct (GO, AB, MVB).

Autumn passage, area summary (minimum number/half month)							
Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct	
0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1

*PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* (w)

- F 1 Kinneil 11 Nov (JRC).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* (b?, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were much lower than in 2006 with 3792 in Feb and 1750 in Nov.

- F Much lower numbers than in 2006. 1455 Skinflats 20 Jan with 1210 there 18 Feb. 40 there 20 Jul rising to 140 on 24 Aug, 992 on 7 Oct, 1105 on 11 Nov and 1474 on 9 Dec. 302 Kinneil 28 Oct.
- C 10 R Forth, Alloa Inches 18 Feb. In May up to 14 in breeding plumage Cambus Village Pool.
- S 4 L Tay, Killin 22 Apr.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* (w, p)

- F As in 2006 one bird overwintered at Skinflats where it was seen repeatedly between 27 Jan and 1 Mar (ACC, AB, DAC, MVB, RS). A single on spring passage (same bird?) was present 31 Mar to 24 Apr (GO, DAC, RS, ACC, AET). Autumn

passage started with 7 on 14 Aug rising to 9-13 between 24 and 30 Aug, then dropped to between 3 to 8 between 4 and 9 Sep (DOE, MVB, GG, AB, DMB, AET). An overwintering bird was seen repeatedly between 31 Oct and 29 Dec (AB, MVB, GO, DMB, GG). 1-2 Kinneil 24 to 30 Aug (DMB, MVB, DT, RDZ).

- C Single Cambus/Cambus Village Pools 22 Apr to 23 May with 2 there 7 May (CJP, DH, NB, AET, JRC).

Autumn passage, area summary (minimum number/half month)			
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
0	0	13	8
		0	1

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtes minimus* (w)

- F 5 Kinneil 6 Feb with 2 there 23 Dec (RS).
 C Singles Blackgrange, Cambus 21 Jan, Pool of Muckhart community woodland 4 Feb and Kennet Pans 18 Nov (ACC, DT, DMB).
 S Singles Flanders Moss 9 Jan, 1 and 30 Nov; Nethererton and R Forth, Carse of Lecropt 17 Feb, Kinbuck 8 Oct (DAP, DT).

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* (B,W)

Estuary WeBS: no records.

- F 12 Gilston, Falkirk 16 Apr. 9 Skinflats 24 Aug with 14 there 25 Aug and 8 on 29 Aug; 5 on the saltmarsh there 4 Nov. 71 Kincardine B 13 Oct.
 C 15 nr Haugh, W of Dollar 3 Nov. 5 Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill 7 Nov.
 S 10 Flanders Moss 24 Feb with 5 there 22 Mar. 2 Strathfillan 14 Apr. Single drumming Sheriffmuir 14 May and chipping Townhead, Gargunnoch Hills 20 May. 8 Carron Res 8 Oct. 6 Ashfield Pools 11 Nov.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* (B, W)

Grossly under-recorded during the breeding season.

- F 1 Westfield, Airth 20 Mar (AET).
 C Roding birds: 2 E of Coalsnaughton 30 Mar (JT). Single nr Devonknowes and 1 or 2 nr Lawmuir 26 May. 1 Dollarbeg and 2 Boar Wood, Aberdona 31 May. Single School Wood, Forestmill 5 Jun. 1-3 Brucefield and 2 N of Brucefield 8 Jun (DT).
 S Singles Flanders Moss 10 Jan, 15 Feb, 22 Mar, 7 and 30 Nov, 11 Dec (2) and 12 Dec (DAP). Singles Lanrick 14 Jan, BoD wind farm 14 Feb; Lecropt 15 Feb; L Tay, Killin 1 to 18 Apr; BoD, Kilbryde 2 Dec, Dunblane 8 Dec (DOE, KD, CJP, JPH).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* (W)

WeBS estuary peaks were low with 34 Feb and 234 Nov.

- F Present most year in the Grangemouth area. Monthly peaks at Kinneil: 1 Jan (20th), 263 Apr (22nd), 2 May (30th), 51 Jul (10th), 223 Aug (20th), 197 Sep (14th), 219 Oct (28th), 200 Nov (7th) and 150 Dec (9th). Generally smaller numbers but higher peaks at Skinflats: 1 Jan (26th), 9 Mar (17th), 419 Apr (21st) - this was accompanied by an influx of islandica birds with up to 60 of this race on 19th and up to ca 620 on 24th Apr -, 12 May (8th), 2 Jun (24th), 38 Jul (23rd), 68 Aug (16th), 2 Sep (4th), 1 Oct (29th). Elsewhere 25 S Alloa 16 Jan.
 C Increasing numbers are found upstream of Kincardine Br in spring. 33 on newly excavated pool Blackdevon Wetlands 13 Feb with 22 on 2 Mar dropping to 1 by 30 Mar. At Cambus/Cambus Village Pool 52 on 30 Mar rose to 73 on 11 Apr, 157 on 21 Apr and 200 on 22 Apr. In May numbers steadied to between 11 and 25; this included birds in breeding plumage. At Devonmouth Pool 61 on 6 Apr (ca half in breeding plumage) rose to 104 on 18 Apr and ca 425 on 23 Apr. 75 Tullibody Inch 15 Apr. These do not seem to be birds moving here from the Grangemouth area, at least in April when numbers there were higher than in 2006.
 S 34 Dunmore 23 Feb. 1 L Tay, Killin 22 Apr.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 160 in Feb and 37 in Nov.

- F Numbers were again low at Kinneil with isolated, larger peaks and very low at Skinflats. 2 Kinneil 2 Jan with 45 there 10 Mar, 150 on 23 Dec and 25 on 29 Dec. 16 Blackness 23 Sep. 2 Skinflats 20 Apr and 1 on 22 Apr.

- C 4 Alloa Inch 29 Aug.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* (p)

- F Poor spring and autumn passages. Spring: single at Skinflats 22 Apr with 4 there 13 May and 2 on 20 May (ACC, AB, GO). Autumn: singles Kinneil 10 and 29 Jul with 5 there 9 Aug, 1 on 17, 2 on 23 and 1 on 30 Aug (DT, GO). 2 Skinflats 6 and 24 Jul and 1 on 16 Aug (GO, DOE).

- S 1 L Tay, Killin on 7, 8 and 13 May (JPH).

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

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* (B, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were 1181 Jan and 1144 Dec.

- F Skinflats estuary: 599 on 20 Jan, 315 there 18 Feb, 363 on 7 Oct, 247 on 11 Nov and 271 on 9 Dec. The ponds themselves held 150 birds on 26 Jan and 85 on 26 Mar. Max at Kinneil: 2 in Feb, 15 in Mar, ca 600 in Jul, 569 in Aug and 15 in Nov, while 515 was the WeBS estuary max. in Sep. Elsewhere 487 Kincardine Br 5 Jan, ca 220 Airth 31 Jan. 141 Blackness 17 Feb and 62 Gilston, Falkirk 26 Feb.

- C 120 Devonmouth Pool 16 Jan with 120 in Cambus (Village) Pools area 21 Jan, 200 on 22 Jan, 140 on 8 Feb and 98 on 18 Dec. Up to 30 on newly excavated pool at Blackdevon Wetlands in Mar with 4 still there 1 May. 300 Blackgrange 5 Feb and ca 450 there 4 Mar. 2 Gartmorn Dam 27 Jun.

- S Spring return: 92 Carse of Lecropt 13 Mar, 2 displaying Flanders Moss 27 Apr. During breeding season Cringate Muir; King's Park, Stirling and Carse of Lecropt.

*SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* (p)

- F Single Kinneil 6 Feb and 13 Mar (RS).

Addition from 2006: juv Kinneil 11 to 21 Sep (DT).

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* (B, W)

WeBS estuary peaks were down with 1723 Jan and 2048 Oct.

- F Estuary counts at Skinflats: 1093 in Jan, 476 in Feb, 397 in Mar, 707 in Sep, 947 in Oct, 338 in Nov and 1078 in Dec. The pools held 340 birds 2 Aug and 555 on 25 Oct. Kinneil max were: 80 in Apr, 44 in Jul, 1220 in Aug, 1017 in Sep (WeBS) and 400 in Oct.

- C A single at Blackdevon Wetlands 17 Mar increased to 4 by month end (display calling noted). Up to 7 birds there Apr and May - 1 displaying pr (CJH). Singles Devonmouth Pool 6 and 9 Apr and Cambus Village Pool 9 Apr.

- S 2 L Walton 12 Mar; 2 Carse of Lecropt 13 Mar. 2-3 Gart GP 8 Apr, 13 and 27 May and 17 Jun. 28 L Tay, Killin 22 Apr; 1 Carron Valley Res 26 Apr and 3 Blairdrummond Moss 30 Apr.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* (w, p)

WeBS estuary counts: 4 in Jan, 5 in Nov.

- F Skinflats: up to 3 birds in Jan dropped to 2 in Feb and Mar. A bird during the 2nd part of Apr may have been the same or a bird on passage (CJP, MVB, AB, ACC, DAC, CJH, GO). Autumn return started with a single 29 Jun, rising to 6 in Jul. Aug max 7 birds on 7th and 16th and 5 on 28th (AET, GO, JT, AB, MVB, ACC, RS, DOE, RDZ). Up to 3 birds in Sep and Oct dropped to 2 in Nov and 1 in Dec

(AB, RS, MVB, DMB, GG). Kinneil: single between 25 Feb and 5 Apr (DT). 2 in Nov and early Dec with a single at the R Avon mouth in late Dec (RS, DMB, AET, GO). Elsewhere singles Polmaise lagoons 20 Sep, S Alloa 23 Sep and 2 Kincardine Br 4 Oct (CJM, DAC, DMB)

C 1 Devonmouth Pool 11 Apr had red ring on left leg (NB).

S 2 L Tay, Killin 6 and 7 Apr with at least 1 there 11, 16 and 18 Apr (JPH).

Autumn passage, area summary (minimum number/half month)			
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
6 2	7 5	3 3	5 0

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* (w, p)

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

F Singles R Carron, Caronshore-Skinflats 15 Jan stayed from 2006. Single R Avon, Grangemouth 9 Feb. Single Gilston, Falkirk 9-15 Mar (AB, RS). 2 Muirdyke Burn, Skinflats 26 Aug with 1 at Skinflats 4 and 29 Aug (AB, DMB, GO).

S Single Allan Water, Kinbuck 18 Feb and 8 Oct (BD, CJP). Single R Forth, Nether Carse 26 Feb with 2 there 23 Mar (ACR).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* (p)

F 1 Skinflats 12 and 15 May (GO, BRG). This is the 18th record for the recording area.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* (B)

F Singles R Carron at Carronshore 20 Apr and at Dunipace 18 May. Kinneil: 1 on 24 Apr and 6 and 10 Jul with 5 there 17 Jul. Skinflats: 1 on 14 May and 24 Jun with up to 4 there between late Jun and early Aug and 1 thereafter until 27 Aug.

C 2 Cambus 22 Apr with 1 there 10 Aug. 1 Gartmorn Dam 27 Jun.

S Spring passage: singles L Tay, Killin 18 Apr; Kinbuck Br 19 Apr; 2 Carron Valley Res 26 Apr; 4 Lake of Menteith 26 Apr and 2 L Venachar 27 Apr. During breeding season reported from: R Teith, Kilmahog and Callander (7 birds); Gart GP (up to 6 birds); Inverlochlarig; Stronachlachar (3 birds); Allan Water, Dunblane and Cocksburn Res.

Autumn passage, area summary (minimum number/half month)			
Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1 4	5 6	2 1	0 0

*SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia*

F Ad winter R Avon mouth, Kinneil 24 Dec to year end (RS, GO). This is the first record for our recording area. This bird proved initially elusive but once its movements had been determined - it tended to favour the upper reaches of the Avon but when these became submerged at high tide it made its way down to the river mouth - it became comparatively easy to connect with, on occasions showing down to a few metres.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* (W)

F 4 Kinneil 14 and 20 Jan with 5 there 25 Feb and 1 in breeding plumage 24 Apr (ACC, DT); 2 there 6 Aug, 1 on 5 Oct, 2 on 23 Nov, 1 on 24 and 28 Dec and 2 on 30 Dec (DMB, DT, GO, RSW, DM). 1 R Carron mouth, Skinflats 18 Feb with 4 on 17 Mar and 3 on 7 Oct (MVB). Elsewhere: 1 Blackness 17 Feb with 6 there 5 Oct (DK, DAC). 4 Grangepans 14 Sep. 1 Carriden 23 Nov (MVB, DMB).



Spotted Sandpiper at Kinneil

The decurved, pink-based bill (here showing pale) and pale legs show well in this photo.

Photo by John Nadin

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* (p)

F Kinneil: 1 on 5 Sep; 1 on 10 Sep; 2 on 13 Sep; 11 on 14 Sep; 1 on 19 Sep (DT, DMB). 3 Skinflats 24 Sep (CJP, BD). 3 Bo'ness 29 Sep (DT). Singles Blackness and Kinneil 5 Oct (DAC, DT). 1 Dunmore 7 Oct (DAC). 4 Kincardine Br 13 Oct (CJP, BD). 1 Skinflats 25 Oct (MVB).

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

F 1 Skinflats 24 Sep (CJP, BD).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

F First summer bird Skinflats 24 Jun (AB).

C Imm Blackdevon Wetlands 26 Jun (CJH).

***MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

F Ad Kinneil 6 Nov (DM, MT). This is the 12th record for the recording area since 1974.

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

Inland WeBS counts: 653 in Jan, 955 in Feb, 593 in Mar, 264 in Sep, 521 in Oct, 1186 in Nov, 1069 in Dec.

BBS: recorded at 0.3 b/1km, below the annual mean.

F Max counts: 325 Blackness 10 Aug.

C Max counts: 1550 Blackdevon Wetlands 2 Feb; 242 Gartmorn Dam 29 Jan.

***RING-BILLED GULL** *Larus delawarensis*

F Ad Kinneil 28 Oct, 4 Nov and 30 Dec (DT, GG, KH *et al.*). This may have been the returning bird from 2005 and 2006. This record is still to be validated by the

BBRC and will be the 3rd record for the area since modern recording began in 1974, if accepted.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* (B,W)

Inland WeBS counts: 929 in Jan, 613 in Feb, 597 in Mar, 22 in Sep, 165 in Oct, 321 in Nov, 256 in Dec.

BBS: recorded at 0.7 b/1km, below the annual mean.

C Summer: 6 Blackdevon Wetlands 26 Jun.

S Breeding: 9 ON Cambusmore 13 May; pr BoD May but failed. Other records: 277 King's Park, Stirling 22 Sep.

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

Inland WeBS counts: 9 in Jan, 5 in Feb, 148 in Mar, 34 in Sep, 83 in Oct, 45 in Nov, 8 in Dec.

Forth Est (WeBS) Jan to Mar max: 13 on 17 Mar; Sep to Dec max: 37 on 15 Sep.

F Max counts: 15 Skinflats 22 Apr and 12 Aug.

C Max count: 24 Blackdevon Wetlands 26 Jun.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* (b, W)

Inland WeBS counts: 73 in Jan, 376 in Feb, 39 in Mar, 723 in Sep, 106 in Oct, 148 in Nov, 85 in Dec.

C Max count: 43 Blackdevon Wetlands 16 May.

Addition from 2006: ca 1000 (mostly sub-ads) Kinneil 4 Jun.

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

Inland WeBS counts: 3 in Jan, 1 in Feb, 2 in Mar, 6 in Sep, 14 in Oct, 4 in Nov, 10 in Dec.

F Max count: 40 Kinneil 5 Sep.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* (P, w)

F 1 Skinflats 7 Sep (DMB). 480⁺ Kinneil 14 Sep (DT). 1 Skinflats 24 Sep (CJP, DB). 16 Kinneil 4 Nov (GG).

Addition from 2006 Kinneil: 75 on 4 Apr and 47 on 11 Aug (DT).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandwicensis* (P)

F 11 Kincardine Br 15 Sep. 6 Blackness 23 Sep. 16 Grangemouth and 33 Kincardine Br 7 Oct.

C 2 Tullibody Inch 19 Aug, 10 there 22 Sep.

S 5 Carron Valley Res 13 Jun (DMB).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* (B)

F First: 7 at Kinneil 4 May (DT). Skinflats: up to 10 in May on 13th; 14 on 26 Jun; 5 in Jul. Grangemouth: 16 on 2 Aug and 6 on 7 Aug. Blackness: 3 in Sep. Kincardine Br: 2 on 15 Sep and 1 on 7 Oct.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

F 2 Skinflats 12 May; 1 still on 13 May (ACC, CJP). 1 Kinneil 13 Sep (DMB). 1 Blackness 23 Sep (AD). 1 Skinflats 4 Oct (DMB).

*BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

F Juv Kinneil 9 Aug (DT).

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* (W)

F Kinneil: 7 on 14 Sep; 18 on 19 Sep (MVB, DT). 9 Skinflats 24 Sep (CJP, BD). 10 Bo'ness 29 Sep (DT). 2 Kinneil 5 Oct (DT). Kincardine Br: 13 on 7 Oct; 5 on 13 Oct (MVB, CJP, BD).

C 1 R Devon, Cambus 2 Oct (DAC).

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* (w)

F 2 Skinflats 24 Sep (CJP, BD). 11 Bo'ness 29 Sep (DT).

S 1 Fallin, R Forth 28 Sep (AET).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* (B,W)

C 120 Alloa Glassworks disturbed by Kestrel.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* (B, W)

- F 11 Kinneil 25 Feb, 16 there 25 Mar, 14 on 24 Aug and 2 on 11 Oct. 2 Skinflats 20 Apr, 4 there 22 Apr, 2 (at Howkerse) 24 Apr, 1 on 8 Aug and 36 on 7 Nov. 20 Gilston, Falkirk 9 May. 46 Powfoulis Manor 7 Oct.
- C 2 Woodland Park, Alva 2 Feb. 2 Blackgrange 20 May. 2 Menstrie 26 Mar with 1⁺ there 20 May. 1 Gartmorn Dam 27 Jun.
- S Pr BoD, Doune Lodge 9 Apr. 4 Causewayhead, Stirling, and 5 Stirling Br 11 May. 3 Riverside, Stirling 17 Jun. 2 Fintry 5 Jul.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* (B, W)

- F 800⁺ Skinflats 7 Nov.
- S 400 Greenyards Fm, Dunblane 11 Nov.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* (B, W)

Greatly under-reported. No significant records were received this year

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* (B)

Arrival in Apr: Flanders Moss 25th was 4 days later than in 2006 and 4 days later than in 2005. This was followed by birds at Darnrig Moss, Gart GP and Cocksburn Res 26th; L Tay, Killin; Brig o'Turk and BoD, Bows all on 27th; BoD, Argaty 29th and Blairdrummond Moss 30th.

- C 1 Muckhart 7 May. 2 Alloa Inch 21 Jun.
- S In May: singles Hermitage Wood, Airthrey 3rd; Cocksburn Res 9th and 16th (2); Clash Fm, Callander 12th; Gleann Breac-nic 13th; Carron Valley Res 14th; Tom Dubh, Callander and Arndrum, L Ard Forest 20th; 4 in dispute Flanders Moss 27th. In Jun: 1 G Lochay 6th; 2 Sheriffmuir 13th and 1 Menteith Hills 24th.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* (b, w)

- S 1 Thornhill Carse 26 and 29 Jan (DK). 1 found dead on the A811 nr Buchlyvie 29 Jan with other birds there at Kepcelloch 14 Nov and 18 Dec (JT, DK). In Dunblane 1 at Keir 28 Mar and 1 throughout year at Kippenross (NB, KD). At BoD, 1 at Drumloist 16 May fledged 5 Y and 1 at Uamh Mhor no date. 1 Blairdrummond 31 Aug (DOE, KD). 2 by nest box at Flanders Moss 30 Nov (DAP).

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* (B, W)

- F 1 Jaw Fm, Slamannan 15 May. 1-2 Skinflats 24 Sep. 1 Liddle Drive, Bo'ness 20 Oct.
- C Birds calling at Tait Place, Tillicoultry 18 Mar and on several days in Aug. 2 calling Gartmorn Dam 28 Apr with 1 there 17 May. 1 West Loaningbank, Menstrie 21 May. Pr calling Coalsnaughton 31 May. 1 calling E of Aberdona 5 Jun. 2 calling Harviestoun old mine 7 Jun.
- S BoA: 1 calling Coneyhill 6 Jan and 1 on 16 Dec. 1 calling Broomridge, Stirling 26 Jan and 2 there 1 Nov. 1 calling Carron Valley Res 24 Mar. Bird incubating in tree Cromlix 8 Apr. 1 L Tay, Killin 18 Apr. 1 dead on A811 at Cambusbarron 18 Apr. At BoD: 2 prs bred Argaty 29 Apr and 1 pr bred Dumloist 27 May. Pr bred Doune 13 May. 1 Lake of Menteith 20 May. 1 Lanrick 26 Jun. 1 dead on A84 nr caravan park, Callander 8 Aug. 1 calling Springwood Ave., Stirling 20 to 28 Dec.

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

- F 2 with juv Whitehill, Denny 10 Jun (KMcl)
- S Feathers found BoD wind farm 1 Jan and 7 Mar (KD). 1 Sheriffmuir 8 May and 9 Jul bred nearby in Perthshire and had 1-2 juvs (DT).

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 2 Kinneil 20 Jan (GO).
- C 5 over R Forth foreshore at Blackdevon Wetlands 22 Jan with up to 4 there in

Feb and 2 on 2 Mar (CJH). These sightings of presumably the same birds represent only the 4th record in Clackmannanshire since 1996.

- S 1 Flanders Moss 12 Jan. Remains found at BoD in Feb. 2 hunting Cringate Muir 24 Mar (DAP, KD, AET). Singles hunting Black Hill, Sheriffmuir 1, 20 and 22 May; Earls Hill, Gargunnoch Hills 20 May and Forthbank, Stirling 25 Aug (DK, CJH, NB).

SWIFT *Apus apus* (B)

Spring arrival: 3 Gartcows, Falkirk and 20 Kippenross, Dunblane 28 Apr were 1 day earlier than in 2005 and 3 days earlier than in 2006. This was followed by 1 Callander 29 Apr; singles Cambus, BoA and Stirling 2 May; Carron and Blackdevon Wetlands 4 May.

Autumn departure in Aug; 2 Gartmorn Dam 7th. 12 Coneyhill, BoA 8th with 16 there 9th and 2 on 10th which was 18 days earlier than in 2006 and 9 days earlier than in 2005.

- C 25 Gartmorn Dam 27 Jun.
S 100 Blairdrummond 13 May. 20 Flanders Moss 20 Jun. Up to 37 Coneyhill, BoA in Jul, presumed hawking ants.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* (b, w)

- F Kinneil: singles 20 Jan, 19 Oct, 21 Nov, 25 (2), 27 and 31 Dec. R Carron: singles Dunipace 18 May, Carronshore 1 Sep and 13 Dec and Langlees 17 Sep. 2 Skinflats 2 Dec.

- C R Devon: 1 at Cambus 8 Feb with 2 there 4 Apr and 1 on 4 May, 2 Oct, 12 Nov and 28 Dec; singles nr Crook of Devon 1 Apr and Alva-Menstrie 2 and 18 Apr and 11 Sep; nr Tait's Tomb, Tillicoultry 3 Nov.

- S Singles Gart GP 8 Apr, at nearby Keltie Burn 27 Apr, 15 May where maybe nested. R Teith: 2 Callander 12 May, 12 Jun and 2 Inverardoch 17 Jul, 15 Sep. Singles Dunblane 4 Sep, 14 Oct, 8 Dec; R Forth, Carse of Lecropt 5 Sep, 2 Dec; Kinbuck, Ashfield 28 Sep; L Venachar 28 Sep; Polmaise lagoons 18 Oct, 23 Nov; Lanrick 11 Nov.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* (B, W)

More records away from SE needed to establish true status.

- F Single Plean CP 10 Apr.

- C Birds were seen or heard repeatedly in the Harviestoun area of Tillicoultry from late Mar to mid-Jul with other sightings around Tillicoultry 18 Nov and 10 Dec. Elsewhere singles were reported from Alva at Alva Glen 7 Mar; R Devon 2 Apr and Woodland Park 9 Apr. Around Menstrie birds were reported 30 Apr and 6 and 20 May. Single E of Clackmannan 9 Nov.

- S Singles Killin 27 Mar, at L Tay there 1 Apr and at the marshes 15 Dec. 2 BoD, Argaty 20 Apr. Singles Tom Dubh, Callander 20 May and 24 Jun; Airthrey, BoA 7 Jun; Cocksburn Res, BoA 8 and 17 Jul; Lossburn Res, BoA 30 Sep and Polmaise Woods 15 Dec.

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

- F 1 Plean CP 31 Jan, 10 Apr and drumming there 10 May. Dunmore Woods, Airth: singles 20 Mar, 13 and 17 Jul, 14 Oct, 13 and 23 Nov. 1 Skinflats 16 Apr Nested Strathavon Fm, Slamannan 5 Jun. 2 Carron Glen 17 Jun. 2 Skinflats 6 Oct. 1 Wallacestone, Falkirk 9 Nov.

- C Alva: singles Woodland Park 2 Feb, R Devon 6 May and 11 Sep. 1 Vicar's Br, E Dollar 25 Feb. Gartmorn: to E of site 21 Mar, 13, 14 (2 at dam) and 27 Apr. Tillicoultry: 2 at Tait Place 25 Mar with singles there throughout Jun and to NE of village 10 Dec. Single E of Clackmannan 28 Apr and 2 there 25 Nov. 1 W of Dollar 29 Apr and in the glen 20 May. 1 Menstrie 6 and 20 May and 1 along Menstrie-Alva old road 3 Jun. 1 Cambus 2 Oct and 18 Dec. Singles Castlebridge

- Business Park, Forestmill 19, 20, 22 Nov and 12 Dec. 1 Blackgrange 10 Dec.
- S 1 Cocksburn Res 2 Feb, 19 Sep with 2 there 29 Nov. Singles Callander 17 Feb and 20 Dec; Carron Valley Res 18 Feb, 24 Mar, 10 Nov with 2 there 20 Nov; Blairdrummond 21 Feb; L Rusky and 2 drumming L Menteith 8 Mar; Throsk 25 Mar; drumming L Lubnaig 27 Mar. In breeding season: singles L Tay, Killin 1 Apr; David Marshall Lodge, L Ard Forest 10 Apr; Brig o' Turk 15 Apr; Cobleland, Aberfoyle 21 Apr; L Achray and 2 at L Venachar 27 Apr; Aithrey, BoA 31 May; Lanrick 3 Jun; Sheriffmuir, E of Dunblane 17 Jul and Doune 21 Jul. Winter: 1 Dunblane, Allan Water 3 Sep with 2 S of village 6 Oct and 1 Kippenross 25 Oct. 2 Lossburn 30 Sep; 1 Drumbowie Res, Denny 1 Oct; 2 BoD, Argaty 31 Oct; Gargunock 11 Nov and Gart, Callander 13 Dec.
- SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* (B, W)
The first singing birds were at Carse of Lecropt 17 Feb.
- F At least 2 still singing Westfield, Airth 11 Oct. 140 Skinflats 25 Oct.
- C Family party R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 18 Jul.
- S 11 Carse of Lecropt 24 Nov with 30 there 11 Dec.
- SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* (B)
Arrival: 1 Gartmorn and R Devon, Menstrie 19 Mar was a day earlier than in 2006 and 2 days later than in 2005. This was followed by 5 at L Watston 31 Mar, 1 Lanrick 5 Apr and ca 10 Gart GP 8 Apr. Departure: the only report was of a single Kinneil 14 Sep, which was a day later than in 2006 and 21 days later than in 2005.
- F 30⁺ R Carron, Dunipace 18 May.
- C Ca. 110 Cambus Village Pool 16 Apr. 40 Blackdevon Wetlands 16 May. 21 AOT Glenfoot, R Devon 25 May.
- S 152 nests in excavations Gart GP 17 Jun. 45 AOT R Teith, Lots of Callander 18 Jun.
- SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* (B)
Spring arrival: 1 Stirling golf course 6 Mar was 25 days earlier than in 2006 and 28 days earlier than in 2005. This was followed by 1 Kersiepow, Alva 18 Mar with the next not until 10 Apr at Strathavon Fm, Slamannan; 4 BoD, Argaty 12 Apr; singles Skinflats, Ashfield and 4 Dunblane 14 Apr.
Autumn departure: 1 Blackdevon Wetlands 21 Sep; ca 15 Blaeaulds Denny 1 Oct; 1 Burn of Cambus 3 Oct and 6 Blackness 5 Oct, which was 11 days earlier than in 2006 and 28 days earlier than in 2005.
- F 150 Skinflats 20 Jul. 90 Kinneil 14 Sep.
- C Nested Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill (3 chicks) 13 Aug.
- S Nested Gatehouse, Polmaise (5 chicks) 30 Jul. 30 Doune 15 Sep. 53 Stirling 18 Sep. 12 Whitehill, Cowie 19 Sep.
- HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* (B)
Arrival in Apr: 1 Stirling Br 9th was 5 days earlier than in 2006 and 2 days later than in 2005. This was followed by 4 Kinbuck 15th, 1 BoA 19th and 5 R Carron, Carronshore 20th.
Departure in Sep: 10 Stirling 2nd and 25 Flanders Moss 11th, which was 20 days earlier than in 2006 and 29 days earlier than in 2005.
- F 2⁺ nests N Doll, Airth 25 May.
- C 1⁺ nest Coalsnaughton.
- S 4⁺ prs bred Killin 12 May. 1⁺ nest Museum Hall, BoA.
- TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* (B)
Arrival in April: 1 E of Gartmorn 13th was 4 days earlier than in 2006 and 1 day later than in 2005. Then singles Aberfoyle 14th; Brig o' Turk, L Venachar and L Achray 15th; 2 BoD, Doune 20th; 6+ Gartmorn 28th, Flanders Moss 29th and Balhearty 30th.

- F 3 Dunmore Moss, Airth 1 May with 1 there 25 May.
 S 1 Old Drymen Road, L Ard Forest 26 May. 5 Lendrick Hill, Brig o' Turk 27 May.
 Ca 25 Coillie Coire Chuilc, Tyndrum 18 Jun.
- MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* (B, W)
 Continues to be scarce mid-winter.
- F 17 Skinflats 20 Jan with 20 there 14 Apr.
 C 30 on newly excavated pool Blackdevon Wetlands 30 Oct.
 S 15 Nether Carse 26 Feb. 55 in flock at Lynns, Sheriffmuir 5 Jul. 64 Auchinlay Rd, Dunblane 25 Aug. Stonehill 28 Aug. 14 Newton Crescent, Dunblane 22 Sep. 23 Gart GP 20 Dec.
- ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* (w)
 At traditional sites along Falkirk shore.
- F 2 Kincardine Br 16 Jan (DMB).
- GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* (B, w)
- F 1 Blackness 17 Feb with 2 there 5 Oct. 1 Skinflats 28 Aug.
 C Alva: singles in Glen 23 Jan, 7 Mar, 15 Apr (pr), 12 Nov; 2 in Woodland Park 9 Apr, at Balquharn 21 Jul. River Devon: singles Alva-Menstrie 2 and 18 Apr, 1 Oct, 16 Dec; 1 Cambus 24 Feb, 4 Apr, 10 Aug, 2 on 2 Oct; 2 Rumbling Br 1 Apr. Singles Tillicoultry Glen 12 May; Dollar Glen 20 May. 2 Gartmorn Dam 12 Sep. 1 W of Menstrie 17 Nov. 1 Cambus Pools 30 Dec.
- S 1 Plean CP 31 Jan. Allan Water: 1 Dunblane 5 Feb, 5 Mar, 4 there 2 Aug, 1 on 10 Nov; BoA 1 on 6 Oct. 1 Cocksburn Res 21 Feb, 14 Mar, 2 there 15 Aug. 1 Stirling 19 Mar. 2 Benmore Glen 4 Apr. 2 L Ard Forest 10 Apr, 1 on 26 May. Singles L Katrine 15 Apr; Garrison, Inversnaid 5 May; Airthrey 17 May. 2 Carron Glen 17 Jun. Singles W of Cambusbarron and S of Kippen 7 Jul; Lossburn 31 Jul. 2 R Teith, Lecropt 18 Sep, 1 on 11 Dec.
- PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* (B, w)
 More records from the first winter season, possibly as a result of more intense recording, but not from the second winter season: 9 Jan records (4 in 2005, 3 in 2006), including 6 Blackdevon Wetlands 16 Jan, 22 feeding Carse of Lecropt 23 Jan, 4 Skinflats. 11 Feb records (1 in 2005, 6 in 2006), including 4 Skinflats 23 Feb. Only 6 Nov records (as in 2005 and 2006): singles Blackdevon Wetlands 5th; Powbridge Fm and Westfield Fm, Airth 13th; Forth, Nether Carse 26th; R Devon, Alva 29th and 2 Stirling University 29th. Seven Dec records (as in 2005 and 2006): 1 Stirling University 3rd and 2 on 13th; Alloa tip 15th; Gartmorn 18th; Lower Auchinlay Fm, Dunblane 27th and Forth, Nether Carse 31st.
- F 35 Strathavon Fm, Slamannan 13 Aug. White Wagtails (*M.a.alba*): 2 Skinflats 31 Mar, 6 there 14 Apr, 14 on 20th, 5 on 22nd and 8 on 24th; 1 Cambus Village Pool 18 Apr with 2 there 8 May.
- C 6 Blackdevon Wetlands 5 Mar with 4 there on 20th. 30 King's Park, Stirling 12 Mar. 8 Gartmorn 14 Mar.
- S Pr bred BoD, wind farm. 2 prs bred Kippenross, Dunblane. 111 King's Park, Stirling 21 Sep with 56 there 3 Oct.
- WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* (w)
 F 1 St. Ninians 10 Dec (BRG).
 S 2 Airthrey 27 and 28 Mar with 1 there 29th (ACC, CJP).
- DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* (B, W)
 F 1 R Carron, Carron Works 13 Nov.
 C R Devon: 2 at Alva 7 Jan, 2 including 1 in song at Tait's Tomb, Tillicoultry 25 Nov. 1 Woodland Park, Alva 15 Jan. 1 Tillicoultry Glen 12 May.
- S 1 Doune Castle 16 Mar. 1 Aberfoyle and 2 Strathfillan, Tyndrum 14 Apr. 1 L Tay, Killin 28 Apr. 2 Allan Water, Dunblane 8 May with 1 on 10 Nov. 1 Inverlochraig

9 May. 2 Todholes, Fintry Hills 15 May. Bred BoD, Ardoch Burn and present all year BoD, Garvald Burn. 1 R Teith, Inverardoch 15 Sep. 1 close to summit of Ben Chabair (800m asl). 1 L Voil 18 Nov.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* (B, W)

Widespread and common. Under-recorded.

C Family party R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 6 Jun. 9 Woodland Park, Alva 20 Sep.

S 1 singing Coneyhill, BoA 17 Feb. 14 King's Park, Stirling 2 Apr. Pr bred (br4) BoD, windfarm. 8 Airthrey 20 Nov.

DUNNOCK *Accentor modularis* (B, W)

Widespread and common. Under-recorded.

C 6 Woodland Park, Alva 9 Apr. 6 Gartmorn Dam 14 May.

S 8 King's Park, Stirling 2 Mar. Ad feeding 2 Y Dunblane 12 May.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* (B,W)

Under-recorded.

F 15 King's Park, Stirling 27 Apr.

C 11 Woodland Park, Alva 2 Mar. 14 Gartmorn 12 Sep.

S 1 singing Coneyhill, BoA from 22 Jan had a newly fledged bird on 16 Jun.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (B)

Arrival in Apr: 1 L Tay, Killin 22nd was 1 day earlier than in 2006 and 3 days later than in 2005. This was followed by 2 at L Venachar, Brig o'Turk and L Achray on 27th (JPH, AM).

S M L Ard (E end) 3 May. 1 nr Stronachlachar and 2 BoD, Doune Lodge 5 May. 1 Lake of Menteith 9 Jul (DT, DAC, DOE, JT).

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* (B)

Spring arrival in April has been remarkably consistent over the last five years. 1 Flanders Moss 27th was 2-4 days earlier than during 2003-2006. This was followed by a M in song G Dubh, L Ard Forest 28th and 3 AOT Flanders Moss 29th.

Autumn departure: M Pow Burn, W of Airth 8 Aug was 24 days earlier than in 2006.

C 1 West Loaningbank, Menstrie 20 May.

S 2 M BoD, Doune Lodge 8 May with 3 at Argaty 19 May and pr (br3) bred at the wind farm. Singles Cocksburn Res and Inverlochlarig 9 May.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* (b, w)

F Kinneil: 2 in Jan, 1 in Oct, 2 in Nov and Dec. Skinflats: 2 in Jan, 1 in Feb, 2 in Oct and Dec. 1 S Alloa 16 Jan. 2 Powfoulis Manor 25 Oct. M Powbridge, Airth 13 Nov. 2 Gilston, Falkirk 11 Dec. M Higgins Neuk 18 Dec.

C Blackdevon Wetlands: 2 in Jan, 3 in Feb, 2 in Mar, 1 in Oct, 3 in Nov and 2 in Dec. Tullibody: 2 in Feb, pr with 3 Y Jun, 2 in Sep. R Devon, Alva: 2 in Feb and Sep. 1 E Coalsnaughton 27 Apr. 2 SW of Alva 30 Apr and 11 May.

S 2 Polmaise lagoons in Jan, Mar, May, Aug, pr and 2 juvs in Sep, 2 in Oct, Nov and Dec. 4 Flanders Moss 31 Mar, pr 29 Apr, 12 prs 12 May, 3 in 2 Dec. F Harperstone 31 Mar, M 27 Apr, M and juv 1 Jun. During breeding season reported from Gargunnoch Hills (pr); Strathfillan; L Chon; Sheriffmuir where also 2 on 29 Nov; Garrison, Inversnaid (2); by Stronachlachar; Gleann Breac-nic (2); Inverlochlarig; L Arklet (2); BoD, Drumloist (pr); Carron Valley Res where also 2 in Nov; Tom Dubh, Callander; Cocksburn where 7 on 14 Nov. 6 Lerrocks, Argaty 27 Sep. Malling, 3 L of Menteith 28 Sep.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* (B)

Spring arrival: 1 Glen Finglas 25 Mar was 9 days earlier than in 2006 and 4 days later than in 2005. Then in Apr 6 Strathfillan, Tyndrum and 1 Skinflats 14th; 10 Strathavon Fm, Slamannan 25th and 12 on 1st May; BoD, Bows 27th April.

Autumn departure: 1 Auchinlay Rd, Dunblane 8 Sep; 2 Glenhead 22 Sep; 2 Skinflats 7 Oct and BoD, wind farm 9 Oct, which was 4 days earlier than in 2006 and 35 days later than in 2005.

- F 2 Glenhead 19 Aug. 1 Skinflats 22 Aug.
- C 1 West Loaningbank, Menstrie 20 May.
- S 1 Flanders Moss 1 May. 2 Harperstone 3 Aug.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* (B, W)

- F 25 Skinflats 27 Jan with 15 there 23 Feb.
- C 14 R Devon, Alva 7 Jan with 16 there 16 Dec. 12 Gartmorn 27 Jun.
- S 15 Airthrey 3 Jan and 11 Dec. M in sub-song Coneyhill, BoA 11 Jan. 28 King's Park, Stirling 21 Jan with 15 on 13 Feb, 27 on 2 Mar, 24 on 27 Apr, 32 on 16 May, 24 on 7 Jun, 12 on 13 Jul, 15 on 18 Oct and 21 on 20 Nov. 25 Blair Drummond 19 Dec. 12 Drip Moss 30 Dec.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* (W)

Spring departure in Mar: 50 Argaty and 13 Forth, Nether Carse 23rd, then 75 Fishcross 27th, which was 48 days earlier than in 2006 and 33 days earlier than in 2005.

Autumn arrival in October: 2 Argaty 7th was 20 days earlier than in 2006 and 13 days earlier than in 2005. This was followed by 130 by Flanders Moss, 500 Callander and ca 500 Strathavon Fm, Slamannan 18th; mixed thrush flock of 300 Auchenbowie 23rd; 140 Gilston, Falkirk 24th; 5 Forth, Nether Carse and 150 Skinflats 25th and 156 (7 flocks) >SW Ashfield 27th.

- F 350 Airth 20 Jan. 140 Powfoulis 21 Jan. 140 Gilston, Falkirk 24 Oct. 150 Skinflats 25 Oct with 60 there 11 Nov.
- C 280 Kennetpans 5 Jan. 60 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 7 Nov. 66 E of Clackmannan 9 Nov. 150 Blackdevon Wetlands 15 Dec.
- S 80 Wester Boreland, Thornhill 5 Jan. 270 Carron Br, Townfoot 16 Jan. 148 Lerrocks, Argaty 23 Jan with ca 200 there 13 Feb. 80 Plean Castle >SW and 140 Stonehill 2 Nov. 75 Lecropt 7 Dec was the largest flock from this site which traditionally held much larger flocks. 78 Forth, Nether Carse 31 Dec.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* (B, W)

Under-recorded.

More winter records (singles or twos) than in past. Jan: recorded from Kinneil, Cambus; Gartmorn; R Devon, Menstrie-Alva; Stirling, BoA and Dunblane. Feb: Cambus; R Devon, Menstrie-Alva; Blackdevon Wetlands: Tullibody; W of Alva; BoA. In Dec: Carse of Lecropt; The Meadows, Callander.

- C 5 Gartmorn 14 May.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* (W)

Spring departure: 6 Union Canal 6 Mar was followed by ca 170 L. Rusky 8 Mar, which was 3 days later than in 2006 and 5 days earlier than in 2005.

Autumn arrival in Sep: 28 Lerrocks, Argaty >SW and 2 Newton Crescent, Dunblane 27th were 14 days earlier than in 2006 and 11 days earlier than in 2005. Then ca 30 Strathavon Fm, Slamannan, 47 Ashfield and ca 50 L Rusky 28th; 15 Doune 29th. In Oct: 50+ Kippenross, Dunblane and 30 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 1st; 12 Skinflats 6th; 10 Dunblane 7th and 12 King's Park, Stirling 12th.

- F 60 Skinflats 25 Oct.
- S Ca 200 Carse of Lecropt 14 Jan with 60 there 26 Jan. 70 Lerrocks, Argaty 23 Jan with 62 there 13 Dec. 312 Drip Moss and 223 Blairdrummond 23 Jan with 120 in latter location 7 Feb.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* (B, W)

Under-recorded.

- F 25+ Dunmore Tower and 8 Skinflats 14 Oct.

- S 8 Ledcharrie, G Dochart 24 Jan. Singing Viewforth, Stirling 25 Jan. 12 Lone Shieling, L Rusky 28 Sep. 35 Wester Cambushinnie, Kinbuck 21 Sep. 15 Airthrey 22 Oct.
- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* (b)
 Spring arrival in Apr: 1 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 25th was 2 days earlier than in 2006 and 2 days later than in 2005. Then singles Skinflats; R Carron, Carronshore and Darnrig Moss 26th; L Tay, Killin and Flanders Moss 27th; 3 Westfield, Airth 30th.
- F 1 Skinflats 12, 13, 18 May and 21 Jul.
- S 2 Flanders Moss 1 May and 30 Jun. 1 L Arklet 5 May. 1 nr Haugh, W of Dollar 26 May.
- SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (B)
 Spring arrival: 1 Skinflats 25 Apr was 2 days earlier than in 2006 and 6 days earlier than in 2005. Then 4 on 0.5 mile of R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 30 Apr. 2 Kinneil and 1 Menstrie 4 May and 3 Drip Carse 5 May.
- Autumn departure: 2 Shieldhill, Falkirk 10 Aug were 4 days earlier than in 2006 and 27 days earlier than in 2005.
- F 3 Skinflats 11 and 12 May and 2 there 7 Jul.
- C In May: Gartmorn, Blackgrange (5), Tullibody Inch (11). Ad feeding 2 Y R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 8 Aug.
- S 3 Ashfield 3 Jun. Ad feeding 2 Y Polmaise lagoons 30 Jul.
- WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* (B)
 Spring arrival: 1 Skinflats 23 Apr was 3 days earlier than in 2006 and 7 days earlier than in 2005. Then 1 Old Railway, Menstrie 25th; 1 Cambus Village Pool 26th; 2 Dunmore, 1 E of Gartmorn and 1 R Carron, Carronshore 27th; 3 Blairdrummond Moss and 1 Dunblane 30th.
- Autumn departure: 2 Skinflats 2 Aug were 21 days earlier than in 2006 and 36 days earlier than in 2005.
- F 3 Skinflats 11 May. 3 Kinneil 4 May.
- C 3 Muckhart 26 May. 4 Blackgrange 30 Jun.
- S 1 Lanrick 8 May. 1 Kinbuck Br 31 May. 1 Ashfield 3 Jun.
- GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* (B)
 Spring arrival: 1 S of Forestmill 28 Apr was 6 days earlier than in 2006 and 4 days earlier than in 2005. Then 3 Blairdrummond Moss and Westfield, Dunmore Woods 30 Apr. 1 Drip Carse 5 May. 1 Muckhart 7 May. 2 Allan Water, Dunblane and 1 Argaty 8 May. 1 Dunblane 9 May.
- F 1 singing R Carron, Dunipace 18 May.
- C 9 Gartmorn 14 May. 1 Alva Glen 3 Jun. 1 Old Railway, Menstrie 11 Jun. 1 Blackgrange 30 Jun. Family party R Devon Alva-Menstrie 18 Jul.
- S 5 Lower G Lochay 12 May. 2 singing Blairdrummond 13 May. 1 Lanrick 3 Jun.
- BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* (B)
 Winter records: F Springwood Ave, Stirling 1 Jan and M there 13 Jan. M Dunblane 6 and 7 Jan. M and F Alexander Dr, BoA 28 Jan. 1 Doune 12 Feb. 1 Blackness 5 Oct. 1 BoA 30 Oct. F 19 to 28 Dec Springwood Av, Stirling and M there 20 Dec.
- Spring arrival in Apr: 1 BoA 25 Mar and 1 Airthrey 29 Apr could have been overwintering birds. In April: 1 E of Gartmorn 13th were 7 days later than in 2006 and 3 days later than in 2005. Then 4 Dunblane 14th; 1 Coneyhill BoA and Skinflats 21st; 3 Blairdrummond Moss 30th.
- F Singing Carron House, Carronshore 5 May and R Carron, Dunipace 18 May.
- C 2 Dollar Glen feeding Y 20 May. Pr with nest material Tullibody 26 Jun.
- S Males BoD, Argaty and Doune Lodge 8 May. 3 singing Plean CP 10 May.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (B)

Under-recorded.

Spring arrival: 3 L Venachar 27 Apr were 2 days earlier than in 2006 and 3 days earlier than in 2005. Then 1 Mine Wood, BoA 30 Apr. 2 Glen Road, Dunblane and 2 Pass of Leny 3 May. 4 Lower G Lochay 12 May. 1 L Tay, Killin 13 May.

C 1 singing Dollar Glen 20 May.

S 5 singing Brig o'Turk 27 May. 2 Cocksburn Res 6 Jun. 2 singing BoD, Bracklinn 24 Jun.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* (B)

Spring arrival: 1 Airthrey 15 Mar was 16 days earlier than in 2006 and 9 days earlier than in 2005. Then 1 R Devon, Alva Menstrie 20th ; 2 Larbert 26th; 5 Gartmorn, 1 L Watston and 1 BoD, Lundie 31st.

Autumn departure: 1 Skinflats 6 Oct was 2 days later than in 2006 and 10 days later than in 2005.

F Breeding season: old Falkirk tunnel, Union Canal; Dollar Park and Calendar Park, Falkirk.

C Breeding season: West Loaningbank and Bluebell Wood, Menstrie; Alva Glen.

S Breeding season: Allan Water, Dunblane; Plean CP (2); Bannockburn; Airthrey; Coneyhill, BoA; Cocksburn Res (2); Viewforth, King's Park (4) and Royal Infirmary, Stirling; Coneyhill, BoA; L Venachar (2).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* (B)

Spring arrival in Apr: 1 Cambus Village Pool 11th was 3 days earlier than in 2006 and 8 days later than in 2005. Then singles E of Gartmorn, Kippenross and Dunblane and Argaty 13th; 5 Skinflats 14th after which widespread.

Autumn departure: 3 Gartmorn 12 Sep and 1 Blackness 5 Oct, which was 18 days later than in 2006 and 1 day earlier than in 2005.

F 7⁺ Kinneil 7 Aug.

C 13 Gartmorn 16 Apr with 23 there 14 May and 25 on 7 Aug. 7 Muckhart 7 May. Pr and 3 Y R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 18 Jul.

S 5 King's Park, Stirling 19 Apr with 8 there 27 Apr. 5 Brig o'Turk 27 Apr. 8 Blackgrange 20 May. 11 Cocksburn Res 23 May. 6 Old Drymen Rd, L Ard Forest 26 May.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* (B, W)

Under-recorded. No notable records were received.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* (B)

Spring arrival in May: 1 Gartmorn 19th was 10 days later than in 2006 and 5 days later than in 2005. Then 1 Dollar G 20th; 2 Blairdrummond Moss 22nd.

Autumn departure: 1 Skinflats 24 Aug was 8 days later than in 2006.

C Pr visiting tree nest hole 31 May. 1 E of Gartmorn 5 Jun.

S During breeding season: singles Lanrick 3 Jun; Airthrey 7th; Baxter's Loan, Dunblane 10th; Arnprior and Lake of Menteith, 2 R Forth, Cardross Br and 3 Coillie Coire Chuile, Tyndrum all 17th. 1 S of Kippen 7 Jul; 1 G Lochay 10th. 1 Glenis Rd, Stirling 7 Jul. Pr and 2 juvs Lossburn 31 Jul.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* (b)

S 3 M Lower G Lochay 12 May (DT).

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

F 15 Skinflats 27 Jan and 12 Sep.

C 16 Blackgrange 20 May. 15 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 23 Oct.

S 15 Airthrey 11 Jan. 15 Plean CP 31 Jan. 3 juvs Blairlogie 8 Jun. 17 L Dochart 28 Oct.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* (B, W)

Widespread but under-recorded.

S Singing Coneyhill, BoA 4, 5 and 7 Jan. Ad feeding 2 juvs Dunblane garden 1 Jun.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* (B, W)

Under-recorded.

C Alva: 16 R Devon, 7 Jan and 16 Woodland Park 22 Jan. 15 Gartmorn 6 Feb. 15 Blackgrange 18 Feb.

S 1 singing Airthrey 15 Feb. 15 King's Park, Stirling 8 Apr. 16 Blairdrummond Moss 19 Dec.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* (B, W)

Under-recorded.

F 15 Skinflats 27 Jan.

C 16 Woodland Park, Alva 2 Mar.

S Singing Coneyhill, BoA 4 Jan; Callander and L Venachar 11 Feb.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* (B, W)

Under-recorded

F Breeding season: 1 Bonnybridge 9 May. Winter: 3 Polmaise Wood 8 Dec.

C Breeding season: Menstrie; E of Clackmannan; E of Gartmorn; Alva, Woodland Park and Balquharn.

S Breeding season: Airthrey (4); Aberfoyle; Brig o'Turk; Kelty Water; L Venachar; Old Drymen Rd, L Ard Forest.

*GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

C 1 Menstrie Glen 15 Dec (JRC).

S 1 Carron Valley Res 12 Mar (DAC).

Correction from 2006: due to an error during data compilation, the record of 2 birds at Skinflats 23 Sep (RS) should be annulled. The above two records therefore become the 20th and 21st records, respectively, for the recording area.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* (B, W)

F 1 Larbert 6 Jul. 1 Dunmore Woods 14 Oct. 2 Denny 14 Nov.

C 4 Tullibody East 20 Apr. 2 E of Clackmannan 28 Apr and 9 Nov. 1 Dollar Glen 20 May. 1 Tait Place, Tillicoultry 11 Jun. 1 dead on B9140 at Brandyhill Wood, Fishcross. 1 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 1 Oct. 2 calling Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill 7 Nov. 1 Gartmorn 26 Nov. 1 NE of Tillicoultry 10 Dec.

S Jan-Feb: 2 Pendreich, BoA. Singles Plean CP; Park of Keir, Dunblane; Argaty; Balquhidder, Strathyre; L Tay, Killin. Breeding season: 1 Tom Dubh, Callander 20 May and 24 Jun. 1 Old Drymen Rd, L Ard Forest 26 May. Aug: 1 Cocksburn. Sep: Carron Valley Res (also 2 Nov), Dunmore Moss (2⁺ also Nov), Airthrey (also Oct), L Rusky (also Oct), L Voil. Oct: N of BoA (also Nov); Cobleland, Aberfoyle. Nov: Flanders Moss; Darn Walk, Dunblane; Strathyre (2). Dec: 2 Plean CP; 2 Cocksburn; 2 Gillie's Hill, Stirling; Hill o'Row; 1 Gart GP.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 15 Fallin 6 Feb. 14 Union Canal 6 Mar. 11 Haircraigs 28 Mar.

C 11 Tullibody N 24 Jan.

S 15 Airthrey 12 Jan was a low count compared to past roost counts there. 10 Buchany, Milton of Cambus 28 Jan. 2 Tom Dubh, Callander 20 May with 1 there 24 Jun.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* (B, W)

Under-recorded.

S Roost flights over Coneyhill, BoA: 90 on 15 Jan, 162 on 29 Jan, 188 on 28 Feb.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* (B, W)

Systematic counts of known rookeries (e.g. BoA, Gartmorn, Forth and Clyde Canal, Lake of Menteith, etc.) needed.

F Active rookery at The Pineapple-Airth Apr-Jun (no count).

- S 300 Greenyards Fm, Dunblane 11 Nov. Large pre-roost gathering Plean 27 Nov. Major roost flight over Coneyhill, BoA (prob Rooks and Jackdaws) noted in Jan, 12 Feb, 28 Sep and 14 Oct.
- CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* (B, W)
- F 48 Skinflats 18 Feb with 26 there 23 Sep.
- S 37 King's Park, Stirling 13 Feb.
- HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* (b, w)
- F 1 Union Canal 14 Jul.
- C 1 R Devon, Alva 21 Jul.
- S 2 G Dochart 24 Jan (also 5 hybrids there) with 11 there 28 Oct. 7 Strathfillan, Tyndrum 14 Apr with 2 Tyndrum 17 Apr. 1 Balquhidder 9 May. 2 G Lochay 6 Jun with 4 there 10 Jul. 1 Clash Fm, Callander 18 Jun. 1 L Voil 28 Oct.
- RAVEN *Corvus corax* (B, W)
- There were again a number of reports from south/southwest of the core Callander-Doune-Dunblane area.
- F 2 > N Carron 22 Sep. 1 > NW Skinflats 23 Nov.
- C 3 Dollar Glen 1 May with 2 repeatedly in quarry there 20 May. 1 over Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill 28 Mar and 7 May. 1 Tillicoultry Glen 12 May. 8 NE of Tillicoultry 10 Dec.
- S From core area: 1 Chip Dhuibh, Menteith Hills 1 Feb. 1 Stuc a Chroin 6 Feb. 50 roosted BoD, Doune Lodge 6 Apr and 80 there 30 Dec. Pr fledged 3 Y BoD, Drumloist 9 Apr and b5 at Argaty. 2 Tom Dubh, Callander 20 May and 1 there 24 Jun. 16 BoD 3 Oct. 2 Ben A'an, Trossachs 3 Nov. 1 Cambusmore 23 Nov. 2 L Mahaick 20 Dec. Outside of core area: 3 Carron Valley Res 23 Jan with singles there over res, at Cringate and at Gartcarron 24 Mar, 1 at res 25 Mar and 2 there 10 Nov. 1 Flanders Moss 31 Jan and 2 there 2 Sep. 1 Dumyat 5 Feb. 1 Blairdrummond Moss 30 Apr. 1 Cocksburn 22 Aug. 2 Thornhill 29 Dec.
- STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* (B, W)
- Greatly under-reported.
- F 2500 Orchardhead, Skinflats 10 Nov.
- C 100 Coalsnaughton 15 Jun.
- S 2200 Haugh Cottage, Forth in pre-roost flight over mouth of Bannock Burn 5 Nov.
- HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* (B, W)
- Under-recorded.
- F Breeding season: Union Canal (22), Denny and Drumbowie. Non-breeding: 45 Stonehouse Fm, Skinflats 15 Sep.
- C Breeding season: 2 at Alva Glen 15 Apr.
- S Breeding season: Stirling Br, Riverside and Causewayhead, Stirling (14); Dunblane where ad fed 2 Y; Aberfoyle; L Ard Forest, Old Drymen Road. Non-breeding: 52 Kinbuck 4 Aug. 14 Blairdrummond Carse 19 Dec.
- TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* (B, W)
- Species again more widespread than in preceding years.
- F 1-4 Skinflats 1 Feb and 1 Apr (by cottages), 25 May (Howkerse), with 11 on 6 Oct, 5 on 25 Oct (Orchardhead), 12 on 13 Nov (Brackenlees Fm), 9 on 20 Nov and 18 on 22 Nov. Outside breeding season also 1-2: Fallin, Blackness and Powfoulis Manor. 2-8 throughout year Kendieshill Fm, Maddiston.
- C Breeding season: R Devon, Alva; NE of Gartmorn; E of Clackmannan. Outside breeding season 1-3 birds: Jan to Mar: Westhaugh, Alva; Gartmorn and Kennetpans. Nov to Dec: E of Clackmannan (5) and Cambus.
- S 16 Plean garden 21 Jan. 10 Thornhill Carse feeding station 8 Mar. 4 Carbrook Mains, Plean 7 May and 6 there 27 Jun. 10 (including pr with 6 Y) BoA 20 Jun. 8

- Lecropt 18 Sep with 20 there at Netherton 9 Oct and 4 on 11 Dec. Ca 10 nr Hillhead SE of Cowie 19 Sep. 6 Forth, Nether Carse 26 Nov.
- Addition from 2006: 60⁺ Carse of Lecropt 20 Jul.
- CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* (B, W)
- S Singing Coneyhill, BoA 7 Feb. 260 Lerrocks, Argaty 23 Feb and 300 there 13 Dec. 122 Blairdrummond Moss 19 Dec.
- BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* (W)
- F 34 Wester Jawcraig, Slamannan 7 Jan (RS). 2 Strathavon Fm, Slamannan 23 Oct (TF).
- S 1 L Venachar 16 Jan (BRG). 1 Kinbuck 27 Oct (MVB).
- Addition from 2006: 10⁺ Muckhart 25 Nov.
- GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* (B, W)
- Under-recorded.
- S 20 Lerrocks, Argaty 23 Jan. 22 King's Park, Stirling 14 Feb. Pr feeding 3 juvs Dunblane garden 29 Jun. 80 Kinbuck 15 Dec. 42 Blairdrummond Carse 19 Dec.
- GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* (B, W)
- No significant flocks reported from the Doune-Dunblane area.
- F 18 Skinflats 25 Aug with 35 there 12 Sep and 75 on 15 Sep. 26 Kinneil 5 Sep, 40 there 4 Sep. 40 Airth 24 Dec.
- C 40 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie 18 Jul included juvs.
- S Flocks of 9 and 11 Springwood Ave, Stirling daily in Jan. 10 L Ruskie 26 Jan. Ad fed 3 juvs Dunblane garden 12 Jun. 50 Doune 15 Sep.
- SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* (B, W)
- F Mixed flock of 40-50 Siskins and Lesser Redpolls Darnrigg Moss, Slamannan 2 Nov.
- C M fed juv Dollar Glen 20 May.
- S 35 Lerrocks, Argaty 23 Jan, 37 there 13 Dec. 30 L Ruskie 26 Jan. Ca 35 Chip Dhuibh, Menteith Hills 1 Feb. Dunblane: 55 Newton Crescent 11 Feb, 88 on 25 Feb; 75 in a garden 25 Feb and 32 there 11 Mar. Flock Stirling garden Jan-Mar peaked at 23 on 22 Feb. 25 L of Menteith 25 Feb. 23 King's Park, Stirling 18 Sep. 36 Airthrey 1 Nov. 42 Craighenall, Hill o'Row 24 Nov. 32 Cocksburn 2 Dec. 91 Wetherlaw Wood, Stirling 15 Dec.
- LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* (B, W)
- Only small flock were in the Doune and Dunblane areas. No reports from the Carse of Lecropt.
- F 260 Skinflats 21 Jan with 115 in fields there and 250 on saltmarsh 25 Oct. 170 S Alloa 22 Mar.
- C 250 R Devon, Alva-Menstrie with 80 there 23 Oct; 50 S of Menstrie 1 Feb. 20 on newly excavated pool at Blackdevon Wetlands 10 Apr. 200 Glenochil prison 27 Jun was large flock at unusual time. 35 Gartmorn 26 Nov.
- S 70 Kippenrait, Dunblane 11 Feb. 7 BoD 7 Apr with 5 at Waterside there 26 Jun and M and 3 juvs 5 Jul.
- TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* (b, W)
- F 10 Kinneil 2 Jan with 3 there 25 Jan. 25 on saltmarsh at Powfoulis Manor 21 Jan with 14 there 25 Oct. 3 S Alloa 22 Mar. 80 on saltmarsh at Skinflats 25 Oct. 250 Airth 23 Dec.
- C 2 Cambus 19 Mar. 120 Blackdevon Wetland 25 Nov.
- S 1 L Venachar 18 Jan. 2 Benmore G 4 Apr. 2 BoD, Lodge 6 Apr. 3 G Finglas 27 May. Pr and b3 BoD, Uamh Beg 5 Jul and 1 heard there 23 Oct. 15 BoD, Argaty 17 Sep. 4 Lerrocks, Argaty and 42 Kippenrait, Dunblane 13 Dec.
- LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* (b, W)
- S 15 Dunblane garden 7 Jan. 4 Cromlix 8 Apr. 10 BoD, Drumloist 22 Apr with 6 at

Argaty 28 Apr. 18 Newton Crescent, Dunblane 21 Sep. 15 Craigenhall, Hill o'Row 24 Nov.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* (b, W)

C Pr Hillfoot Hill, Dollar 11 Feb (DT).

S 5 LVenachar 16 Jan. 3 L Ruskie 23 Jan (BRG, RAB). 1 singing Lerrocks, Argaty 22 Mar with 8 there 21 Apr; 8 on 22 Sep and 1 on 13 Dec. 7 N slopes Ben More 4 Apr. 8 BoD, Drumloist 9 Apr with 6 there 23 Jun. 4 Carron Valley Res 25 Mar with M there 26 Apr, 5 on 13 Jun and M and F 20 Nov (GO, MVB, JT, DOE, DAC, DMB). Pr Stronachlachar 5 May. 3 L Ard 2 May. Pr Gart GP 15 May. 8 Old Drymen Rd, L Ard Forest 26 May (DAC, DOE, DT, LMB). 3 over Cardross Br, R Forth 17 Jun. 2 Coillie Coire Chuilc, Tyndrum 19 Jun. 2 -> BoA 27 Jun (JT, DMB). 1 Hermitage Wood, Airthrey 17 Nov. 5 Hutchinson Pond, Cromlix 18 Nov. 10 Doune 2 Dec. 20 Wetherlaw Wood, Stirling 15 Dec. 14 Cairnoch Hill Wood and 15 Touchadam Muir 16 Dec. 18 BoD, Lodge 30 Dec (CJP, DOE).

Addition from 2006: pr (M singing) Gart GP 18 Mar with 6 there 25 Jul. 9 Nether Moss, S of Muckhart 25 Nov (DT)

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (B, W)

F 8 Dunmore 11 Feb. 16 Darnrigg Moss, Slamannan 24 Jan and 7 there 2 Nov. 1 Dorrator Br, R Carron 30 May.

C M and 3 Y NE Tullibody 27 Jun. 5 Gartmorn 18 Dec.

S 22 King's Park, Stirling 23 Jan. 6 Airthrey 23 Jan, 2 Apr and 13 Dec. 6 Springwood Ave, Stirling 31 Jan. 9 Lerrocks, Argaty 23 Feb. M and 2 newly fledged juvs Coneyhill, BoA 23 Jun. 6 Argaty 1 Dec. 19 Touchadam 16 Dec. 17 BoD, Doune Lodge 30 Dec.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (W)

C 3 King's Seat, Ochils 18 Nov. 45 Menstrie Glen 16 Dec (KB, JRC).

S 1 Ben More summit 1 Apr. 2 BoD, Uamh Mhor 23 Nov with 8 there 29 Nov. (JT, KD). 28 Cringate Muir 16 Dec (CJP).

Addition from 2005: 100 BoD, Uamh Mhor 7 Dec and 50 there 27 Dec (KD).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* (B, W)

F Skinflats: 20 on 26 Jan, 26 on 18 Feb, 3 on 22 Apr and 24 on 29 Dec.

C 25 Gartmorn 28 Jan. 85 Rhind, Tullibody Inch 4 Feb. Breeding season: Menstrie and R Devon, Alva.

S 48 Lerrocks, Argaty 23 Jan. Ca 30 Blairdrummond Carse 1 Feb with 53 there 19 Dec. During breeding season: Callander; R Forth, Cardross Br and Carse of Lecropt. 40⁺ Carse of Lecropt 20 Nov.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* (B, W)

F Skinflats: 50 on 20 Jan, 2 flocks of 28 each on pools and saltmarsh 18 Feb, 15 on 23 Feb and 3 at pond 3 May. Kinneil: 11 on 25 Jan, 6 on 2 Feb and 12 on 19 Oct. M in Grangemouth garden 17 Apr. 1 Haircraigs 22 May.

C 29 Westhaugh, Alva 19 Jan. 5 Blackgrange 21 Jan. 5 R Devon, Alva 4 Mar. During breeding season: newly excavated pool, Blackdevon Wetlands 4 and 9 May; Tullibody Inch (6); Woodland Park, Alva; R Forth, Cambus to Inches (10) and Gartmorn (4). 7⁺ at roost Castlebridge Business Park, Forestmill 7 Nov.

S 28 Rossburn Lane, Drip Moss 23 Jan. Breeding season: Airthrey; R Forth, Cardross Br; Flanders Moss (4M) and L Tay, Killin. 8 Cocksburn Res 24 Oct. 8 Sheriffmuir 29 Nov.

ESCAPED SPECIES

SWAN (CHINESE) GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

This is the first time this species has been reported from our recording area.

- S 3 Airthrey 17 Nov (CJP). This is likely to include the same bird present there since at least 2003.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*

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

- C 1 of the grey or cinnamon colour mutation Cambus Pool 13 May had damage to tail (AET).

'COME NORTH': GLASSERT GAME BOOKS AND DIARIES

Alastair Durie and Karl Magee

Through the kindness of the Joynson family, the archives department of the University of Stirling has acquired some very interesting material from the Glassert estate at Aberfoyle. This is the first instalment, or so it is hoped, of what will be a much larger deposit of estate and family papers, and it certainly whets the appetite for what may follow. There is one personal diary for the year 1885, which rather stands in isolation, and five game books; two from the later nineteenth century (1874-1878, and 1885-1886,) and three from the second quarter of the twentieth century; 1925-1935, 1935-1939, and 1940-1942.

The diary for 1885, the author of whom is not given, but is clearly one of the senior members (perhaps on internal evidence Mary Hampson, whose husband then had the lease of the Glassert) sheds light on the everyday life of a well to do English family. Her life appears to have been a round of visiting and being visited, of letters sent and received (e.g. from Biarritz), of sermons heard and talks attended by themselves or friends. An entry for Saturday 21 March 1885 notes that one of the Joynsons (D[orothy?]) had called to report what a "*delightful meeting that they had hearing Miss Booth speak*"; perhaps the wife or daughter of the Salvation Army's General Booth? This family was part of what had become an established pattern of migration for quite a number of well-to-do English families, of going north to Scotland for the summer and the shooting. It had started fifty years or so earlier with parties of young men roughing it on the moors, but by this period, thanks to better transport and accommodation, the whole household – ladies, servants, children – was decamping north. And they were going earlier in the year: in the late spring or early summer, not just for the glorious twelfth, returning only in the autumn. This particular family departed their English home in mid May and set out for Scotland, as the diarist concisely records (Wed., 13 May 1885)

Left for Scotland. Altringham Station at 1 o'clock . Met Jane Forshar at Victoria Station Manchester. Left at 2.30 Arrived in Edinburgh at 8.40 – drove to the Royal, had an excellent dinner and a good night. [Thursday] Did a little shopping – called on Mr Patterson – went to the Academy and left for Aberfoyle in afternoon. Arrived at the Glassert about 7 o'clock.'

It was a steady, unflustered, predictable railway journey: very different from fifty years earlier when the first outriders had forayed north by boat and coach. The family's link to the area had started in 1833, or so Peter Joynson has suggested in his compilation *Local Past*, when Edward Joynson and a friend toured the Trossachs, prompted by Scott's *Rob Roy*. Enchanted with Loch Ard, they resolved to return and did so some sixteen years later when in 1849 they leased shootings in the area from the Duke of Montrose. The bachelor gathering of young sportsmen using bothies, forming and reforming syndicates, was later to lead to colonisation by their extended family, building

or renovating substantial properties for their summers. The Hampsons took Couligartan in 1852 and later Glassert (1865): the Jones Duchray Castle, and William Joynson (then 70) leasing Alstkeith house and the shootings at Ledard from Whitsun 1871. The 1874 gamebook starts with a summary of game killed, – “our fifth year”.

The game books are not just bare records of what was shot, where and when, and by whom, but are thickened by comment, as to how the dogs worked, what the weather was like, who shot well, and which drives worked. Some of this is humdrum; – e.g. August 12 1876 “a very hot day. Walter Barratt with Peter and two brown dogs shot the moor east of Tinkler but did not find birds plentiful”. But there are also notes of occurrences, a woodcock carrying her young, a grouse chased by a hawk into some railings. The later volumes contain letters to *The Field* on shooting matters, including long runs of bags, photographs and drawings. There are biographies of the keepers, perhaps prepared for retirement presentations, such as Peter McAlpine who retired in 1945 after thirty-three years’ service. There are glimpses of family history: there is a note in the game book for 1942 that Captain Joynson, a major in the Black Watch home battalion, had died of wounds sustained accidentally in a Home Guard exercise on August 3, 1942. To a considerable extent, Peter Joynson has already quarried the game books in his *Local Past*, which was published in 1996 and is an eclectic and valuable volume of life in and around Aberfoyle. This draws on these game books and other family material for recollections and observation, as well as splicing in information from, for example, the Statistical Accounts. In his introduction, Mr Joynson acknowledged that much of the information had been extracted from his father’s “comprehensive game books and other writings”.

What is the value of this accession?

First it gives an insight into the sporting – golf as well grouse features large – and general interests of a landed family. Religion brooks large; committed Anglicans in England, they were as keen episcopalians in Scotland, and were active supporters of the church at Aberfoyle. They took a deep interest in the natural history of the area. Peter Joynson’s father and uncle – Ralph – were keen and knowledgeable observers of the land, and in the game books took time to analyse the records of bags. He wanted to know why numbers of game and other species varied. A letter of his to the *Field*, ‘*Blackcock and Pheasants*’, using his own estate records, was published in September 1924. His hypothesis was that the increase in pheasants was directly linked to the decrease in blackgame; his surmise was that the male blackcock was outfought by the cock pheasant with its spurs. Dogs were a particular passion of his and his brother Ralph. The first spaniels had been introduced on the estate two generations previously in 1872, and retrievers in 1876, whereas before only pointers or setters had been used for walking up. An entry for July 7 1934 records the death by sunstroke of Belt, aged about 8, “the last of our setters and pointers”. The spaniels that the Joynsons bred, trained and worked, became renowned, and had considerable success in field trial championships. In February 1937, or so

the game book records, one dog was sold for the very considerable sum of £120 to an American, Martin Hogan of Illinois. Sent out by the Queen Mary, it went on to be a field trials champion in the USA.

There is much, as might be expected on the management of the moors, on the techniques tried to preserve the grouse stock and then to harvest them once the season started. 6-8 brace of Yorkshire birds were put down at Dunruig in 1895, as part of an experiment to improve the local stock. Originally, as with all Highland moors, all the days involved walking up with dogs. Driving, by which the birds were brought by beaters to the guns in butts, was only introduced in early 1890s, (cf 'Notes on Game', "*Driving really started in 1896 though the first drive attempted actually took place in 1890*"). This technique allowed the less fit and the more elderly good sport, and the siting of the butts took considerable planning. Indeed there was clearly adjustment and innovation as heather cover altered, with new drives tried. In August 1934, the game book records that Tinkler and West Gashoile were driven to experimental positions near the Gangers' Pass, "to great success". There were difficulties with the loss of ground to forestry, and problems with bracken. The last game book is of value in shedding light on what happened during the second world war when the general assumption is that game shooting came to an end.

Environmental historians will be interested in the quantitative evidence as to the recorded bags of game, good years and bad, peacetime and war, and indeed fortunes of the fishings in the area for which long runs – over decades – are recorded. Joynson had privileged access to material – estate records and other material – of real value, some of which has since disappeared. At the end of the Game book for 1934 he quotes from an old source – a hotel register- for 1862 to 1868 which lists boats, rods and catches on Loch Ard. He also mentions an Aberfoyle fishing club and refers to a fishing hut built on the island by the Stirling Fishing club in 1839. There are extensive and lengthy records for the fishings on other waters – Loch Katrine and the Lake of Mentieth. And, of course there are local incidents that add colour to our knowledge of the area. In 1922 poachers dynamited the Blacklinn on the Duchray water, taking eight fish. Game keepers, and water bailiffs had their work cut out.

There are wider questions which these sources alone cannot answer. We can sense what the Joynsons and others like them enjoyed in their Scottish summers. What we would wish to explore is what the economics of their estates were; how far English money underwrote the Highland experience, first as tenants and then as proprietors. Their love of field sports cost them money, but how much? Little, after all, was to be recouped from the sale of game; indeed the 1874 game book starts with a list of those to whom grouse were given; the minister and the schoolmaster each one brace, the church precentor 2 hares, and the post boy two rabbits. For what light we have, we are grateful; to what there may be, we look forward.

