

Fife Bird Report 2008



*Produced by
Fife Bird Club*

European Green Woodpecker

© John Anderson



Stock Dove

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Fife Bird Report 2008

Including the Fife Ringing Report for 2008

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FRONT COVER: Corn Bunting © John Anderson

BACK COVER: Common Crossbill © John Anderson

Introduction

Welcome to the 2008 *Fife Bird Report*. After the disappointing county total of the previous year, 2008 bounced back with the highest total since 2002 and second equal highest county total ever. This included 225 species, three distinct subspecies and eight species of escape/unknown origin found. The year brought three new birds to the county, which unusually were all Nearctic species and included two totally unpredicted additions. White-crowned Sparrow, the first Nearctic passerine on the Fife list, arrived in May, followed by an expected, but equally welcome, Lesser Yellowlegs in September and completed with a Hooded Merganser in October.

If the 'firsts' were the icing, the cake was equally good, made with a supporting cast of multiple sightings of Pectoral Sandpiper, European Honey-buzzard, Corn Crake, Little Egret and Common Crane. A small fall of scarce migrants in the spring brought hope for the future after seven years without this event. The autumn passerine migration however was one of the poorest in recent years.

Scientific advances including DNA studies are continually improving the understanding of species and family relationships. These are providing a more accurate and measurable view compared to the traditional Voous order, which was based on morphological and behavioural comparisons. Following on from the latest BOU findings, this report contains a major revision in the order of the species list, particularly the passerines. This report follows the official list of British birds and although radically different to Voous, it will become the norm, although further changes will affect other sections of the list in future. The last county checklist was produced in 1999 and there have been a few additions to the county list since then. The fourth edition of the checklist is included in this report bringing it up to date including new birds seen in 2009.

A smaller team produced the report this year, comprising Willie McBay, Mark Oksien, Ali Scott, Mike Walton and myself. I would like to thank the members of the team and also again thank Fiona Butler and Tom Moodie, who had to drop out due to work commitments, for their help with previous reports. As usual thanks go to regular contributors such as Jim Cobb and Mark Oksien for the ringing report and Norman Elkins for the climate summary. Stuart Rivers updated the county checklist and also provided drawings, as did Phil Jones and Jane Khin Zaw. Rob Armstrong, Paul Blackburn, Dougie Dickson, John Harwood, Chris Smout and Ken Shaw are also thanked for their respective articles. A large numbers of photographs are now available making it hard to choose what to leave out and thanks go to John Anderson, Jacqui Herrington, Willie Irvine, Rob Hynson, Iain MacDonald, Willie McBay, Tom Moodie, Ron Morris and John Nadin for their excellent shots.

After seven years I have decided to retire as county recorder and editor of the bird report. I would like to thank all the birders and others who have supported me in these roles. I know whoever takes over will maintain or improve on the high standards of this and previous bird reports that were set by my predecessors especially Dougie Dickson and Dave Fotheringham.

Rab Shand

Notes for contributors

All records of birds in Fife for the forthcoming 2009 report should be sent to the Fife Bird Recorder: **Rab Shand, 33 Liddle Drive, Bo'ness, West Lothian EH51 0PA. e-mail: rabshand@blueyonder.co.uk** Correspondence relating to this report and articles, drawings and photographs for future editions should also be sent to the Local Recorder, and your submitted records should be in the same order as in this report. Drawings are especially welcome and these should be of a good size, on quality paper and in black ink or scraperboard. Photographs are welcome for use either as a front cover or within the body of the report. All photographers are urged to submit their work in Fife, along with captions stating where and when taken. The editor would reserve the right to edit articles if necessary.

Records

All records, including those of rare breeding birds, will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be sent to the Local Recorder, preferably throughout the year, ie January – June and July – December. In any case, they must be submitted by 31st January of the following year for inclusion in the Report. It would be helpful if observers gave accurate locations, flight directions and timed counts (ie for seabirds) when submitting their notes. Records should be in the same order as in this report, which follows the standard taxonomic sequence of species adopted by the British Ornithologists Union. Brief field notes on unusual behaviour, or incidents observed in the field, can also be included to be considered for publication.

Rare or scarce birds

Records of rare or unusual birds, which require consideration by the various rarities panels, should be submitted to the Local Recorder within one month of the observer(s) initial sighting. Failure to comply with this request causes the recording system to slow down and ultimately the record appears late, or not at all. Records should preferably be submitted by e-mail. Forms for each of the three panels are available from the Local Recorder (SAE required), or by e-mail. The British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) was formed in 1959 and produces a report on rare birds in Great Britain in the journal *British Birds*. The Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) was formed in 1984 and consists of seven members. SBRC passes its findings to the Local Recorder and accepted records appear in the *Scottish Bird Report*. The Fife Local Records Committee (FLRC) was formed in September 1995 and adjudicates on birds that are scarce or unusual in Fife, other than those on the BBRC and SBRC lists. All decisions are published in this annual report. Fife Bird Club members receive a copy of this report as part of their annual subscription (currently £16). Otherwise, the report is available from the Membership Secretary, Fife Bird Club. (Currently Willie McBay, 41 Shamrock Street, Dunfermline, Fife. KY12 0JQ. Tel. 01383 723464. E-mail: wmcbay@aol.com).

Abbreviations used in text

AON/AOS/AOT Apparently Occupied Nest/Site/Territory

N,S,E,W Direction of flight (eg 4N signifies four birds flying north)

* All records supplied are shown, **nc** not counted

pr/br pair/brood, **y/e/juvs** young/eggs/juveniles, **m/f** male/female, **imm** immature

WeBS Wetland Bird Survey, **FIBR** Forth Islands Bird Report, **BBS** Breeding Bird Survey

Monthly Review of the year

January

The year began with the long-staying blue phase Snow Goose still at Balbuthie occasionally wandering to Kilconquhar Loch and St Monans. More unexpectedly, a Pied Avocet showed on the Eden Estuary on 4th and Pomarine Skuas appeared at Fife Ness on 2nd and Kinshaldy on 6th. The elusive Eurasian Nuthatch from 2007 put in an appearance in gardens in Cupar on 1st at least. The drake Surf Scoter also remained from 2007 in Largo Bay. Four or five Mediterranean Gulls (no longer a county rarity) were seen during the month mainly in the Inverkeithing/Rosyth area but also at Pathhead and Dysart.

February

Would have been a fairly quiet month without the appearance of a Common Crane at Balbuthie on 17th. The Snow Goose showed again all month at its regular haunts but also visiting Falside. The Surf Scoter also was to be found all month in Largo Bay. In a poor year for this species, a drake Smew was found at Lindores Loch on 20th. A Little Auk was found dead on 23rd between Crail and Fife Ness. A Ruff at Easter Kilwhiss on 3rd was to be the only one in the county until August. Five Mediterranean Gulls (some different birds from January) were to be found at Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay, Dysart, Pathhead and Kilconquhar Loch.

March

Wildfowl and gulls dominated this month that also saw the first arrivals of summer migrants. Geese featured highly with the Snow Goose remaining until 8th but equally rare was a European White-fronted Goose at Rossie Bog on 1st. A Greenland White-fronted Goose was also seen, at Powmill on 9th. The drake Surf Scoter remained in residence in Largo Bay all month with a pair on 11th. A drake Green-winged Teal was found at Rossie Bog on 16th with presumably the same bird at Wilderness on 22nd. A first-winter drake King Eider was a good find off Ruddons Point on 27th. After a few lean years Iceland and Glaucous Gulls put in the first of multiple appearances. The former was seen at Fife Ness on 11th, Parkhill on 24th and at Anstruther on 28th with the latter at Pittenweem on 6th. Mediterranean Gulls also showed at Inverkeithing and Leven. A Black Guillemot was also seen at the latter site on 25th. Little Ringed Plovers appeared at the breeding sites from 20th. A Little Egret was seen at Ballenbreich on 23rd, found on an FBC outing, and the year's first Osprey passed over East Lomond on 30th.

April

This month saw the last signs of winter species with a Greenland White-fronted Goose at Ladybank on 7th. White gulls put in a strong passage with an Iceland Gull at Kilconquhar Loch on 4th and three different Glaucous Gulls at Dalgety Bay on 13th, Inverkeithing on 21st and at Goosepools on 29th. Bigger white birds came in the shape of a Little Egret at Kilconquhar Loch on 9th and a White Stork, which had a tour and overnight stay in Kirkcaldy on 24th. At Largo Bay, drake Surf Scoter could still be seen all month with two males there on 3rd. The first Garganey

showed at Scooniehill on 26th and the first Western Marsh Harrier passed through Leuchars Airfield on 6th.

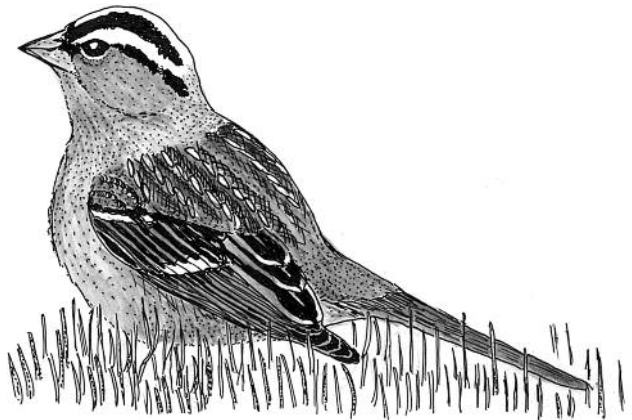
Scarce passerine migrants put in appearances with Black Redstarts at Anstruther on 16th and Fife Ness on 22nd. Scarcer still was the years sole sightings of Ring Ouzel at Denburn Wood on 9th and an elusive Firecrest, which put in a five day stay at Fife Ness Muir from 15th.

May

A candidate for Fife's least expected bird was the highlight (for the finders) of the month – a White-crowned Sparrow near St Michaels on 17th. This North American passerine was to be the first in a year of three new Nearctic birds in Fife.

A drake Surf Scoter stayed at Largo Bay until 11th although a female was seen again on 5th and 11th. Garganey showed at Morton Lochs on 13th and 25th with another at Loch Gelly on 16th. Another Little Egret appeared, this time at Guardbridge on 7th. Little Tern showed at the mouth of the Eden Estuary on 1st and an inland Black Tern at Thornton pool was a great find on 28th. A Common Quail appeared at Kinraig Point on 25th and at least two sang at West Quarry Braes on 30th.

Spring passerine falls have become scarce in recent years so single Yellow Wagtail and Bluethroat at Fife Ness on 5th were most welcome. Later in the month Red-backed Shrikes were admired with a female at Kilrenny on 23rd and a male and female at Wormiston on 29th. An unusual record was of a Black Redstart inland in gardens at Balmullo on 3rd.



White-crowned Sparrow

by Stuart L. Rivers

June

Spring passage was over all too quickly but June produced the occasional quality find. A Red Kite was near Carnock on 1st – still an extremely difficult species to get to grips with in Fife. More expected, although with numbers on the slide it may not be the case in future, was the first sightings of Roseate Terns from 4th. The Red-necked Grebe returned for its now annual summer holiday at Kilconquhar Loch from 8th and another Common Quail was heard, this time at Shiells on 29th.

July

Another quiet month but a drake Ring-necked Duck commenced a month long stay at Loch Gelly from 20th. A Common Quail called at Nochnary on 21st. Scarce seabirds started to move and the ringers began their annual storm petrel trapping sessions from 3rd. By the end of the month 63 European Storm Petrels had been caught along with a surprise Leach's Storm Petrel on 27th.

August

The Ring-necked Duck stayed in residence at Loch Gelly until 17th and three juvenile Garganey were found at Rossie Bog on 30th. A Eurasian Hobby flashed through Kilrenny on 7th. European Storm Petrels continued to hit the nets at Fife Ness with the year's maximum of 42 caught and ringed on 4th. Other scarce seabirds seen this month included single Long-tailed Skuas at Goosepools on 10th and unusually at Edenside on 31st. A Black Guillemot was off Ruddons Point on 24th and Mediterranean Gulls appeared at Leven and Anstruther.

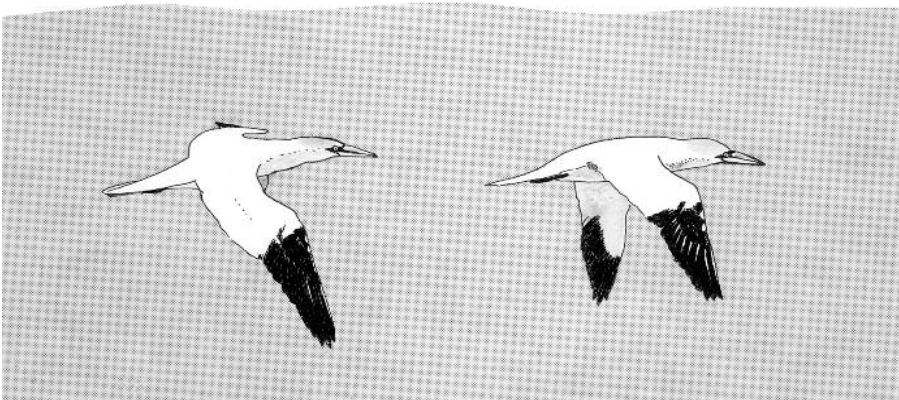
September

A tremendous month with some star quality birds. The second Nearctic county newbie of the year was a Lesser Yellowlegs at Guardbridge which put in an extended stay from 3rd allowing everyone a chance to get it on their Fife list.

The other 'main event' was an eight-day passage of European Honey-buzzard, which saw the county total almost doubled. Seven birds were found from 13th with singles at Fife Ness, Guardbridge, Denburn Wood with another four individuals at Kinghorn.

Another 'Yank' wader, a Pectoral Sandpiper put in a three day stay at Letham from 13th again allowing many to connect with this county rarity. Less showy was at least two Corn Crakes flushed from fields at Pitbladdo on 12th and 23rd. How many go through the county evading detection?

Seabirds maintained the quality birding with a Sabine's Gull past Fife Ness on 20th and a Long-tailed Skua at Kinghorn on 7th. Leven saw two different Mediterranean Gulls.



Northern Gannets by Stuart L. Rivers

Occasional small falls added passerine interest with Barred Warblers at Fife Ness Muir on 8th and 14th. A Eurasian Wryneck was also at the 'Ness on 14th with a Red-backed Shrike nearby at Wormiston on 17th. Pittenweem is not known as a migrant passerine hotspot so a Yellow-browed Warbler in the park there on 27th was an excellent find. Two Eurasian Hobby were seen during the early fall, a juvenile at Wormiston on 7th and an adult along the shore to the east of Wormiston on 8th.

October

As unexpected as May's White-crowned Sparrow, a female Hooded Merganser clocked in on 26th as the year's third Nearctic county 'first'. It was to put in an extended stay and was heavily watched after the escape spectre was put to bed.

The month had got off to a flyer with another two Pectoral Sandpipers, one again at Letham from 3rd with the other at Rossie Bog from 5th. These sightings increased that species county total to a more respectable number. Three calling Common Cranes migrating south over Goosepools on 14th provided a magnificent sight and sound.

Small numbers of Little Auk passed Fife Ness on 24th and Anstruther on 30th. The latter site also held Mediterranean Gull as did Dalgety Bay and Leven.

Letham is best known as a wader site but a Yellow Wagtail was added to its list on 5th. For the second year running Bearded Tits were seen on Mugdrum Island with a flock of eighteen on 22nd but proved elusive subsequently. In what was to be a good late winter for the species, 27 Bohemian Waxwings at East Baldrige on 31st heralded their invasion.

November

The Hooded Merganser remained at Tayport Pond until 13th although at times was elusive. Birders came from far and wide with the bird prompting much discussion but never disgracing itself by taking the offer of bread.

The month also saw other scarce wildfowl with a Red-crested Pochard at Lochore Meadows from 1st with a Smew there on 12th. A Greenland White-fronted Goose was at Gaddon Loch on 9th and the returning Surf Scoter was in Largo Bay from 11th.

A late (and only one of the year) Little Stint showed well at Letham for nine days from 2nd and the Little Auk passed Kinraig Point on 29th.

A small fall on 8th held both Pallas's Leaf and Yellow-browed Warblers at Kilminning. Bohemian Waxwings were widespread with the largest flock containing 130 birds.

December

A familiar pattern was set with the drake Surf Scoter in residence in Largo Bay all month. A second-winter drake King Eider in the Kinraig Point/Earlsferry area from 25th attracted visiting birders. A Black-necked Grebe made the species sole county appearance for the year off Lower Largo on 15th. Little Auks passed Elie Ness on 19th and Mediterranean Gulls were to be found at Leven, Kinghorn and Kilconquhar Loch. Eurasian Whimbrel staked a claim as an addition to the scarce wintering wader list with up to two birds seen all month at Kinraig Point.

On 11th a Black Redstart was found at Boathaven. Flocks of up to 252 Bohemian Waxwings could be found across the county throughout the month. A Great Grey Shrike put in a typically brief showing at Easter Newburn on 29th.

Summary of the year

At a glance summary of the monthly highlights of 2008. Only first dates given - further details in the species accounts.

January

- 1st Snow Goose, Balbuthie
- 1st Eurasian Nuthatch, Cupar
- 2nd Pomarine Skua, Fife Ness
- 4th Pied Avocet, Eden Estuary
- 6th Surf Scoter, Largo Bay
- 6th Pomarine Skua, Kinshaldy
- 19th 14 Bohemian Waxwing,
Dunfermline

February

- 17th Common Crane, Balbuthie
- 20th Smew, Lindores Loch
- 23rd Little Auk, Kilminning

March

- 1st European White-fronted Goose,
Rossie Bog
- 6th Glaucous Gull, Pittenweem
- 9th Greenland White-fronted Goose,
Powmill
- 11th 2 Surf Scoter, Largo Bay
- 11th Iceland Gull, Fife Ness
- 15th 4 Taiga Bean Goose, Kinraig Point
- 16th Green-winged Teal, Rossie Bog
- 22nd Green-winged Teal, Wilderness
- 23rd Little Egret, Ballenbreich
- 24th Iceland Gull, Parkhill
- 25th Black Guillemot, Leven
- 27th King Eider, Ruddons Point
- 28th Iceland Gull, Anstruther

April

- 4th Iceland Gull, Kilconquhar Loch
- 7th Greenland White-fronted Goose,
Ladybank
- 9th Little Egret, Kilconquhar Loch
- 9th Ring Ouzel, Denburn Wood
- 13th Glaucous Gull, Dalgety Bay
- 15th Firecrest, Fife Ness Muir
- 16th Black Redstart, Anstruther

- 21st Glaucous Gull, Inverkeithing
- 22nd Black Redstart, Fife Ness
- 24th White Stork, Kirkcaldy
- 26th Garganey, Scooniehill
- 29th Glaucous Gull, Goosepools

May

- 3rd Black Redstart, Balmullo
- 5th Yellow Wagtail, Crail GC
- 5th Bluethroat, Fife Ness Muir
- 7th Little Egret, Guardbridge
- 13th Garganey, Morton Lochs
- 16th Garganey, Loch Gelly
- 17th White-crowned Sparrow, nr St
Michaels
- 23rd Red-backed Shrike, Kilrenny
- 25th Common Quail, Kinraig Point
- 29th 2 Red-backed Shrike, Wormiston
- 30th Common Quail, West Quarry Braes

June

- 1st Red Kite, Carnock
- 29th Common Quail, Sheills

July

- 20th Ring-necked Duck, Loch Gelly
- 21st Common Quail, Nochnary
- 27th Leach's Storm Petrel, Fife Ness

August

- 7th Eurasian Hobby, Kilrenny
- 10th Long-tailed Skua, Goosepools
- 24th Black Guillemot, Ruddons Point
- 30th 3 Garganey, Rossie Bog
- 31st Long-tailed Skua, Edenside

September

- 3rd Lesser Yellowlegs, Guardbridge
- 7th Eurasian Hobby, Wormiston
- 7th Long-tailed Skua, Kinghorn
- 8th Eurasian Hobby, E of Wormiston
- 8th Barred Warbler, Fife Ness Muir
- 12th Corn Crake, Pitbladdo
- 13th Surf Scoter, Fife Ness
- 13th Pectoral Sandpiper, Letham
- 14th European Honey-buzzard,
Kinghorn

- 14th European Honey-buzzard,
Guardbridge
14th Eurasian Wryneck, Fife Ness
14th 2 Barred Warbler, Fife Ness Muir
17th Red-backed Shrike, Wormiston
20th European Honey-buzzard,
Kinghorn
20th Sabine's Gull, Fife Ness
21st European Honey-buzzard,
Denburn Wood
21st 2 European Honey-buzzard,
Kinghorn
23rd 2 Corn Crane, Pitbladdo
27th Yellow-browed Warbler,
Pittenweem

October

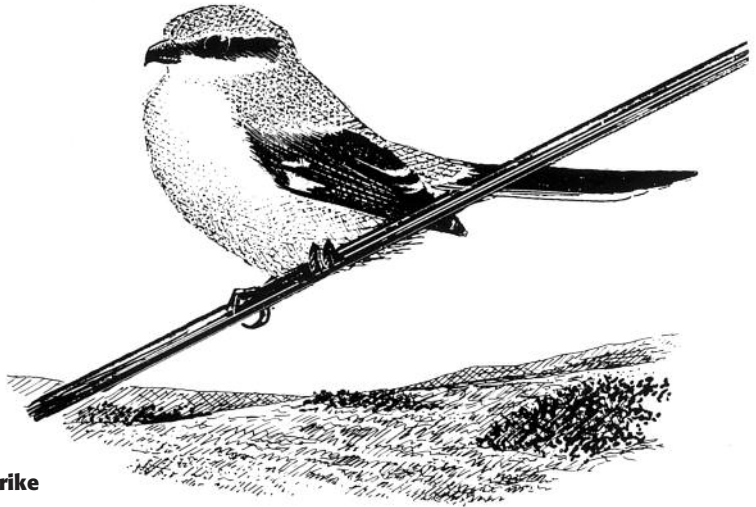
- 3rd Pectoral Sandpiper, Letham
5th Pectoral Sandpiper, Rossie Bog
5th Yellow Wagtail, Letham
14th 3 Common Crane, Goosepools
22nd 18 Bearded Tit, Mugdrum Island
26th Hooded Merganser, Tayport Pond
31st 27 Bohemian Waxwing, East
Baldrige

November

- 1st Red-crested Pochard, Lochore
Meadows
8th Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Kilminning
8th Yellow-browed Warbler,
Kilminning
9th Greenland White-fronted Goose,
Gaddon Loch
11th Surf Scoter, Largo Bay
12th Smew, Lochore Meadows

December

- 11th Black Redstart, Boathaven
15th Black-necked Grebe, Lower Largo
25th King Eider, Kincaig Point
27th Iceland Gull, Anstruther
29th Great Grey Shrike, Easter Newburn



Great Grey Shrike

by Phil Jones

Weather and climate in Fife, 2008

One of the wettest **Januarys** on record, the month was mild. A wet cold SE spell with wintry showers on 2nd and 3rd heralded a wet 4th but drier SW'lies prevailed on 5th and 6th. Wet unsettled weather returned on 7th with severe gales on 9th. A quieter frosty spell from 11th to 16th was interrupted by rain on 13th and 14th and again on 17th and 18th, latterly with SW-W gales. A cold dry interlude was broken by a further unsettled spell from 21st. Milder but stormy SW'lies prevailed from 22nd to 28th although snow fell on high ground on 24th. The month ended with wintry showers and gales on 31st with rain during the first week of **February** on cold SW'lies culminating in gales on 8th during a short milder spell. The next 10 days were settled, with light winds and some night frosts. Clear skies from 12th to 18th ended in a very cold cloudy and misty interlude on 19th to 20th. Mild and strong SW'lies set in on 21st heralding a stormy spell for the rest of the month. Rain fell daily except on 27th and 28th, particularly wet on 29th. Strong unsettled W'lies continued into **March**, easing on 3rd with overnight frosts. A milder and dry W'ly interlude on 4th and 5th was followed by cooler and showery strong to gale SW'lies, with hail on 9th. Wet W'lies from 10th to 11th dried out as winds eased and backed E-NE on 15th and 16th and became N-NW on 17th with frosts until 25th, broken only by a mild day on 20th with a very strong SW'ly. Snow showers fell from 21st to 25th. A changeable and milder wet spell followed, with winds mainly SW but SE'ly on 27th-28th. The 31st was the sunniest day of the month but rain and gales occurred on 1st **April**. The 3rd was warm and dry but winds veered to a fresh NW-N'ly on 4th, heralding a cold spell with snow showers on 5th and 6th. Further rain fell on 7th to 8th, briefly on an E wind on 7th, but a more persistent E'ly set in from 9th to 11th bringing more rain, which continued on a light N-NW wind from 12th to 14th. On 15th, a showery E-NE'ly set in, drying out on 18th and remaining settled but cool until 23rd, when another rainy interlude accompanied a veer to SW'lies on 24th. This brought milder weather but soon backed E-NE again on 27th with heavy rain on 28th and 30th. **May** was a complete contrast, as high pressure nearby maintained E'ly winds for almost the whole month, keeping temperatures near average. A warm start with frontal rain from 1st to 4th was followed by much cooler dry weather as moderate E'lies became established (see figure 1) and falls of migrants occurred along the east coast. Further light rain from 9th to 12th was accompanied by thunder on 10th and coastal fog on 11th, followed by another very cool spell of E winds until 29th, broken only by a little rain on 17th. Latterly the winds became strong ENE, with rain from 28th to 3rd **June** as much warmer W winds arrived. A dry warm spell until 11th was interrupted by E'ly winds on 5th and 7th with coastal mist but winds changed to SW-W on 8th and became strong on 9th and 10th. Winds veered to a cooler N-NW'ly on 12th with showers becoming heavy with hail on 14th. This showery spell lasted until 20th with winds mainly fresh SW'ly from 16th. An unsettled wet period lasted from 21st to 25th with winds mostly light and variable. An E wind on 24th brought the coldest day. Daily rain from 26th to 29th was brought by fresh SW winds with a dry end to the month but **July** began with an unsettled spell of cool SE-E winds, especially after 5th, with daily rain accompanied by thunder on 8th and some coastal fog. The E'lies culminated on 10th with prolonged heavy rain, followed by drier warmer SW-W'lies

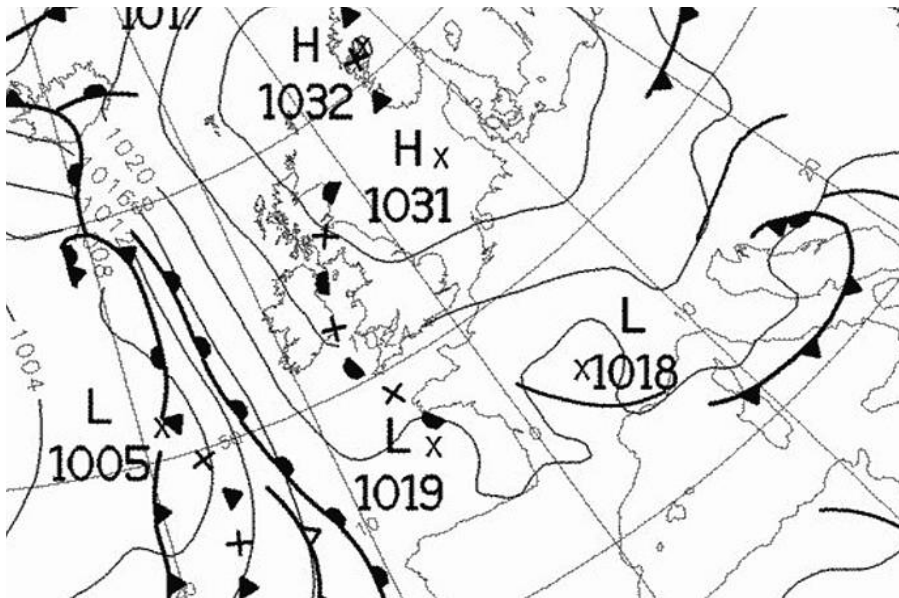
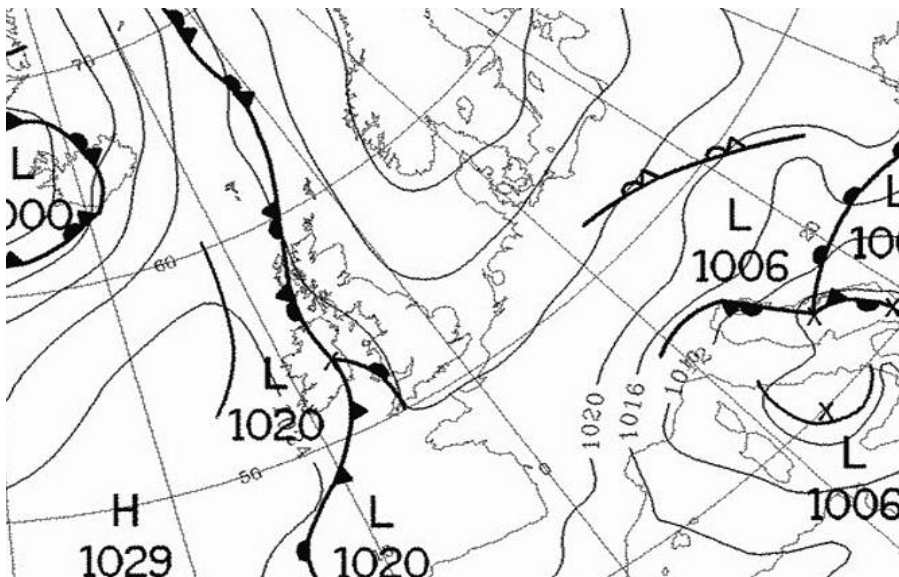


Figure 1 (above). 00 hours 6th May 2008. Ideal spring migrant situation in a prolonged SE spell with an anticyclone to the east. **Figure 2 (below).** 00 hours 15th Sep 2008. Slow-moving ridge of high pressure over North sea with cloudy SE winds bringing migrants to Fife. (© Crown copyright, charts supplied by Met Office)



until 17th. Further rain fell from 17th to 19th when winds became fresh NW'ly bringing a dry warm spell. Cooler E'lies set in on 24th, bringing coastal mist and fog. Rain on 31st and 1st **August** were accompanied by variable winds followed by thundery showers on 2nd and 3rd preceding a dry E'ly interlude on 4th and 5th before rain returned from 6th to 13th. Winds were mainly cool from NE to SE, with one dry day on 8th, and SW winds on 10th and 11th. Very heavy rain on 13th preceded a drier spell from 14th to 17th but winds remained E'ly until 20th. Further rain fell between 18th and 27th, heaviest until 21st when winds veered to a warmer but fresher SW'ly. Another short dry sunny spell from 28th to 30th ended with wet days on 31st and 1st **September**. These unsettled conditions continued with rain on most days in the first 3 weeks. Light showers with isolated thunder occurred on 3rd and 4th, with winds rather variable and dry days on 2nd and 5th, when cool NE winds set in until 7th. These winds backed SE on 8th with rain from 8th to 11th. Warmer SW winds from 10th soon changed back to SE on 13th (see fig 2) bringing further rain until 18th when SW winds returned with a dry spell from 19th to 29th. This spell was interspersed with cool E'lies between 22nd and 25th with a little rain on 24th. SW'lies returned on 26th, bringing rain on 27th and 30th but a showery NW'ly prevailed from 1st **October** to 3rd, backing SW on 4th. Dry days on 3rd, 5th and 8th were interspersed with rain, mainly on 6th and 7th associated with SE winds. A fresh, mainly dry, SW'ly from 9th to 18th brought rain on 9th, 10th and 17th-18th. This SW'ly became strong to gale force, even stormy, from 19th to 26th. Rain fell on most days with temperatures falling latterly. It became even colder from 27th, as winds veered NW to N bringing showers and overnight frosts. E'lies set in on 4th **November**, bringing milder air and rain at times, especially on 6th and 7th. Mild but very strong SW'lies blew from 9th and 10th with showers, veering WNW on 11th. Lighter winds lasted until 14th, remaining mild with further rain on 13th. Strong SW-W winds on 14th and 15th preceded a short cold N interlude with rain on 17th and then a dry and mild SW-W'ly. A cold spell developed on 21st with NW'lies bringing snow showers on 22nd, with further prolonged snow on 23rd that turned to rain ahead of a milder dry SW'ly from 25th to 26th. This brought more rain on 27th, heralding a very cold but dry end to the month with sunny days and sharp night frosts although rain in early **December** turned to snow in places on 2nd and 4th. A drier cold NW spell from 6th to 10th gave further frosts but heavy rain from 12th to 14th was accompanied by light winds, which freshened from SW on 15th. A milder period of strong to gale SW'lies from 16th to 21st reached storm force latterly with more rain before lighter W'lies on 22nd and 23rd brought lower temperatures. A dry but cold cloudy spell from 24th to the end of the year carried light showers on a SE'ly with night frosts. [Weather maps © Met Office]

Norman Elkins

The systematic list

Fife mainland

The area covered by this report is the county of Fife and remains identical to the area formerly made up of the three district councils, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and North East Fife. The border remains unchanged. Offshore islands within the Forth Estuary are included in this report only if they come under the remit of Fife Council. The Isle of May has a separate report, although some records are included here for completeness. A map is featured elsewhere in this report. Generally references to "West Fife" in the report will relate to the former Dunfermline District, while "Central Fife" includes the former Kirkcaldy District and the landward area north to Newburgh and east to Cupar. The East Neuk is the traditional name for the south-east corner of the region.

The order

The systematic list follows the order recommended made by the Taxonomic Subcommittee of the BOU Records Committee (Sixth Report). This report continues with the use of international standardised common names for many bird species after their introduction for the first time in the 1999 *Fife Bird Report*.

The taxonomic sequence is under constant review due to ongoing research. The BOU has recently accepted that a major revision of passerine families should be adopted. A few further minor adjustments, particularly the position of Goldcrest and Firecrest, in that group will occur later. A full explanation can be found in the previously mentioned report. Also the grebes are now placed between Greater Flamingo and European Honey-buzzard. Substantial revisions in other sections of the taxonomic order should be expected in future. The International Ornithological Congress (IOC) is at the forefront of the taxonomic review of the world's birds and their world list with standardized English names (although a work in progress) is being increasingly adopted worldwide. For further information see www.worldbirdnames.org

The figure in brackets after the scientific name is the number of accepted records for that species in Fife. The status in the county for each species has also been given. Conservation status of declining species (Red and Amber Data lists) is given as well as notification of species with enhanced protection (Schedule 1). Full explanations of these criteria can be found on various websites such as those of the RSPB, BTO etc.

The records

All records included in the systematic list of this report have been accepted by the relevant committee - British, Scottish and Fife, unless otherwise stated. All records, which have not been accepted by the various committees, are contained at the end of the systematic list along with those accepted. This gives an indication of the workload of the various committees and allows readers an insight into the species submitted. Name(s) of finders of rare birds, unusual sightings or high counts are included, although usually no more than three names are given. When birds have been returning for several years, observer's names may be omitted.

Species recorded in 2008

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding: Birds were on nests by 12th Apr at Lindores Loch. Broods were reported from Loch Gelly (b5, b8), Morton Lochs (b5), Newton Sandpit (b5), Mountcastle (b5), Townhill Loch (b3), Tayport Pond (b7, b6), Newton Farm Pond (b5), Wilderness (b1, b7), Motray Water, Guardbridge (b2), Black Loch (b6), Drumoig (b5), Moor Loch (b5), Peppermill Dam (b2), Kilconquhar Loch (b1, b7, b6, b2), Loch Gelly (b8), Gaddon Loch (b3), Birnie Loch (b3), Lindores Loch (b1, b2, b3, b4), North Haugh (b8), St Andrews harbour (b6), Newport slipway (b5), Glenrothes town park pond (b1). The pair in Glenrothes town park pond abandoned three eggs in the nest and the pair at Newport slipway laid six eggs in a nest underneath a boat above the high water level. **The young at Peppermill Dam are suspected to have been shot by vandals with airguns.** Other sites where nesting was reported but the outcome is unknown were Golden Loch, Coul Reservoir, Otterston Loch and Cluny Clays.

Birds were reported from 23 sites in January mostly in low numbers. High counts included 60 at Angle Park on 1st, 70+ at the Leven Cut on 5th, 71 at Loch Gelly on 11th, 31 at Wilderness on 19th and 25 at Lindores Loch on 28th. At Letham, numbers increased in February from nine that were present on 22nd Jan to 19 by 3rd, rising to 26 on 10th. The build up there continued through March peaking at 43 on 21st before dropping again to 29 on 17th Apr. Wilderness still held 25 on 3rd Feb with 17 nearby at Rossie Bog on 6th Feb increasing to 31 by 13th. A pair and three immatures frequented the inner bay at Inverkeithing for the first two months until 23rd Feb when the adults had chased the young birds. A similar situation occurred at Otterston Loch until mid March when the three immatures there had also departed. On 9th Mar only 35 remained at Loch Gelly but they were joined by an additional 21 birds on 28th Mar. Lindores Loch continued to hold about 30 including nesting birds from 27th Mar into June. Other sites that were visited by flocks included 30 at Balbedie on 9th Apr, 21 at Carnbee Reservoir on 20th Apr and 19 on the Eden Estuary on 3rd May with 21 there on 22nd May.

In June flocks began to accumulate with 64 now at Loch Gelly on 6th, ten were offshore from Tayport on 13th, 18 at Levenmouth on 19th with 31 adults and seven juvs at Lindores Loch on 20th. Late summer saw further increases at many of these sites. Levenmouth hosted 21 on 5th Jul, 23 on 9th Aug, 37 on 24th Aug, before numbers fell during September with only eight remaining on 2nd Oct. Loch Gelly held 66 adults and eight juvs on 10th Jul with 74 birds still there on 3rd Aug but no further counts were received after this date. Numbers at Tayport also increased with 13 on 21st Jul rising to 42 (36 adults and six juvs) on 17th Aug with only 19 there on 12th Oct. Nearby 17 visited Lundin Bridge also on 12th Oct. Lindores Loch also saw an increase with 42 present on 6th Sep, 49 on 23rd Sep and 44 on 11th Oct. Eight adults and 12 juvs remained at Kilconquhar Loch on 24th Aug when a dead cygnet was also found there. Cameron Reservoir held 23 adults on 30th Jul with only ten still present on 21st Aug. Twenty-three were off Mugdrum Island on 23rd Sep.

Counts remained generally low during the last quarter. Small family groups remained on many of the smaller nesting sites during the latter half of the year. Newton Sandpit had nine adults and five juvs on 18th Oct and 11 adults and five juvs fed at Parkhill Farm on 19th Nov. Numbers at Cameron Reservoir rose again to 15 on 1st Nov then up to 22 on 17th Nov. Kilconquhar Loch saw 26 on 28th Nov before dropping to 20 on 27th Dec. Lindores Loch still held 33 on 13th Dec and 31 on 29th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	9	5	5	7	17	26	20	10	4	11	8	0
Tay WeBS	7	5	7	4	2	11	17	36	19	6	8	4
Eden WeBS	8	3	0	0	6	8	21	6	11	0	3	6
Birnie/Gaddon	46	32	23	13	12	19	13	13	19	16	13	10

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)

Fairly common winter visitor in varying numbers. Leven Cut holds nationally important numbers. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

In the early winter period Parkhill and Rossie Bog were the favoured sites for this species. Five were at Parkhill on 2nd Jan increasing to ten on 6th and this count remained stable until 20th Feb when 36 adults and ten immatures were reported. Four days later 81 birds were counted but dropped rapidly with only 31 adults and eight imms there on 28th Feb. Numbers fluctuated wildly during March before the final and peak count there of 85 on 24th. Rossie Bog started with five on 26th Jan soaring to 74 on 2nd Feb and then up again to 99 on 13th Feb. Counts here declined steadily through March with the last nine seen on 15th. The former premier site at the Leven Cut produced only one count for the year with 27 there on 5th Jan.

Cameron Reservoir hosted 25 on 11th Jan with 38 there on 9th Feb. Carnbee Reservoir was also a regular venue producing 21 on 24th Feb, 32 on 1st Mar and 15 on 16th Mar. Craigluscar also received occasional visits with 15 on 20th Jan, 18 on 16th Feb, 18 adults and seven imms on 9th Mar and five on 6th Apr. February saw 11 birds at Pleasants Farm from 10th to 28th. By March, flocks were beginning to move with 11NW over Saline GC on 12th and 33SW over Auchtermuchty on 15th whilst 38 rested on the sea off Kinraig Point on 26th and 55 flew north over Ruddons Point on 27th. Eleven stopped off at the Eden Estuary on 20th Mar when another 11 visited Windygates for two days. Newburgh saw 12 on 23rd with 25 there on 27th and an impressive 164 dropped into Angle Park on 24th (Harry Bell). On 28th Mar, twenty visited Loch Gelly and 23 showed up at Kilconquhar Loch. April saw one linger at Letham from 2nd to 17th, 14 passed Tentsmuir Point on 5th and two visited Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 6th. A late adult flew in from the sea at Cellardyke and appeared to land beyond Kilrenny on 4th May.

The first back appeared on 3rd Oct with 9S over Freuchie and 8W past Carlingnose Point. Small family groups made appearances on 8th Oct with four adults and four immatures at Letham and two adults and two imms nearby at Wilderness followed by a pair and two imms at Loch Gelly on 16th Oct. Passage continued with 19 at Guardbridge on 17th, 13 at Kettlebridge on 18th, eight south over Valleyfield

Lagoons on 19th and six at Goosepools on 22nd seen later that day at Edenmouth (2) and Leuchars Airfield (4). Also on 22nd, four adults (presumably different from earlier) started a ten-day residency at Letham. Further passage was noted with 2S over Torry Bay on 24th, 16S over Kilminning on 26th, 15W past Kincardine on 27th and 13 at Silverburn on 28th. Rossie Bog received its first arrivals with 22 there on 25th Oct. Further sightings there included 11 adults on 27th Oct, 11 adults and eight imms on 1st Nov, 40 on 14th Nov, eight on 13th Dec and ten on 23rd Dec.

In the final two months small groups appeared at 14 locations. Bigger groups were noted in November with 11 at Cameron Reservoir on 5th increasing to 37 there on 17th. Moor Loch hosted 14 during that month. Fifteen were at Guardbridge on 16th Nov with 18 nearby at Edenside on 18th. The first 19 birds back at Parkhill arrived on 24th Nov and included two colour-ringed birds that were spending their fourth winter on that site. By 26th Dec the flock there had increased to 26 adults and eight imms. Angle Park held 14 for three days from 20th Dec and ten showed at Lochty Farm on 23rd Dec. Passage birds were seen at Lockshaw Moss with 9N and 4N on 26th Dec and 28th Dec respectively.

***Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*)**

Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*)

Rare winter visitor in varying numbers, mostly seen in the east. Red data list sub-species.

A single record of 4NE past Kincaid Point on 15th Mar (Mike Ramage) was almost certainly birds migrating from their wintering site on the Slamannan Plateau in Falkirk District. This is the first record in the county since 2005.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

Winter visitor in substantial numbers but varying from year to year. Cameron Reservoir holds internationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

Early January saw concentrations in the East Neuk with 300 at Balbuthie and 2000 nearby at Pittenweem all on 1st. The latter site regularly saw about 1000 birds until 19th. Up to 2500 fed at Balbuthie all month although only 500 remained on 1st Feb. Also in that area 800+ were seen at Kilrenny on 12th Jan. Many of these birds roosted at Kilconquhar Loch – 2200 reported there on 11th Jan. The Eden Estuary held between 4000 and 5000 during the month. Elsewhere 500 were at Newport on 11th, 350 to the west of Morton Lochs on 13th and 450 roosted on the Eden Estuary on 29th. Movements were noted with 14S over Struan Drive, Inverkeithing on 22nd and 45S past Goosepools on 27th. Some individuals appeared to be lost with singles showing at Beveridge Park on 27th and another on the grass by Inverkeithing harbour on 29th. Numbers were lower in February with 350 at Crail on 7th and 600 nearby at Troustrie on 14th but only 110 roosted at Kilconquhar Loch on 15th. Other notable counts included 310 at Rameldry on 9th and 600 at Torryburn on 17th. Return migration was possibly underway witnessed by flights of 60N over Struan Drive, Inverkeithing on 9th, 17NW at Kingcraig Point on 17th and 100N at Dalgety Bay on 28th.

A flock of 850 at Falside on 1st Mar and 20 at Balbuthie on 15th Mar represented the last birds of the early winter in the East Neuk. March saw feeding flocks further north in the county with up to 225 at Luthrie during the first week. Rossie Bog saw 492 on 2nd with 300 nearby at Easter Kilwhiss on 4th and 150 at Star on 9th. West Fife saw northward flights with 28 past Braefoot, 80 over Dunfermline and 200 over Saline GC, all on 17th. Larger feeding concentrations included 1500 in stubble at Strathkinness on 19th with 2500 at Parkhill and Newburgh both on 23rd. Eighty stopped off at Dumbarnie Links on 28th and about 200 fed at Rossie Drain on 31st. At least 780, including a leucistic bird, fed at Drumtennant Strip on 4th and 7th Apr. Logie held 221 on 5th and 800 fed on rough pasture at Ladybank on 7th. Rossie Bog held up to 320 during mid-April with 1160 in stubble at Strathkinness on 13th. The west again saw northerly movements with 100 over Dalgety Bay and about 300 over Duloch all on 10th. Kerewhip Bank was the venue for the last big flock with 200 there on 20th. Lingering lone birds were seen at Pleasants Farm on 21st, Dalgety Bay on 28th and the Eden Estuary on 29th. A winged bird was present at Innerleith on 2nd to 14th May at least with another probable winged bird at Rossie Bog on 19th May.

One at Angle Park on 28th Jul was possibly feral or an earlier winged bird.

Rossie Bog was the first stop for returning birds with one there on 22nd Aug remaining to 2nd Sep and also 44S over there on 27th Aug. A passage of 1380S/2hrs was recorded at Kilconquhar Loch on 28th Aug. There was a lull in records until 18th Sep when birds were heard passing over Heatherhall Woods. Further movements included 75S at Coble Shore, 100+SW at Fife Ness and 26NW at Newport all on 20th Sep. The remainder of the month and into early October recorded south/south-westerly flights in varying numbers (3–996) from Elie Ness, Fife Ness, Anstruther, Garvock Hill in Dunfermline, Struan Drive in Inverkeithing, Cellardyke, St Andrews, Cupar, Leuchars Airfield, Eden Estuary, Lomond Hills, Mountcastle and Damhead of Torr.

By 12th Oct, up to 3000 could be seen back at Balbuthie with another 2000 present at Vicarsford on the same day. Mid-October found further migrating birds with 115W at Newport on 13th, 450S at Damhead of Torr on 14th, 100S at Dalgety Bay on 17th, 100S at Drumeldrie on 20th and 75W at Dunfermline on 21st. Large feeding flocks included 1000 on stubble near Kilconquhar on 22nd, 3500 in a potato field at Gibleston on 23rd, 4000 including two leucistic birds at Carnbee on 26th and 600 at Wester Rossie on 27th. Smaller numbers were recorded at Loch Gelly, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, Cairneyhill and Edenside during October. During the last two months, Kilconquhar Loch was used regularly as a roost with 5500 there on 1st Nov and a massive 14000 on 6th Dec – **the highest count for the county since 2002** (Chris & Anne-Marie Smout). Large flocks were recorded at Elie Ness commuting across the Firth of Forth from Aberlady with 3250N on 2nd Nov and 900 on 16th Nov. Rossie Bog held 400 on 2nd Nov, with 400 at Vicarsford on 9th Nov, 500 at Gartarry on 16th Nov and 307 at Cameron Reservoir on 17th. Anstruther saw 1000E on 20th Nov with 3000 feeding there on 24th. At least 800 fed at Easter Kilwhiss and 380 at Pitlessie all on 22nd Nov, 1500 at Scotsraig South on 23rd and 400 were at Culross on 28th. Stubble fields at Pittachope attracted 500 on 24th increasing to 2000+ on 29th. Rossie Bog was the venue for 1710 on 13th Dec and 3500 were on the Eden Estuary on

Christmas Day. December fly-over flocks included 400 at Damhead of Torr on 9th with 290 there on 23rd, 30 over East Lomond on 14th, 70 over Dalgety Bay on 20th, 20 past Goat Quarry on 25th and 74NE at Piperpool Moss on 30th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	237	537	307
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Eden WeBS	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

*Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

European White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons albifrons*)

Very rare winter visitor. Red data list sub-species.

One was at Rossie Bog on 1st Mar (Davy Ogilvie). This is the first county record since 2004.

Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*)

Scarce winter visitor mainly to the east of the county. Red data list sub-species.

An average year with three records. One first-winter was south of Powmill on 9th Mar and a single was at Ladybank on 7th Apr. Later in the year one behaved unusually at Gaddon Loch on 9th Nov and may have been an escaped bird from the adjacent Fife Animal Park.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Common winter visitor with a few non-breeders summering and a local re-established / feral population. Kilconquhar Loch and the Forth Estuary hold internationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Confirmed at Ballo Reservoir where eight adults and 35 juvs were noted on 16th May. Stenhouse Reservoir held 35 adults plus b3, b3, b1, b6 and b6 on 15th Jun and 170 ads and 11 juvs were seen at Beveridge Park on 15th Jul. A pair was at Wemyss Moss on 3rd May but there was no evidence of breeding. Other birds were recorded at Otterston Loch, Innerleith, Rossie Bog, Angle Park, Lochore Meadows and Cullaloe during the breeding season.

In the early part of the year the majority of flocks consisted of less than 500 birds. From January until March up to 400 fed in the Crombie area. Logie was a regular venue with 124 on 2nd Jan, 181 on 27th Jan, 210 on 1st Mar, 428 on 29th Mar and 234 on 5th Apr. Luthrie was also well attended with 32 on 6th Jan rapidly increasing to 428 on 9th Feb, up again to 536 on 27th Feb, with 490 on 1st Mar before dropping to 193 by 29th Mar. Dumbarnie Links held 235 on 4th Jan, Linkwood fuel depot fields held 130 on 12th Jan, Newburn saw 200 on 22nd Jan and 130 were near Kettlebridge on 27th Jan. Smaller numbers were seen at Newton Sandpit and Forgan Smithy during January. From early February birds were regularly roosting at Kilconquhar Loch with 420 on 9th Feb, 330 on 17th Feb, 200 on 24th Feb, 470 on 14th Mar and 244 on 3rd Apr.

On 2nd Feb, 220 showed at Angle Park and at least 200 were at Drumeldrie. Ramornie hosted 250 on 3rd, Balmullo saw 350 on 6th and 150 were at Guardbridge on 8th. Numbers on the Eden Estuary increased to 450 on 17th, Parkhill held 71 on 24th and about 100 were seen at Stenhouse Farm on 28th. Other sites with low numbers in February included Otterston Loch and Morton Lochs. Rossie Bog/Easter Kilwhiss became the focus during March with 248 on 1st, 450 on 14th dropping to 152 on 23rd before increasing again to 288 on 5th Apr. Glendevon Farm saw 400 on 3rd Mar, the fields at Guardbridge held 300 on 20th Mar with 134 nearby on the Eden Estuary on 23rd. Angle Park drew 250 on 22nd increasing to 451 on 26th. Birds appeared at Dumbarrie Links with 450 on 27th and small flocks showed near Dunfermline (87) and Arncroach (50) during the month. Letham held up to 34 in the first week of April, six were at Myrecairn on 2nd and 12 appeared at Newton Sandpit on 5th. Departing birds were reported with 65NW at Kilconquhar Loch on 22nd Mar, 55N past Anstruther on 8th Apr and 86 rested on the sea off Ruddons Point on 9th Apr.

Numbers began to build in the west with 53 at Torry Bay on 15th Aug then with 21 nearby at Crombie on 9th Sep. Further influxes occurred with 75S at Dalgety Bay on 23rd Sep and 40S at Damhead of Torr on 25th Sep. October saw further increases at Torry Bay despite wildfowling losses with 35 on 8th, 60 on 18th and 100+ on 27th. Loch Gelly hosted 300 on 12th and 230 on 22nd. Smaller numbers showed around the Eden Estuary including an albino individual with 28 there on 16th increasing to 80 by 31st. Guardbridge held 264 on 7th Nov, 380 on the estuary there on 11th Dec peaking at 500 there on 13th Dec. Flocks appeared in the Rossie Bog area with 280 on 27th Oct, 1000 at Rossie Drain on 1st Nov, 565 at Easter Kilwhiss on 22nd Nov with 600 at Rossie Bog on 20th Dec. Kilconquhar Loch also received flocks of 120 on 26th Oct, 325 on 2nd Nov, 420 on 28th Nov and 170 on 6th Dec. Culross hosted 600 on 28th Nov with 200 showing nearby at Torry Bay on 8th Dec. A flock of 210 at Mountcastle on 8th Dec contained one bird with neck collar JDB, which was visiting Fife for its tenth winter. On 22nd Dec, 350 flew over Damhead of Torr. Other sites with smaller numbers included Birnie Loch, Balmakin and Dalgety Bay. An albino bird was in a group of ten at Carnbee on 14th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	341	0	740	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Eden WeBS	55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	21

***Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*)**

Rare winter visitor.

The blue morph individual from 2007 was seen in January in the Balbuthie area from 6th, also seen at Kilconquhar Loch on 11th and St Monans on 13th. Also seen at Balbuthie on 1st Feb and at Kilconquhar Loch on 9th Feb. Later in the month it took up residence at Falside on 29th and stayed until 2nd Mar at least. It was last sighted at St Monans on 8th Mar. Late reports show that the bird was originally seen in stubble at Cellardyke on 29th Aug 2007 and was on the shore at Kilrenny Mill on 21st Sep 2007 where it acted very warily.

***Greater Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)**

Scarce autumn and very scarce winter visitor, small passage in spring and autumn.

Unusually seen in every month of the year, except July and November.

A single was with Greylag Geese at Newburn on 22nd Jan with another at Kettlebridge on 27th Jan. Further singles appeared at Drumeldrie on 2nd Feb, with Greylags at Kilconquhar Loch on 15th Feb and at Carnbee Reservoir on 24th Feb staying until 16th Mar. Two were with Greylags at Kilconquhar Loch on 14th Mar possibly the same birds being seen at Dumbarnie Links on 22nd and 27th Mar. Three showed at Morton Lochs on 29th Mar with a single at Otterston Loch on 30th Mar. The only record in April was of two at Carnbee Reservoir on 10th.

Late May saw the start of the northward migration with 40N over Anstruther on 30th with 28 dropping in to the Eden Estuary on 31st. The passage continued through early June with 17N at Kinghorn Loch on 1st, 15 stopping off at Loch Gelly on 2nd, 14N over Anstruther with a single at Edenside all on 3rd. Thirty flew north at Charlottetown, 73SW over Cupar, 14N at Dunbog and 30 took a breather on the sea off Lower Largo, all on 4th. Anstruther witnessed another 11N on 5th and about 50 passed north over Leuchars Airfield on 9th with 26 at Edenside on 12th.

The first returning birds consisted of nine on the Eden Estuary on 6th Aug. Nine were at Lundin Bridge on 9th Aug with eight nearby at Tayport on 17th Aug and another nine at Rossie Bog on 22nd. On the early morning of 24th, a flock of 27 departed the Eden Estuary with another 23 seen there later that day. At West Saline there were 24S on 26th and the month ended with three on the rocks on front of the FBC hide at Fife Ness on 30th. Up to six birds were on the Eden Estuary between 5th and 7th Sep and later that month 62 appeared at Bath Pool on 28th. October brought further sightings on the Eden Estuary with five on 1st and two on 16th. The last bird of the year showed at Mountcastle on 8th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0

***Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)**

Regular autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor, occasional in spring. Amber data list species.

The year started with a single at Pittenweem on 1st Jan. One was at Beveridge Park from 27th Jan until 15th Feb was presumably a feral bird. Rossie Bog / Easter Kilwhiss held a single from 24th Feb until 15th Mar with another at Rossie Drain on 9th Apr. Another single was with Greylags at Dumbarnie Links on 28th and 29th Mar, Migrating birds were noticeable from 20th Apr when 56E were noted at Anstruther followed by 30N at Buckhaven on 24th Apr. The final birds of the spring and the year's biggest flock consisted of 350E past Anstruther on 15th May. Two presumably feral birds were seen flying north with Greater Canada Geese at the latter site on 3rd Jun.

It was a quick return for some with 18W reported from Kincaig Point on 30th Aug. Thirty at Edenside on 29th Sep was a more typical return date followed by 106SW at Fife Ness on 30th Sep. It was to be a poor autumn passage with only low numbers seen in October and November. Singles were seen on 3rd Oct at Elie Ness and amongst Pink-footed Geese at Carlingnose Point. Elie Ness also recorded 2S on 6th Oct. One was with Pink-feet at Grangehill on 30th Oct presumably the same bird seen roosting nearby at Kilconquhar Loch on 2nd Nov. Three were at Easter Kilwhiss on 22nd Nov with the last bird of the year at Luthrie on 29th Nov.

Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*)

Pale-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*)

Uncommon winter visitor with passage through the east in varying numbers in both spring and autumn. Amber data list sub-species.

As usual most reports came from the outer Eden Estuary but there was a scattering of records from elsewhere. Six were reported from the Eden Estuary on 4th Jan with 12 at Balgove Bay on 5th. This quickly increased to 14 on 23rd Jan then up to 45 there on 16th Feb. This flock dispersed on 17th with at least 12 on the south side of the estuary, 25 at Edenside and 13 at Outhead. There were no further reports until May when two showed on the south side of the Eden Estuary on 2nd May. Presumably the same birds were seen at Edenside on 9th and Coble Shore on 11th before returning to Edenside on 13th with one remaining until 14th.

The first autumn migrants returned to the Eden Estuary with one at Balgove Bay on 15th Aug and four at Shelly Spit on 4th Sep. Fife Ness recorded a series of migrating flocks with 14N on 7th Sep, 10S on 13th Sep and nine in off the sea there on 19th Sep. The Eden Estuary saw a migrant flock of 24 at Edenside on 28th Sep with a further eight at Outhead a day later. The west of the county produced a flurry of records with ten at Culross Bay and nine at Dalgety Bay all on 30th Sep. A family party of two adults and one juv took up temporary residence at the mouth of the Tiel Burn from 2nd to 9th Oct. Six were seen at Donibristle Bay on 6th Oct.

From 9th Oct the bulk of the reports again came from the outer Eden Estuary with seven birds at Shelly Spit that day, increasing to 45 at Outhead on 27th Oct. Numbers fluctuated during November and December but 26 remained at Balgove Bay on 26th Dec. Elsewhere one was at Tayport on 28th Oct with four adults and one juv nearby at Lucky Scalp on 15th Nov. A flock of 13 was at the latter site on 13th Dec. The south-west coast produced further sightings with a single on the shore at Abden on 31st Oct and eight adults and one juv at Dalgety Bay on 27th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	13
Eden WeBS	27	27	26	20	0	0	0	0	0	19	1	17

Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)*Rare winter visitor. Red data list sub-species.**

Nine birds in a winter crop to the west of Balcomie cottages on 26th Jan and another with Greylag Geese at Balmullo on 19th Feb were unusual records. A single on 16th Feb at Balgove Bay was more typical, this being the favoured site for this species. Later in the year a single was seen at Outhead on 27th Oct again in keeping with recent sightings.

Notebook: Pale-bellied Brent Goose Kirkcaldy 02/10/08

Local crows ganged up and attacked the geese when they were feeding in the Tiel Burn.

MJ Bayne

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)**Common resident, breeding in small numbers, winter visitor to coasts and estuaries. The Forth Estuary holds internationally important numbers. Amber data list species.**

Breeding: The Eden Estuary reported an exceptionally good breeding season with at least 12 broods seen and at least 50 juvs fledging. Broods of six and nine were noted at Loch Gelly but only six juvs were thought to have survived. Wormit Bay held a brood of ten on 2nd Jun and a brood of six was at Lucky Scalp on 22nd Jun. A pair with 11 ducklings was seen off Ruddons Point on 6th Jun. One pair at Dalgety Bay had a small downy chick on 1st Jul. Three pairs were on Inchcolm on 7th May with two pairs on Inchkeith on 30th May. Single pairs bred at Linkwood Pond and Newton Sandpit but the outcome was unknown and territories were held at Devilla Forest and at Wilderness where a juv was noted on 14th Aug. Other possibly locally bred juvs were seen at Mountcastle on 2nd Sep and at Letham on 6th Sep. Other sites that held birds during the breeding season included Torry Bay and North Duloch.

Dalgety Bay provided the bulk of the reports in the first three months with monthly maximums of 50 on 27th Jan, 71 on 17th Feb and 82 throughout March. Nearby, up to 18 were found at Inverkeithing during this period. Culross saw 120 on 1st Mar. Balgove Bay held 202 on 23rd Jan and smaller counts (16-77) were received from other parts of the Eden Estuary until March. Tayport hosted between seven and 34 during the first three months with ten nearby at Wormit Bay on 13th Feb and 22 also nearby at Shanwell on 23rd Mar. A single bird was inland at Wilderness from 19th Jan until 11th Apr when a second bird joined it. A pair was at Rossie Bog on 1st Mar and another pair settled at Newton Sandpit from 8th Mar.

April saw pairs prospecting sites at Pettycur Bay, Ruddons Point, Ardross, Otterston Loch, Loch Gelly, Mountcastle, Kilrenny shore, Kinghorn harbour, Redlands Pool, Easter Kilwhiss, Fife Ness, west of the Tay Road Bridge, Letham and Damside. In the west flocks still lingered, with 56 at Dalgety Bay with 18 at Inverkeithing harbour all on 6th and 36 between Brucehaven and Limekilns on 9th. The Eden Estuary held 60 on 13th and twelve remained at Tayport on 20th. Apparent

non-breeders loitered at Torry Bay with 25 on 1st May and 28 on 1st Jun. The Eden Estuary also held non-breeders with 50 on 4th May increasing to 78 by 3rd Jun.

In the autumn Torry Bay hosted impressive numbers with 200+ on 21st Aug rising to 400+ on 2nd Sep before dropping to 152 on 5th Oct. Up to 253 could be found at the Eden Estuary to the years end. Numbers also fluctuated at Dalgety Bay where a maximum of 38 were seen on 28th Dec. Late December also saw small numbers at Tayport (16) and Anstruther (3).

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	341	162	224	166	71	109	122	241	594	234	164	174
Tay WeBS	7	38	33	14	25	29	0	0	1	0	7	16
Eden WeBS	116	143	308	337	160	73	128	57	45	132	186	253

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Very scarce breeder, common on passage in autumn, wintering in reasonable numbers. Amber data list species.

There was no indication of breeding activity but birds were present at Rossie Bog and Angle Park during the breeding season.

In keeping with 2007, Rossie Bog produced the largest flocks in the first quarter with at least 701 on 13th Jan with number fluctuating down to 500 but about 712 were counted one month later. However by March only about 170 remained there on 15th. Balgove Bay also held an impressive 660 on 5th with 100 being seen on the Eden Estuary at Guardbridge on the previous day. The latter site hosted sixty on 21st and at least 150 on 9th Mar. Loch Gelly saw 65 on 11th Jan. Also on 11th Jan, 59 were between Brucehaven and Limekilns with 150 nearby at Torry Bay on 16th Feb and 81 still there on 14th Mar. Tayport held 150 on 23rd Jan with 60 nearby at Shanwell on 23rd Mar. There was a strong showing at Angle Park during March with 126 on 9th and 205 on 17th. There were 45 at Moonzie on 27th Feb, 62 at Luthrie on 1st Mar and Cameron Reservoir had 76 on 3rd Mar. Smaller flocks were reported from Linkwood Pond, Ballo Reservoir, Dalgety Bay, Largo Bay, Harperleas Reservoir, Coul Reservoir, Cambo, Creich, Otterston Loch, Cullaloe, Black Loch, Mountcastle and Birnie Loch. April saw 47 on the Eden Estuary on 2nd, 18 at Tayport marsh on 5th, with two each at Coul Reservoir on 6th, Dalgety Bay on 10th and Redlands Pool on 11th. Mid-summer saw small numbers of non-breeders at Kilconquhar Loch, Eden Estuary and Wilderness.

Numbers began to build in the west from early August with four at Valleyfield Lagoons on 1st increasing to nine on 26th. Nearby six showed in Torry Bay on 8th and 45 were off Crombie Point on 9th Sep. Visible migration counters noted 27W past Kinghorn on 11th Sep. Ruddons Point saw 70 on 24th Aug with 50 on the Eden Estuary on 27th Aug. Autumn brought good numbers back to Rossie Bog with 70 on 2nd Sep, 110 on 2nd Oct and 175 on 27th Oct. Nearby, Angle Park saw a modest 68 on 8th Oct but by December up to 700 appeared there on 10th. Numbers in Torry Bay had increased to 400 on 8th Oct but only just over 100 remained by 12th Dec. Tayport attracted a fairly stable flock with 145 on 12th Oct, 110 on 9th Nov and 126 on 13th Dec. Good numbers were to be found on the Eden Estuary particularly at Balgove

Bay which held 286 on 29th Oct, 440 on 25th Nov and 485 on 7th Dec. Over 100 birds could be regularly found off Guardbridge during the last quarter. Other sizeable flocks included 50 at Dalgety Bay on 26th Oct, 160 at Otterston Loch and at least 70 at Cameron Reservoir, all on 17th Nov, 75 at Mountcastle on 8th Dec and 176 at Gaddon Loch on 12th Dec. Other sites with smaller showings in the last three months were Balbeggie Pond, Kilconquhar Loch, Morton Lochs, Gilston, Linkswood Pond, Coul Reservoir and Newton Farm Pond.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	336	167	176	6	0	0	0	0	243	582	339	195
Tay WeBS	107	87	116	30	0	1	0	0	0	88	135	126
Eden WeBS	171	277	71	190	4	0	5	0	42	41	0	347
Birnie/Gaddon	72	11	17	1	0	0	0	0	5	20	243	434

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Very scarce breeder, common on passage in autumn, wintering in increasing numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Loch Gelly produced broods of five and eight. Birds were seen during the breeding season at Morton Lochs, Kilconquhar Loch, Lochore Meadows, Rossie Bog and Wilderness.

Most of the reports came from water bodies around central Fife. Angle Park proved popular with this species during the early winter/spring period with 31 there on 14th Jan. Numbers dwindled slowly with 16 there on 22nd Mar but only one pair remained by 20th Apr. Nearby at Wilderness up to five could be seen throughout this period with similar numbers at Mountcastle and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs. Rossie Bog saw a male on 13th Jan and three males and one female there on 24th Feb. Morton Lochs held a pair from 10th Feb with a second pair there from 27th Mar with one pair remaining into May. Two pairs were noted in the channel off Newburgh on 28th Mar, a male showed at Letham on 21st Apr and 13 passed through Lochore Meadows on 22nd Apr. The Eden Estuary also witnessed a small passage with a male at Edenside on 24th Apr and five males there on 11th May.

Returning birds appeared from 25th Jul with 11 at Angle Park. Small numbers remained on the breeding season sites through the late summer. Star Moss was an unusual venue for this species with a single there on 23rd Aug. Two appeared on the Eden Estuary at Guardbridge on 2nd Sep with a male at Balgove Bay on 19th Oct. A single remained at Kilconquhar Loch on 21st Sep with four there on 26th Oct and three on 21st Nov. Two males and one female stayed at Rossie Bog until 20th Aug then two birds were reported there on 11th Oct. Wilderness held 12 on 2nd Oct. The last quarter saw Angle Park dominating again with ten there on 2nd Oct peaking at 60 on 28th Oct. Numbers fell on 3rd Nov when 28 were present with further decreases to 18 on 1st Dec. Seven were still present on 20th Dec. Moor Loch hosted 27 on 12th Nov. A few other sites held small numbers including a pair at Newton Sandpit on 18th Oct, a male near Crombie Point on 24th Oct, four at Otterston Loch on 28th Oct and two at Lochore Meadows on 5th Nov.

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Very scarce breeder, wintering in varying numbers on freshwater margins. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

No indications of breeding behaviour but birds were seen at Kilconquhar Loch, Rossie Bog, Loch Gelly, Wilderness and Earlsall Muir during the breeding season.

The first four months saw consistently high but fluctuating counts from Rossie Bog with peaks monthly counts of 280 on 13th Jan, 342 on 13th Feb, 457 on 15th Mar and 189 on 12th Apr. Kilconquhar Loch also produced a few good counts with 100 on 1st Jan increasing to 355 on 27th Jan but these quickly moved on leaving only 22 birds there on 10th Feb. Similar numbers remained there through to April. Morton Lochs also regularly held good numbers such as 160+ on 13th Jan, 200+ on 17th Feb and 225 on 9th Mar. Other high counts in January included 144 on the Eden Estuary on 4th, 50 at Star Moss on 5th, 118 at Loch Gelly and 110 at Newport, all on 11th. February brought 62 to Crieche on 9th and 76 at Moonzie on 27th with small numbers at eight other locations. Numbers remained low through March with small flocks seen at Dalgety Bay, Inverkeithing, Otterston Loch, Orkie, Newton Sandpit and Wilderness. Many of these sites held birds into April with the better counts reported from Newton Sandpit with 32 on 5th, Redlands Pool with 43 on 11th and Luthrie with 40 on 20th.

Small flocks began to appear in July with ten at Wilderness on 9th and 15 at Angle Park on 23rd. Migration was observed at a few sites with 4E past Elie Ness on 3rd Aug, 44W at Kinghorn on 17th Aug with 10W there on 10th Sep and 67W at Dalgety Bay on 30th Aug. Early autumn saw the Eden Estuary holding good numbers with 600 at Coble Shore on 11th Aug, 500 at Guardbridge on 17th Aug and 600 at Balgove Bay on 11th Sep. Elsewhere in August, 66 were noted at Orkie on 14th and 140 visited Tayport on 17th. The last quarter brought impressive numbers again to Rossie Bog. On 2nd Sep there were 122 but this increased sharply to about 1000 on 20th Sep rising again to 1350 on 2nd Oct. Counts varied from then onwards but 1080 remained on 11th Oct, dropping to 200+ on 22nd Oct then up again to 637 on 22nd Nov. December saw peaks of 187 on 13th and 350 on 20th there. Mountcastle was also a popular venue with 80 there on 8th Oct rising to 274 on 22nd Oct. A flock of 170 was still present on 9th Nov but it diminished further leaving 87 there on 20th Dec. Morton Lochs was also popular from mid-October with 103 on 12th dropping to 75 on 1st Nov but numbers soared by 9th Nov when 235 were found there. November saw concentrations at Kilconquhar Loch with 130 on 14th, 95 on 29th increasing to 250 by 20th Dec. Other high counts were reported including 200+ at Cullaloe on 21st Sep and 130 there on 26th Oct, 105 off Newburgh on 2nd Nov, 134 at Bath Pool on 28th Nov and 132 still there on 28th Dec. Valleyfield Lagoons also held a stable flock from September to October with 65 on 2nd Sep with a slight increase to 75 on 27th Oct. Smaller counts were recorded near Stand Alane Farm, Dalgety Bay, Otterston Loch, Newton Sandpit, Eden Estuary, Gilston, Inverkeithing Bay, Newton Farm Pond, Tayport and Lindores Loch during this period.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	320	436	150	86	0	0	10	25	51	155	245	333
Tay WeBS	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	142	10	0	0	13
Eden WeBS	46	48	4	0	0	0	0	6	0	14	34	170
Birnie/Gaddon	0	2	3	8	0	2	0	0	6	6	8	4

*Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) (9)

Vagrant.

A male was found at Rossie Bog on 16th Mar (Andre Thiel). Probably the same bird was relocated at Wilderness on 22nd Mar (Stuart MacDonald) and remained until 23rd Mar. The drake seen at Edenside in 2007 was seen from the 28th Dec (per Rob Armstrong).

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Abundant resident breeder and winter visitor. Amber data list species.

Breeding: An increase on the number of breeding sites reported compared to 2007. Loch Gelly produced 49 young from eight broods and Kilconquhar Loch produced 39 young from seven broods. The islands at Birnie Loch concealed 49 eggs in five nests but the outcome was not reported. Angle Park produced 17 young from two broods. Mountcastle produced 20 young from five broods. Morton Lochs produced at least 21 young from four broods. A brood of 12 held up the traffic while crossing the A92 at Kirkforthar Feus. On the Eden Estuary only one duckling survived out of broods of three and four after two days of predation. Other breeding sites included Tayfield (b6+b6), Dreelside (b1+b6+b10), Lochore Meadows (b5), Rossie Bog (b9), Cupar (b6+b6+b10), Moor Loch (b1), Bluther Burn (b11), Drumoig (b2), Glenrothes town park pond (b3), Duloch Park pond (b3), Thornton Pool (b3), Guardbridge (b8) and Lindores Loch (b8). A pair bred successfully at Damhead of Torr. Five juvs were seen on the sea off St Monans on 22nd Aug. Up to three pairs were on Inchcolm on 7th May when a female was flushed from a nest. One pair was noted on Inchkeith. Breeding reports with no details came from West Saline, Linkswood Pond, Newton Farm Pond and Newton Sandpit. Birds were also seen at Glenduckie, Cullaloe, Nether Bouprie, Pleasants, Dalgety Bay, West Quarry Braes, Pittarthie, Townhill Loch and Coul Reservoir during the breeding season.

Many sites produced single-figure counts in the first four months but the largest flocks were seen in January with 92 at Loch Gelly on 11th and 95 at Kilconquhar Loch on 27th. Coul Reservoir regularly held good numbers including 68 on 29th Jan and 46 on 6th Apr. Torry Bay saw 24 on 3rd Feb with 42 there on 1st Mar. Other sites providing reasonable counts were Harperleas Reservoir with 21 birds on 6th Jan, thirty at Newport jetty on 26th Jan, at least 20 in Dalgety Bay on 27th Jan, 24 on Glenrothes town park pond on 14th Feb and 30 at Townhill Loch on 24th Feb. Migrants were noted at Fife Ness with 35 on 5th Apr.

There were a few high summer/post-breeding counts including 74 adults at Loch Gelly on 13th Jun and 111 there on 17th Aug, 51 at Coul Reservoir on 21st Jun and at least 51 at Kilconquhar Loch on 27th Jun increasing to 136 there on 6th Jul. Numbers

there continued to rise to 193 on 26th Jul before falling slightly to 174 on 2nd Aug. Morton Lochs held 25 on 29th Jun with 46 there on 27th Jul. Birnie Loch saw 25 with 26 on the adjacent Gaddon Loch both on 11th Jul.

From August, birds gathered at Rossie Bog producing flocks of at least 40 on 14th Aug, at least 98 on 19th Aug with over 100 on the gamekeeper's pool there on 4th Oct. In the west Stand Alane Farm saw 27 on 19th Sep with 60 at the opposite end of the county at Boarhills on 28th Sep. October brought flocks to Torry Bay with 25 on 10th steadily building to 42 on 8th Nov and 48 on 8th Dec. Sixty-two had settled in at Kilconquhar Loch on 18th Oct with roughly the same number still present on 20th Dec. Balbeggie Pond hosted 50 on 19th Oct with numbers peaking at 43 off Pathhead on 20th Oct. Other coastal counts were 25 at Dalgety Bay on 30th Oct with further increases to 34 on 11th Nov and 40 on 31st Dec, Balgove Bay saw 92 on 7th Dec and 43 off Kirkcaldy on 11th Dec. Coul Reservoir held at least 30 on 22nd Nov and Lindores Loch saw 120 on 12th Dec. Reports of small numbers were received from 22 other sites during the year.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	148	153	83	54	50	60	86	60	97	140	158	208
Tay WeBS	116	116	47	30	16	41	35	27	29	61	152	146
Eden WeBS	88	64	8	0	14	0	8	16	120	41	68	82
Birnie/Gaddon	91	54	57	53	48	59	70	53	43	54	77	70

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

Regular winter visitor in small numbers, has bred. Amber data list species.

Rossie Bog dominated the sightings during the year. In the first four months numbers fluctuated there but peak monthly counts included 38 males and 13 females on 13th Jan, 81 on 13th Feb, at least 80 on 27th Feb, 56 on 16th Mar dropping to one male and three females on 12th Apr. The last bird of the spring was seen there on 25th Apr. Elsewhere in this period Balgove Bay held 27 on 5th Jan with 15 still there on 20th Jan. February saw a pair on Kilconquhar Loch and a male at Wilderness all on 3rd, two were on the sea off West Wemyss on 10th and a male was on the Eden Estuary on 21st. Three males and four females were off Shelly Spit on 13th Mar with two pairs remaining until 3rd Apr. A pair visited Letham on 19th Mar with a female there on 4th Apr. Another pair was off Ruddons Point on 27th Mar with two nearby at Shell Bay on 18th Apr. On 8th Apr, a pair and a single male took up residence at Earlshall Muir but all departed by 22nd Apr when the wetland dried out. Nearby a pair were on the Eden Estuary from 14th Apr to 20th Apr when two birds were also seen at Tayport.

Rossie Bog saw the first returning birds with 15 on 6th Aug increasing to 19 by 20th Aug. Numbers at this site again fluctuated wildly during the final four months with peaks of 14 on 6th Sep, 21 on 27th Oct, 64 on 22nd Nov and only five remaining on 23rd Dec. The Eden Estuary at Guardbridge also reported regular sightings with peaks of two on 23rd Aug, three on 20th Sep, 15 on 25th Oct. The outer Eden Estuary at Balgove Bay held larger flocks including 16 on 11th Sep, nine on 27th Oct and 18 from 24th Dec at least. Mountcastle produced sightings of a single female on 2nd Sep,

8th Oct and 22nd Oct. Two were at Dalgety Bay on 11th Sep with one there on 7th Oct. Further west a single male showed at Torry Bay on 24th Oct.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Eden WeBS	27	16	8	4	0	0	0	0	5	2	4	21

***Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)**

Scarce spring and autumn migrant, annual over the last decade. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Slightly above average year with sightings in spring and autumn.

A male was at Scooniehill Farm on 26th Apr (Tom & Bryan Moodie) – this has become a fairly regular venue for this species in recent years. Another male was on the small pond near the piggery by Morton Lochs on 13th May (Andy Falconer), the bird later flew towards Morton Lochs where a male was found on the north loch on 25th May (Stuart MacDonald). On 16th May, two males were seen on Loch Gelly (Dougie Dickson, Grant Robertson).

Later in the year three immatures were an excellent find at Rossie Bog on 30th Aug (Jeremy Squire).

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Scarce breeder, regular autumn passage migrant, wintering in increasing numbers. Amber data list species.

There were no breeding records this year.

Rossie Bog dominated the sightings reported during January to May. Numbers fluctuated wildly probably due to the difficult viewing conditions at this site. Monthly peaks were seven on 13th Jan, 11 on 10th Feb, 21 on 16th Mar, four on 23rd Apr and 19th May. Angle Park hosted two birds on 1st and 14th Jan with four there on 22nd Mar. Edenside also produced a few sightings including a male on 20th Jan, three males and one female on 20th Mar and a pair on 1st April. A male was seen at Newton Sandpits on 11th Feb with three birds at Birnie/Gaddon Loch on 24th Mar with two there on 26th May. There were a scattering of sightings during April with a pair at Kilconquhar Loch on 4th, two at Wilderness on 5th, a pair at Loch Gelly on 6th, a male at Earlshall Muir on 8th, a pair off Ruddons Point on 12th, a pair near Luthrie on 20th and 21st, two at Morton Lochs on 21st, singles at Beveridge Park and Raith Lake both on 27th and a male at Glenduckie on 29th. A pair visited Balgove Bay on 29th May. June saw three males and a female at Loch Gelly on 6th.

Morton Lochs produced its sole sighting of the year with one bird on 26th July. Nearby Balgove Bay saw a single bird on 29th Jul increasing to four on 1st Aug and another four on 1st Sep. From early August, Rossie Bog restated its claim as the favoured site for this species with fluctuating numbers but also some superb counts. On 6th Aug there was a flock of 38 with 35 there on 20th Aug and 28 on 30th. Up to 20 could still be seen by 6th Sep although only seven were reported on 20th Sep.

Forty birds were present on 2nd Oct dropping to 24 on 11th Oct and 12 on 22nd Oct. At least eight were seen on 2nd Nov with the same number there on 13th Dec. Kilconquhar Loch received a couple of visits with three birds on 14th Aug and two on 31st Aug. Edenside produced regular sightings with eight there on 22nd Aug, two on 23rd Aug and four on 31st Aug. Up to three birds were seen during the first fortnight in September with two or three present for four days from 12th Oct. Passage birds were noted at Fife Ness with 15 on 10th Sep and 55 on 12th Sep. Varying numbers were reported from Birnie/Gaddon Lochs but monthly peaks were seven on 27th Oct, nine on 17th Nov and two on 16th Dec. One was at Otterston Loch on 28th Oct and a single male showed at Tayport on 9th Nov. An uncommon sighting was of two males at Torry Bay on 23rd Nov and later three were seen nearby on Moor Loch on 27th Dec. A cold spell produced the year's **peak count of 79** congregating on an area of unfrozen water at Angle Park on 29th Nov (Harry Bell) but only 34 stayed there to 1st Dec. A single bird frequented Beveridge Park pond from 17th to 21st Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Eden WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

***Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)**

Rare but regular passage migrant predominantly in autumn, also escapes.

A male was present on Lochore Meadows from 1st to 2nd Nov (Ken & Kathy Shaw, D. Morrison).

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

Rare breeder, common passage migrant, wintering in varying numbers. Amber data list species.

Seems to be lost as a breeding species in the county with no records in May but up to six birds summered at Kilconquhar Loch and a female was noted at Angle Park on 21st Jun.

A slight drop in the number of records received but counts again fell dramatically with peak numbers less than half of that recorded in 2007. Kilconquhar Loch and Loch Gelly remained the favoured sites although records only came from the latter site from late July into August. Kilconquhar Loch recorded monthly peaks of 110 on 27th Jan, 144 on 9th Feb declining over the month to just 12 on 9th Mar. Birnie/Gaddon Lochs also produced regular sightings in the early part of the year with seven birds there on 21st Jan, 17 on 19th Feb, 11 on 10th Mar and three on 6th Apr. Mountcastle held 19 on 11th Jan with 34 at Carnbee Reservoir on 20th Jan. Smaller counts (1-8) were noted on single dates in the first four months at Linkwood Pond, Harperleas Reservoir, Rossie Bog, Newton Sandpit, Black Loch and Bowstard Loch.

Late summer saw numbers increase again at Kilconquhar Loch with at least ten on 17th Jul swelling to 90 on 26th Jul. Numbers peaked there with 152 on 24th Aug with December records there of 48 on 19th and 75 on 20th. Loch Gelly saw 110 on 26th July increasing to 150 on 17th Aug then declining to 85 on 22nd Aug. Other notable counts

included 80 at Cullaloe on 22nd Sep, 40 at Otterston Loch on 12th Oct dropping to at least 20 on 15th Nov, at least ten at Cameron Reservoir on 17th Nov and 15 at Kinghorn Loch on 27th Nov. Birnie/Gaddon Lochs had a peak of 16 on 27th Oct with a handful on four other dates. Lone birds were seen at Rossie Bog, Angle Park and Wilderness on single dates.

***Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) (12)**

Vagrant.

An eclipse drake, possibly the returning bird from 2006 and 2007, was at Loch Gelly from 19th Jul to 17th Aug (Jeremy Squire *et al*).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Regular breeder in good numbers with passage generally strong in the autumn, wintering in lesser numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Angle Park was the most productive site with 49 young raised from ten broods. A brood of seven was noted at Morton Lochs on 24th May, a brood of five was on Lindores Loch on 1st Jul and a brood of three was seen at Guardbridge on 21st Jul. Nests were checked at Birnie Loch with the north island holding four nests containing 2,5,6,11 eggs and the south island with three nests containing 10,10,16 eggs. The large numbers of eggs when compared to brood sizes illustrates the amount of predation this species suffers. Other birds were noted at Kilconquhar Loch, Otterston Loch, Harperleas Reservoir, Townhill Loch, Drumoig and Damside during the breeding season.

Kilconquhar Loch saw relatively good numbers with monthly peaks of 42 on 7th Jan dropping to only 11 on 17th Feb before climbing back up to 54 on 31st Mar, then to 130 on 11th Apr with only 24 still there on 23rd May. Wilderness saw an influx in early March with 63 on 4th but only 40 remained on the following day. Cameron Reservoir held 40 on 9th Feb with 33 there on 3rd Mar. Other good counts were noted with 34 at Newton Sandpit on 12th Jan, 40 at Cambee Reservoir on 20th Jan, 30 at Otterston Loch on 23rd Feb, 44 at Lindores Loch on 24th Mar and 37 at Golden Loch on 21st Apr. Smaller flocks showed at Ballo Reservoir, Clatto Reservoir, Duloch Park, Kirkton, Cullaloe, Coul Reservoir, Townhill Loch, Colzie, Orkie, Drumoig, Craigtoun CP, West Quarry Braes, Goat Quarry, Calaisburn and Dalgety Bay in the early part of the year.

Numbers began to build at Kilconquhar Loch from late June with 85 there on 22nd. This increased to 173 on 26th Jul peaking at 316 on 24th Aug then declined to 125 on 28th Aug. Mid-summer also saw large flocks at Loch Gelly starting with 120 on 20th Jul with 260 there six days later. Further increases there produced flocks of 341 on 17th Aug and 328 on 21st Aug but many had departed by 1st Sep when 168 were counted. Lindores Loch also saw a July influx with 40 there on 16th and 95 on 21st. Smaller numbers passed through Cameron Reservoir with 19 on 30th Jul, 34 on 17th Aug and 20 on 21st Aug.

The last four months saw the largest numbers again at Kilconquhar Loch. Numbers fluctuated with monthly peaks of 131 on 21st Sep, 208 on 26th Oct, 170 on 28th Nov and 220 on 20th Dec. Cameron Reservoir saw better numbers during this period with at least 150 on 11th Nov, 110 on 17th Nov and 35 on 30th Dec. Kinghorn Loch hosted 46 on 27th Nov and 40 occurred on Newton Farm Pond on 12th Dec. Other sites including Drumoig, Otterston Loch, Morton Lochs, Craigluscar, Holl and Ballo Reservoirs, Dalgety Bay and Golden Loch held smaller flocks during this period. Small numbers were noted at Black Loch, Guardbridge Mill Pond, Strathburn, Linkwood and Wormit Ponds during 2008.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Eden WeBS	0	9	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2
Birnie/Gaddon	37	79	77	68	49	44	17	6	15	47	36	40

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

Rapidly declining winter visitor occurring occasionally inland. The Forth Estuary no longer holds nationally important numbers. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

As commented on in previous reports this species numbers have been devastated in recent years and the slide continues. It was recorded in every month of the year. Only three double-figure counts during the year including 13 at Balgove Bay on 19th Jan and 16 at Goosepools on 19th Aug and 16S past Fife Ness on 19th Sep.

During the first half of the year the Eden Estuary regularly held small numbers with a female at Edenside on 5th Jan, a male and two female there on 11th to 27th Apr and a pair regularly seen from 21st May to 15th Jun. Kilconquhar Loch saw three males on 3rd Feb, four visited Valleyfield Lagoons on 6th Feb and six flew east past Kinraig Point on 24th Apr. Two were off Ruddons Point on 13th Feb, two females showed at Tayport on 9th Mar with two females at Loch Gelly on 27th Apr. Singles appeared at Lucky Scalp (10th Feb), Inverkeithing Bay (2nd Mar), Wilderness (5th Mar), Mountcastle (19th Mar, 2nd Apr, 5th May and 23rd May) and Loch Gelly (27th Mar).

Nine at Goosepools on 11th was the only July sighting. A male lingered off Anstuther for four days from 8th Aug. The Eden Estuary again produced a series of records including a male at Edenside on 27th Sep, four seen there a day later, one male and four females there on 12th Oct, a pair on 1st Nov and a female throughout December. Other Eden sightings were singles at Outhead on 29th Sep, at Balgove Bay on 11th Nov with two there on 12th Dec and one on the estuary on 15th-16th Oct then two on 28th Dec. Migrants were noted at Kinghorn where five flew west on 27th Sep. Up to one male and three females frequented Bath Pool from 28th Sep until 3rd Oct. Otterston Loch held a female from 21st Nov to 22nd Dec. Elsewhere a female was at Morton Lochs on 20th Oct, two females showed at Valleyfield Lagoons on 24th Oct, one at Dalgety Bay on 1st Dec and two were on Loch Gelly on 14th-22nd Dec.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

Very common to abundant, breeding in low numbers. The Tay Estuary and Forth Estuary hold nationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: On the Forth islands nesting birds were present on Inchkeith but not counted, Car Craig held four nests, Long Craig held 11 nests, Inchcolm held at least 50 nests and Inch Garvie held 71 nests (FSG). There were 11 nests at North Queensferry and nearby Dalgety Bay saw six fledglings with five females on 23rd Jun. Further east, two females accompanied three fledglings at Ravenscraig and another female had a brood of three off Dysart, all on 11th Jul. On 4th Jun there were creches of nine and ten off Lower Largo and Lundin Links respectively, with 33 fledglings in six broods off Kinncraig Point on 5th Jun. Late May produced a brood of three at Elie and broods of ten at Anstruther and Cellardyke harbour. The latter site saw four females with 25 fledglings on 10th Jun. At least 20 fledglings were seen at Balcomie beach on 5th Jun. Further north, the cathedral cliffs and beach at St Andrews held 15 nests on 24th May with nearby on the Eden Estuary three adults watched over 13 medium-sized juvs on 13th Jul. Birds were also recorded at Aberdour during the breeding season.

Tayport, as usual, held massive numbers with 6520 on 6th Jan (Norman Elkins) and a minimum of 1700 on 10th Feb. Ruddons Point also provided good counts with 580 there on New Years Day, 660 on 13th Feb and 705 on 23rd Apr. Elsewhere in Largo Bay, 34 were off Lower Largo on 19th Jan with 60 there on 13th Feb. Leven can still pull in reasonable sized flocks which included 43 on 21st Mar and 70 on 14th Apr. January saw 82 at St Andrews on 12th with at least 60 there a week later. Numbers at Dalgety Bay fluctuated with 28 there on 6th Jan, 40 on 6th Feb, 55 on 6th Apr and 60 on 17th May. Dysart had a steady flock of 60-70 birds until 21st Apr when 146 were present. Inverkeithing Bay and North Queensferry normally had up to 14 each but numbers increased on 6th Apr with 39 and 28 respectively but the latter location recorded a high site count of 84 on 9th Apr. This species is regular as far west as Culross Bay and counts between there and Crombie Point to the east regularly reached up to fifty. Pittenweem recorded 98 on 7th Apr. Small numbers were noted at Kinshaldy, Aberdour, St Davids Harbour and Barnhill Bay during the first four months of the year.

On 5th Jun a flock of 500, 98% of which were drakes, assembled at Seafield. Later in June other flocks started to gather including 51 at Dalgety Bay on 22nd and 198 at Leven on 27th. Numbers accumulated around the coast in July with 144 in moult at Shelly Spit on 3rd increasing to 200 by 9th with 278 nearby at Balgove Bay on 8th. At least 50 were seen at Ruby Bay on 6th. In the west, 500 remained off Seafield on 19th, 26 were in Torry Bay on 16th and 72 were present in Dalgety Bay on 20th.

From September, the outer Tay Estuary between Tayport and Lucky Scalp was again the place to see the largest flocks with 4000 on 14th Sep, 3000 on 12th Oct, at least 5000 on 1st Nov and 2300 on 13th Dec. Ruddons Point also saw good numbers in the last quarter including 962 on 13th Sep but only 240 remained on 10th Dec. Other notable counts came from Torry Bay with 75 on 15th Aug, Leven with 124 on 24th Aug, Dysart with 50 on 14th Oct, West Wemyss with about 70 on 9th Nov and St Andrews which saw 106 on 17th Nov. Inverkeithing Bay, Dalgety Bay, Inchkeith and Tentsmuir saw smaller numbers during the last quarter.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	1472	1824	2178	2844	1087	823	1513	2047	2937	1502	1241	2202
Tay WeBS	6520	1700	nc	3200	650	nc	nc	nc	4000	1700	3000	2300
Eden WeBS	187	240	212	55	0	45	100	40	126	60	55	75

partial counts

***King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) (7+)**

Rare autumn and winter visitor, occasionally summering.

A first-winter male was found off Ruddons Point on 27th Mar (Mike Ramage). It returned in second-winter plumage nearby at Kincaraig Point on 25th Dec (Mike Ramage) and continued to be appreciated slightly further to the east at Earlsferry into 2009.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

Common winter visitor. The Forth Estuary and St Andrews Bay hold nationally important numbers. Schedule 1 species.

Only one site, Goosepools, held flocks of more than one hundred birds with all other locations struggling to reach that figure. Peak counts for Goosepools were 315 on 7th Jan, 186 on 8th Apr, 170 on 22nd Oct, 190 on 12th Nov, 240 on 25th Nov and 320 on 9th Dec. Other locations in that vicinity provided the bulk of the other 'high' counts including 60 at Kinshaldy on 6th Jan, about 60 off Outhead on 12th Apr and 39 to the south of Tentsmuir on 6th Dec.

Largo Bay, **formerly a prime site** for this species, could only muster 45 off Ruddons Point on 13th Feb with 73 there on 23rd Apr. Nearby, Kincaraig Point produced 42 on 12th Apr with the last 23 of the spring there on 11th May. At the other end of the bay, Leven peaked at 35 on 14th Dec.

All other records comprised of counts below the mid-twenty's. As with many other marine birds, an increasing number of records were of sightings to the west of Largo Bay. In January up to 12 were found off Dysart with 1-2 off Ravenscraig with a single much further west in Inverkeithing Bay on 11th. On 10th Feb, two flocks of 15 showed off the mouth of the Tiel Burn and at Pathhead with 17 at Buckhaven. Four were off Kinghorn on 20th Feb. Two ventured up to Dalgety Bay on 23rd Mar with one there on 6th and 10th Apr. Five pairs were off Ravenscraig on 2nd Apr and ten showed at Pathhead on 11th Apr. Dysart saw a late influx of 24 birds on 21st Apr and eight were nearby at West Wemyss on 5th May. Other records in this period came from Cambo Ness and St Andrews.

There were no further records until mid-October when a single was seen at Kinghorn and three were at Leven all on 12th. The only inland records of the year consisted one on 17th and two female/immatures on 19th, all at Kilconquhar Loch. Further October records came from the west with one at Pathhead on 20th and four at Seafield on 25th. The latter birds were to remain at that site until 27th Dec at least. Staying in the west, Dysart had 11 males and three females on 12th Nov and 16 there on 20th Dec. Nearby, West Wemyss held 12 on 29th Nov and eight still there on 31st

Dec. Three were off Abden on 9th Dec. Elsewhere small numbers were noted off Tayport, Earlsferry and Eden Estuary. This will have been a depressing read for those who can remember the regular and spectacular flocks of the mid 80's and earlier.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	70	71	59	116	5	0	0	0	0	8	28	77
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Eden WeBS	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

Common winter visitor, summering not unusual. The Forth Estuary and St Andrews Bay hold nationally important numbers. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

Numbers were a good bit better than the previous year with Largo Bay and Goosepools producing good counts. An increased number of records including some sizeable flocks were received from areas to the west of Largo Bay.

In the first half of the year Ruddons Point consistently saw large flocks starting with about 160 on 6th Jan. Further newcomers took the total there to 195 on 10th Feb with a further increase to 250 on 13th Feb. Numbers fell again in March to 149 on 9th but passage birds in April swelled the ranks there to 520 on 3rd before moving on leaving 258 there on 12th. A further movement in May brought an impressive 820 there on 11th. Nearby 90 showed off Leven on 20th Jan with 130 there later on 12th May. Other reports from Largo Bay included 140 on 13th Mar, 150 on 28th Mar, at least 80 on 18th Apr and 70 off Lower Largo on 2nd Mar. **St Andrews held at least 50 for a week** from 12th Jan with about 100 nearby off Tentsmuir on 20th Jan and 160 there on 2nd Feb. West of Largo Bay birds were being recorded as far up the Forth as Inverkeithing Bay with four there on 11th Jan and ten on 22nd Jan. East Wemyss produced 120 on 6th Jan and 190 on 6th Apr. Nearby at West Wemyss 100 were seen on 16th Feb then a notable 300 on 13th Apr with 52 remaining there on 5th May. Smaller numbers appeared off Ravenscraig, Dysart, Kirkcaldy and Pathhead where numbers peaked at 53 on 15th Mar. A good, and also the last count of the spring, was of about 70 at Pettycur on 29th May.

There were no June records and the first late summer reports were at Ruddons Point with 270 on 1st Jul and 105 on 20th Jul. Southward passage brought 380 to the south end of Tentsmuir on 9th Aug and 850 at Goosepools on 22nd Aug. This was the first of a series of notable counts from the latter site including 1000 on 25th Sep and 700 on 2nd Oct before numbers fell to a still respectable 250 on 12th Nov and 300 on 9th Dec. Small numbers of passage birds were noted at Fife Ness and Elie Ness from August to October. In the Forth, good numbers remained off Ruddons Point with 180 on 16th Aug, 240 on 13th Sep and 300 on 13th Nov. Elsewhere in Largo Bay, 140 showed off Kinraig Point on 13th Nov and 300, which comprised mainly female/immatures, prepared for the New Year at Leven on 28th Dec. Further west counts were much lower than earlier in the year with peak counts being at Seafeld (22), Pathhead (1), Dalgety Bay (8) and West Wemyss (21).

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	452	359	550	710	4	20	105	19	256	41	560	240
Tay WeBS	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eden WeBS	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	145	0	0	45	0

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

Regular visitor from autumn to spring in very small numbers.

Only one record came from outwith Largo Bay involved an adult male flying north close inshore past the FBC hide at Fife Ness on 13th Sep (Julian Branscombe, Rab Shand).

As usual Ruddons Point recorded the first of the year with the adult male from 2007 still present on 6th Jan. It continued to be reported on its own from there or from Lower Largo until 11th Mar, when it was seen accompanied by a female (David & Avril Haines). There were further reports of a single male through to 3rd Apr when two males were noted (Mike Ramage). On 5th May a male and female were seen (Mark Wilkinson) and then again on 11th May (Mike Ramage).

There were no further reports from Largo Bay until 11th Nov when a single male returned and was regularly seen until the years end.

Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

Common but declining winter visitor in varying numbers, primarily to the east of the region, regularly summers. St Andrews Bay and the Forth Estuary hold nationally important numbers. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Seen in every month of the year although there were only two triple-figure counts. In the first half of the year Goosepools produced the years highest count of 176 on 7th Jan (Mike Ramage) but other than counts of five and ten from the south end of Tentsmuir in February there were no further records from the area. Largo Bay and its associated sites provided the bulk of the records. Counts from Largo Bay included 71 on 1st Jan, at least 35 on 28th Jan, a reasonable flock of 142 on 13th Feb, 90 on 3rd Apr and five summering on 6th Jun was the only sighting that month. Ruddons Point saw 76 on 6th Jan and 71 on 10th Feb with smaller counts into April. The peak count off Lower Largo was a lowly 20 on 2nd Mar. At the west end of the bay, Leven fared only slightly better with a peak of 34 on 14th Apr. Further west, East Wemyss recorded a respectable 65 on 6th Apr. Nearby, West Wemyss saw single-figure counts in February and April with five there on 5th May being the only count for that month. Pathhead produced 22 on 2nd Feb and 12 on 23rd Mar with smaller counts recorded nearby off Ravenscraig, Kirkcaldy and Dysart during the period. One off Carlingnose Point on 15th Jan was thought to be the first record for that westerly site. Elsewhere a male flew west past Fife Ness on 4th Jan and eight flew east past Anstruther on 7th Apr.

The last six months brought fewer reports and substantially lower counts emphasising the continued decline of this species in the county. Twelve were off Ruddons Point on 20th Jul and this was to be the peak count at this site during the period. Later there were 26 in Largo Bay on 1st Nov, 37 at Leven on 16th Nov and 40 off Lower Largo on 28th Dec. Smaller counts came from Carrick Villa and Lundin

Links. Movements were noted at Fife Ness with 1S on 9th Aug, 1N on 29th Aug, 10N2S on 13th Sep, 13S on 19th Sep, 4N on 19th Oct and 6N on 21st Nov. Anstruther recorded 14E on 14th Dec. Further north at Goosepools only 15 were noted on 25th Sep but numbers did increase there to 26 on 12th Nov and 50 on 9th Dec. Nearby a single bird was off St Andrews on 28th Nov. One bird ventured along to Dalgety Bay on 18th Oct and small numbers showed again at West Wemyss from November with a peak of 14 on the last day of the year.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	257	182	169	259	4	0	12	0	2	29	31	504

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

Common but declining winter visitor to coastal areas and inland waters. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

Higher numbers are now being reported from inland waters compared to coastal sites. There were no reports of summering birds in 2008. Lindores Loch was the only site to record flocks consisting of greater than one hundred birds.

Balgove Bay recorded 33 on 5th Jan with the nearby Eden Estuary holding peaks of 44 on 21st Feb, 48 on 23rd Mar with other small counts there and also at Guardbridge Mill Pond and St Andrews. In the Firth of Forth, Leven, as in recent years, struggled to attract big flocks with 44 on 20th Jan, 41 on 6th Feb, 29 on 1st Mar and 19 on 2nd Apr being the peaks there. Dysart, Ravenscraig, Aberdour, Dalgety Bay and Torry Bay all saw single-figure counts but Inverkeithing Bay drew 25 on 10th Feb with 15 there on 9th Mar.

Lindores Loch consistently held flocks in varying, but good numbers. Peaks there were 102 on 14th Jan, at least 148 on 20th Feb (Dougie Dickson), 72 on 27th Mar, 62 on 7th Apr with 24 still there on 20th Apr. Kilconquhar Loch was also a regular venue hosting 60 on 9th Feb, 82 on 14th Mar, 54 on 23rd Apr. The last two birds of spring showed there on 30th May. Fewer sightings came from Loch Gelly but it did hold 78 on 15th Feb and seven birds remained until 16th May. Birnie/Gaddon Lochs were also popular as detailed below. Twenty birds were counted at both Ballenbriech and Cameron Reservoir on 9th Feb and Mountcastle saw 26 on 24th Feb and 23 on 2nd Apr. Counts of less than twenty were reported from 12 other sites.

The first returning birds were a single on the Eden Estuary on 3rd Aug and three at Loch Gelly on 1st Sep. Further singles were seen in the last week of September on the Eden Estuary, Kilconquhar Loch and off Pathhead. Numbers built up at Kilconquhar Loch with 13 on 17th Oct, then 28 on 2nd Nov with the same number there on 27th Dec. Moor Loch had ten on 18th Oct and 26 on 27th Dec. Coastal counts remained low with peaks of 48 on the Eden Estuary at Guardbridge on 1st Nov, 17 at Dalgety Bay on 3rd Nov and 46 at Leven on 7th Dec. Loch Gelly produced 50 on 16th Nov. December saw the first reports from Lindores Loch with 78 on 12th with an overnight influx pushing that up to 114 on 13th. However only 33 remained there on 28th Dec. Nearby 28 were seen at Gaddon Loch on 7th Nov. Eighteen other sites reported single-figure counts.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	43	101	35	26	0	0	0	0	1	4	21	71
Tay WeBS	1	0	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eden WeBS	14	26	35	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0
Birnie/Gaddon	72	71	65	47	0	0	20	0	4	8	35	53

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) (1)

Vagrant.

One of the most unexpected additions to the county list was a female found on Tayport Pond on 26th Oct (Paul Blackburn). It occasionally went missing but was heavily twitched and much appreciated by all who saw it until it departed on 15th Nov. This the third record for Scotland, the others being found on North Uist, Western Isles in 2000 and Unst, Shetland in 2006.

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*)

Winter visitor in small numbers to inland waters but occasionally to the coast. Amber data list species.

The **second poor year in a row**, which along with 2007 produced the least number of sightings since 1989. In the early winter period a male graced Lindores Loch on 20th Feb (Dougie Dickson). Later in the year a redhead visited Lochore Meadows on 12th Nov (Ken Shaw).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

Common non-breeding resident. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers.

Numbers were lower than last year continuing the recent downward trend. There was only one record from inland waters consisting of two birds on Cameron Reservoir on 9th Feb.

In the first quarter there were only a few counts in double-figures, all from the western section of the Firth of Forth including 15 at Inverkeithing Bay on 6th Jan, 24 at Aberdour on 17th Feb and 14 at Leven on 2nd Mar. Ravenscraig saw 11 on 27th Jan, 20 on 27th Mar and 27 on 27th Apr. The bulk of April's sightings also came from this area with 63 off Cults Ness on 9th, 18 in Dalgety Bay on 21st and 16 in Barnhill Bay on 24th with small numbers of Valleyfield Lagoons. Further east, Leven saw 24 on 14th, 36 showed in Largo Bay on 18th and 15 were off Outhead on 8th. From May, non/failed breeders congregated mainly at eastern sites. At least 15 lingered on the Eden Estuary on 4th May with 17 there on 3rd Jun. Largo Bay also accumulated flocks with 40 off Ruddons Point on 26th May and 75 at Leven on 26th Jun.

Post-breeding flocks were seen from late July when at least 100 appeared at Kinshaldy on 28th with 62 nearby in Balgove Bay on 15th Aug. Further south, 12 fed off Fife Ness on 11th Aug whilst Largo Bay recorded 22 of Lundin Links on 8th Aug with 34 there on 19th Sep, 92 off Ruddon Point on 24th Aug and 70 at Leven on 28th

Sep. The north-east continued to see good numbers into October with 36 off Tentsmuir on 11th, 25 at Lucky Scalp on 12th and 105 at Goosepools on 14th Oct (Ranald Strachan). In the west there was also a build-up with ten at Pathhead on 5th increasing to 24 on 26th and 35 at Dalgety Bay on 30th. The latter site still had 30 on 8th Nov, West Wemyss saw 14 on 9th Nov with ten still there on 29th Nov with 16 off Kirkcaldy on 15th Nov. Tentsmuir still held 24 on 9th Nov with 44 nearby at Goosepools on 9th Dec and 46 at Lucky Scalp on 13th Dec. Smaller numbers were seen off Inchkeith, Kinghorn, Seafield, Earlsferry, St Andrews and Tayport during the last three months of the year.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	59	99	67	127	19	40	39	49	26	100	105	125
Tay WeBS	35	2	15	40	8	3	0	0	5	7	10	47
Eden WeBS	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	22	2	11	2	15

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Winter visitor in small numbers to freshwaters with regular moulting flocks arriving late summer. The Tay Estuary holds nationally important numbers.

Numbers were very low from January to May with no double-figure counts reported. Birnie Loch held eight on New Years Day, six were on Lindores Loch on 13th Feb, seven were on the River Eden at Springfield on 19th Apr and six showed in Dalgety Bay on 17th May. Movements were noted at Mugrum Island with two east on 9th Feb, at Springfield Muir with a male flying north on 12th Feb and a female going north past Fife Ness on 27th May. Counts of five or less were reported from ten other sites during this period.

Birds started flocking slightly later this year but June brought up to 17 on the Eden Estuary on 13th with 43 at Guardbridge by 1st Jul. In the Largo Bay area, 14 appeared off Leven on 19th Jun with a rapid increase to 78 on 27th Jun and then 85 there on 13th Jul. Kinraig Point saw 24 on 21st Jun with 44 on 1st Jul. Nearby, off Ruddons Point, 70 showed on 22nd Jun. Also on 22nd Jun, 59 redheads gathered at Lucky Scalp. This flock saw further increases with 95 there on 20th Jul and 120+ nearby off Tayport on 27th Jul. Leven held up to 30 during August. Thirteen were chased by a canoeist on the Eden Estuary on 13th Aug and 15 were seen off Elie Ness on 20th Aug. Lucky Scalp recorded the year's peak count with 207 on 17th Aug (Norman Elkins). September was a quiet month with flocks of 1-7 reported from six sites. The Eden Estuary recorded 17 on 1st Oct with seven still there on 15th. Birnie/Gaddon Lochs dominated the final three months as can be seen from the WeBS counts below. Peaks there included 94 males on Birnie Loch and ten males on Gaddon Loch, all on 11th Nov and 56 birds on Birnie Loch on 18th Nov. Lindores Loch produced a peak of 31 on 12th Dec although only six remained by 29th Dec. Other sites reporting birds in single-figures during the last quarter included Newburgh, Rossie Bog, Leven, Mountcastle, Coul Reservoir, Cupar Wards, Springfield, Dalgety Bay, Ballo Reservoir and Beveridge Park.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	6	6	0	6	70	4	30	31	0	21	0
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	75	95	207	90	0	3	0
Eden WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	1	0	0
Birnie/Gaddon	22	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	3	36	39	35

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Common breeding summer visitor, winters in small numbers.

Recorded in every month except December but in greatly diminished numbers and at fewer venues compared to previous years. A pair produced a brood of five at Kilconquhar Loch but this was the only confirmed breeding record.

Loch Gelly held overwintering birds with three present on 12th Jan. Single males were noted there on 20th Jan and 7th Feb before three were seen on 9th Mar. Calaisburn was a new site for this species with a female present on 1st Mar and a male there on the following day however there were no further sightings. Kilconquhar Loch saw its first returning birds with a male on 22nd and 23rd Mar and a female on 2nd Apr. Four were present on 2nd May but only one pair took up residence there from 3rd May until joined by others in early August. Loch Gelly held three on 2nd Apr increasing to five on 11th Apr. These remained until 16th May but only two summered with the last male seen there on 10th Jul. Four adults and the brood of five were seen at Kilconquhar Loch on 9th Aug. By 23rd Aug only two females remained with three birds seen on 19th Sep. The last two birds of the year were noted there on 2nd Nov.

***Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus scotica*)**

Scarce breeding resident. Amber data list species.

A wider spread of records than in 2007 but post-breeding numbers were low. Two were seen on the Fife side of Benarty Hill on 4th Feb, the first records from this site since 2006. West Lomond held four birds on 12th Feb with three seen there on 9th Apr and 20th Apr. One was heard there on 31st May and only three were present on 28th Dec. The highest count was of six near Craigmead on 2nd Apr and one was near Harperleas Reservoir on 13th Apr. East Lomond held two on 20th Apr with two still there on 16th Oct and one there on 20th Dec.

***Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)**

Introduced. Scarce breeding resident.

Fewer reports and no indication of breeding. The largest count came from Cabbagehall where ten were noted on 21st Jan. May saw a single at Drumeldrie on 6th and another was heard calling near Norman's Law on 20th. Four showed at Sunnybraes on 23rd Jul and the final report for the year was of one between Kingsbarns and Dunino on 27th Sep.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

Common breeding resident. Red data list species.

Breeding: Five were seen at Blairhall Bing on 12th Jun. A pair and one juv showed at Damhead of Torr on 21st Jun and a brood of at least five small young were seen at Cocklemill Marsh on 23rd Jun. Unusually no young were seen at Leuchars Airfield. Pairs were seen in suitable breeding habitat at a minimum of 20 other locations during the breeding season.

January and February saw some large coveys including 14 at West Muircambus on 4th Jan and 1st Feb, 20 at Star on 6th Jan and the year’s peak count of 21 near the entrance to Morton Lochs on 12th Jan. Twelve were at Letham on 5th Feb, ten at Stravithie on 6th, 16 at Kincaraig Point on 16th and 14 at Phantassie on 22nd Feb. Most had dispersed in March and records were mainly of pairs although some small loose flocks were reported. Five were seen between Ardross and Elie on 7th Apr and three pairs were noted at both Kincaraig Hill on 13th Apr and at Peacehill on 14th Apr. Small counts (1-9) were reported from 28 other sites in the first four months mainly in the east of the county.

Coveys began to be reported again from late August with six at Kincaraig Point on 23rd and four at Elie on 27th. Damhead of Torr produced some of the largest congregations of the latter part of the year including 18 on 30th Aug, 17 on 10th -12th Sep, ten on 16th Nov then only five there on 30th Nov. Other large groups appeared at Cellardyke where ten were present for two days from 5th Oct and 12 at Shell Bay on 26th Oct. November produced 13 at Cluny on 12th, ten at Auchtermuchty Common on 15th, 16 at Kincaraig Point on 22nd, ten at Inverdovat on 23rd and 14 at Ardross on 26th. Small counts (1-9) were recorded at 12 other sites in the second half of the year.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	25	0.74
2007	48	27	0.57
2008	46	29	0.63

***Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)**

Scarce summer visitor in varying numbers. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

An average year for this erratic visitor with no confirmed breeding. Things looked promising with one bird seen in a field near Kincaraig Point on 25th May and at least two birds calling at West Quarry Braes on 31st May but only two other reports followed. Singles were heard calling at Sheills on 29th Jun and at Nochnary Farm on 21st Jul.

Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: At least two females out of six were successful at Damhead of Torr where a juvenile was seen on 22nd Jun and eight juvs there on 21st Aug. Five juvs were also recorded at Valleyfield Woods on 22nd Jun. Territories were noted at West Saline, Cullaloe, Craigsanquhar, St Margaret’s Marsh, Pleasants Farm and Kingsbarns.

Reports were mainly single-figure counts but at least ten were seen at Lindores on 28th Jan and at Leuchars Airfield from 10th to 13th Apr. A flock of 13 were at Straiton Farm on 7th Mar and 12 were at Hazelton on 6th May. A melanistic bird appeared at Otterston Loch from 10th Feb to 2nd Mar. A wanderer was found in a housing estate at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing on 1st Apr and a pair were regular at Dysart House throughout the year. At least five showed at North Lodge, Monimail on 5th Feb and three were at Star Moss on 5th Jan. Other reports in the early part of the year came from Newport, Skelpie Farm, Glenrothes, Balmerino, Cullaloe, Drumoig and Bonnytown.

Further releases probably contributed to some of the high counts in the latter half of the year. Eighteen were counted between Coultra and Birkhill on 30th Aug with at least 30 at Birkhill on 1st Sep. Twelve showed at Serpentine, Scotsraig on 19th Oct and 19 fed on Bath Moor on 30th Dec. Four males were noted at Gateside on 8th Dec, seven at Hazelton, at least nine at Lindores and five males to the west of Gaudry all on 29th Dec. Single were reported from Caldwell's Farm, Cullaloe, near Balbougie, Auchtermuchty Common and East Lomond during the period.

Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

Common winter visitor, abundant at times, particularly in the spring and autumn. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Unusual inland. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Recorded in every month of the year. An increasing number of reports are from the west end of the Firth of Forth.

Birds were on the move at the start of the year with 3W past Fife Ness on 4th Jan. In the first quarter birds were regularly seen in the west with one at Dalgety Bay on 6th Jan and 14th Feb with two there on 23rd Mar. Two were off Kirkcaldy on 12th Jan, three nearby off Seafield on 10th Feb, one also nearby off Pathhead on 17th Feb and 17th Mar and two also nearby off Ravensraig on 20th and 27th Mar. Singles were off West Wemyss on 16th Feb, off Valleyfield Lagoons on 26th Mar and off Pettycur on 30th Mar. Further east the Largo Bay area saw eight off Kinraig Point on 21st Jan and 12 there on 13th Feb. A single was off Leven on 6th Feb with two at Lower Largo on 10th Feb. Late March saw between four and six birds off Ruddons Point. In the north-east in January singles were at Kinshaldy on 6th, at St Andrews on 19th and off Tentsmuir on 20th. February saw an influx bring 20 to Goosepools with two nearby at Outhead all on 12th. At least one was present on the Eden Estuary from 2nd Mar to 23rd Mar.

Early April saw some northward movements with two passing Fife Ness on both 2nd and 4th. Some areas saw congregations such as in the west where three birds were seen at both Dysart and East Wemyss, seven at West Wemyss, two in the inner bay at Inverkeithing all on 6th, nine nearby at Dalgety Bay on 7th and four in Inverkeithing Bay on 8th. One was well up the Forth in Culross Bay on 19th. In the east, Goosepools gathered 25 on 8th. Leven held 1-2 during the month. Ruddons Point saw 15E/1hr on 9th with five off Anstruther on 10th. Ruddons Point witnessed flocks with 15 off there on 12th and an impressive 38 on 23rd. There were further movements on 24th with 5E past Anstruther and 12N at Fife Ness. Three birds remained at West Wemyss until 5th May with a winter-plumaged individual off Pettycur on 11th. Seven were off Ruddons

Point on 7th with the same count nearby off Kincaig Point on 11th. Passage was noted at Fife Ness with 2N on 11th and at Anstruther with 1E on 24th. A single non-breeder lingered at Ruddons Point on 26th May and 13th Jun.

Early returners arrived in the west with a summer-plumaged bird off Kinghorn on 11th Jul and one at Dalgety Bay on 21st Jul. Late summer saw flocks accumulate at Goosepools starting with five there on 11th Jul increasing to 40 on 25th Aug. Numbers fluctuated but 21 remained on 10th Sep before building to 40 again on 25th Sep. The area proved attractive with good numbers remaining through to winter including 47 on 14th Oct, 36 on 12th Nov and 18 on 9th Dec. Singles were seen between Tayport and Lucky Scalp on 14th Sep and 26th Oct. Passage birds included 1E past Anstruther on 15th Aug and 2N past Fife Ness on 6th Sep. Three birds were also on the sea there on 6th increasing to six on 15th Sep. Fife Ness saw further movements with 2S on 17th Sep, 2N13S on 20th Sep. Five flew west past Kinghorn on 27th Sep with 6W there on 14th Dec. Largo Bay saw smaller flocks with eight off Ruddons Point on 16th Aug and ten there on 13th Sep. Between 4-7 birds were reported off there during the last quarter. Nearby 14 were off Kincaig Point on 30th Aug with six there on 30th Oct. Leven held between 1-3 birds from mid-October onwards and Lower Largo produced a count of eight on 15th Dec. Further up the Forth, singles were off Pettycur and Seafield both on 15th Sep and in Dalgety Bay on 30th Sep. Numbers increased at the latter site with three on 4th Oct, five on 17th Nov and one on 13th Dec. Other singles were seen at Kinghorn on 12th Oct, at Seafield on 1st to 2nd Nov, West Wemyss on 9th Nov and 29th Nov and at Inverkeithing Bay on 15th Nov.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	7	6	4	32	0	2	0	0	10	7	5	8
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Eden WeBS	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*)

Regular offshore in winter with peaks on spring and autumn passage. The Forth Estuary no longer holds nationally important numbers. Very scarce inland. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

More birds were reported to the west of Largo Bay than usual particularly in the early part of the year. Recorded in every month except October.

In January two were off both East Wemyss and Ruddons Point on 6th. In the west a single was at Dalgety Bay on 7th with two off the mouth off the Tiel Burn on 11th. On 16th a single was on the Eden Estuary. Also from 16th until 29th two mingled with the derelict nuclear submarines in the inner basin at Rosyth Dockyard. From February reports became more frequent from the Largo Bay area starting with a single off Lower Largo on 10th when another was reported in the west from Seafield. Up to two were noted in Largo Bay until 15th Feb. Dalgety Bay produced its second record of the year on 22nd Mar. Leven held two on 25th Mar while four were to be seen off Ruddons Point at the other end of the bay on 28th Mar. Birds were on the move in early April with one past Fife Ness on 4th and another west past Anstruther

on 6th. Ruddons Point continued to see good numbers with four there on 10th and a peak of seven on 23rd. One was still off Leven on 12th Apr. Counts of three, possibly non-breeders continued to be reported from Ruddons Point on 18th May, 6th Jun and 24th Aug with other reports of singles there on 12th Aug and nearby off Lower Largo on 21st May and Kincaig Point on 5th Jul.

Passage was noted at Fife Ness with 1S on 2nd Sep, 3S low over Fife Ness Muir on 12th Sep, 2S on 25th Sep. Also one passed Kinghorn on 13th Sep with 1W at Elie Ness on 28th Sep. November saw 1N past Fife Ness on 1st and two off Pathhead on 6th. Movements continued into December with 1W at Anstruther and 2W at Kinghorn all on 14th. The last records of the year were on 28th when at least five were in Largo Bay.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

***Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*)**

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, occasionally recorded in summer. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

The year kicked off with a single off Elie on New Years Day with possibly the same bird being seen nearby at Kincaig Point on 4th Jan. Also on 4th Jan one flew west past Fife Ness with another past there on 26th Jan. Further west two were off the mouth of the Tiel Burn on 11th Jan. February saw a single off Kincaig Point on 10th. Another single was off Goosepools on 7th Mar with another at Tayport harbour on 20th Mar. One flew west past Anstruther on 25th Mar. The last birds of the spring were a winter-plumaged bird at Dalgety Bay on 8th Apr and off Kincaig Point on 14th Apr.

Autumn saw the first birds in the west with singles past Kinghorn on 7th Sep and 19th Oct with another west past there on 14th Dec. September also saw one off Fife Ness on 15th. Singles appeared at Kincaig Point on 30th Oct and 30th Dec with others off Goosepools on 25th Nov and 9th Dec. One was regularly seen off Leven/Methil PS from 28th Nov until 11th Dec with another nearby in Largo Bay on 28th Dec.

Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

Breeds on coastal cliffs and in small numbers in inland quarries, with passage through the area in varying numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Reported from ten locations two inland, seven coastal and three islands.

Inland sites: Two birds noted at Lucklawhill Quarry on 19th Jan, increasing to 18 pairs by 17th Mar. Six nests were noted on 15th Jul. Overall up to 20 pairs were present in the quarry during the period February to May. Six pairs at Brackmont Quarry on 29th Apr but only two nests noted there on 15th Jul.

Coastal sites: January counts from the cliffs at St Andrews produced 250 on 12th, dropping to 50 on 19th then increasing to 180+ on 23rd. The maximum year count of 250 individuals is indicative of a minimum breeding population here of 125 pairs. At the other end of the year, 140 were counted on the cliffs on 26th Dec. An increase on previous years was noted at Pittenweem with 13AON on 1st May. Four at Kincaig

Point on 4th Feb, two on 17th and 25 on 15th Mar, 8AON on 31st May with two young fledged on 19th Aug. Eight present on 25th Dec. At Buckhaven an individual flew up and down Brown Street all day on 12th Apr, possibly surveying potential nest sites. Ten birds were present at West Wemyss on 20th Apr. Seven were present on the cliffs at Dysart on 16th Jan with six there on 27th. Six pairs were present on 2nd Apr with 16 birds present on 11th and one pair noted copulating on 17th, then 12 birds were present on 20th. Again the maximum count of individuals is indicative of at least eight pairs. In the area of the nearby Ravenscraig Castle, eight birds were noted on 11th Apr with six there on 20th. Nineteen on cliffs at Kinghorn on 20th Feb. Fifteen birds, of which 12AON, on cliffs at Aberdour on 24th Apr, however only 1AON remained there on 16th May possibly indicative of disturbance due to the rock climbing activities there. Three individuals were sitting on ledges at Carlingnose Point on 14th Feb with 5AON there on 18th Jun.

Island sites: A count of two was noted on Inch Garvie on 14th Jan but then saw a dramatic increase to 81 on 15th, increasing again to 190 by 11th Feb, 212 by 15th Feb and 310 by 17th Mar. The 2008 all island count by the FSG again depicted the continuing downward trend for this species in the Firth of Forth. The FSG AOS totals for the Fife islands were as follows; Inchcolm 124, Inch Garvie 175 and Inchkeith 248.

The following passage counts by site were recorded; 33E at Anstruther on 25th Jul. 100E/1hr at Ardrross on 16th Apr. 23N at Fife Ness on 30th May, 180N/2hrs on 13th Aug, 100N/1hr on 16th, 85N on 29th, 685N/2hrs (including a blue phase bird) on 5th Sep and 100+N on 7th. A single bird was noted in Balgove Bay on 24th Dec, c40 at Dalgety Bay on 5th Sep, 1NE over Kilconquhar Loch on 18th Apr, 60E/1hr at Kinraig Point on 17th Apr and 72E/1hr on 30th Aug. A small passage of 3W at Leuchars Airfield on 29th May were probably birds moving from the sea to the nearby Lucklawhill Quarry.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	8	10	16	2	28	5	0	9	0	0	0

Distribution of Northern Fulmar Breeding Population in Fife

Pairs/AOS	2007	2008
Coastal	229	c181
Inland	30	26
Islands	986	850
Total	1245	957

N.B. The 2008 coastal total is based upon estimated AOS derived from maximum bird counts.

***Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*)**

Uncommon to common on passage during summer and autumn, with most records from the east of the region. Amber data list species.

The majority of the reports came from Fife Ness where in August there were 2N on 5th, and 1N on 6th. Later in the month there were another two north on 17th and 1N on 29th. The first two weeks of September saw a stronger passage with 24N/5hrs on

5th, 58N/6hrs in a force eight gale on 6th, 4N/1hr on 7th, 6N/2.5hrs on 9th, 2N on 12th and 34N on 13th. Also in September one flew south on 19th, 3N on 20th and 4N/1hr on 24th. The last record of the year was a late bird north on 1st Nov. Elsewhere, Kincaig Point saw 1E on 6th Aug, one flew north past East Wemyss on 17th Aug and 11 flew east past Anstruther on 5th Sep.

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*)

Common spring and autumn passage migrant, summering in some numbers. Amber data list species. Amber data list species.

Recorded in every month of the year except February, October and December.

Anstruther provided two early records with singles on 3rd Jan and 5th Mar. April saw a steady trickle of reports with Fife Ness noting 1N on 5th, 2N on 11th and 1N on both 18th and 19th. Anstruther recorded two on both 16th and 30th with one close in off Carlingnose Point on 22nd. Kincaig Point reported 8E on 3rd May with ten in Dalgety Bay on 27th May. Fife Ness saw lower counts with 2N on 4th May and 1N on both 25th and 27th May.

Early June brought small counts past Fife Ness but by 12th there were 46N, then 22N/1hr on 22nd and at least 35N/2.5hrs on 25th with 8N on 30th. Inchkeith noted 1E on 9th Jun with 6E past Kincaig Point on 20th Jun and 63S off Outhead on 21st Jun. Anstruther recorded some reasonable sized counts during July including 30E on 3rd, 23E on 6th and 18E on 25th. There were 12E past Kincaig Point on 5th and 23E past Ruddons Point on 19th. Fife Ness saw a regular passage during that month with peaks of 3N25S on 7th, 24N4S on 17th, 65N4S on 20th, 32N4S on 21st and 20N on 24th.

Movements slowed at Fife Ness during early August although there was 18N1S on 6th. Later in the month there was 11N on both 16th and 28th, 23N on 29th and 28 on 31st. Other sightings included 20E off Kincaig Point on 6th Aug and three in Dalgety Bay on 28th Aug. Buckhaven saw 15E on 4th Sep. Strong easterlies and rain on 5th Sep pushed an impressive 350 west past Dalgety Bay before they turned back east when faced with the Forth Rail Bridge. Also that day, Fife Ness saw at least 311 flying north. Dalgety Bay also witnessed at least 150 on 15th Sep with three noted at Kinghorn on 12th Sep. All other September records came from Fife Ness including 29N/8hrs on 6th, 316N1S/3hrs on 9th, 73N/6hrs on 13th with single-figure counts there until 20th. There were no further sightings until one flew north past Fife Ness on 1st Nov and finally 7E at Anstruther on 7th Nov.

European Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*)

Regular non-breeding birds present in North Sea coastal waters June-September, with occasional passage migrants during the remainder of the year. Regularly audio-lured and trapped at Fife Ness during summer months. Amber data list species.

During trapping sessions at Fife Ness during July and August birds can be observed flying around the nets and occasionally bouncing or escaping out of the nets before they can be extracted. With this in mind it can be assumed that not all the birds attracted to the nets are caught. No other sightings were received and the following

records relate to birds caught. Eight sessions resulted in the capture of 120 birds comprising 111 new birds and nine controls (birds ringed elsewhere); further details can be found in the Ringing Report.

Leach's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) (14) **Vagrant. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.**

Since 2001 this species has been recorded in every year except 2003 and 2007.

One was trapped and ringed at Fife Ness on the night 26th/27th July (Jim Cobb, Mark Oksien).

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

Common offshore in the Forth and off the North Sea coast. Scarce in winter. Amber data list species.

The presence of nearby breeding colony on the Bass Rock in the Lothians gives rise to birds being common on passage or feeding offshore during much of the year. Although this species mainly utilises the coastal waters of Fife for feeding during much of the year there is a significant post breeding movement of juveniles into the inner reaches of the Firth of Forth. This species was recorded offshore in every month of the year except January. The sparsity and inconsistency of regular counts and times during some months generally provides little to paint a clear picture of their occurrence.

The first record for the year was of a single at Fife Ness on 2nd Jan, followed by four at Anstruther on 3rd and 2W and 1E at Kincaig Point on 4th. In February; 3E past Kincaig Point on 14th and 20 off Anstruther on 24th and seen regularly from there after this. Sightings increased in March with 12N at Fife Ness on 9th and 30 on 11th, six off Edenmouth and 50+ at Pittenweem on 16th, several passing offshore at Leven on 21st and 75E at Kincaig Point on 22nd.

During April; 20 at Fife Ness on 5th, six off Edenmouth on 17th, five at Dalgety Bay on 18th, 14 off Carlingnose Point on 21st. In May; 560E past Kincaig Point on 3rd, an unusual record of one at Lindores Loch on 9th and 400 off Anstruther on 24th. Only one record for June; 30+ off Edenmouth on 29th.

During July; 500E past Anstruther and 450+ at Fife Ness on 6th, c100 at St Andrews on 17th, eight at Dalgety Bay on 18th, 700+ at Tentsmuir on 20th, 590 off Kilminning and a count of 1009E at Anstruther with thousands more reported to have passed there on 25th, one adult at the Eden Centre Hide at Guardbridge on 29th (found dead on 2nd Aug), During August; 30 at St Andrews on 1st, 2000 fishing at Anstruther and 80+ at Tentsmuir on 9th, 240 adults and 96 juvs off Kincaig Point on 13th, 800N/hr past Fife Ness on 16th, several birds fishing off Lucky Scalp on 17th, at least 1500 feeding offshore from Balcomie beach on 24th. In September; 700 at Anstruther on 5th and 1785/hr (95% of which were juvs/imms) past Kinghorn on 27th.

During October; 200+ off Carlingnose Point on 3rd, 11 at Tentsmuir on 11th and 215 at Anstruther on 30th. In November; 107 at Anstruther on 7th, six adults and nine juvs at Kincaig Point on 22nd and a single at Dalgety Bay on 24th. In December, two

adults and one juv were off Kincaig Point on 6th and a single was off Anstruther on 14th, the last sighting of the year.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	10	13	10	58	23	40	157	6	0	1

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Regular inshore in the Forth and Outer Tay, breeding on offshore islands and occurring inland in small numbers. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers.

Breeding: Inchkeith 93 nests (0%); Car Craig 20 nests (-31%); Haystack 32 nests (14%) (FIBR) a total 145 nests and is a 3.3% decrease from the previous year with the ten-year mean showing a 21% decrease. Recorded in all months of the year.

Coastal records: Sightings in January recorded two at Dalgety Bay, five at Dysart and one at Inverkeithing on 6th, 13 at Edenmouth and 85 at Goosepools on 7th, six at St Andrews on 12th, 36 at Levenmouth on 13th with 20 there on 20th, ten at Dysart on 16th with five there on 27th, two at Balmerino on 18th, one at Lower Largo and five at St Andrews on 19th, six at Leven on 22nd and at least ten off Kinshaldy on 27th. February; one at Dalgety Bay on 9th with six there on 10th, one at Lower Largo on 13th, one at Inverkeithing on 14th and 11 at Pile Lighthouse on 14th. March; five at Dalgety Bay on 9th and 12 on the outfall marker at Leven on 21st.

April; 14 on the outfall marker at Leven on 2nd with ten there on 14th, 48 at Dalgety Bay on 6th and three at Dysart on 21st. May; two at North Queensferry on 12th, four at Dalgety Bay on 17th and 70 in Wormit Bay on 28th. June; three on the rocks at Fife Ness on 5th and 38 at Dalgety Bay on 22nd. July; 74 at Dalgety Bay and three at Tentsmuir on 20th.

August; four at Tentsmuir on 9th, 25 at Levenmouth on 16th with 30 there on 23rd, 28 at Dalgety Bay on 19th, 48 on the outfall marker at Leven on 24th and five on the rocks at Fife Ness on 26th. September; one fishing on the Eden Estuary on 3rd with eight there on 7th, two at Tentsmuir on 13th, 37 at Dalgety Bay and 111 on Lucky Scalp at Tayport on 14th.

October; 72 at Ardross on 9th, three at Tentsmuir on 11th, 27 on Lucky Scalp at Tayport on 12th with 29 there on 26th, 44 at Tentsmuir on 12th and eight at Dalgety Bay on 27th. November; 13 at Pile Lighthouse on 4th, 20 at Dysart on 12th, one at Dalgety Bay on 19th, 28 at Kincaig Point on 22nd, 38 on the Tay Rail Bridge on 24th and 21 on the outfall marker at Leven on 25th. December; one at Dalgety Bay on 2nd with 18 there on 13th, 20 at Dysart on 11th, 78 at Pile Lighthouse on 13th, eight on the Eden Estuary on 14th. Up to eight birds were present throughout the year in the channel offshore from Valleyfield Lagoons.

Inland records: During January; five at Cupar on 4th, two at Ballo Reservoir and four at Clatto Reservoir on 6th, six at Lindores Loch on 14th. February; one at Cameron Reservoir on 9th, five at Mountcastle on 10th, two at Ballomill on 12th, one at Lindores on 13th, nine at Loch Gelly on 15th and two at Otterston Loch on 23rd. March; four at Newburgh on 27th.

April; one at Mountcastle on 2nd, one at Rossie Bog on 6th, one at Lindores Loch on 20th and three at Ballomill on 22nd. May; one at the Wilderness (white darvic FFU on left leg) on 18th with one there on 24th and one at Townhill Loch on 31st. June; one at Mountcastle on 18th.

July; one at Wilderness on 16th and two at Cameron Reservoir on 30th. August; two on Mugdrum Island on 3rd and seven at Loch Gelly on 8th. September; three at Mountcastle on 2nd.

October; one on Lindores Loch on 11th and four at Mountcastle 22nd. November; singles at Otterston Loch on 15th and Cupar Wards on 30th. December; three at Birnie Loch on 17th, one at Mountcastle on 20th, six on Ballo Reservoir on 21st and six on Lindores Loch on 29th.

Whilst primarily a measure recording effort the following table shows monthly totals during the year for coastal and inland sites and demonstrates that there are some significant gaps to the overall pattern.

Monthly Occurrence

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal	207	24	17	75	76	41	17	140	159	183	121	125
Inland	17	20	4	6	3	1	3	9	3	5	2	16
Total	224	44	21	81	79	42	20	149	162	188	123	141

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	92	84	62	98	45	92	150	96	263	150	136	107
Tay WeBS	38	41	41	49	15	56	48	88	154	77	99	81
Eden WeBS	8	9	3	0	0	2	5	2	8	6	5	5
Birnie/Gaddon	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1

European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

Common inshore in the Forth area, breeding on offshore islands with passage probably occurring in the east. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Inchkeith -161 nests, Car Craig -13 nests, Inchcolm - seven nests, a decrease from four to three nesting islands as it would seem that the traditional nesting site under pallets on Haystack has now become unusable. Excluding the Isle of May population (293 nests) a total of 181 nests on the three remaining islands represents a decrease in nests of 13% as opposed to the 11% increase of the previous year, against the backdrop of a 6% decrease in the Forth for this year (FIBR).

Since the peak of 1749 nests in 2003 this species has shown a declining trend, with the total for 2008 standing at 1061 nests.

Given its common resident status this species continues to be poorly recorded within the region with a total of only 26 sightings from eleven sites received.

The first record for the year was of 282 at Kinraig Point on 4th Jan, other January sightings were; five at Ravensraig on 6th with two there on 27th, eight at Dalgety Bay and three at Dysart on 16th and one at Lower Largo on 19th. Six at Pile Lighthouse and one at Dalgety Bay, all on 10th Feb. In March; six at Elie on 4th, one at Dalgety

Bay on 19th and 96 at Kincaig Point on 22nd. During April; 20 at Fife Ness on 5th and one at Dalgety Bay on 6th. A single again at Dalgety Bay on 4th May. Forty on the rocks at Fife Ness on 5th Jun. Again a single at Dalgety Bay on 20th Jul. In August; a pair with an albino juvenile on Inchkeith on 3rd, c40 on the rocks at Fife Ness (ten of which were colour-ringed) on 7th, one at Dalgety Bay on 19th and 154 on the rocks at Fife Ness on 26th. Two at Dalgety Bay on 14th Sep. In October, 225 were at Kincaig Point on 30th. Three were noted at Dalgety Bay on 15th Nov. During December; two at Leven on 7th, 52 past Anstruther on 14th and nine at Dalgety Bay on 24th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	64	23	36	75	156	9	39	23	155	135	53	87

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) (10)

Vagrant. Amber data list species.

One was observed from Port Allen feeding on the south bank of the Tay River near Ballinbreich on 23rd Mar (Stuart Rivers/FBC). One present at Kilconquhar Loch on 9th Apr (Willie Irvine). One present at Guardbridge on 7th May was seen to fly off up river (Alec Watt).

The fifth consecutive year for the occurrence of this species in the county. The sightings probably relate to three separate individuals and reflect on its increasing abundance and northerly expansion in the British Isles.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: Heronries recorded at six sites. Mugdrum Island; four on nest trees on 9th Feb, with three there on 27th, 4AON on 20th Apr. Otterston Loch; Six (one pair on nest, single on nest and others moving between nest sites) on 10th Feb, five (three juv on/around one nest, one juv on a second nest, adult incubating on third nest on 3rd May, five (three adult with two juvs in nest) on 17th May, two nests on 27th. Elie; three at the heronry on 6th Mar, 5-6AON on 31st, 6AON (no young present) on 16th. Innerleith Pool; three at the heronry on 14th Mar, 8AON (no young present) on 13th Apr. Lundin Wood; five (c3AON) on 31st Mar, nests apparently deserted on 16th Apr. Cambo Farm; Two (one adult carrying nest material) on 11th May.

Sightings: January; One at Damhead of Torr on 3rd and 13th, two at Ballo Reservoir on 6th, four at Kilconquhar Loch on 7th, three at St Andrews on 12th and one on 19th, three at Kirkton Farm on 15th, one at Ravenscraig on 16th, one at Balmerino on 18th and nine at Morton Lochs on 21st.

February; One at Dalgety Bay on 9th, three in the inner Bay at Inverkeithing on 10th, one at Barnhill Bay on 11th, two at Lower Largo on 13th, nine at Otterston Loch on 15th with at least eight there on 23rd, nine at Leuchars Airfield on 16th with 12 there on 18th, 16 flying over Reres Wood and one roosting along field edge at St Monans on 17th and seven at Rossie Bog on 24th.

March; At least six at Otterston Loch on 2nd with at least eight there on 30th, one at Cameron Reservoir on 3rd and two at Kilconquhar Loch on 21st.

April; One at Damhead of Torr on 5th, one at Duloch Park pond on 6th, at least three at Otterston Loch on 6th and three there on 13th and one at Pleasants Farm on 21st.

May; Two at Torry Bay on 1st, one at Cameron Reservoir on 10th, one at Lundin Links on 11th, one at Damhead of Torr on 13th, 13 at Loch Gelly on 16th, one at Kilconquhar Loch and one at Otterston Loch on 25th, 11 at Morton Lochs on 27th, one at Kingsbarns on 30th and one at Townhill Loch on 31st.

June; Twelve at Loch Gelly on 6th with six adults and three juvs there on 12th, at least 15 at Leuchars Airfield on 6th, Two at Otterston Loch on 7th, one roosting at West Quarry Braes on 11th, nine at Inner Bay, Inverkeithing on 18th and one at Dalgety Bay on 23rd and 25th.

July; Nine at Shelly Spit on 1st with 18 there on 3rd, 21 at Balgove Bay on 8th, two on the beach at Dysart on 11th, five at Valleyfield Lagoons on 12th, one at Fife Ness on 13th, two at Dalgety Bay on 20th, three at Loch Gelly on 25th, six at Kilconquhar Loch and one at Townhill Loch on 26th, one at Cameron Reservoir on 30th and eight at Cocklemill Marsh on 31st.



Grey Heron by Jane Khin Zaw

August; One on Mugdrum Island on 3rd, 16 at Shelly Spit on 4th, two at Dalgety Bay on 4th and two on 19th, one at East Garvock Hill, Dunfermline on 11th and 37 at Balgove Bay on 23rd.

September; Five at Valleyfield Lagoons on 2nd with four there on 12th, 13 at Shelly Spit on 4th and 39 there on 26th, five at Crombie Point on 9th, three at Torry Bay and four at Valleyfield Lagoons on 12th, two at Dalgety Bay on 14th, one on Leven beach on 21st, 37 at Balgove Bay on 23rd and 12 at Eden Estuary on 24th.

October; Twenty one at Balgove Bay on 1st, 16 at Shelly Spit on 4th, four at Morton Lochs on 20th, three at Dalgety Bay and five at Valleyfield Lagoons on 27th.

November; Two at Dalgety Bay on 6th, two at Cameron Reservoir on 11th, seven at Otterston Loch on 15th, 15 roosting on Inch Garvie on 16th and one at Drumoig on 29th.

December; Four at Dalgety Bay on 3rd, one on Inchkeith on 7th, one at Ravenscraig on 11th, six (one with live Brown Rat) at Tayport on 13th, seven at Eden Estuary on 14th and one at Ballo Reservoir on 21st.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	3	13	0	1	4	7	9	8	15	7	12	14
Tay WeBS	2	1	1	0	4	3	0	2	13	11	6	6
Eden WeBS	2	0	4	3	11	5	21	15	11	9	5	6
Birnie/Gaddon	2	2	2	0	1	2	2	3	2	3	5	2

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) (6)

Vagrant.

One was seen to fly over Allardice Crescent in Kirkcaldy on 24th Apr (Jean Taylor). The same bird was also seen on the following day at Beveridge Park in Kirkcaldy (Harry Kerr, J. Mitchell and A. Cameron). This is the sixth record for the county, the previous being the bird at Kilrenny in April 2004.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

Common breeding resident on inland waters, occasionally coastal. Amber data list species.

Breeding; Kilconquhar Loch had a productive season with 48 young from 17 broods and most were thought to have fledged. Three pairs with a total of nine young were noted at Moor Loch. Morton Lochs produced at least six young from five pairs. Other sites held smaller breeding numbers including a pair with three young at West Quarry Braes, one pair and a single juv at Coull Reservoir, a brood of four at Goosepools, an adult and a brood of two at Caldwell's Farm, one pair and a single juv at Loch Gelly, a pair and a brood of four at Thornton Pool, one pair and two juvs at Tayfield, two juvs at Angle Park, one juv from three pairs at Linkwood Pond and a small juv in September at Mountcastle. Displaying and singing birds were reported from Innerleith Pool, Pitcruivie Farm pond, Harperleas Reservoir and Wilderness but no further evidence of breeding was recorded. Birds were also seen at Cullaloe,

Otterston Loch, Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Ayton, Duloch Park, Newport, Colzie and Cameron Reservoir during the breeding season.

At the start of the year six were on the Eden Estuary at Guarbridge on 4th Jan with eight nearby on a half-frozen Guardbridge Mill pond on 11th Jan. During January, 1-3 birds were reported from Inverkeithing Bay, Tayport, Kirkton and Kilconquhar Loch whilst six were seen at Raith Lake on 27th. Kilconquhar Loch began to draw in birds with seven seen there on 22nd Feb increasing to 14 on 28th Mar. One to two birds were noted at Cameron Reservoir, Aberdour, Glenrothes town park pond, Kinghorn Loch, Otterston Loch, Duloch Park pond, Grebe Gardens pond in Dunfermline, Inverkeithing Bay and Dalgety Bay during February and March.

By late summer larger numbers were being recorded as chicks fledged and failed breeders started to move. Nineteen were noted at Kilconquhar Loch on 26th Jul but that site peaked with 78 on 14th Aug. Counts remained high with 40 still there on 21st Sep. At least 15 were at Cameron Reservoir on 30th Jul but many moved on leaving only three birds there on 21st Aug. Loch Gelly hosted eight on 22nd July increasing to 14 on 8th Aug then dropping slightly to 12 on 1st Sep. Linkwood Pond held 12 on 21st Aug with only seven still there on 14th Sep. Four were seen at Mountcastle on 8th Aug with eight there from 22nd Aug to 28th Sep at least with 17 nearby at Angle Park on 14th Aug. Fifteen at Stenhouse Reservoir on 22nd Aug was the only record from that site. Up to a dozen birds were reported at Morton Lochs through to the end of September. A single bird on the sea off Anstruther on 26th Sep was an unusual record for that site. Cameron Reservoir attracted at least 30 on 10th Oct but only two were still there on 2nd Nov. On 12th Oct the last substantial flock of 46 was recorded at Kilconquhar Loch but thereafter numbers decreased to 14 on 2nd Nov with only four there on 27th Dec. Kinghorn Loch appears to be a favoured wintering area with nine present on 13th Oct increasing to 15 on 27th Nov then up again to 19 on 14th Dec. The Eden Estuary at Guardbridge attracted up to ten birds during the last quarter but on 20th Dec that number was reduced when one was attacked by a Carrion Crow and subsequently finished off by a Great Black-backed Gull. Linkwood Pond still held seven on 11th Oct. Up to 12 could be found at Mountcastle until 22nd Oct at least with 20 still nearby at Angle Park on 2nd Oct. Five were seen at Lindores Loch on 11th Oct but this site drew in wintering birds with 12 there on 3rd Nov. Lochore Meadows hosted ten on 29th Oct. Up to five birds were reported from Morton Lochs, Tayport, Dalgety Bay, Raith Lake, Craiguscar, Inverkeithing Bay, Harperleas Reservoir, Dalgety Bay and a small pond by the Cleughie Burn to the west of Kilmany during this period. In addition to some of the aforementioned sites, George Adams noted the presence of birds at Black Loch, Cruivie Farm Pond, Drumoig, Golden Loch, Newton Farm Pond, Newton Sandpit, Strathburn, Tayport Pond, Vicarsford Cemetery Pond and Wormit Pond during the year.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	5	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	10
Tay WeBS	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Eden WeBS	4	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	4	5

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Common breeding resident with dispersal to the coast in winter. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers.

Breeding: Seen at fewer potential breeding sites compared to 2007 with successful breeding noted at only two sites. There were six young in three broods at Kilconquhar Loch but only five fledged. Lindores Loch produced four juvs from two broods but six pairs had been seen displaying there earlier in the season. Six pairs nested at Peppermill Dam but all of the nests were washed out when water levels rose. A pair nested at Gaddon Loch but was presumably unsuccessful. Four pairs were present at Loch Gelly but there were no signs of breeding. Single pairs were seen at Angle Park and at Swan Pond during the summer with no evidence of breeding.

Inverkeithing Bay hosted five birds on 6th Jan with an increase to ten there on 9th Mar with the last one present on 6th Apr. Nearby at Dalgety Bay, six birds were seen on 18th Jan with lower numbers seen during February and early March but eight showed there on 27th Mar with five still present on 21st Apr. A single bird took up residence for nearly three weeks off Leven from 20th Jan and three were at the mouth of the Eden Estuary on 15th Feb. Kilconquhar Loch saw its first four arrive on 17th Feb then numbers steadily increased to 22 on 4th Apr, all still present on 23rd Apr. Numbers also increased steadily at Lindores Loch from an initial three birds on 28th Feb to a peak of 13 on 20th Apr.

Failed or non-breeders frequented a couple of sites during the summer including four at Torry Bay on 1st Jun and 1-2 birds at Dalgety Bay from late June through July.

Early August saw birds appearing on the coast with singles at Tayport on 2nd and Dalgety Bay on 4th with nine there and 17 nearby at Inverkeithing Bay, all on 24th Aug. Two were also off Ruddons Point on 24th Aug. Only four remained at Kilconquhar Loch on 14th Aug with five on 6th Sep. The last bird departed there on 26th Oct. Numbers fluctuated at Dalgety Bay with eight from 1st Sep through to 12th Oct but then dropped to four on 27th Oct before increasing steadily to 13 on 13th Dec. Inverkeithing Bay saw higher counts with 21 on 1st Oct, then 33 on 11th Nov (Grant Robertson) but declined to 14 by 15th Nov. Three were in Torry Bay on 12th Sep with four nearby off Valleyfield Lagoons on 13th Dec. Lindores Loch still held five on 19th Sep with a single bird there on 3rd Nov. Four stayed for a week at Balgove Bay from 23rd Sep with the same number there on 11th Nov. Nearby seven showed at Guardbridge on 14th Oct and two were off Goosepools on 25th Nov. Single birds were reported from Tayport on 26th Oct, Kinghorn Loch on 14th Dec and off Lower Largo on 15th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	16	10	18	8	3	1	9	3	7	13	28	63
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Eden WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
Birnie/Gaddon	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0

***Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)**

Scarce autumn and winter visitor, occasionally occurs inland in summer. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

Nearly all of the records came from Largo Bay.

For the fifth year in a row a single bird summered at Kilconquhar Loch from 8th Jun until 30th Jun with a further sighting on 24th Aug.

Single birds were recorded at Pathhead on 2nd Feb and 15th Mar. Birds were reported from Largo Bay from 10th Feb when a single was of Lower Largo. Two showed off Ruddons Point on 13th Feb with four in Largo Bay on 15th Feb. Singles were seen off Kinbraig Point and Lower Largo on 15th Mar with a single still there on the following day. Three were counted off Ruddons Point on 27th Mar with the last of the spring off there on 23rd Apr.

The first returning birds consisted of three off Lower Largo on 27th Sep. One showed off Ruddons Point on 13th Oct and two were seen in Largo Bay on 28th Nov. December saw singles off Lower Largo on 15th, 28th and 31st.

Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

Common winter visitor, occasionally on inland waters. The Forth Estuary holds internationally important numbers. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Lower Largo provided the first eight of the year on New Years Day. Three were seen at Kinshaldy on 6th Jan with the Eden Estuary holding up to four from 4th Jan until early April. The outer Eden Estuary also produced further sightings with one at Outhead on 30th Jan and at least 12 on 12th Apr. On the north side five were at Goosepools on 12th Feb with 18 there on 8th Apr. This species is becoming increasingly more regular off sites in the Firth of Forth to the west of Largo Bay. East Wemyss saw a single on 6th Jan when five were at Dalgety Bay. The latter site held up to three until late March when six were noted on 27th. There was some movement to and from that site with birds in varying plumages and numbers peaked at seven on 9th Apr with the last two of the spring there on 10th Apr. Nearby three were reported from St Davids Harbour on 15th Feb. Other reports from the west included one of Pathhead on 13th Jan, 2nd Feb, 1st Mar and 17th Mar. Nearby off Ravenscraig there was one on 14th Jan, two on 27th Mar with a different individual there the next day. Back in Largo Bay there were two off Leven on 22nd Jan and three in summer-plumage on 31st Mar. Numbers off Lower Largo began to accumulate with seven on 2nd Feb increasing to 22 on 10th Feb and 16 at the east end of the bay on 13th Feb. Counts fluctuated but peaked at 28 on 15th Mar and up to 22 could be seen off Ruddons Point until 10th Apr with the final eight of the spring period there on 23rd Apr.

The first back was at Dalgety Bay with singles seen on 14th and 18th Sep then again on 29th Sep. Further reports from there came with one on 29th Oct and 13th Dec. The southbound passage was noticeable at Goosepools with 11 on 25th Sep then an impressive 45 on 2nd Oct with 30 still there on 28th Oct (Mike Ramage). Ten lingered there on 12th Nov and 12 were seen on 9th Dec. Nearby one was at Edenmouth on 4th Nov with three in Balgove Bay on 11th Nov and singles on the inner Eden

Estuary on 16th Nov and 6th Dec. In the west further reports came with one off Pathhead on 6th Nov and two nearby off Ravenscraig on 11th Nov.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	4	9	1	17	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	10
Eden WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

***Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)**

Rare breeder, scarce winter visitor to coastal waters with a small, seasonal movement through certain inland waters and the coast. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

There have been no confirmed breeding attempts since 2003. Sightings have also declined with only one this year of a single bird off Lower Largo on 15th Dec (Willie McBay). Third poor year in a row.

***European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) (13)**

Rare summer visitor and rare passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Amber list species.

A bumper year with six birds in one week almost doubling the number of birds seen in the county.

The third week in September provided all the records starting with one south over Guardbridge on 14th (Rob Armstrong) with another bird going east over Kinghorn on the same day (Ken Shaw). The Kinghorn area was to prove a hotspot as it saw its second bird going south-west on 20th (Davy Ogilvie). The following day saw further records with one west there (Dougie Dickson) and another different bird flying south over Kinghorn Loch (Keith Ballantyne). Also on 21st, one flew south over Denburn Wood (Bob McCurley, Howard Wix, Alex Kidd).

The changing status of European Honey-buzzard in Fife

European Honey-buzzard has always been a rare bird in Fife. Smout (1986) described it as a rare vagrant and quoted four records. Rivers (2000) quoted a further two records for 1990 and 1999.

The 1999 record was significant in several ways and was to be a pointer to the future! Firstly, it was extremely well documented by Lauder (2000). Alan Lauder, Tom Moodie and Julian Sykes saw it very well on 28th August 1999 at Loch Glow. They noted that the bird was in wing moult and were able to age it as an adult. It was only the second autumn record following one on the Eden Estuary on 4th October 1981 seen by Keith Brockie and also significantly it was away from the coast.

The next year, 2000, was also a significant year in the county for this species. It was the first with more than one record – both were in September one was at the 5 Roads

roundabout on 16th September and the other was flying south over the Forth Road Bridge on 25th September. This was the first indication of the 'autumn migration window'.

The number of years between records was getting shorter and our knowledge of when they occur was focusing.

In 2008 the autumn migration of European Honey-buzzard through Britain was strong and this combined with observer awareness heralded our best year by far. The records fall into two very tight windows with very typical dates. It is time to re - think the status of Honey Buzzard in Fife this is the pattern of a migrant not a vagrant. *Ken D. Shaw*

***Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) (6)**

Vagrant. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

An adult showed well to the south of Carnock on 1st Jun (David & Avril Haines) but did not linger. There have been five records in the past eight years but it remains a difficult species to connect with in the county.

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

Recently re-introduced and very rare vagrant. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

There were few reports and birders are encouraged to submit all sightings of this species.

Immatures were noted at Pitmedden on 20th Feb and at Angle Park on 17th Mar. There were no further sightings until the next batch of 15 juveniles were released in mid-August as part of the ongoing RSPB East of Scotland reintroduction scheme. Most of the reports were of birds around the confidential release site during August and September. Wanderers during September were noted with a single juv at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 1st, two juvs at Balgove Bay on 20th and another juv being harassed by a Common Kestrel at Black Loch on 23rd Sep. The last record of the year was of a juv at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 13th Oct.

Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

Scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn, rare breeder. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

One pair, the female of which fledged from the same site in 2006, was nest building with a male and possibly got to the egg-laying stage when the site was abandoned. They later appeared at a nearby reedbed at which they were observed entering a possible nest site. The male was vigorously guarding the site against other raptors and crows before again mysteriously disappearing by mid-July (Harry Bell/TRSG).

Passage was noted on 6th Apr with one north over Leuchars Airfield. A female flew west at Kilmany on 6th May and a male was seen near the breeding area on 13th May. Another male flew north over Wester Rossie on 17th May with a female at Rossie Bog on 31st May.

One of the failed pairs showed at Rossie Bog on 20th Aug and at least one female was seen there from 30th Aug to 13th Sep. A juvenile flew west past Anstruther on 21st Aug and a female flew over Guardbridge on 1st Sep.

***Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)**

Scarce winter visitor and uncommon passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

A massive improvement on last years showing and probably the highest number of reports ever. The majority of the reports came from the west of the county with a hint that a winter roost may have formed in that area.

A male was seen at Eastfield on 6th Jan with possibly the same bird again there on 8th Mar. It or another male was seen at Lathalmond on 12th Jan.

The next report was not until 20th Aug when a wandering ringtail was noted at Dumbarrie Links. Rossie Bog produced a series of records with one there on 20th Sep, a ringtail there on 20th Oct and a female on 1st Nov. Other wandering birds were reported including a ringtail at Kilrenny on 18th Oct. November brought further records including a female near Ceres on 4th, a ringtail at Bankhead Moss on 8th, a male at Damhead of Torr on 18th and a ringtail at Clatto Reservoir on 20th. However the bulk of the sightings in the last quarter came from the area between Saline and Lockshaw Moss. Saline pools was frequented by at least one male which was seen in October on 3rd, 15th and 17th, then again on 2nd Nov and finally on 26th Dec. Nearby a male was seen at Stand Alane Farm on 17th Oct. Up to four individuals (two males, a sub-adult male and a ringtail) were regularly seen nearby at Lockshaw Moss during this period. Most of these sightings were of single birds but two males were seen together near Bath Pool on 21st Oct.

Notebook: Hen Harriers Lockshaw Moss SSSI

From September 2008 to December 2008 we made regular visits to Lockshaw Moss. This is a small moss, with a lot of Birch/Pine regeneration, situated south west of Saline. From our first visit we started to see good number of raptors, of the rarer species, Hen Harriers and Peregrine Falcons were most often observed. Hen Harriers were seen mostly in the afternoon in rough ground near the moss. All the evidence pointed to them roosting in the moss. We were able to study individual birds over a period of weeks and were certain at least four Hen Harriers (two ad males, one sub adult male and one ringtail) were using the area. *JS Nadin, KD Shaw*

***Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)**

Very scarce but increasing autumn and winter visitor, rare breeder. Schedule 1 species.

The best year since 2002 with six well described records accepted by FLRC. Sightings during April and May provided evidence of breeding in an area of extensive woodland where the bird's behaviour suggested an occupied nest.

In the early winter period a male was seen over Calais Muir Wood on 12th Jan (Simon Hayhow). An adult female was observed attempting to catch Common Wood Pigeons at Cullaloe on 7th Feb (Alistair Shuttleworth). Another female was seen at Southfield, Glenrothes on 16th Mar (Dougie Dickson).

Further records came from opposite ends of the county in September. In the east, a female was seen seriously harassing a Grey Heron at Morton on 24th (Stuart MacDonald). A day later in the west, a juvenile male circled over Lockshaw Moss (Ken Shaw).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: A pair raised a brood of three in Valleyfield Woods and nearby another pair was noted carrying food at Valleyfield. Also nearby one pair raised a brood of three at Devilla Forest and young were heard at Culross. At least one juv fledged at Kilrenny and a pair nested locally at Damhead of Torr where a female was seen with two juvs on 13th Aug. Other fledged young were seen in August with one accompanied by an adult in Glenrothes on 2nd, one fed on a Eurasian Collared Dove at Robertson Road, Cupar on 7th, one was at Rossie Bog on 20th with another in a garden at Queens Meadow, Coaltown of Balgonie. A pair was recorded soaring over Lochmill Loch on 27th Mar with another pair displaying over the water works at Saline on 17th Apr. A minimum of three pairs was in the NT39 study site but breeding was not proved (Harry Bell/TRSG). Reported from 17 other locations during the breeding season.

This is the third most common bird of prey in the county. George Adams recorded 52 bird-days from 15 locations and Dougie Dickson noted singles at 20 locations during the year. Single birds were seen regularly at Coaltown of Balgonie, Valleyfield, Freuchie and Devilla Forest throughout the year. Up to two birds were also seen regularly in gardens at Dalgety Bay and a pair were also regular at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline during 2008. Singles were reported from 23 widespread sites in the early part of the year with two at Devon Common on 19th Jan.

Migrants were recorded on 22nd Aug with one south over the Firth of Forth at Dalgety Bay and a male at Fife Ness Muir. The latter site recorded another on 23rd Sep and one passed through Elie Ness on 26th Sep.

Singles were noted at 36 sites during the latter part of the year. Two were seen in Glenrothes on 26th Oct. November had a few more multiple sightings with two's at Balkaithly on 2nd, at Guarbridge on 11th, Walton Hill on 22nd and Pittachope on 24th with three seen at Gilston on 11th. One bird was seen on Inchkeith on 7th Dec. Species seen mobbing individual birds included Carrion Crow, Common Buzzard,

Common House Martin and House Sparrow. Eurasian Collared Dove was recorded twice as a prey item and more unusual was one seen unsuccessfully chasing a White-throated Dipper at Damside on 30th Nov.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	8	0.23
2007	48	9	0.19
2008	46	8	0.17

Notebook: Eurasian Sparrowhawk Freuchie

Visits the garden most days attacking birds at feeders. Females have most luck with Eurasian Collared Doves as prey – stays and plucks victims in garden. *MJ Bayne*

Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Common breeding resident and occasional passage migrant, primarily in autumn.

The most abundant raptor in the county with nearly twice as many records and a much greater number of individuals reported than Common Kestrel.

Breeding: In the NT39 study area 14 pairs were located with 11 breeding successfully fledging 12 young (Harry Bell/TRSG). Three pairs were thought not to have laid with no nests located. In Devilla Forest six pairs had a very successful year with at least ten young fledged. Single nests where young fledged were found at Valleyfield Woods, Balgownie and Blairhall Bing. Also in the west, young were heard at Culross, Torry and Torryburn. Three territories were noted in the West Saline area with a pair and two juvs there on 1st Aug. Nearby 2AON were noted at Kitchen Green. A single territory was reported from Woodlea Farm, a juv was trapped and ringed at Nochnary and a pair bred at Caldwell's Farm. A pair was seen carrying food at Port Laing on 18th Jun. Single AOT were reported from Norman's Law and Black Craig. Two pairs were seen displaying at Forret Hill, five birds displayed over Damhead of Torr with 1AON nearby at Kedlock and another at Rosssie Bog where three pairs were noted. A pair with two well-grown young was reported from Mountcastle on 18th Jun. A presumably nesting pair appeared agitated at Inchrye on 8th Jun. A juv was recorded at Black Loch with an adult and juv at Lindores Loch. Birds were recorded at 37 other locations during the breeding season.

The abundance of this species is illustrated by George Adams recording at least 542 bird-days at over 60 locations during the year. Mark Oksien noted 87 bird-days at 57 locations. Up to five were recorded daily at Damhead of Torr and 1-2 seen at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs throughout the year. During the first four months of the year 1-2 birds were reported from 54 widely scattered locations. Higher counts received in January were five in the Newport area on 11th and three at Grangehill on 14th. On 12th Feb, five were over Gauldry with four at Springfield Muir. Seven were seen circling together over Morton Lochs on 17th Feb. Three were at Inverdovat on 24th

Feb with four there on 13th Mar and four were noted at Luthrie on 27th Feb. Other counts of four in March were reported from Calaisburn on 2nd, Pitmedden on 27th and Northfield on 28th. Three were seen at Ferrymuir on 14th and Blebo on 28th. Mount Hill was the venue for the highest count of this early period with 11 there on 27th Mar (Dougie Dickson). Eight soared over Strathmiglo during this time. Many pairs had found territories by April but there were still a few groups seen including five at Reres Wood on 2nd, three at Glenrothes on 3rd, six at Hill of Tarvit on 4th, six at Craigend and three in Tentsmuir Forest all on 5th. Seven birds displayed over Cupar Wards and three showed at Markinch all on 9th. Four were noted at Kilmany on 14th, eight at Earlshall Muir on 15th and three seen at Mountcastle on 17th. Four circled over Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 27th with six over Glenduckie on 29th. One bird was seen to catch and eat a mouse at Damhead of Torr on 9th Apr. One bird was mobbed by gulls on Inchkeith on 10th May with another flushed from bushes at the south-west end of Inchcolm on 4th June.

From August to the years end there were at least 220 bird-days at 70 locations in addition to the aforementioned annual counts. Again many of these sightings consisted of 1-2 birds. Migration was noted from late August with 7S over Kilconquhar Loch on 21st then 11S past there on 28th (Mike Ramage). Other migrants were 17 south over Fife Ness Muir on 23rd Aug (Jim Cobb) with single birds at Fife Ness on 22nd Aug and 23rd Sep with 2W past Elie Ness on 28th Oct. High counts include 11 at Kilmany on 19th Oct (Andy Cage), eight soaring over Culross Quarry on 19th Aug with the same number seen at Kemback on 21st Sep. Smaller groups were seen with three at Rossie Bog on 22nd Aug, four both at Cullaloe on 21st Sep and West Lomond on 28th Sep and five at both Morton Lochs on 22nd Sep and Valleyfield on 28th Sep. On 14th Sep one was seen feeding on a Eurasian Oystercatcher at Leuchars Airfield.

Other high counts in October were five at Cairneyhill on 11th and the same number counted between Otterston Loch and Fordell on 14th, six between Aberdour and Goat Quarry on 15th and another six noted along the A92 between Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy on 16th with three at Causewayhead on 19th. Numbers remained high during November with counts of six at Clinthill on 11th and to the north of Ballmullo on 28th. Counts of five were reported from Kirktonbarns on 9th and Hillcairn on 12th with four at Auchtermuchty Common on 15th and Morendy Wood on 17th. There were fewer reports in December but three birds were at Bickramside on 8th and four showed at Dun Moss on 30th. A single bird was found dying by the minor road by Morendy Wood on 7th Dec.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	28	0.82
2007	48	48	1.00
2008	46	52	1.13

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Regular spring and autumn passage migrant with regular summer sightings. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

No longer a county rarity with the number of reports increasing annually. Now seen regularly throughout the summer suggesting that breeding in Fife could occur in the near future. The Eden Estuary and Lindores Loch produce the most regular sightings.

Passage began on 30th Mar with one north over East Lomond. On 8th Apr one flew over the FBC hide at Edenside carrying a large fish and the first of the year for Lindores Loch also appeared. Two showed up at the latter site on 12th Apr. There was a lull in sightings until 3rd May when one flew south-west over Saline and another showed at Guardbridge on 6th May. It went quiet again for the next fortnight until Lindores Loch saw one on 19th with four there on the following day. Up to two birds could be seen regularly there until the final sighting at that site on 21st Jul. One flew over Leuchars Airfield on 30th May and from then on through the summer 1-2 birds could be regularly seen fishing in the adjacent Eden Estuary. Other sightings in June included one regularly at Loch Glow, one at Lochore Meadows on 1st, one at Cameron Reservoir on 4th, one flew west over Roscobie Reservoir on 11th and a late migrant flew north over Ruddons Point on 13th. Early July saw two at Cameron Reservoir with three at Golden Loch in mid-month. July also produced sightings of singles at Mountcastle on 20th and Morton Lochs on 22nd.

August saw southward movements with six accumulating at Balgove Bay on 1st. The Eden Estuary area generally held up to three all month but five were present on 30th. Other birds showed on the River Tay with singles at Mugdrum Island on 3rd and at Tayport on 17th. Elsewhere one flew south-west over Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 10th, one caught fish at Mountcastle on 14th and another was seen at Peppermill Dam on 20th. Passage continued through September with one at Golden Loch and three nearby at Lindores Loch, all on 6th. Late birds were noted on 21st with one over Kingask and another south high over Lockshaw Moss. Reports from the Eden Estuary were almost daily with 1-3 birds regularly seen but five were noted on 3rd Sep. The last sighting of the year was of two birds on the Eden Estuary on the morning of 22nd but both had gone by the afternoon.

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Common breeding species and irregular migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: In NT39 study area, three pairs were monitored with two of them fledging five young (Harry Bell/TRSG). A pair nested on the cliff at Kinraig Point and fledged a brood of three. Another pair raised a brood of four from a nest in the castle at Ravenscraig. A nest was found in Devilla Forest but the outcome was unknown. A count of three at Harperleas Reservoir on 2nd Jul may have been a family party. Family parties probably accounted for a count of nine along 1/2mile stretch of road to the north of Knockhill on 16th Jul (Willie McBay). Single AOT were noted at Hospital Mill, East and West Lomond, Thornton Pool, Wester Glassie, Torry, Valleyfield Woods and Valleyfield Lagoons where two immatures were seen on 21st Aug. Birds were noted at 20 other locations during the breeding season.

George Adams recorded 195 bird-days at 40 locations during the year with Dougie Dickson also noting 1-2 birds at each of 66 locations. It was also noted as regular at Kedlock, Blairhall Bing, Torry, Valleyfield Woods and Valleyfield Lagoons throughout the year. As is usual with this species there were many reports of roadside sightings. Single birds were reported from 42 sites during the first three months. The pair at Kincaig Point was on territory from 12th Jan. Four were counted between Kilmany and Cupar on 21st Jan. Other counts of two's came from Jennystown on 12th Feb, Formonthills on 19th Feb, Brownhills on 15th Mar and Leuchars Airfield on 27th Mar. One bird seen 800m out to sea off Fife Ness on 18th Apr may have been a migrant.

Up to five birds were regularly seen at Leuchars Airfield from 3rd Aug until 4th Oct. Counts of two were reported from Craigmear on 28th Sep, at Auchtermuchty Common on 15th Nov, Leuchars Airfield on 29th Nov and Dalgety Bay on 22nd Dec.

One bird was seen on Inchkeith on 15th Nov and 7th Dec. Other singles were seen at 28 other locations during the last six months.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	9	0.26
2007	48	4	0.09
2008	46	13	0.28

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Leuchars Airfield was the favoured site in 2008 with a third of the reports originating from there. Single birds were seen regularly in January and early February. There was a lull until 11th Mar when one was seen with another sighting on 15th Mar. The first of the second half of the year appeared there on 29th Jul with further sightings into August. Two juvs were recorded on 19th Aug, one staying to 20th with the next on 15th Oct. Occasional records came in October and November but at least one individual was seen regularly in December with the last sighting on 31st. Nearby one was at Tentsmuir on 10th Feb, a female was at Edenside on 10th Aug and 24th Oct, a female/immature at Goosepools on 13th Nov and a female was also noted at Balgove Bay on 25th Nov.

In the early part of the year other sightings were widespread including one chasing a Sky Lark at Ceres Moor on 6th Jan. February recorded a female at West Muircambus on 1st and one at Lathones on 24th. March saw records from the west with one at Saline pools on 1st and a female at Blairhall Bing on 15th. The last bird of the spring visited Shell Bay on 11th Apr.

August brought sightings of southbound migrants with one over Kilconquhar Loch on 1st, one on roadside bales at Kilminning on 3rd and 11th, one at Anstruther on 6th, another nearby at Cellardyke on 14th and at Abercrombie on 27th. Other migrants included 1W at Elie Ness and one on the rocks in front of the FBC hide at Fife Ness both on 31st. September was quieter with a female/immature at Fife Ness

on 2nd and one at Anstruther on 3rd. Another female/immature appeared near Crail on 3rd Oct and one was seen chasing a Sky Lark at Lochhead Farm on 6th Oct. A single flew over Kilconquhar Loch on 7th Oct and two females were seen together nearby at St Monans and Balbuthie on 12th and 18th Oct respectively. October ended with a female/immature at Kincaig Point on 30th with it or another there on 15th Nov. Singles were noted at Balcomie and nearby at Roome Bay both on 7th Nov. A male lingered at Devilla Forest for two days from 8th Nov. Further singles were seen at Lochty Farm on 24th Nov, at Valleyfield Lagoons on 27th Nov and at Kilrenny on 18th Dec.

***Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)**

Scarce migrant, has bred. Schedule 1 species.

A fairly average year. One was seen at Kilrenny on 7th Aug (Tom Glass). A juvenile showed at Wormiston on 7th Sep (Chris & Anne-Marie Smout) followed by an adult along the shore to the north of Wormiston on 8th Sep (Dave & Pauline Clugston).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Scarce breeder and uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Schedule 1 species.

Breeding: Thirteen pairs were monitored of which 12 attempted to breed. Only six pairs were successful producing 16 fledged young (Harry Bell/TRSG).

The first reports came from the west with one at Torry Bay on 2nd Jan with a male nearby at Valleyfield Lagoons on 6th Jan (birds were seen regularly throughout the year here). Leuchars Airfield and the adjacent Eden Estuary provided many reports of up to two birds from 11th Jan into March. Encounters with a pigeon and a Common Buzzard were noted on separate dates at Leuchars Airfield. Two birds were also at Methil PS on 14th Jan. Early February saw singles at Kilrenny on 1st, Benarty Hill on 4th and an immature at Kincaig Point on 10th. One bird was seen flying from the Forth Rail Bridge from Carlingnose Point on 14th. Other singles showed at Anstruther on 23rd and Wester Kilgour on 28th. Pairs were noticeable on breeding sites from March. Elsewhere one flew over Rossie Bog on 1st Mar, another flew over Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 22nd and one was seen to take prey at Redlands Pool on 24th Mar. A Spotted Redshank narrowly missed becoming lunch for one bird at Shelly Spit on 5th Apr. Other April sightings included one at Kirkcaldy on 11th Apr and a male at St Monans on 30th. Also one was seen at Fife Ness on 20th with another perched on the aerial at the coastguard's station there on 1st May. Reports were widely scattered in May with singles at Morton Lochs on 11th, Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 12th, a male at Vicarsford on 14th, one mobbing a Common Buzzard near Ladybank on 20th and one at Woodlea Farm on 22nd. There were few sightings in June but one flew over Glenduckie on 20th, three soared in thermals over Steelend on 24th and one flew south over Kilconquhar Loch on 27th.

There were no further reports until 3rd Aug when one haunted Balcomie beach for two days. The East Neuk witnessed a series of sightings with one on a pigeon at

Cellardyke with another at Crail, both on 16th Aug and a juvenile was in Anstruther on 17th Aug. Further west, an adult male was at Kinraig Point also on 16th Aug. Also further west, one was at West Saline on 7th Aug with two at both North Queensferry on 28th Aug with one above Cullaloe Hills and one west over Wemyss Moss, both on 30th Aug. Ladybank saw one on 22nd Aug with singles at Edenside on 24th and 29th Aug. A female frequented Fife Ness during September with up to two birds seen on the Eden Estuary during the month. Elsewhere singles appeared at Cellardyke harbour on 7th, on the chimney at Methil PS on 15th and along the beach nearby at Leven on 19th.

The East Neuk again had a flurry of reports with one at Anstruther and Kilreny both on 7th Oct then an adult at Crail and an immature at Pittenweem both on 8th Oct. Other October records covered a wider area with singles at Birnie Loch on 13th, Goosepools on 14th, one west over Parkhill on 18th, a female at Guardbridge on 26th and one at Tayport on 30th. Two called loudly as they chased each other at Kincardine on 29th and one was harassed by a Common Buzzard at Baldridgeburn on 31st. November saw singles at Roome Bay (7th), Ribbonfield (7th), Dalgety Bay (9th), Anstruther (11th), Lockshaw Moss (12th & 29th), Benarty Hill (18th), Kilrenny (29th), Ladybank (30th) with two at Guardbridge on 22nd. Reports declined in December but a male was seen at Saline GC on 6th with another male at Valleyfield Lagoons on 22nd. One attacked a flock of 200 Common Wood Pigeon at East Lomond on 14th. The final record for the year was of one at St Ninian's Quarry on 26th.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

Local breeding resident and scarce passage migrant.

Breeding: Only one confirmed record this year with a pair and two young seen at Goosepools on 27th Jun. Breeding was suspected at Moor Loch and a pair called regularly at Kilconquhar Loch but no young were seen. Other calling birds were heard at Red Myre (2), Morton Lochs (1) and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (1) during the season.

Up to eight birds were recorded at Kilconquahr Loch during the early winter with singles at Rossie Bog and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs. On 21st Aug, five were noted at Kilconquhar Loch with eight there on 28th Nov. One bird was calling at Red Myre on 30th Aug with another heard at Rossie Bog on 31st Aug, 11th Oct and 22nd Oct. Two were seen at Goosepools on 14th Oct with five there on 17th Nov. A migrant was trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on 19th Oct. Further singles were reported from Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 29th Oct and 30th Dec.

***Corn Crake (*Crex crex*)**

Very rare summer visitor and rare passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

One was flushed from a barley crop by a combine harvester at Pitbladdo Farm on 12th Sep. It flew for ten metres before landing in long grass. Eleven days later, two birds were flushed from a wheat crop that was being harvested on the same farm. The farmer had to slow down to allow one to escape (Bill Stewart). These birds had

not been seen or heard during the summer and are assumed to be passage migrants. The last record was at Balcaskie coincidentally on 12th Sep 2006. There have been 4-5 individuals in the past six years and it is possible that a small number occur on a hidden passage through the county annually.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: A much better season than in 2007 with an increase in the numbers of pairs and sites reported. Moor Loch held 18 successful pairs, an increase of 50% on last year. Six pairs had raised 15 juvs at Kilconquhar Loch by mid-Aug but four small young were seen later on 19th Sep. Four adults and five juvs were seen at Angle Park on 23rd Jul with a brood of four very small young seen there on 6th Sep. Two juvs were seen at Tayfield on 23rd May but a pair also nested late there with a small young bird seen on 19th Oct. Eight adults and three juvs were on Newton Farm Pond on 16th Jun. Four adults and three juvs were on Saline pools on 19th Sep. A nest containing eight eggs was noted at Cullaloe and another occupied nest was found at Birnie Loch. Other breeding sites included Tarvit Pond (b2), Drumoig (b2), Wormit pond (b3), West Quarry Braes (b3), Linkswood Pond (b1), Glenduckie (b2), Cupar (b2), Caldwell's Farm (b1), Thornton Pool (b1) and Coble Shore (b1).

The cold spell at the start of the year had birds looking for ice-free waters with one on the sea in the inner bay at Inverkeithing on 6th Jan. Newton Farm Pool was 60% iced over but drew 25 birds on 11th Jan with 23 at Birnie Loch on 12th. The latter site saw 26 birds on 28th Jan, decreasing to 19 on 20th Feb and 15 on 28th Feb. Kirkton Farm pond held ten on 15th Jan. Thirteen were on Newton Farm Pool on 8th Mar. Counts of eight came from Black Loch on 28th Jan and Morton Lochs on 5th Apr. A single bird took up residence at Dalgety Bay from March to August. Peak counts from other sites during this period were Newport (2), Wormit Pond (6), Tayfield (5), Ribbonfield (5), Glenrothes town park pond (1), Cullaloe (4), Calaisburn (1), Moonzie (3), Rosyth Business park pond (1) and Craigtoun CP (1).

Post-breeding saw many birds remaining on the above sites but five showed at Cameron Reservoir on 30th Jul. Numbers at Newton Farm Pond hovered around the 9-13 mark from September to December. Kilconquhar Loch retained 15 birds to 19th Sep before increasing to 18 on 26th Oct however only a single bird was seen by 23rd Nov. As seen from the table below Birnie / Gaddon Lochs hosted good numbers in the last four months. Nearby 14 appeared at Angle Park on 3rd Nov. Cullaloe saw 11 on 22nd Sep with at least eight still there on 26th Oct. The single bird was seen again at Dalgety Bay from October and was still present on 9th Dec. Smaller counts were reported from Tayport Pond, Tayfield and Drumoig during this period.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Birnie/Gaddon	25	23	11	5	4	2	7	5	14	13	27	29

Common Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: Much fewer reports than 2007 and success appeared to be low. Kilconquhar Loch there were eight pairs but only produced 11 young from four broods during June and July. A brood of two small young were also seen there on 23rd Aug. One pair produced a brood of four at Kinghorn Loch, broods of two were seen at Criech and Newton Farm Pond. Newton Sandpit produced a brood of two from three nests. A brood of three were at Coble Shore but only one survived. A single juv was found at Goosepools. Nests were seen at Lindores Loch (2), Coul Reservoir (1), Rossie Bog (1) and on a small lochan at Forret Hill (1). At least twenty pairs were present at Moor Loch but there was no further breeding information. Birds were also seen at Wilderness, Cullaloe and Otterston Loch during the breeding season.

During the early part of the year, the largest flocks were noted at Kilconquhar Loch with 36 on 7th Jan although only four were reported from there on 17th Feb. Duloch Park pond held 16 on 13th Jan and 13 on 10th Feb. Larger flocks were seen with 40 at Wilderness on 19th Jan and 50 at Lindores Loch on 13th Feb. Birnie/Gaddon Lochs also saw good numbers during this period. Smaller counts were reported from most of the breeding sites as well as Moonzie, Orkie and Morton Lochs.

There were few reports after July during which Kilconquhar Loch held 67 on 26th. Numbers increased greatly there to 160 on 24th Aug then rapidly dropped to 138 on 28th Aug. Peak monthly counts from there were 85 on 21st Sep, 68 on 18th Oct and 91 on 14th Dec. In August, Angle Park held 27 on 14th with 16 at Newton Sandpit and 44 adults at Wilderness all on 16th. The only other report during the second half of the year was of seven at Lindores Loch on 29th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birnie/Gaddon	11	15	25	20	4	4	6	0	0	0	0	1

Common Crane (*Grus grus*) (19)

Vagrant. Amber data list species.

A good year with two records consisting a total of four birds seen at both ends of the year.

The earliest record for the county and the first since 2005 was of one bird seen and photographed at Balbuthie on 17th Feb (John Anderson).

Three more of these elegant birds were seen and heard flying south over Goosepools on 14th Oct and continued over Outhead and the Old Course at St Andrews (Mike Ramage). This is the first multiple sighting in the county since 2000

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Common breeding resident The Forth Estuary holds numbers of national importance. Amber data list species.

Breeding: An increase in the number of breeding sites reported compared to 2007. Rooftop nesting appears to becoming more frequent in the county with reports from

Leuchars Airfield where 1-2 pairs were noted on 3rd Apr and another pair nesting there on 4th Jul, at St Andrew's High School, Kirkcaldy where a pair with one young was seen on 1st Jun, at Auchenderran Centre with a pair and a brood of two on 5th Jun and a pair with a brood of two at Elmwood College, Cupar also on 5th Jun. Up to two nests were found in an arable field at the north end of Scotsraig on 18th May. One pair fledged one young from a brood of two on the south island at Birnie Loch and a nest with eggs was found at Anstruther cemetery in June. One bird was on a nest at Newport jetty on 10th May and a bird appeared to be brooding young at Fife Ness on 13th and 24th Jul. A juvenile was with eight adults at Mountcastle on 18th Jun. On the Forth islands, nine pairs were seen on both Inchcolm and Inchkeith with a few nests found. On Car Craig there was a nest with two eggs on 4th Jun. AON were noted at Lochmalony Farm (1), Comrie Colliery (2) and Piperpool Moss (2). Single AOT were reported from Balmerino, Damhead of Torr, Woodlea Farm, West Saline, Culross and Bath Pool. Other pairs were reported from Newton Sandpit (4 prs) and Linkwood fuel depot (2 prs) early in the breeding season.

During the first quarter the largest flocks were reported from Goosepools with a substantial 1600 on 7th Jan and about 1300 still there on 20th Jan. Other high counts were less than a tenth of these including at Dalgety Bay, 152 on 6th Jan, 160 on 6th Feb and 94 on 9th Mar. Nearby, Inverkeithing Bay held 129 on 6th Jan, 69 on 10th Feb and 40 on 9th Mar with 50 on the grass by Inverkeithing harbour on 29th Jan. Also nearby 85 were seen at North Queensferry on 9th Mar. Tayport hosted 48 on 17th Jan and 65 on 10th Feb. In January, Beveridge Park recorded 70 on 1st and 60 on 13th, St Andrews saw 56 on 12th with 54 in a field to the east of Lower Largo on 19th. Other sites held smaller numbers – Dysart (16), Rosyth naval playing fields (30), Ravenscraig (42) and Methil PS (30). February saw lower numbers at some coastal sites as birds dispersed inland. Fifty-five showed at the south end of Tentsmuir on 2nd, 25 at Aberdour GC on 11th, 50 at Anstruther on 19th, 32 at Angle Park on 25th and 24 at Newburgh on 27th. There were fewer counts in March but 37 arrived at Wilderness on 4th, 15 at Straiton Farm on 7th, 17 at Linkwood Pond on 8th, 14 at Craigluscar on 9th, 16 at Valleyfield Lagoons on 16th, 21 at the south end of Tentsmuir on 22nd and 26 nearby at Shanwell on 23rd.

Birds were still on passage in April and reasonable flocks could still be seen. Ardross saw 60 on 4th when there were still 18 at Wilderness. In the west, there were 36 at Dalgety Bay, 25 at Inverkeithing Bay and 21 at North Queensferry all on 6th with 54 nearby at Brucehaven on 9th. Leven held 20 on 14th and 21 could still be found at Beveridge Park on 27th. Dalgety Bay still held 21 on 17th May with 31 there on 22nd Jun as birds returned to the coast. Flocks had formed in early June with 97 at Fife Ness on 5th then at least 25 gathered on the Eden Estuary on 24th increasing to 55 there by 29th.

July and August brought larger congregations including 200 at Shelly Spit on 16th Jul, and 100 there on 1st Aug, at least 200 at Lucky Scalp on 27th Jul, 145 at Dalgety Bay on 29th Jul with 136 there on 19th Aug. Burntisland Bay produced 389 on 31st Jul with at least 130 at Tayport on 10th Aug, 385 at Ruddons Point on 24th Aug and 255 at Edenmouth on 27th Aug. The Eden Estuary area maintained high numbers during September with at least 60 at Edenside on 8th, 70 at the south end of

Tentsmuir on 13th and about 1000 at Shelly Spit on 26th. Numbers at Dalgety Bay increased to 220 on 23rd Sep with further good flocks there to the years end including 222 on 27th Oct, 145 on 15th Nov and 184 on 13th Dec.

Lucky Scalp hosted 600 with 90 nearby at Tayport all on 12th Oct with 86 at the latter site on 9th Nov. The highest count of the year came from the north-east side of the Eden Estuary with about 1800 there on 25th Nov (Andy Falconer). Anstruther saw 50 on 19th and 29th Oct. Inverkeithing Bay had 60 on 15th Nov. During the last three months, Dysart peaked with 30 on 14th Oct, Inchkeith peaked with at least 30 birds on 15th Nov and Rosyth naval playing fields held up to 36 on 5th Dec. Smaller numbers were seen at Leven, Lundin Links and Pitreavie playing fields.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	1861	1858	1629	802	390	208	1300	2304	2551	2758	2654	2196
Tay WeBS	688	715	638	354	164	186	756	655	1104	1356	349	487
Eden WeBS	2836	3173	1748	1515	783	135	700	1164	1460	1865	1245	1220
Birnie/Gaddon	0	13	4	6	8	12	4	0	0	0	0	0

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	59	1.74
2007	48	61	1.30
2008	46	56	1.22

***Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) (17)**

Very rare visitor. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

One bird showed on 4th Jan at Guardbridge (the late George Evans). This is the earliest record ever in Fife and the tenth individual since 2002.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

Rare but increasing breeding visitor and occasional migrant. Schedule 1 species.

Reported from only three breeding sites this year with only one pair known to be successful with the pair and one juv seen on 22nd Jun. At another site up to two birds were seen on a few dates between 20th Mar and 29th Jun. A pair was seen to display at a third site on 13th Apr but there was no further reports from there. There was also an unconfirmed report of a pair with a juv near Linkwood Pond in mid-August.

Other reports included two birds seen at Letham on 21st and 27th Apr and a single bird visiting the pools at the piggery near Morton Lochs on 4th and 14th May. A single juv was seen at Coble Shore on 12th Aug. It carried a yellow ring high on its right leg but enquiries found that the BTO had no knowledge of anyone colour-ringing this species.

Great Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

Locally common breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Letham saw three young on 18th Jun then four young there on 21st Jun and 9th Jul. There was a late nest on 29th Jun, which was flooded out on 16th Jul. Three pairs were noted displaying nearby at Mountcastle on 2nd Apr. Valleyfield Lagoons held four pairs and three young and one nest containing four eggs were found. One pair raised three young on the south side of Leuchars Airfield. A nest with a brood of four was found at Fife Ness on 4th May with an adult sitting on a nest containing three eggs at Stinky Pool on 5th Jun. A pair with at least three young was in a cereal crop on the north side of Scotsraig. A pair and a juv were seen at Earlseat on 27th Jul. Single AOT were noted at Piperpool Moss and Bath Pool. Eight adults were seen at Ruddons Point on 6th Jun but no breeding attempts were recorded there. Other possible breeding pairs were reported from Orkie where 16 were seen displaying on a ploughed field as early as 24th Feb with other pairs seen at Carrick Villa, Scoonie Burn mouth, Newton Sandpits and Kinshaldy.

Wader breeding season at Goosepools 2008

Three pairs made a minimum five nesting attempts but failed completely to produce any young due to predation by Carrion Crows on the salt marsh and sandblow caused by cold easterly winds on the shingle. Disturbance by people with dogs was also a factor. It also has to be said that the habitat has changed dramatically here in the last ten years to the detriment of ground nesting Northern Lapwings and Great Ringed Plovers. **Mike Ramage**

Ruddons Point saw a modest ten on 1st Jan with 38 nearby at the Scoonie Burn mouth on 28th Jan. Further west, 11 were seen at Dalgety Bay on 4th Jan, 13 nearby at the inner bay at Inverkeithing on 6th Jan and also nearby 44 counted between Limekilns and Brucehaven on 11th Jan. To the north-east, at least 40 showed at Balgove Bay on 5th Jan with at least 62 at Goosepools on 20th Jan. Inland, a single was noted at Orkie on 26th Jan and seven were seen at Westfield on 28th Jan. Birds were moving by February with numbers reducing at some of the above sites. Dalgety Bay held only six on 2nd when two pairs arrived at Valleyfield Lagoons. Thirteen were counted at Cambro on 6th and ten remained at Inverkeithing Bay on 10th. On 13th, twenty were at Ruddons Point with three nearby at Lower Largo. Seafield saw 30 on 20th. Birds were now checking out inland breeding sites with the aforementioned 16 at Orkie, one at Mountcastle on 10th and two at Easter Kilwhiss on 27th. Most of the March records were from breeding sites but small numbers were noted at Leven and Tentsmuir.

Late July saw small flocks begin to form with 17 at Fife Ness on 22nd. Larger flocks were recorded in August with 175 at Balgove Bay on 12th, 52 at Goosepools on 15th, at least 100 at Tayport on 17th and 67 at Crombie Point on 21st. Elsewhere modest flocks included 22 at Lundin Links on 8th, 20 at Pathhead on 9th, 21 at Limekilns on 13th, 12 at Ruddons Point on 16th and 28 to the east of Elie on 28th. Seafield saw 37 on 31st increasing to 48 on 4th Sep before dropping back to 37 on 9th Oct with only 14 remaining there on 1st Nov. Pathhead held 16 on 5th Oct and Dysart produced 41

on 14th Oct. Leven hosted 60 on 4th Sep but only single figure counts were seen thereafter until 15 showed on 7th Dec. Crombie Point held 19 on 9th Sep but only low counts were noted at other western localities with peaks of 15 at Inverkeithing Bay on 15th Nov and 13 at Dalgety Bay on 7th Dec. The north-east again held reasonable numbers with 37 at the south end of Tentsmuir on 13th Sep with 51 there on 11th Oct. Nearby Goosepools had 26 on 28th Oct and 38 showed at Outhead on 21st Nov.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	132	19	42	41	34	8	51	69	180	70	170	89
Tay WeBS	42	170	5	0	95	19	0	650	44	105	50	0
Eden WeBS	14	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. The Forth Estuary holds numbers of national importance. Amber data list species.

There were few reports during the first half of the year with the highest counts being 360 at Grangehill and 150 at Crail Airfield all on 4th Jan. The WeBS counts below show how few birds were in the county during this period. Other January records were 130 at Balbuthie on 13th and a single bird in Dalgety Bay on 21st. About 120 were at Easter Kincaple on 8th Feb with 122 nearby on the Eden Estuary on 17th Feb and only 30 there four days later. Forty showed at Townhill Loch on 24th Feb with 50 at Anstruther on 27th Feb. March produced 46 at Falside on 5th, 55 at Kincaig Point on 6th, a single at Shelly Spit on 12th and 90 at Grangehill on 13th. There were no April records and 13 at Orkie on 2nd May were the last birds of spring.

The second half of the year brought many more birds particularly during the late autumn. Return passage began in late July with 30 at Balcomie beach on 19th and 45 at Valleyfield Lagoons on 23rd. Elie Ness recorded 20 on 21st Jul, 45 on 8th Aug and 100 on 21st Aug with 125 to the east of Elie on 27th Aug. Further movements saw 38 at Fife Ness on 14th Aug, 18 at Crombie Point on 21st and 15 over Rossie Bog on 30th. Numbers began to increase in September starting with 80 at Anstruther on 1st with smaller numbers in the west including 35 at Crombie Point on 8th. The fields at Balcomie hosted at least 500 on 12th with 120 nearby at Crail on 21st. A flock of six were found on the summit of West Lomond on 28th before they headed off south. The Eden Estuary began to see impressive number from mid-September with at least 130 on 16th increasing to 280 on 24th. By 9th Oct there were over 1000 birds there with double that figure at Guardbridge a day later. Balgove Bay held 1200 on 15th with over 2000 on the estuary until 26th when only 260 remained. Elsewhere in October, 380 were at Kilminning on 6th with at least 300 flying west over Anstruther on 7th. Later 700 were seen at Priormuir on 27th. It went quiet in early November with 18 at Tayport on 6th before further influxes sought out the Eden Estuary where 1110 appeared at Balgove Bay on 12th with the year's peak of 2500 at Guardbridge on 15th. North Straiton recorded 25E on 22nd and 20 landed at Leuchars Airfield on 2nd Dec. Anstruther saw 80 during November increasing to 200 on 9th Dec with 200 also seen at Fife Ness on the last day of the year.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	44	74	0	8
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Eden WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	22	1350	1110	1

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

The Eden Estuary area provided the bulk of the records during 2008. In the first half of the year Goosepools held the largest flocks with 243 on 20th Jan and 355 on 5th Feb. Balgove Bay hosted at least 40 on 12th Jan, 44 were on the estuary on 27th Feb and 90 showed at Edenside on 30th Mar. Single-figure counts came from the south end of Tentsmuir and Shelly Spit. Elsewhere, 35 were at Ruddons Point on 1st Jan with the last bird of spring there on 26th May. Two were in Largo Bay on 14th Jan, five at Ardress on 18th Feb with four at Balcomie beach on 23rd Feb.

Balgove Bay saw the first 12 returning birds on 6th Jul with 37 at the south end of Tentsmuir on 20th Jul. August brought further influxes with 80 at the latter site on 9th, 176 nearby at Goosepools on 22nd, 196 at Balgove Bay on 26th and 86 on the Eden Estuary on 28th. Passage birds were recorded at Fife Ness with 26SW on 29th and 11S on 30th with one there on 3rd Sep and 1S on 10th Sep. At least 70 were on the Eden Estuary on 7th Sep with 20 there on 19th Oct. These counts were dwarfed by an impressive 404 there on 25th Nov (Ranald Strachan). Goosepools also produced massive numbers with 335 on 28th Oct and then the year's peak count of 485 on 12th Dec (Mike Ramage). Nearby small counts were recorded at Outhead, Kinshaldy and Tayport. In the Firth of Forth, one showed at Kirkcaldy on 31st Oct, 28 at Ruddons Point on 13th Nov and two at Ardress on 26th Nov.



Grey Plover

by Stuart L. Rivers

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	41	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	6
Tay WeBS	260	240	381	294	101	59	50	114	237	240	520	243
Eden WeBS	554	558	590	300	0	0	0	0	354	340	290	545

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Common breeding resident and winter visitor. Red data list species.

Breeding: Pairs were reported holding territories from the third week in April. Two pairs were at Letham with two juvs seen there on 26th May. Dumbarnie Links held six pairs but there was constant harassment by corvids and no young were seen. One territory was noted by Newport with nearby up to three pairs on nests in arable fields to the north of Scotsraig. Three pairs were at Wemyss Moss with seven young fledging there on 12th Jun. Valleyfield Lagoons saw four young fledging out from the four nests found there. A pair with a brood of three was in a cereal field at Kincaig Head but only one young appeared to have fledged by July. An adult with one young was noted at Rossie Bog on 5th May. Single pairs nested on each of the two islands at Birnie Loch with two young seen on the south island but a dead chick was found on the north island. An adult with one young was seen on the roundabout at Bankhead on 8th Jul. Four nests in Devilla Forest were either robbed or destroyed. Nesting was also recorded at Bickramside (1AON) and Piperpool Moss (2AON). Other sites holding birds were Bath Pool (2AOT), Inch Farm (3AOT), Carnock (2AOT), fields by Barnhead Road, West Saline (2AOT), Culross (2AOT), Damhead of Torr (2AOT), Kedlock (1AOT), Sheardrum Farm (1AOT), Linkwood Pond (3AOT), Woodlea Farm (7AOT), near Norman's Law (1AOT), Wilderness (2AOT) and Logie (1AOT). Distraction displays were noted at Townhill Loch and at Forret Hill. Newton Sandpit held 12 birds on 19th May with 24 at Ballo Reservoir on 31st May.

Wader breeding season at Goosepools 2008

Six pairs made a minimum nine nesting attempts of which seven nests were predated by Carrion Crows. I found over a dozen eggshells in May at the site. Four chicks hatched out of a nest in late April and three chicks hatched out of a nest in early June. Only a single bird fledged out of the seven and had flown by 3rd July. Most Northern Lapwings had left the site by 10th June and the site was deserted by 3rd July. *Mike Ramage*

Dalgety Bay started the year with 220 on 2nd Jan increasing to 343 by 6th but the flocks moved on quickly with 84 there by 13th and only a single bird on 10th Feb. Further west, 90 showed at Longannet PS on 13th Jan with 250 nearby at Culross on 8th Feb. Elsewhere, Newburn saw 50 on 22nd Jan and 132 flew west over Kilconquhar Loch on 27th. Rossie Bog held 220 on 26th Jan but attracted further birds with 285 on 6th Feb before peaking at about 329 on 13th Feb. Nearby at Easter Kilwhiss 300 were noted on 3rd Feb. However the largest flock of the early winter was at Dumbarnie Links with about 500 on 29th Jan increasing quickly to 650 on 4th Feb. The Eden Estuary held up to 94 birds in mid-February. Other notable counts in February included 51 at Pleasants Farm on 11th with 26 at Townhill Loch and 80 at Orkie, both on 24th. Also on 24th, Letham pools held 31 with up to 45 there throughout March. Bowhouse Farm saw the last major flock of the spring with 160 on 2nd Mar. The only other double-figure count in March was of 35 seen to the west of Gauldry on 12th with smaller numbers reported from Cupars Ward, Scotsraig, Lathockar Mill, Newton Sandpit and Bernard's Smithy into early April.

Flocks began to gather from late June with 12 on the Eden Estuary on 19th, 19 at Newton Sandpit on 20th and 40 at Wilderness on 29th. Mountcastle saw 47 on 4th Jul. Coastal areas began to see arrivals with 62 at Seafield on 19th Jul and 158 at Dalgety Bay on the following day. Numbers built steadily at the Eden Estuary during July peaking with 152 on 22nd when 44 visited Crail Airfield. Inland, about 60 were noted at Crossford and 164 were at Newton Sandpit both on 21st, 190 at Angle Park on 23rd and 138 at Wemyss Moss on 27th. Loch Gelly held about 50 on 25th then increased to 81 on 31st before dropping back to 50 on 3rd Aug. Woodlea Farm held 140 on 1st Aug with 90 nearby at North Duloch on 7th Aug with 127 there on 20th Aug. Wilderness attracted good numbers during August with 365 on 8th with a further influx bringing 612 on 14th. Counts varied there with at least 237 on 16th, about 500 on 19th and 114 lingering on 22nd. Nearby at Mountcastle, 161 were recorded on 21st. Numbers also fluctuated on the Eden Estuary with 1510 in Balgove Bay on 9th (Mike Ramage) and 1050 still there on 26th with about 750 at Guardbridge on 31st. A flock of 63 was seen at Tayport on 10th Aug with 100 nearby at Morton Lochs on 13th Aug. Wemyss Moss saw 100 on 14th Aug and 230 on 30th Aug. Elsewhere, Dalgety Bay hosted 216 on 19th, Elie Ness reported 190 on 22nd Aug with about 80 at Ardross on 27th Aug.

Mountcastle continued to draw birds with 316 there on 2nd Sep. North Duloch also saw increases with 130 on 3rd Sep and 150 on 15th Sep. Guardbridge regularly saw up to 750 during the month with Balgove Bay peaking at 1520 on 9th Sep (Ranald Strachan). Bath Pool hosted about 150 on 28th Sep. On the Firth of Forth, 120 were seen to the east of Carrick Villa on 27th Sep and Dalgety Bay held 236 on 14th Sep. Numbers fell away at the latter site with 162 on 3rd Oct with only ten there by 12th Oct. Only single-figure counts were received from there until 214 were reported on 13th Dec. Other coastal counts in October included 280 at Dumbarnie Links on 8th, 110 at Ardross on 9th, 120 at Tayport on 12th and at least 450 at Longannet PS on 19th. Balgove Bay still held 930 on 15th and 1155 were counted for the Eden Estuary on 16th although only 110 remained on 26th. Wilderness held 118 on 2nd Oct and nearby at Rossie Bog, 363 were seen on 11th with 250 still there on 27th. Other inland counts in October came from Newton Sandpit with 188 on 18th and 91 at Burnside, 90 at Letham pools and 150 at Priormuir, all on 27th.

Reports fell away during the final two months with Balgove Bay seeing 1000 on 11th Nov and 350 on 24th Dec. Guardbridge recorded 134 on 11th Nov with 75 still there on 28th Dec. Also on 11th Nov, 80 were noted near Balbougie. About 80 were also seen at Fordellhill on 28th Nov. Smaller counts were reported from North Straiton, Tay Road Bridge, Pattiesmuir, Stratheden and Bonnytown during this period.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	550	195	206	13	16	8	477	671	1093	866	1115	661
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	32	0	0	0	0
Eden WeBS	0	0	0	0	2	2	173	629	590	201	378	28
Birnie/Gaddon	37	42	21	8	6	4	42	9	21	16	63	48

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	15	0.44
2007	48	39	0.83
2008	46	31	0.67

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. The Forth Estuary holds internationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

An increase in the number of records submitted and substantially more birds seen, especially by WeBS counters, than in 2007.

Numbers were high at the start of the year with Dalgety Bay seeing 450 from 6th Jan to 18th Jan. Ruddons Point held 400 on 6th Jan but only 250 remained by 30th Jan. The year's peak count of 1100 was seen at Goosepools on 7th Jan (Mike Ramage). Also 33 were at Kirkcaldy harbour on 12th Jan. Thereafter, counts were low with Dalgety Bay holding only two birds on 10th Feb with 11 there on 6th Apr. Elsewhere in February the Lower Largo area saw 60 on 13th and 48 showed at Ardrross on 18th. Valleyfield Lagoons held eight on 16th Mar with 27 at the south end of Tentsmuir on 22nd Mar. Thirty were on Inchkeith on 10th May, six passed through Pettycur Bay on 11th May and four at Goosepools on 4th Jun were certainly non-breeders.

The first returning birds were 135 in the west at Valleyfield Lagoons on 10th Jul. The north-east saw the next wave with at least 20 at Tayport on 27th Jul and 72 nearby at Goosepools on 30th Jul. Burntisland Bay hosted 22 on 31st Jul. August saw single-figure counts at Valleyfield Lagoons, Balcomie beach, Elie Ness, Anstruther, Dalgety Bay, Stinky Pool and Kilrenny shore. Limekilns produced 39 on 12th Aug. Burntisland Bay attracted 145 on 12th Sep with 30 at Fife Ness on 21st Sep. Late October brought 200 to Valleyfield Lagoons on 27th with 26 at Leven on 31st. Inverkeithing Bay saw 18 on 15th Nov with 12 further west at Torry Bay on 24th Nov. A day later the north-east corner of the Eden Estuary held 80 and 700 were nearby at Goosepools. Also nearby Balgove Bay hosted 650 on 7th Dec when a lowly six were recorded at Dalgety Bay. The last record was of three there on 9th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	1112	442	264	19	97	166	224	131	271	259	512	704
Tay WeBS	488	100	0	30	0	0	0	60	55	25	60	5
Eden WeBS	278	507	250	0	0	0	0	4	151	0	65	326

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

Fairly common winter and passage migrant. The Forth and Tay Estuaries hold nationally important numbers.

Largo Bay and the north-east coastal beaches remain the favoured haunts.

On 5th Jan, Leven hosted 150 with 138 at Outhead. To the north of the latter site, Goosepools saw 312 on 7th Jan but only 85 were present there on 20th Jan when just 15

were found nearby at West Sands. A flock of 140 frequented the east end of Largo Bay on 12th Jan with about 50 further west along that shore at the Scoonie Burn mouth on 22nd Jan. During February smaller numbers were seen at the latter site with 35 at Lower Largo on 13th. Single-figure counts were reported from Cambo Ness and Edenmouth. At the south end of Tentsmuir only eight were seen on 2nd Feb but this rose to 230 by 22nd Mar. Twenty were noted at Balcomie beach on 29th Mar when 110 remained at the east end of Largo Bay with 19 at Leven, two days later. Northward bound birds included 17 at Balcomie beach on 5th Apr with 82 at Goosepools on 13th May but 15 non-breeders could be found at Largo Bay on 6th Jun.

Returning birds arrived at Balcomie beach with eight on 17th Jul and 96 at Goosepools on 30th Jul. Fifteen birds were seen at Balcomie beach on 2nd Aug. During August, Largo Bay recorded 27 at Lundin Links and four at Leven, all on 8th with 40 at the east end of the bay on 16th. Two showed to the east of Elie on 27th. Leven recorded between four and 92 during the next two months. Further east, 120 were seen at Carrick Villa on 27th Sep. Forty were at the south end of Tentsmuir on 11th Oct with 110 at Goosepools on 28th Oct. Thirty remained at the former site into December with 24 nearby at the north-east corner of the Eden Estuary on 25th Nov. Largo Bay continued to see good numbers with 132 at Leven on 5th Nov and 90 still there on 7th Dec. The Scoonie Burn mouth drew ten on 25th Nov with up to 116 at the east end of the bay to 22nd Dec. Two were at Fife Ness on 20th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	310	50	164	3	0	0	0	30	66	53	124	68
Tay WeBS	2	67	14	56	4	0	8	4	1	21	46	3
Eden WeBS	88	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	42	65	44

***Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)**

Uncommon passage migrant mainly in autumn.

The worst year since 1987 with only one record. A juvenile was found on the late date of 2nd Nov at Letham pools (Gerry Owens, Rab Shand). It was seen and photographed on the following day standing on ice at the partially frozen pools there. Presumably the same bird was seen nearby at Mountcastle on 9th Nov (Norman Elkins). There have been only two later records: one at Fife Ness on 10th Nov 1985 and the latest ever at Longanet PS on 17th Nov 2001.

***Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) (7)**

Vagrant.

This species is finally increasing its appearances in the county. A tremendous year brought three individuals including two during the same time period although at different sites.

A juvenile put in a gladly received showing at Letham pools from 13th to 15th Sep (Howard Wix, Alec Kidd, Ken Shaw, Jeremy Squire). With that site looking particularly attractive to waders, it was not surprising when another juv was found on 3rd Oct, which also stayed for three days (Dougie Dickson). There was some surprise

however when a second bird (third for year) was found nearby at Rossie Bog on 5th Oct staying to 9th Oct (Davy Ogilvie).

The last record was in mid-September 2005 when at least one bird was seen on separate dates at Angle Park. This year's records suggest a distinct possibility that two birds were involved back then.

***Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)**

Uncommon passage migrant in autumn, very uncommon in spring.

All reports except one came from the Eden Estuary where reasonable numbers were seen.

The first report was of a single at Balcomie beach on 4th Aug. Coble Shore saw two on 11th Aug with another three there on 23rd Aug. Edenside reported one juv on 6th Sep with two juvs on 9th Sep and ten juvs by 14th Sep. Two were noted at Balgove Bay on 9th Sep. Many birds were reported as from the Eden Estuary but most will have been in the Edenside/Guardbridge viewshed. Eden Estuary labelled records included at least seven on 12th Sep, at least six on 13th Sep, 12 on 15th Sep, at least three on 16th Sep, two on 20th Sep and three on 24th Sep. A single was noted at Guardbridge on 17th Sep but an influx brought 30 there two days later (Ranald Strachan) but only two lingered to 21st Sep. Edenside saw further reports of four on 26th Sep with 11 juvs there on the following day. October brought six to Coble Shore on 3rd with a single there on 17th. Edenside finished the year's showing with a juv on 19th.

***Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)**

Winter visitor in small numbers on rocky coastal habitat. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Unusually, this species was seen in every month of the year except June.

In the north-east during January, five were on the rocks at Cambo Sands on 5th with another five at Kingsbarns on 15th. Nearby at least 30 were found at Balcomie beach on 26th. Further up the coast at the species traditional stronghold, at least 40 were on the rocks by the castle at St Andrews on 23rd (Dougie Dickson). In the East Neuk, two were seen at Pittenweem on 8th with five nearby at Anstruther on 22nd. Kirkcaldy held a respectable 39 on 7th (Alistair Inglis) with nearby Dysart peaking at 13 on 16th Jan. Five were still at the latter site on 17th Feb with nearby at Seafield up to 20 could be seen during the month. Counts of two were reported from Cambo Ness and Fife Ness on 7th Feb and 17th Feb respectively. Seven showed at Ardross on 18th Feb with nine there on 20th Mar. Anstruther saw small numbers (3-4) during February and March. Two were seen at Elie on 4th Mar with a single at Dalgety Bay on 5th Mar. Numbers built up at Fife Ness as birds moved north with 15 there on 31st Mar but only three remained by 19th Apr. Other counts in April included one at Dysart on 2nd, three at Kinraig Point on 12th, ten at Ardross on 16th and three at Anstruther from 24th to 26th. Seafield produced a late flock of 22 on 27th Apr. The last record of the spring was a single bird at Kinraig Point on 3rd May.

It was an **early return** with the first bird back at Fife Ness on 24th Jul. There were no further sightings until six showed at Ruddons Point on 27th Aug and then four flew north past Fife Ness on 7th Sep. Anstruther saw two on 2nd Oct with one there on 7th Nov. Fife Ness held two during October and November then peaked at 18 on 20th Dec. A single bird was at Balcomie beach on 1st Nov with only three appearing at St Andrews on 28th Nov. In the west, Seafield reported two on 11th Oct with about 20 there on 11th Dec, Kirkcaldy saw 17 on 31st Oct and Dysart saw four on 12th Nov with eight there on 11th Dec. Four were seen at Kinraig Point on 8th Nov with the same number in Largo Bay on 28th Dec. Just round the corner to the east, Earlsferry produced the year's largest flock of 44 on 27th Dec (Mike Ramage) with 14 still there on 31st Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	39	10	10	18	1	0	0	0	8	1	27	9

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant with low numbers summering. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Red data list species.

Reports were received from only eleven areas during the first four months of the year. Dalgety Bay regularly saw reasonable flocks with 157 on 6th Jan, 120 on 6th Feb, 114 on 9th Mar then only 13 on 6th Apr. Nearby, Inverkeithing Bay held 44 on 11th Jan, 82 on 18th Feb and 13 on 9th Mar. Also in the west, 24 were noted between Limekilns and Brucehaven on 11th Jan with 55 at Valleyfield Lagoons on 4th Mar and six still there on 2nd Apr. Small numbers were reported from Largo Bay with ten at Ruddons Point on 1st Jan and 31 at the Scoonie Burn mouth on 22nd Jan. Further east, 60 showed at Anstruther on 17th Jan with 13 at Cambo Ness on 7th Feb. On 20th Jan, an impressive 1125 showed at Balgove Bay and about 300 were nearby at Goosepools. Tayport saw 500 on 27th Jan. Balgove Bay saw numbers increase to 2100 on 16th Feb and 113 were noted at Edenside on 5th Mar. A flock of 340 was reported from the south end of Tentsmuir on 22nd Mar. The final bird of the spring appeared inland at Letham pools on 27th and 28th Apr.

Valleyfield Lagoon recorded the first returning bird on 1st Jun. Numbers built gradually there with 14 on 23rd Jul then 40 on 1st Aug. Ruddons Point also saw early returners with two on 6th Jun. Fife Ness also saw passage birds with 25 on 13th Jul. Other migrants refuelled nearby at Balcomie beach with 50 on 17th Jul and 40 there on 19th Jul. Also nearby, single-figure counts were noted at Stinky Pool through to September. On 16th Jul, thirty showed at Ardross and four were seen at Dalgety Bay. Tayport recorded at least 100 on 20th Jul when 15 were nearby at the south end of Tentsmuir. August saw 30 at Shelly Spit on 4th with smaller counts at Lundin Links, Tentsmuir, Crombie Point, Elie and Dalgety Bay. Also in August, Letham pools produced another inland record with a single bird on 27th.

Counts were generally very low during the last four months. Valleyfield Lagoons held 50 on 2nd Sep with 18 there on 22nd Nov with seven nearby at Torry Bay on 11th Nov. In Largo Bay, single-figure counts came from Leven and Carrick Villa until

the end of October. Seafield also noted singles during October. Dalgety Bay also held very low numbers until at least 90 were seen on 9th Dec with 110 on 13th Dec. Much higher counts were noted on the Eden Estuary with Guardbridge hosting 300 on 10th Oct and Balgove Bay seeing 1500 on 25th Nov. The year's peak count came from the latter site with 2230 on 7th Dec (Mike Ramage). Tentsmuir saw 45 on 11th Oct with 150 at Tayport on 12th Oct and 28 there on 28th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	311	237	252	18	0	0	24	28	145	18	131	481
Tay WeBS	1523	1310	750	22	60	18	0	141	234	210	1200	1211
Eden WeBS	4705	4505	1190	323	0	0	1	12	1360	1610	645	2220

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

Passage migrant usually in small numbers, wintering almost annually. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

Only one wintering record of a single bird seen at Easter Kilwhiss on 3rd Feb (Norman Elkins).

The first birds of the autumn passage were two at Balgove Bay on 11th Aug with one still there on the following day. Two at Wemyss Moss on 14th Aug was an unusual record. On 17th Aug, one flew over Tayport. Another single visited Balgove Bay on 21st Aug with two nearby at Edenside from 22nd to 27th Aug. Two were seen at Wilderness on 22nd Aug. Two were noted on the east side of Preston Island on 24th Aug staying into September with one on the adjacent Valleyfield Lagoons on 26th Aug increasing to six there on 2nd Sep. One flew west past Dalgety Bay on 30th Aug. The pools at Letham proved attractive with six there on 24th Aug increasing to 11 by 27th. Numbers fluctuated there until only seven remained on 6th Sep. Nearby, Rossie Bog also drew good numbers with eight on 29th Aug with 12 there on 2nd Sep (Alistair Inglis). Edenside regularly saw up to four during September but seven flew upriver from Guardbridge on 13th Sep. Two were in the outer Eden Estuary at Balgove Bay on 9th Sep with five there on 3rd Oct. Rossie Bog recorded new arrivals with four on 14th Sep increasing to five by 20th Sep. At least one individual was recorded there from 2nd to 8th Oct with two on 11th and 15th Oct. There were also further sightings at Letham pools with a single noted between 3rd and 8th Oct. The last bird of the year showed at Edenside on 18th Oct.

***Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)**

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

A fairly poor showing with birds reported at only seven sites and in generally low numbers.

As usual, Cocklemill Marsh was a favoured venue with five there on 1st Jan, two on 6th Jan and four on 28th Jan. Three were seen there on 13th Feb and 9th Mar with the final bird of the spring there on 12th Apr. Reports from Goosepools included five on 7th Jan and four on 19th Mar. Westfield produced a tremendous 15 on 28th Jan

(Andre Thiel) the largest count in Fife since 15 showed at Cocklemill Marsh on 6th Nov 2004. Counts of two were noted at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 19th Feb and at Valleyfield Lagoons on 2nd Apr.

The last quarter saw fewer records with counts of three reported from Goosepools on 28th Oct, Cocklemill Marsh on 13th Nov and Balgove Bay on 12th Dec with a single noted at Kilrenny on 23rd Nov.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Scarce breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Few confirmed breeding records. Two birds were heard drumming at Rossie Bog on 30th Mar with two 'chipping' there on 12th Jun and one on 17th Jun. Chipping was also noted at Teasses on 30th May. Singles also showed at Cullaloe, Dalgety Bay, Damhead of Torr and Dunbog during the breeding season.

Wader breeding season at Goosepools 2008

Four pairs nesting at Goosepools and Earlshall Marsh with some success. A pair at Earlshall Marsh fledged one young on 3rd July but the other pair there seemed to fail for whatever reason. Two pairs at Goosepools successfully fledged eight young and they were capable of short spells of flight by 18th July. *Mike Ramage*

The year began with 25 at Barnyards Marsh on 1st Jan although only 12 were still present on 14th Jan. Nearby at Cocklemill Marsh there was seven also on 1st increasing slightly to eight on 6th when four were also found at Tayport. A good count of 45 came from Goosepools on 7th. Two were seen at Dalgety Bay on 10th Jan and 2nd Feb. Six were noted at both the River Eden at Cupar on 12th Jan and Kirkton Farm on 30th Jan. Other higher counts during January included 23 at Barns Farm on 18th, 14 at Wilderness on 19th and up to 19 at Westfield on 28th. A single was flushed from the reeds at Duloch Park pond on 10th Feb. Numbers had increased at Goosepools where the year's highest count of 78 was seen on 19th Mar (Mike Ramage). Singles were seen at Kilconquhar Loch on 19th and 26th Mar. Small flocks lingered into April with 11 at Valleyfield Lagoons on 2nd and four at Barnyards Marsh on 19th.

Late July saw up to three birds at Letham pools. Numbers picked up from mid-August with three at Wilderness on 14th. Nearby at least 70 were flushed by a Western Marsh Harrier hunting over Rossie Bog on 20th with at least 20 still there on 27th. Equally good numbers were found at Wemyss Moss with 69 on 24th with 38 still there on 31st. Letham pools witnessed at least 40 during heavy rain on 26th but at least 31 were still present on 31st. Migration was noted at Dalgety Bay where one flew south over the Firth of Forth on 26th. Singles were noted at Guardbridge on 27th and Long Wood on 30th when four were seen at Balbeggie pond. Up to 30 were found at Edenside on 31st. Letham pools continued to see good numbers with 55 there with two nearby at Rossie Bog and

three also nearby at Wilderness all on 2nd Sep. Also on 2nd Sep, 28 showed at Valleyfield Lagoons but thereafter only single-figure counts were reported from there into October. Other September reports included one at West Saline on 15th, 20 at Goosepools on 25th, two at Dalgety Bay on 26th and three at Mountcastle on 28th. Counts increased at Rossie Bog with up to 19 seen during October with small numbers reported from nearby at Wilderness and Mountcastle. Also in that area, Letham pools held at least 30 on 3rd Oct and ten were seen there on 5th Nov. Nine showed at Tayport on 12th Oct. Birds returned to Cocklemill Marsh on 13th Oct when eight were seen with an increase to 25 on 13th Nov. Goosepools continued to draw birds with 28 on 14th Oct and 56 on 28th Oct. In the west, a flock of 25 was noted near Stand Alane Farm on 17th and 15 were seen at Valleyfield Lagoons on 27th Oct. Two were seen at Dalgety Bay into mid-November. Further influxes occurred at Valleyfield Lagoons with 53 on 11th Nov, 42 on 23rd Nov with up to 31 still present on 26th Dec. Relatively high counts were reported from Craigluscar with 17 on 16th Nov, Saline pools with 13 on 21st Nov and Lundin Bridge with 18 on 22nd Nov. Small counts in November were recorded at Gilston (2), Dalgety Bay (2) and Fife Ness (2). High counts from Goosepools included 36 on 17th Nov and 25 on 23rd Dec. Westfield saw 15 on 15th Dec. Single-figure December counts came from Tayport, St Margaret's Marsh, Saline and Dalgety Bay.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	9	6	55	28	40
Tay WeBS	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	7	40	40	18
Birnie/Gaddon	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	0

*Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Fairly common breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Roding was recorded at Causewayhead with two seen on 4th Apr. One was seen roding near Saline on 9th Apr with two there on 30th May. Another roding bird was recorded at Wemyss Moss on 9th May. Two AOT were noted at Devilla Forest. Other single records during the breeding season came from Damhead of Torr, Kippo Plantation and Kilconquhar Woods with two birds seen at Clammieduff on 6th Jun.

Two were seen in an Oilseed Rape field near Cupar on 4th Jan with three in Calais Muir Woods on 12th Jan. Later that month, one was seen at Gathercauld on 27th, up to two at Westfield on 28th, two at Glenduckie on 30th and one at Kilrenny on 31st. Wemyss Wood held six on 3rd Feb with singles at Benarty Hill on 4th Feb, Cullaloe on 8th Feb and Wilderness on 12th Feb. One flew over the road by Ladybank Woods at dusk on 11th Mar. Calais Muir Woods still held two on 14th Mar and one was noted at Lathockar Mill on 18th Mar.

Early November brought a large fall to the east coast with 1-2 birds seen daily at Kilrenny between 4th and 8th. Fife Ness Muir attracted six on 6th with three of these trapped and ringed. The following day the Fife Ness area was awash with at least 27 birds recorded (Ken Shaw) including birds at Balcomie, Kilminning and Denburn Wood. Further birds were noted at Boarhills and Wormiston on 7th. Most of these had moved on by 8th but 1-2 were still found at Crail, Kilminning and Wormiston

cottages. Also on 8th, at the opposite end of the county, seven were noted at Devilla Forest. Later in the month one showed at Gilston on 11th, two at Wemyss Moss on 23rd with singles at Lochgelly on 24th and at Reres Wood on 25th. Inchkeith reported a single on 7th Dec. Leuchars Airfield saw the final records with four seen at night on 8th Dec and one there on 26th Dec.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant, with a few summering. The Eden and Forth Estuaries hold nationally important numbers. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

After six years of high counts, 2008 brought a sharp drop in numbers with a peak count of less than half of those in recent years. The Eden Estuary again dominated sightings but reports came from nine other sites.

During the first four months, counts fluctuated on the Eden Estuary with 175 at Edenside on 5th Jan being the peak for that month which ended with 76 there on 29th. By 17th Feb numbers were back up to 170 dropping again to 148 on 27th Feb. Similar counts were reported into mid-March but then reached the year's peak of 282 on 27th Mar (Rob & Sue Armstrong). A flock of 227 were still on show on 4th Apr but thereafter counts were low with the final spring showing of 20 at Guardbridge on 26th Apr. A single bird at Tayport on 9th Mar was the only other record during this period.

Mid-July saw the first returning birds with ten on the Eden Estuary on 15th and eight at Dalgety Bay on 16th. Ten birds were still at Edenside on 3rd Aug and numbers built slowly to 28 there on 29th Aug. Elsewhere, two showed at Valleyfield Lagoons on 1st Aug with 23 nearby at Limekilns on 21st Aug. One visited a field by Cameron Reservoir on 28th Aug when two flew west past the sailing club at Dalgety Bay with four there on 30th Aug. Rossie Bog saw five on 30th Aug increasing to seven by 2nd Sep with eight there on 5th Sep. Two were seen nearby at Wilderness on 2nd Sep. Numbers continued to build in the upper Forth with five at Valleyfield Lagoons on 2nd Sep then 16 at the adjacent Torry Bay on 5th Oct. By 27th Oct, eighty were on the lagoons at Valleyfield then a further influx brought 225 to Torry Bay on 24th Nov (David & Avril Haines). Also in the Firth of Forth one flew east past Kincaig Point on 13th Nov. Small parties moved through the Eden Estuary during early September with four on 3rd and 14 on 6th. Notable flocks appeared there from 8th Sep when 111 were present building to 155 by 24th Sep. Counts varied again but 200 were noted on 26th Oct with 237 at Guardbridge on 10th Nov. The latter site saw 200 on 21st Dec with the year ending with 106 there and 78 nearby at Shelly Spit all on 31st.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	97	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	32	31
Tay WeBS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
Eden WeBS	129	129	121	292	0	0	0	0	41	185	195	36
Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	293	246	245	180	308	420	500	615	811	684	694	292

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Common winter visitor, and passage migrant with small numbers summering. The Forth and Tay Estuaries hold internationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

Few sites saw large concentrations particularly in the early part of the year. The highest count of the year came from Goosepools with 525 on 7th Jan (Mike Ramage) but only 70 remained on 20th Jan and 25 on 22nd Mar. Nearby 150 were counted at Balgove Bay on 30th Jan. Eighteen were noted at Ruddons Point on New Years Day when four were nearby at Elie. Dalgety Bay saw 13 on 10th Jan, eight on 2nd Feb and five on 3rd Mar. On 20th Feb, five showed at Kinghorn with a single nearby at Seafield. Three were seen at Anstruther on 18th Mar. Four at Ruddons Point on 10th Apr and four at Dalgety Bay on 4th May were the only records for those months.

On 4th Jun another four probably non-breeders, lingered at Goosepools.

Early July brought the first returning birds including an unusual record of one south over a garden at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 4th Jul. Other records included two at Ruddons Point on 9th, nine at Valleyfield Lagoons on 10th, one at Tentsmuir on 20th and 62 in Burntisland Bay on 31st. Seven remained at Valleyfield Lagoons until 1st Aug with four nearby at Limekilns on 12th Aug and 22 there on 4th Sep. Two were seen at the south end of Tentsmuir on 9th Aug, ten were at Ruddons Point on 16th Aug, 16 were on the Eden Estuary on 23rd Aug and seven flew west past Elie Ness on 29th Aug. Dalgety Bay held two from 19th Aug increasing to 11 on 11th Sep. The following day saw 342 at Burntisland Bay. Fifteen mingled with the Black-taileds at Guardbridge on 21st Sep. Few records came from Largo Bay - four showed at Lundin Links on 19th Sep with two there on 2nd Oct and one on 1st Nov; Ruddons Point saw 16 on 3rd Nov. Sixteen were on the shore north of Wormiston on 5th Oct. Pathhead held up to three and Seafield held up to six during the last quarter. Also during that period Dalgety Bay generally saw up to eight but 17 appeared on 10th Nov. Early November saw 25 at Kinghorn on 2nd and 264 at Tayport on 6th. Eight visited Torry Bay on 11th. Again Goosepools saw the largest flocks with 420 on 25th Nov and 455 on 7th Dec. Nearby, Tayport still held 206 on 28th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	22	154	108	138	0	1	10	203	667	727	515	141
Tay WeBS	314	89	1000	2	0	0	0	0	7	27	482	160
Eden WeBS	410	682	245	365	0	0	9	0	48	0	65	413

Eurasian Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Scarce to common passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

Another good year with records in every month from April to December. The November and December records may be an indication that this species is staking a claim to join other scarce waders that have recently begun to regularly winter in the county.

Ruddons Point saw the first record of the year with a single bird there on 3rd Apr followed by four there on 23rd Apr. Also in April, Edenside hosted one on 12th, two on 25th increasing to three on 27th and 28th. Elsewhere, one was seen at Anstruther

on 24th, one flew north past Fife Ness on 26th and two appeared at Loch Gelly on 27th. Passage continued on a broad front in May with sightings between Kincardine and Fife Ness. Twelve were seen in Balgove Bay on 1st. Singles showed at Anstruther and Crombie Point, two were on the Eden Estuary and Ruddons Point recorded eight, all on 2nd. Three were on Balcomie beach on 3rd with another three nearby at Fife Ness on 4th when singles were noted at Edenside and Kincardine. One was at Tentsmuir on 6th with another at Kilrenny and two at Earlsferry all on 7th. Other singles showed at Elie Ness on 8th and 30th, Fife Ness on 9th, 10th and 18th, Balgove Bay on 11th, Culross on 12th, Ruddons Point on 18th and Anstruther on 25th. Three flew north over Woodhead Street, Valleyfield on 13th May.

There was no real break in records with bird seen throughout June and July, many of them presumably failed or non-breeders. The bulk of the June records came from the Eden Estuary with two at Edenside on 3rd and 7th and singles there on 16th and 24th with another at Balgove Bay on 15th. Other sites that provided June records included one at Largo Bay on 15th and another at Valleyfield Lagoons on 23rd. Shamrock Street, Dunfermline saw one flying south on 4th Jul with another single at Caiplie on 5th. The Eden Estuary recorded five at Balgove Bay on 8th and at Guardbridge on 29th with a single at Edenside on 28th July. One showed at Dalgety Bay on 13th Jul with two to the west at Crombie Point on 14th Jul. Fife Ness also saw movements in July with one on 14th, three on 21st and another single going south on 24th. A flock of eleven came in off the sea at Goosepools on 18th Jul. Singles were noted at Anstruther and Tayport on 20th Jul with another south-west over Kilconquhar Loch on 26th. Ruddons Point recorded four on 22nd and one on 27th Jul.

August was also busy with four on Balcomie beach on 2nd. Nearby at Fife Ness there was one south on 14th, 25 on 15th, 15 on 21st, 55 on 22nd and 15 on 23rd and 29th with one on the Stinky Pool on 31st. Edenside recorded singles on 3rd, 8th, 24th and 29th and three on 31st. Guardbridge saw the year's highest count with 18 on 20th (Ranald Strachan) with ten nearby at Balgove Bay on 26th and a single on the beach by Reres Wood on 30th. Dalgety Bay saw singles on 3rd, 19th and 30th. Elie Ness saw singles on 8th and 28th, with other singles at East Wemyss on 14th and Tayport on 17th. Two showed at Kinraig Point on 13th and nearby at Ruddons Point there were three on 15th with four there on 27th. It quietened down in September when single birds were noted at Elie Ness on 1st, Fife Ness on 5th and 8th and West Wemyss on 7th. Two were at Edenside on 7th with another two at Ruddons Point on 13th.

There was only one record in October of a single bird at Valleyfield Lagoons on 11th.

Two showed at Ruddons Point on 15th Nov with those birds being seen together or singly there or nearby at Kinraig Point on various dates through the last two months and into 2009.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	3	0	2	2
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Eden WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Fairly uncommon breeder, common in winter and on passage. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Seven AOT were noted at West Saline including two nests found, one of which contained four eggs on 16th Jun. Nearby one AON along with nine birds was recorded at Piperpool Moss on 1st Jun. Up to two birds were noted in song flight at Ballo Reservoir in early May with five singing and displaying between there and Harperleas Reservoir on 31st May. Other birds on possible breeding habitat included two at Sheardrum Farm on 14th May and two at North Duloch on 22nd Jun.

There were few large flocks reported during the first quarter. In January, there were 80 near Tayport on 11th with 122 to the south of Tayport on 20th. A flock of 170 fed in a field to the south of Upper Largo on 19th when 30 were seen at Wilderness. Up to 17 were reported on the Rosyth Naval playing fields during the month with 45 there on 14th Feb. Easter Kilwhiss recorded up to 58 in the first two weeks of February. A movement of 105W over Kilconquhar Loch on 3rd Feb may have contributed to the flock of 240 seen nearby at Dumbarnie Links a day later. At least 200 showed at The Glebe by Aberdour on 11th Feb. A flock of 88 fed in a field by Guardbridge on 16th Feb with 80 nearby on the Eden Estuary on 20th Feb. Fifty-five were counted between Brucehaven and Limekilns on 27th Feb with 65 on the school playing field at Leven on 28th Feb. March saw an increase in reports of relatively large flocks including 75 at St Andrews on 1st, 52 at Anstruther on 4th, 44 at Loch Gelly on 9th, 84 at Largo Bay on 13th, 55 at Lathockar Mill on 18th, 75 at Wilderness on 19th, 55 at 5 Roads Roundabout on 23rd and 54 at Crombie Point on 26th. Smaller counts during the first three months were received from Dalgety Bay, Inverkeithing, Cupar Wards, Goosepools, Leven, Lower Largo, Pleasants Farm, North Queensferry, Saline, Northfield, Valleyfield and Lundin Links.

Bowhouse Farm saw 120 on 13th Apr but other pre-breeding flocks were much smaller including 30 at 5 Roads Roundabout on 2nd Apr, 20 at Inverkeithing Bay and 30 at Stenhouse Reservoir all on 6th Apr, 23 at Valleyfield Lagoons on 1st May and 26 at Dalgety Bay on 17th May. Ten were seen at Wilderness on 24th May and lingered to 6th Jun. Single-figure sightings came from Inchcolm, Inchkeith, Fife Ness, Bath, Damhead of Torr, Lochmalony Farm and Wilderness during April and May.

The Eden Estuary recorded 146 on 3rd Jun with 85 there on 29th Jun. Other flocks of failed/non-breeders showed at Dalgety Bay where 61 were seen on 22nd Jun with 250 passing through there on 1st Jul. Passage was noted on 7th Jul with two over Damhead of Torr and 22 at Wormit Bay. Balgove Bay hosted a massive 1048 on 8th Jul (Ranald Strachan). Small numbers passed through Dysart, Fife Ness, Wilderness and North Queensferry in mid-July but larger flocks started to appear from 19th when 40 appeared at Seafield. Dalgety Bay saw 50 on 20th and at least 100 were on the Eden Estuary on 23rd when 450 arrived at Valleyfield Lagoons. The outer Eden Estuary saw increasing numbers with 200 at Shelly Spit on 1st Aug and the year's peak count of 1180 at Balgove Bay on 12th Aug (Mike Ramage). Other high counts in August included at least 200 in Torry Bay on 17th and 200 at Dumbarnie Links on 24th. Smaller counts came from Ovenstone with 66 on 7th, Wilderness with 70 on 8th and 60 there on 14th, Tayport with at least 50 on 10th, Limekilns with 35 on 13th, Dalgety Bay with

86 on 19th, North Duloch with 48 on 28th and Elie Ness with 95 on 30th. Other reports came from Inchkeith, Lundin Links, Inverkeithing Bay, Leven, Cameron Reservoir and Sheills. Valleyfield Lagoons hosted 450 with 90 at Wilderness all on 2nd Sep. Further birds arrived at North Duloch increasing the flock there to 160 on 9th Sep. There was also an increase at Shelly Spit where at least 440 were seen on 26th Sep. Dalgety Bay recorded 90 on 19th Sep but there was a slight decline to 78 on 3rd Oct.

October saw a few reasonable sized flocks including 38 at Woodlea Farm on 2nd, 62 on stubble at West Grange and 102 at Wilderness all on 8th and 52 in a field at Elie on 22nd. Cameron Reservoir held ten on 10th Oct with 50 there by 11th Nov. Rosyth Naval playing fields produced regular reports including monthly peaks of 52 on 20th Oct, 102 on 13th Nov and 73 on 22nd Dec. Early November saw 80 at Kingsbarns on 2nd, 250 at Tayport on 6th, 40 at Balcomie on 7th and 80 near Balbougie on 11th. Dalgety Bay still held 51 on 15th Nov but only 26 were seen there on 28th Dec. Also on 15th Nov, 130 flew west over Grangehill, 22 showed in Inverkeithing Bay and 18 were on Inchkeith. Other November records included 95 in a field by the road to Craigluscar on 16th, 26 on the playing fields at Pitreavie on 26th and 40 at Cupar Wards on 30th. Dalgety Bay and Rossie Bog reported small counts in December. Larger flocks were seen at Guardbridge with 68 in a field upriver of the main road bridge there on 3rd, 37 at Bickramside on 8th, 52 at Wilderness on 23rd and 160 at Barns Farm on 30th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	587	902	559	143	159	201	752	790	1188	556	683	392
Tay WeBS	270	400	219	111	70	146	137	483	79	16	110	27
Eden WeBS	327	1142	261	373	18	24	730	1184	1097	655	177	276

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	5	0.14
2007	48	14	0.30
2008	46	77	1.67

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding in small numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: A brood of three was seen at Mountcastle on 6th Jun and pair with a juvenile also seen at Wilderness on 29th Jun. One territory was noted at Bath Pool. A singing bird was heard at Kilconquhar Loch on 10th May with two birds there on 29th Jun.

There were few spring passage birds noted with the first two at Wilderness on 24th Mar. April saw single birds appearing at Angle Park on 7th, Ravenscraig on 14th, Bath Pool on 25th, Guardbridge on 26th and Kilconquhar Loch on 27th. Four settled in at Mountcastle from 5th May and a single bird was again at Guardbridge on 11th May.

Late June saw birds on the move again with one at both Elie Ness and Thornton Pool on 27th, two at Guardbridge on 29th and three at Angle Park on 30th. One was at Pittarhie Farm on 3rd Jul and nine showed at Mountcastle on 4th Jul (Norman Elkins). Counts of two came from Valleyfield Lagoons on 10th Jul, Ravenscraig on

11th Jul and the Eden Estuary on 13th Jul. One was at Guardbridge on 15th Jul then numbers increased there briefly with seven on 19th with up to three seen to the month's end. Along the Forth coastline, four showed at Pathhead on 14th and one was at Anstruther with seven at Ardross all on 16th. Wilderness saw numbers climb briefly with nine on 15th but only two there the following day. A small passage was witnessed in the Fife Ness area with two birds at Balcomie beach on 17th Jul and a single there on 19th. The 'Ness recorded singles daily from 20th to 24th Jul. A single bird visited Cameron Reservoir on 30th Jul. Mountcastle saw it's last birds with one on 26th Jul and another on 8th Aug. Nearby at Wilderness, singles passed through on 26th Jul and 8th Aug with two there on 19th Aug. Coble Shore produced three on 1st Aug increasing to seven on 26th Aug. Valleyfield Lagoons also saw varying numbers with five on 1st Aug, one on 21st Aug, four on 26th Aug and two on 12th Sep. Singles passed through Anstruther on 2nd Aug and 23rd Aug. Ruddons Point recorded four on 16th Aug with three nearby at Kilconquhar Loch on 17th Aug. Singles showed at Dalgety Bay on 19th Aug and at St Margaret's Hope on 30th Aug. Small numbers were also seen at Rossie Bog including one on 19th Aug and 2nd Sep with two there on 29th Aug. Guardbridge/ Edenside produced regular sightings from 2nd Aug when seven birds were present. Up to two were often reported but six showed on 5th Sep with the final sighting of the year being four there on 15th Sep.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
Eden WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

***Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)**

Uncommon passage migrant mainly in autumn, regularly winters in small numbers. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Another good year with increasing numbers being seen in the winter periods.

Mountcastle proved a popular wintering site with one on 11th Jan. Three were seen there on 10th Feb with two remaining to 24th Feb. One was seen regularly at Saline pools from 27th Feb until 1st Mar. The same site recorded one on 13th Mar with two there on 15th Mar with one remaining until 27th Mar. A single bird was also recorded on four dates during March at Mountcastle from 4th to 24th. Cullaloe also hosted one bird on 23rd Mar. Two birds were again at Mountcastle on 2nd and 13th Apr. Letham pools attracted one from 17th to 21st Apr.

In late summer one flew south-west over Kilconquhar Loch on 26th Jul when a single bird was also at Wilderness. One was noted on the pools at Coble Shore on 29th Jul and two visited Letham pools on 31st Jul. Unusually there were no records in August. Singles appeared at Ladybank on 1st Sep, Mountcastle on 2nd Sep and Letham pools on 7th Sep. One fed in the slurry run-off at West Saline on 9th Sep and was still present on 15th Sep. A single bird showed at Guardbridge on 12th Sep. Further sightings came from Letham with one on 13th Sep with two there on 19th Sep. Nearby one put in an appearance at Rossie Bog on 14th Sep with another there on 11th Oct. Letham was popular during October with single birds from 3rd to 6th,

two birds on 8th then a single again on 22nd. A further influx saw three birds there on 5th Nov with two still there on 9th Nov. Bath Pool held wintering birds with two on 28th Nov and one still there on 20th Dec.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant. Amber data list species.

A big improvement on the showings of recent years with spring records concerning at least one bird and a prolonged period of sightings in the autumn that makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the number of birds involved.

One was on the Eden Estuary on 3rd April. It or another was there to the north-east of Shelly Spit on 5th Apr when it narrowly avoided being taken by a female Peregrine Falcon by hitting the water and swimming.

Birds were continuously present on the Eden Estuary from 25th Aug until 26th Oct with maximum counts of five being reported regularly. The first autumn record was a single bird at Balgove Bay on 11th Aug. There was a break until one was seen in the Guardbridge/Edenside viewshed on 25th Aug with an increase to three on 27th Aug. Reports fluctuated between one and three birds until 20th Sep when five were seen. From then until 13th Oct reports of 1-5 birds were regularly received. There may have been some movement within the estuary during this time as three birds were at Edenside with another two at Balgove Bay, both on 1st Oct. From 15th Oct, only 1-2 birds were seen with the final sighting on the Eden Estuary being a single bird on 26th Oct. A very conservative estimate of the number of birds seen on the Eden Estuary during the autumn period would be nine. The only other record away from there involved a single bird at Torry Bay on 24th Oct.

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	6+	5+	5+	8+	3+	3+	5	1+	3+	4+	1	11+

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Regular passage migrant and wintering in small numbers. The Forth and Eden Estuaries hold nationally important numbers. Schedule 1 species.

Now firmly established as a wintering species in Fife particularly on the Eden Estuary and at Valleyfield Lagoons.

Four birds from 2007 remained in residence at Valleyfield Lagoons on 4th Jan with two still there on 26th Jan. On the Eden Estuary a single bird showed at Edenside on 4th Jan with a good winter count of 11 nearby at Balgove Bay on 5th. Up to five could be seen at Edenside for the remainder of the first month. Also nearby one was seen at Shelly Spit on 17th and 30th Jan. February brought sightings from less regular venues with one at Caiplie on 2nd and one at Lower Largo on 13th. Up to 12 were seen on the Eden Estuary during the month with a single nearby at the south end of Tentsmuir on 2nd Feb. Straiton Farm Pond was another unusual winter venue with one bird there on 5th Mar. Valleyfield Lagoons still held four on 9th Mar with three there on 2nd Apr with a single in the adjacent Torry Bay on 14th Mar. Six remained

on the Eden Estuary on 13th Mar with two still there on 30th Mar. Other March records included one at Shell Bay on 19th and one still at the south end of Tentsmuir on 22nd. One was opposite Coble Shore on 4th Apr and the last record of the spring was a single nearby at Guardbridge on 26th Apr. Inland, Letham pools attracted a single on 20th and 21st Apr.

Late summer saw singles return at Ruddons Point on 1st Jul and at Edenside on 3rd Jul. Nine arrived back at Valleyfield Lagoons on 12th Jul and were still present on 23rd Jul with seven there on 1st Aug. Two showed at Tayport on 20th Jul with another at Ruddons Point on 22nd Jul. Inland, one appeared at Wilderness on 26th Jul and on 31st Jul with one at Loch Gelly on 30th Jul. Balgove Bay began to attract high numbers with 15 on 29th Jul increasing quickly to 32 on 1st Aug then peaking at 40 on 26th Aug (Mike Ramage). Elsewhere on the Eden Estuary up to four were seen at various sites during August. One took up residence at Dalgety Bay from 2nd Aug until late September. Other migrants refuelled briefly at Balcomie beach on 2nd Aug and at Anstruther on 3rd Aug. Wilderness saw singles on 14th and 19th Aug. Crombie Point noted five on 21st Aug. Nearby one was present at Valleyfield Lagoons where numbers steadily increased to five on 26th Aug then 19 on 2nd Sep. Numbers varied there through September but up to 18 were reported to the month's end. Nearby Torry Bay held ten on 8th Sep. The Eden Estuary also saw fluctuating counts with 36 still at Balgove Bay on 9th Sep and 21 at Guardbridge on 17th Sep. October saw 20 take up residence in Balgove Bay with counts of up to 21 seen elsewhere on the estuary during the month. Other October records were of two at the south end of Tentsmuir on 11th when 15 were still at Valleyfield Lagoons and one was at Ruddons Point on 27th. During the last two months 13 were in Balgove Bay on 11th Nov with nine there on 12th Dec. One or two were reported from elsewhere on the Eden Estuary with three nearby at Tentsmuir on 6th Dec. One put in an appearance at Kilrenny shore from 10th to 11th Dec. In the west, two were at Valleyfield Lagoons on 2nd Nov, up to four were seen in Torry Bay with the last six of the year seen on the lagoons on 26th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	4	0	1	2	0	4	3	3	8	3	1	0
Tay WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Eden WeBS	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	19	0	11	7	3

***Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) (1)**

Vagrant.

The first record for the county appeared on 3rd Sep when a juvenile was found on the Eden Estuary at Guardbridge (Rob & Sue Armstrong). It was well watched during an extended stay. It was mainly reported from the Guardbridge/Edenside area but occasionally wandered with reports from Coble Shore on 11th and 15th Sep and was last seen at Shelly Spit on 23rd Sep.

***Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)**

Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

There were no spring records this year. In the autumn, three arrived on 28th Aug. A single juvenile was found at Rossie Bog (Jeremy Squire) with another nearby Letham pools (Andre Thiel), which stayed until 29th. A third bird showed at Guardbridge (Ranald Strachan) with it or another seen at Edenside on 2nd and 3rd Sep (Dougie Dickson). Letham pools recorded its second bird of the year with another juvenile there on 12th and 13th Sep (Jeremy Squire).

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

Scarce breeder, very common winter visitor and passage bird. The Forth Estuary holds internationally important numbers and the Tay Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Birnie Loch held 1AON on the north island with 2AON on the south island but the outcomes were unknown. Valleyfield Lagoons reported 1AOT. At least three birds were present at Rossie Bog during the breeding season and displaying birds were noted on 2nd May. Up to two pairs were seen at Bath Pool on 25th Apr. Wilderness saw four birds on 18th Apr but there were no further reports from there. Nearby there were reports of single birds at Letham pools but there was no evidence of breeding.

Ruddons Point saw 42 on 1st Jan with Levenmouth holding 60 throughout the first month. Dalgety Bay reported 82 on 6th Jan with 90 there on 10th Feb. Nearby Inverkeithing Bay hosted 118 and maintained roughly that number into March. On the Eden Estuary, Shelly Spit noted at least 60 on 7th Jan, Balgove Bay hosted 352 and Edenside saw at least 200 all on 20th Jan. Smaller counts in January came from St Andrews, Dysart, Ravenscraig, Lower Largo, Balmerino, Tayport Common, Newport and Valleyfield Lagoons. February saw an increase to 145 at Leven on 10th whilst numbers dropped on the Eden Estuary with 145 there on 21st. About 60 were reported from Seafield on 20th. In addition to some of the aforementioned venues, Aberdour and Long Craig produced reports of small counts. Torry Bay reported 55 on 4th Mar. Numbers at Newport climbed to at least 70 on 13th Mar with only 17 there on 9th Apr. At least 60 could still be found on the Eden Estuary on 16th Mar with the spring passage bringing at least 120 there on 2nd Apr but only about 20 remained on 20th Apr. Dalgety Bay also saw increases with 120 on 16th Mar before dropping to 63 on 6th Apr with one bird lingering to 4th May. Small numbers were reported from Ardrross, North Queensferry, Kilconquhar Loch and Newburgh during March. April brought 57 to Leven on 2nd with 49 still there on 14th. Dysart saw its last 24 of the spring on 2nd. Tayport marsh saw 63 on 5th and Inverkeithing Bay still held 65 on 6th when 24 were nearby at North Queensferry. Ruddons Point hosted 42 on 10th.

A single bird lingered at Ruddons Point on 6th Jun with up to four in Dalgety Bay in late June.

The main return started on 10th Jul when 45 appeared at Valleyfield Lagoons with at least 50 at Tayport on 12th Jul. A single dropped in briefly at the Stinky Pool on 13th. The Eden Estuary recorded 75 on 20th Jul with 420 at Balgove Bay on 27th Jul. Tayport saw a further influx with 110 on 20th Jul and at least 80 still there on 27th Jul.

Dalgety Bay also saw birds arrive with 200 on 30th Jul which stayed into late August. By 3rd Aug, at least 100 were showing at Guardbridge with 111 nearby at Shelly Point on 20th Aug and 336 on the Eden Estuary on 27th Aug. Tayport marsh still held over 100 on 9th Aug with 280 between there and Lucky Scalp on 17th Aug. Other August counts included 36 at Inverkeithing Bay on 19th, 28 at Stinky Pool on 21st, 44 including 12 juvs at Anstruther on 22nd, 20 at Newport jetty on 24th and 20 to the east of Elie on 27th with smaller counts noted at Limekilns and Lundin Links.

Rossie Bog saw seven on 2nd Sep when 75 showed at Valleyfield Lagoons with 65 still there on 27th Sep. Numbers at Anstruther increased to 86 on 8th Sep. Dalgety Bay still held 215 on 14th Sep with 180 there on 3rd Oct. Numbers also began to increase on the Eden Estuary with at least 300 on 16th Sep then up again to 650 on 24th Sep. Guardbridge saw 500 on 10th Oct with an impressive 1610 at Balgove Bay on 29th Oct (Mike Ramage). Tayport hosted 290 on 12th Oct and 140 on 19th Oct but only 30 remained by 9th Nov. Torry Bay reported about 300 on 24th Oct with 135 there on 3rd Nov and 48 on the adjacent Valleyfield Lagoons on 27th Oct. Up to 300 graced the Eden Estuary during November but only 40 were reported there by 20th Dec. Venues in the Largo Bay area held relatively low numbers including 32 at Kincaig Point on 8th Nov, 44 nearby at Ruddons Point on 13th Nov, 57 at Leven on 25th Nov with only 30 there on 7th Dec. Dalgety Bay held 118 on 15th Nov and 77 on 13th Dec. Nearby 103 frequented the inner bay at Inverkeithing on 15th Nov when 47 were seen at Kirkcaldy Harbour and 37 showed at Newport jetty. Small counts were received from Inchkeith, Ardross, Kilconquhar Loch, Dysart, Elie, Cullaloe and Letham during the last quarter.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	665	677	963	440	9	19	336	1073	1457	1167	1380	561
Tay WeBS	74	90	71	117	0	2	110	390	335	185	66	30
Eden WeBS	839	1169	1500	210	0	8	37	586	1020	1200	1130	1115
Birnie/Gaddon	0	1	2	4	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. The Forth Estuary holds nationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

The majority of reports came from the Firth of Forth, particularly the western sector where Dalgety Bay dominated.

Six were seen at St Davids Harbour on 5th Jan with 40 nearby at Dalgety Bay on 6th Jan and at least 20 at the latter site on 27th Jan. Also nearby at Inverkeithing Bay a single bird was reported on 6th Jan and 10th Feb. Further east up to 18 were seen at Dysart during January. Away from the Forth, Balgove Bay saw 12 on 5th Jan, two were noted at St Andrews on 12th Jan and 30 showed at Tayport on 6th Jan with 25 still there on 23rd Jan. February saw six at Torry Bay on 8th. Numbers varied at Dalgety Bay but peaked at 69 on 10th. Dysart still held seven on 17th with 24 appearing at Seafield on 20th. Twelve were noted at Lower Largo on 13th and 21 were seen at Ardross on 18th with an increase to 32 there on 20th Mar. Seven birds

were seen at Torry Bay on 5th Mar. Numbers dropped at Dalgety Bay where 29 were reported on 9th Mar but increased again with the spring passage bringing 45 on 6th Apr when a single showed nearby at Inverkeithing Bay. Two at Fife Ness on 2nd Apr was the only record received from that site. Cellardyke noted 34 on 7th Apr and the final count of the spring came from the west with 19 at Brucehaven on 9th Apr.

Four non-breeders were seen on Car Craig on 4th Jun. Early returning birds also appeared in the west with one at Dalgety Bay on 22nd Jun then four there on 25th Jul. Seafield saw 15 on 19th Jul. Three visited Lundin Links on 8th Aug with a single at Tayport on 10th Aug. Dalgety Bay saw further influxes including at least 35 on 12th Aug with many birds still in summer plumage. Numbers increased there to 78 on 19th Aug and produced the year's peak count of 108 in the high tide roost on 27th Aug (Alistair Shuttleworth). Six showed at Dysart with 12 nearby at West Wemyss, all on 2nd Sep. Three were noted at Kinghorn on 23rd Sep with the same number counted at Carrick Villa on 27th Sep. Up to 80 were seen at Dalgety Bay during September though had decreased to 51 by 27th Oct. Elsewhere in October, Tayport held 25 on 12th, Dysart saw an increase to 25 on 14th and Leven noted ten on 31st. There was an increase in records from the Largo Bay area in November where ten birds were at Lundin Links on 1st, 12 at Ruddons Point on 13th, 18 at Kinraig Point on 22nd and 15 at Leven on 25th. Further east, Ardrross saw 20 on 26th Nov. Numbers remained relatively high at Dalgety Bay with 39 on 15th Nov although only 17 remained on 13th Dec. Torry Bay saw 14 on 24th Nov with eight nearby at Crombie Point on 10th Dec. Balgove Bay held up to eleven to 24th Dec. Leven still had six on 7th Dec, Inchkeith saw one on 7th Dec, Dysart witnessed a fall in numbers to 16 on 11th Dec with only ten still there on 20th Dec and one was noted at Kinshaldy on Christmas Day.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	252	213	197	223	4	1	5	172	140	183	168	178
Tay WeBS	49	0	1	0	0	0	0	13	0	1	9	0
Eden WeBS	2	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

***Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)**

Very scarce spring migrant, uncommon to common in autumn.

A poor showing with a maximum of 15 individuals reported, similar to 2006 which itself was the worst year since 1996. Unusually there were two January sightings, the first in that month since 1993.

The year began with one in full adult plumage off Fife Ness on 2nd Jan followed by another off Kinshaldy on 6th Jan.

The return passage began fairly early with two adults going west past Kinghorn on 18th Jul with another adult past there seven days later. There was a break until 7th Sep when one flew north past Fife Ness and a juvenile headed east past Kinghorn. Fife Ness saw further passage with 2S on 10th Sep, 1S on 12th Sep and 2N2S on 13th Sep. A pale-phase adult showed off Goosepools on 26th Sep to complete a poor year.

***Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)**

Scarce spring and common autumn passage migrant. Red data list species.

Sightings were down by about 25% compared to 2007 but there was a reasonable showing in spring and early summer.

Goosepools opened the year with a single on 8th Apr then one flew north past Fife Ness on 24th Apr. A dark-phase bird chased terns off Kinghorn for two days from 10th May. Further records came from Fife Ness with two chasing gulls on 25th May, then 2N2S past there on 22nd Jun with 1N on 25th Jun.

July produced a steady flow of sightings with a pale-phase adult east past Anstruther on 9th, three off Goosepools and one west past Kinghorn, all on 11th, one at Guardbridge on 12th and 13th and two at Shell Bay on 12th. A dark-phase adult was on the rocks at Anstruther on 17th, an immature at Kinghorn on 18th, 1W and 1S past Fife Ness on 19th and 21st respectively, two off Tentsmuir on 20th, one nearby at Tayport on 21st and two birds chasing terns, one at Valleyfield Lagoons on 23rd with the other at Edenmouth on 25th. Fife Ness dominated the August reports with 2N1S on 1st, 1N3S on 8th, 2N1S on 10th, 5N on 16th, 1S on 17th, 1N on 18th and 21st, 1N2S on 28th, 3N1S on 29th, 2N on 30th and seven on 31st. Elsewhere in August, the Dalgety Bay/St David's Harbour area saw singles on 6th and 24th. Three flew west past Kingraig Point on 13th with four nearby off Ruddons Point on 16th. Counts of five were noted at Pettycur on 24th and at Goosepools on 25th.

Sites in the west saw an increase in September with one at Pettycur on 1st with two there on 15th. Dalgety Bay recorded two on 2nd and 5th, then singles on 24th and 30th. Three were off Carlingnose Point with another three chasing terns at Dysart, all on 6th. Further east, Anstruther saw an adult flying east on 4th with an immature also flying east there on 5th. Fife Ness continued to do well with 7S on 2nd, 2N4S on 5th, 10S on 6th, 6N1S on 7th, 1N on 8th, 5S on 9th, 10 on 10th, 2N3S on 11th, 6N on 12th, 8N6S on 13th, one on 15th, 1N2S on 17th and 1N on 18th. Other September records included one chasing a Black-headed Gull at Balgove Bay on 9th, one off Tentsmuir on 13th and five off Goosepools on 25th. There was a sharp decline in reports during October when four were off Carlingnose Point on 3rd with 3W past Kinghorn on 4th. Fife Ness produced the final reports with 1N on 7th, 1S on 19th and 1SW on 24th.

***Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)**

Regular autumn passage migrant in varying numbers, rare in winter.

The poorest year since 1996 with only three records.

An adult came in off the sea at Goosepools and continued west over Earlshall Muir on 10th Aug (Mike Ramage). A juvenile rested on the water at Edenside on the afternoon of 31st Aug before drifting downstream (Rob & Sue Armstrong). Kinghorn saw an adult fly east on 7th Sep (Davy Ogilvie).

***Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*)**

Scarce spring and common autumn passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Fewer records than in 2007 with the earliest start to the spring passage since 2001. Fife Ness recorded the first birds with singles heading north on 9th and 24th Apr. Also on 24th Apr one flew east past Kincaig Point. There were no further records until 6th Jul when two flew east past Anstruther.

On 1st Aug birds appeared at the opposite ends of the county with 2S past Fife Ness and one offshore from Valleyfield Lagoons. Passage was steady at Fife Ness throughout August with 2N1S on 3rd, 4S on 4th, five on 6th, 3N on 7th, 1S on 9th, 2N on 16th, 1S on 17th, 1N on 18th, 4S on 21st and 1N on 28th. One was seen to catch and drown an immature European Herring Gull on 9th at Anstruther. Other venues included one off Goosepools on 5th, eight in one hour at Pettycur on 7th, 1E at Kincaig Point both on 13th and 19th and one at Dalgety Bay on 26th. Low numbers continued to be seen at Fife Ness during September with 1S on 2nd, 5N4S/5.5 hrs on 6th, 3N2S on 7th, 1N on 9th, 1S on 12th, 11S on 13th, 1N on 20th, 1S on 21st and 1N, both on 24th and 25th. In the west, strong easterlies brought five to Dalgety Bay on 5th with a single there on 10th and 2W on 11th. One showed off Carlingnose Point on 6th and four flew west past Kinghorn on 20th with a single going east past there on 21st. It was a quieter late passage than recent years with Fife Ness reporting 1S on 3rd Oct and 1N on 7th Oct. The end of the month saw the last birds with a single on the Eden Estuary on 30th Oct then one past Fife Ness on 1st Nov.

***Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (31)**

Rare autumn migrant, but increasing.

Apart from the blank year of 2006, this species has been recorded in small numbers every year since 1996.

There was only a single record this year with a juvenile off Fife Ness on 20th Sep (Davy Ogilvie).

***Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)**

Breeding resident on offshore islands, spring and autumn passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: There were 352 nests counted on Inchkeith (a drop of 12% compared to 2007) and 88 nests on Inchcolm (a drop of 24% compared to 2007) (Forth Seabird Group).

There was an increase on the number of records received for the start of the year which included 20 past Fife Ness on 2nd Jan with two off Anstruther on 3rd Jan and 2E past Kincaig Point on 4th Jan. Other January records came from Inverkeithing Bay with three on 15th and Leven with four on 16th. There were no further records until mid-March when 25 appeared in Inverkeithing Bay on 17th. Three were at Leven on 24th Mar and 25 flew east past Kincaig Point on 29th Mar. A single showed at Dalgety Bay on 4th Apr and 20 were off Fife Ness a day later. Ardrross recorded 70E/1hr on 16th Apr with 21 in Inverkeithing Bay on 21st Apr. Birds had been regular off Anstruther since early April with 100 there on 15th and 300 noted on 24th

May. On 26th May, 160 fed offshore from Ruddons Point. The only mid-summer record was of three at Dalgety Bay on 18th Jul.

Kincraig Point saw 310E on 6th Aug. Further west, one was in Kirkcaldy Harbour on 18th Aug, two at Dalgety Bay on 19th Aug, three at Leven on 22nd Aug and 12 at Rosyth on 30th Aug. Goosepools recorded 80 on 22nd Aug with 110 there on 10th Sep. Leven provided many of the September sightings with 75 on 9th, about 50 on 12th, six on 21st and one on 24th. The latter bird was colour-ringed, probably from the Isle of May. Elsewhere two were off Seafield on 1st, at least 40 showed at Edenside on 5th, two in Dalgety Bay on 14th and four were off Carrick Villa on 27th. The last two records were in December with three at Anstruther on 15th and 18E past Kincraig Point on 27th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	1	3	0	13	5	3	39	0	0	0

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

Breeding resident in varying numbers and common winter visitor. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Birnie/Gaddon Lochs held 459AON, which produced a total of 1116 eggs/chicks. There were 15AON at Newton Sandpit on 19th May with only 2AON there on 20th Jun.

As usual good numbers were seen all year at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs. Small numbers were reported from Glenrothes, Dunfermline, Drumoig, Balmerino, Lower Largo, Newport, Coul Reservoir, Gauldry, St David's Harbour, Pleasants Farm, Damhead of Torr, Clinthill and Balbougie during the year.

High counts in January included about 350 at Leven on 16th, about 500 at Tayport pond on 18th and Anstruther peaked with 400 roosting there on 29th. Up to 70 were seen at Inverkeithing Bay during the month with 63 nearby at Dalgety Bay on 6th Jan. Leven continued to hold about 300 on 2nd Feb though only 100 remained on 10th Feb. Pitreavie playing fields hosted the largest flock in the first half of the year with about 1000 on 9th Feb (Iain MacDonald). Dalgety Bay saw 229 on 10th Feb when 200 showed at Tayport. Kilconquhar Loch drew 190 on 16th Feb with 180 still there on 2nd Mar. Duloch Park pond held 76 on 10th Feb with 86 there on 9th Mar. Sixty were seen at St Margaret's Marsh on 14th Feb with the same number at Leven on 24th Mar. Counts were much lower during April and May but 50 birds attended the breeding colony at Newton Sandpit on 19th May.

Numbers began to build in late June when 60 showed on the Eden Estuary on 27th increasing to 85 on 6th Jul with 40 nearby at Shelly Spit on 9th Jul. Juveniles accompanied some flocks including two with 28 adults at Kilconquhar Loch on 13th Jul. Wilderness saw 33 juvs on 15th Jul with at least 50 juvs there on 8th Aug. Also on 8th Aug at least 200 birds showed at Leven with 300 at Anstruther on 29th Aug. Dalgety Bay saw a steady build-up with 42 on 20th Jul, 80 on 19th Aug, 220 on 23rd Sep and peaking at 1000 going to roost on 23rd Oct. The Eden Estuary saw some of the biggest flocks with 1400 in Balgove Bay on 12th Aug, at least 100 at Edenside on

8th Sep and the year's peak count of 3600 at Balgove Bay on 3rd Oct (Mike Ramage). Other good October counts were 207 at West Wemyss on 16th and about 500 at Pitreavie playing fields on 26th. November brought 195 to Tayport on 6th, 165 at the inner bay at Inverkeithing on 15th, 110 at Duloch Park pond and 272 at Loch Gelly, all on 16th and 85 at Otterston Loch and 100 at Inverkeithing, all on 17th. Numbers fluctuated at Leven with 129 on 25th Nov increasing to at least 300 on 8th Dec then dropping back to at least 200 on 15th Dec. Kilconquhar Loch saw 550 on 11th Dec with the roost at Anstruther accommodating 330 on 21st Dec. In the west, Crombie reported 300 with 126 at Dalgety Bay, all on 28th Dec.



Black-headed Gull

© Willie McBay

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	366	340	75	2	0	30	314	129	169	140	230	235
Birnie/Gaddon	196	286	322	411	551	529	273	63	100	98	124	145

***Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)**

Passage migrant in varying numbers mainly in autumn, with small numbers seen during the winter. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Fewer records and high counts reported compared to 2007.

Early January brought the first reports with one south at Fife Ness on 3rd and five at Goosepools on 5th. There were no further records until late spring when two flew east past Kincaig Point on 5th Apr and about 30 showed off St Andrews on 23rd May.

A good count of 76 at Goosepools on 11th Jul were possibly failed or non-breeders. One lingered off Fife Ness on 24th Jul and one headed east past Anstruther on 25th. Three summer-plumaged adults were seen off the sailing club at Dalgety Bay on 30th Jul. August sightings included 1N3S on 3rd, 1N on 7th and 4S on 31st, all at Fife Ness. Elsewhere, three were at Guardbridge and two flew east past Kincaig Point all on 13th, an adult was off Leven on 23rd and 24th and nine showed at Goosepools on 25th.

Fife Ness dominated the September reports with one on 4th, 15/5hrs on 6th, 1N on 7th, 11N on 12th, one on 13th, six on 18th, 30 on 19th, 1S on 25th and about 60 on 30th with an adult nearby on Balcomie beach on 9th. Fife Ness produced the year's highest count on 20th Sep with 128S between 0645 and 0815 hrs (Davy Ogilvie) and then about 50 feeding offshore for an hour from 1300 to 1400 hrs that day. Also in that month, Leven saw singles on 9th and 15th with three seen there on 12th and 13th when two were also seen off Kincaig Point. Kinghorn saw two on 21st and 13W on 27th. The latter site also saw ten adults and one juv flying west on 4th Oct with a single off there on 7th Oct. Three flew east past Kincaig Point on 29th Nov and Kinghorn produced the final record of the year with seven on 14th Dec.

***Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)**

Scarce but increasing visitor. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Difficult to accurately estimate the number of birds seen in 2008 particularly those from the west at the beginning of the year.

North Queensferry hosted an adult in a mixed gull flock on 8th Jan with the same bird seen there on 14th Jan (John Nadin). Other adults showed nearby at Inverkeithing harbour on 16th Jan and at Dalgety Bay on 18th Jan (Kim Blasco). An adult flew west from the roost at Inverkeithing harbour on 22nd Jan with an adult seen later that day on a factory roof at Rosyth Dockyard. It was also seen later feeding at the sewage works at Rosyth. On 23rd Jan an adult was again at Inverkeithing harbour before flying off to the north-east. Two adults appeared at the latter venue on 28th Jan with a single adult reported from there on 29th Jan. An adult was again at Inverkeithing harbour on 10th and 11th Feb with the same bird seen there on 28th Feb. An adult there on 2nd Mar was thought to be different from those seen in early February. (All Inverkeithing/Rosyth records were reported by John Nadin and Willie McBay). Single adults were seen at Dysart and Pathhead during January and February (Davy Ogilvie). Other adults were noted at Dalgety Bay on 14th Feb (Alistair Inglis) and Kilconquhar Loch on 24th Feb (Mike Ramage). A summer-plumaged adult was on Leven beach on 30th Mar (Jeremy Squire).

Late August brought the first returning birds including a first-winter at Leven on 22nd (W McBay) and an adult at Anstruther on 30th (Chris & Anne-Marie Smout). Leven produced further records in September with an adult sporting a metal ring on 12th and a first-winter on 20th (Malcolm Bayne). More adults appeared at Anstruther on 8th Oct (C&AM Smout), at Dalgety Bay on 11th and 12th Oct (K Blasco) and at Leven on 12th Oct (Grant Robertson). There were no further reports until an adult was again at Leven on 8th and 9th Dec (W McBay, Dougie Dickson). Kilconquhar Loch produced it's second adult of the year on 11th Dec (M Ramage) and an adult showed at Kinghorn on 14th Dec (D Ogilvie).

It would be easy to assume that most of these sightings relate to a couple of adults but events of 2009 were to prove that there are more individuals at previously unknown venues and there is a regular turnover of individuals involved in sightings.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

Winter visitor and passage migrant in varying numbers, a few summering. Amber data list species.

Single-figure counts were reported during January from Dalgety Bay, Inverkeithing, Dunfermline, Drumoig, Leven and Lower Largo. Larger flocks included 800 at Goosepools on 7th, 300 at Kilconquhar Loch on 20th and 250 at Cabbagehall on 26th. Numbers began to build in February with 45 at the south end of Tentsmuir on 2nd, 40 at Ribbonfield on 7th, 300 at Luthrie on 8th, 174 at Dalgety Bay, 560 at Tayport and 119 at Kilconquhar Loch, all on 10th, 52 at Inverkeithing harbour on 11th and 57 at Gauldry on 12th. By 16th Feb, a further influx brought 300 to Kilconquhar Loch although only 130 remained by 24th. Also on 24th, 200 fed in a ploughed field at Washer Willys. March saw small counts reported from Leven, Inverkeithing, Dalgety

Bay and Drumoig. At least 50 showed at Cameron Reservoir on 15th April with about 150 there on 10th May. Ten flew over Damhead of Torr on 20th May. In mid-summer, single figure counts were reported from Dalgety Bay and Edenside. At least 40 were seen at the south end of Tentsmuir on 22nd Jun.

Early August brought an increase in sightings with 32 at Mugdrum Island on 3rd, 800 at Shell Bay on 4th and 15 at Leven on 8th. Counts of 510 came from Letham pools on 14th and Tayport on 17th but only 390 remained at the former site on 22nd. Leven produced 75 on 21st Sep with low numbers elsewhere during that month. October saw further influxes with 40 at Woodlea Farm on 2nd, the year's peak of 1300 at Balgove Bay on 3rd (Mike Ramage), 250 at Tayport on 12th, 500 at Kilconquhar Loch on 19th and about 100 at Dalgety Bay on 23rd. The flock at Kilconquhar Loch had increased to 800 by 14th Nov. A flock of 200 flew over Damhead of Torr on 16th Nov. Wester Forret hosted 270 on 24th Nov with 400 seen there on 10th Dec. St Monans also hosted 400 on 20th Dec with 127 at Dalgety Bay on the last day of the year.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	57	297	32	0	0	87	409	10	7	21	10	19
Birnie/Gaddon	4	20	12	0	0	2	0	4	2	13	5	8

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Summer visitor breeding in small numbers, variable passage migrant, a few wintering. Amber data list species.

Breeding: On the Forth islands, up to three nests were on Car Craig, three nests on Haystack (down by 67% compared to 2007), about 17 nests on Inch Garvie (down by 6% compared to 2007) and good numbers nested on both Inchkeith and Inchcolm (Fife Seabird Group). On the mainland, a pair attempted to nest on the grass verge on Hilton Road, Rosyth and sat on the nest for a few days from 5th Jun. Nine pairs nested on factory roofs at Belleknowes Industrial estate on the north side of Inverkeithing.

Seen mainly in single-figure counts during the first two months. The highest counts were reported during April and July/August.

Inverkeithing Bay held up to five until mid-February when 15 adults and a first-winter were noted on 15th. Dalgety Bay recorded up to four and up to two were on the Eden Estuary during this period. One or two were also reported from Shamrock Street in Dunfermline, Leven, Tiel Burn, Port Laing, Anstruther, Kilconquhar Loch and Calaisburn. Loch Gelly held five on 15th Feb and six were reported from Abbeyview, Dunfermline on 25th Feb. As migrants became more widespread, higher counts in March included 20 at Inverkeithing Bay on 2nd, 12 at Dalgety Bay on 6th, 26 at Duloch Park pond on 9th, 33 at Inverkeithing harbour on 17th, 15 at Leven on 21st, 23 at Loch Gelly on 28th and 12 at Kinraig Point on 29th. The inner bay at Inverkeithing hosted 63 with ten nearby at Dalgety Bay, all on 6th Apr. Kilconquhar Loch saw 43 on 11th Apr with up to 43 at Leven mid-month. At least ten were seen in the Eden Estuary/Leuchars Airfield areas towards the end of April. A flock of 22 fed at West Saline on 29th Apr. The end of May saw 18 fly over Damhead of Torr on 28th, 35 at

Otterston Loch on 29th and 27 at Townhill Loch on 31st. Dalgety Bay regularly held up to 20 from late June until mid-September. Woodlea Farm peaked at 30 on 26th Jun.

Late July saw birds on the move with Dalgety Bay peaking at 34 and seven adults and six juvs on the Eden Estuary, all on 20th, Townhill Loch seeing an increase to 56 on 26th and Gillingshill Reservoir recording 52 on 27th. The highest count of the year came from Leven with 150 on 8th Aug (Willie McBay) but only 68 remained on 19th Aug. Also on that date, 49 showed in the inner bay at Inverkeithing. The last big count was of 95 at the Tiel Burn on 25th Aug. September and October saw single-figure counts at the Eden Estuary, Damhead of Torr, Wilderness and Kilconquhar Loch with Dalgety Bay noting 12 on 30th Oct with three still there on 31st Dec. Sightings dwindled in the last two months but ten lingered at the Tiel Burn on 17th Nov and small counts came from the Eden Estuary, Leven, Kilconquhar Loch, Inverkeithing and Dunfermline.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	3	6	18	76	8	36	60	23	31	22	8	2
Birnie/Gaddon	0	0	2	2	2	2	3	0	1	1	0	0

European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Common resident breeding mainly offshore, passage migrant and winter visitor. The Forth Estuary holds internationally important numbers. Red data list species.

Breeding: Data from the Forth Seabird Group showed that good numbers nested on both Inchkeith and Inchcolm. Inch Garvie recorded a 115% increase on 2007 with about 2002 nests found, Car Craig saw an 11% increase with about 51 nests noted and Haystack saw a 60% rise with eight nests found.

There were few big flocks reported in the first quarter with Angle Park seeing about 2000 on 1st and 20th Feb (Dougie Dickson). Much smaller flocks were reported from Kinraig Point with 720 on 29th Mar, Loch Gelly with 300 on 28th Mar and Kilconquhar Loch with at least 150 on 24th Mar. Eleven other sites produced records of less than 70 birds during that period. April saw fewer birds with the only significant count of 1000 coming from Dalgety Bay on 13th and 14th. Kilconquhar Loch saw an increase to 300 on 11th. Other relatively good counts included 82 at Inverkeithing Bay on 6th Apr and 45 over Damhead of Torr and 40 over Lochmalony Farm, both on 14th Apr. A flock of 97 fed at Woodlea Farm on 22nd May and 48 showed at Townhill Loch on 31st May.

Late June produced small flocks with 45 at Dalgety Bay, 48 at North Duloch and 41 at the south end of Tentsmuir, all on 22nd. Seventy showed at Woodlea Farm on 3rd Jul increasing to 200 on 1st Aug. Nearby, North Duloch saw increases to 97 on 17th Jul and 140 on 28th Aug. Anstruther hosted some of the bigger flocks with 900 on 21st Aug and 1000 on 4th Sep. Two birds in aberrant plumage appeared on 24th Aug with an albino adult (looking initially like an Iceland Gull) at Torry Bay and a leucistic immature on the beach at Leven. Other notable flocks in September included 200 over Damhead of Torr on 9th and about 220 on 23rd. Carnbee Reservoir hosted the largest flock of the second half of the year with 1200 on 26th Oct (Chris &

Anne-Marie Smout). Good numbers returned to Angle Park with 850 on 3rd Nov and at Kilconquhar Loch with 180 on 14th Nov. Fifty flew over Damhead of Torr on 16th Nov. The first two weeks of December saw at least 150 at Leven with 200 at Wester Forret on 10th Dec and about 800 by Falkland Wood on 12th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	168	162	194	245	36	124	152	45	225	70	33	69
Birnie/Gaddon	21	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	8	29	0	0

***Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoïdes*)**

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Slightly better than 2007 with four or five birds recorded but with records at both ends of the year.

March brought the first records with a second-winter bird photographed at Fife Ness on 11th. An adult then appeared briefly at Parkhill on 24th before flying off to the west. Anstruther was host to a first-winter bird on 28th with another first-winter appearing at Kilconquhar Loch on 4th Apr.

Anstruther saw it's second sighting of the year when a second-winter bird (possibly the returning spring bird) took up a widely appreciated residence from 27th Dec staying into 2009.

Notebook: Iceland Gull Anstruther 27/12/08

The bird was said by fishermen to have been in the area for 2-3 weeks beforehand, probably mainly at Pittenweem. One of the fishermen said that it was so tame it would almost take fish from the hand, and it was so greedy that he rationed it to one fish a day. *C & A-M Smout*

***Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)**

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

With four records, this is the best showing since 2001 and the first records since 2005. All sightings came in late spring including second-winter birds at Pittenweem on 6th Mar and at Dalgety Bay on 13th Apr. Inverkeithing Bay recorded a first-winter on 21st Apr with another first-winter at Goosepools on 29th Apr.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

Common resident and winter visitor, breeding on offshore islands in small numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: On the Forth islands breeding populations remained steady with single nests found on Car Craig, Inchcolm, Haystack and Inch Garvie and five nests on Inchkeith (Forth Seabird Group).

This species is never recorded in huge numbers and the largest flock of the year by far was 244 at Goosepools on 7th Jan (Mike Ramage). Kinraig Point saw 21 on 4th Jan and Angle Park held 36 on 14th Jan with 41 there on 1st Feb. Eighteen were seen at Woodlea Farm on 22nd May with 15 there on 3rd Jul. Counts of up to six were received from Dysart, Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay, Birnie Loch, Eden Estuary, Kilconquhar Loch, Leven, Fife Ness and Cameron Reservoir from January to July.

An adult with three juvs showed at Kilconquhar Loch on 2nd Aug. Anstruther hosted 91 on 7th Aug and up to 45 were regularly reported from Fife Ness during the month. Eleven showed at Mountcastle on 8th Aug. Goosepools again produced the largest count with 114 on 17th Aug although only 30 remained by 26th Sep. Other notable counts from September onwards were 17 at Edenmouth on 11th Sep and 16 at Kinraig Point on 13th Oct. Anstruther held good numbers with 101 on 27th Nov and 88 on 19th Dec. Small counts were noted at Leven, Birnie Loch, Eden Estuary, Kilconquhar Loch, Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay, Rossie Bog and Kinshaldy.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	27	2	5	5	1	2	6	6	16	5	3	7

***Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)**

Scarce summer visitor breeding locally in small numbers. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Breeding: Breeding in Fife in recent years has been confined to the outer Eden Estuary area. No evidence of breeding reported for this year although two birds were seen off Goosepools on 1st and 6th May, a single was present off Outhead on 19th June and one again at Goosepools on 18th July.

Passage birds were noted at Fife Ness with 1S on 14th Aug and a late bird feeding offshore on 24th Oct. Two birds were also noted passing to the east off Anstruther on 5th Sep.

***Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)**

Passage migrant in autumn, scarce in spring. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

A quiet year for this migrant with a maximum of only 15 birds recorded. The first and only spring record was of one on a drainage pool at Thornton on 28th May. The remainder were all coastal passage sightings during the months of August and September. Sightings during August included 1E at Kinraig Point on 6th, 2E at Ruddons Point on 16th, 3S at Fife Ness on 21st and 1N1S (possibly relates to the same individual) there on 31st. In September



Black Tern
by Stuart L. Rivers

two juvs passed north at Fife Ness on 7th, 1N1S (again possibly involving the same individual) on 20th and singles at Kinghorn on 20th and 21st also possibly the same bird involved on both dates.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder offshore. The Forth Estuary holds internationally important numbers. Amber data list species.

The first bird of the year was of a single at Kincaig Point on 5th April after which there was a small trickle of sightings. There was a noticeable increase in numbers with passage birds moving through from the beginning of May through into early June. Whilst mid to late June through into July was relatively quiet with only a few birds noted before the post breeding influx into the Firth of Forth by mid July. Numbers began to reduce during September after which a few individuals remained through into late October.

Sightings: April: One at Kincaig Point on 5th, four at Ruddons Point on 10th, five at Shell Bay on 18th, five at Anstruther on 21st, three north at Fife Ness on 24th and two there on 26th, eight at Goosepools on 28th.

May: 108 at Goosepools on 1st, two at the Eden Estuary on 4th, ten at Lower Largo and 52 at Ruddons Point on 7th, 32 at Kincaig Point on 11th and 12 at Dalgety Bay on 23rd.

June: One roosting on rocks at high tide at Fife Ness on 5th, 41 on the beach at Leven on 19th with 16 there on 26th, 32 at Ruddons Point on 20th, 13 at Dalgety Bay on 22nd and two at the Eden Estuary on 29th.

July: One at Dalgety Bay on 4th, at least five at Elie on 6th, four at Dysart on 11th, 7E over Kilconquhar Loch and one at Tentsmuir on 13th, 110 on the north shore of the Eden Estuary on 15th, 80 at Edenmouth on 16th, 35 adults and 36 juvs at a confidential site on 19th, 63 at Dalgety Bay also 15 at Tayport and 89+ at Tentsmuir on 20th, 25+ at Tayport on 21st, 72 adults and 30 juvs (including three colour-ringed juvs ringed at Forvie NNR, Aberdeenshire in June) at Ruddons Point on 22nd, 310 adults and 65 juvs (including two colour-ringed juvs also ringed at Forvie NNR, Aberdeenshire in June) at Goosepools on 23rd, eight at Valleyfield Lagoons on 23rd with 12 there on 24th, four adults and one juv at Lindores Loch at 2000hrs in very heavy fog on 24th, 28E at Anstruther and 125 at Edenmouth on 25th, 9E over Kilconquhar Loch on 26th and 87 adults and 43 juvs at Burntisland Bay on 31st.

August: Eight at Valleyfield Lagoons on 1st, 125 at Edenmouth with also 103 at Reres Wood beach and two at inner Eden Estuary on 3rd, 220 adults and 34 juvs at Goosepools on 5th, two at Leven and 15 at Lundin Links on 8th, 970 at Tentsmuir on 9th. 85 at East Wemyss on 10th, 20 at Ruddons Point on 12th, 83 at Anstruther and four at Limekilns on 13th, 70 on Lucky Scalp and also six roosting in a field at Tayport on 17th, 38 at Dalgety Bay on 19th, five at Limekilns and one at Valleyfield Lagoons on 21st, 74 at Leven on 22nd, 106 at Goosepools on 25th, 60 at Edenmouth on 27th with 23 there on 28th and 25SW past Fife Ness on 29th.

September: 30+ at Fife Ness on 2nd with 21 there on 8th, 7S on 9th and 10 on 17th, 12 at Valleyfield Lagoons on 2nd with ten offshore there on 12th, one inland at Hill of Beath at 2200hrs calling overhead on 3rd, 41 at Limekilns on 4th, three at Crombie

Point on 9th, 75 at Goosepools on 10th, 25+ at Burntisland Bay on 12th, 168 at Tentsmuir on 13th, three at Dalgety Bay on 13th with 17 there on 14th, five on Balcomie beach and two at Carrick Villa on 27th.

October: Five at Goosepools on 2nd with three there on 14th and one on 28th, one at Anstruther on 4th, three at Dalgety Bay on 5th, one at Elie Ness on 6th, two at Kinghorn on 7th, one juv at Leven on 13th and one at Seafield on 26th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	0	1	17	115	141	246	163	0	0	0

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding in small numbers offshore. Amber data list species.

Breeding reported from three locations this year. Site a: (Confidential) Birds were on territory by third week of May with 25 active nests by 4th Jun rising to 82 by the 15th. A not so good year, with breeding down to 90–100 pairs a drop of c30% from 2007. Whilst the total number of clutches (163) was comparable with the previous year (172) hatching and fledging was poor with the later over 50% down on 2007 and chick mortality at 39%. Site b: At Rosyth Dockyard, birds breed on the dolphins at the entrance lock but no counts available. Site c: Five pairs nested on the old pier at Port Laing below Carlingnose Point. One pair present throughout June at Valleyfield Lagoons but did not breed. Breeding also occurred on the Isle of May with c101 pairs present (FIBR).

The first report for the year was of a single at Ardrross on 16th April after which sightings were regular with numbers increasing as breeding birds returned to the Firth of Forth. Post breeding birds began arriving by early July through into August after which numbers began reducing as birds departed south, a few birds were present until the end of October.

Sightings: April: One at Ardrross on 16th, 2N at Fife Ness, 25E at Kinraig Point and 22 at North Queensferry on 24th, two at Valleyfield Lagoons on 26th.

May: Nine at Ruddons Point on 2nd, one at Anstruther on 6th, four at Cult Ness on 12th, 150 at Dalgety Bay on 16th with 140 there on 17th, ten at Elie Ness on 30th.

June: Eight at Ruddons Point on 20th, 50 at Dalgety Bay on 22nd and eight on the beach at Leven on 26th.

July: Six adults and four juvs at Valleyfield Lagoons on 10th, four at Dysart and 36 at Goosepools on 11th, eight on the north shore of the Eden Estuary on 15th, eight at Dalgety Bay on 20th and four at Ruddons Point on 31st.

August: Six at Valleyfield Lagoons on 1st, two at Dalgety Bay on 4th with one there on 19th, three at Goosepools on 10th, 18 at Anstruther on 13th, three at Torry Bay on 15th with one there on 18th and 12 at Ruddons Point on 16th.

September: 50+ at Fife Ness on 2nd, 270 at Balcomie beach on 9th and one at Dalgety Bay on 30th.

October: Two at Ardrross and four at Dalgety Bay on 9th, two at Tentsmuir on 11th, one at Goosepools on 14th with two the last of the year there on 28th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	0	0	154	33	36	2	16	0	0	0

'Commic Tern' (*undifferentiated S. hirundo/S. paradisaea records*)

There was only one report of terns not attributable to either Common or Arctic, 93 south past Tentsmuir Point on 3rd Jul.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougalli*)

Scarce summer visitor, breeding offshore. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

Breeding: Two/three breeding pairs raised a single offspring at a confidential site in the Forth. On 4th Jun, four birds were noted at the confidential site; two were ringed on both legs, one was left leg ringed and one was un-ringed. One pair was observed copulating and subsequently a bird was noted sitting on a nest, another bird was also located sitting on a nest confirming the presence of two pair. No Roseate Terns were subsequently recorded on or at the nests and by early mid-June and both nests appeared abandoned. However birds were recorded at the site during the remainder of June and throughout July but no further nesting activity was observed. During the ringing visit to the site both Roseate nests recorded in early June were checked and both were found to contain single cold eggs. As both nests contained only single eggs it is evident that they were abandoned early, in the egg-laying phase, due to a disturbance of some sort. Further checking of the site produced a single Roseate chick at another nest, which was duly ringed. Whilst the age of the chick suggested that one of the pair re-laid i.e. only two breeding pair, however the presence of a third breeding pair cannot be totally excluded.

There were no sightings of Roseate Tern received away from the vicinity of the breeding site.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding mainly offshore. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Breeding in recent years confined to the outer Eden Estuary and although birds were present in the vicinity of the breeding grounds no reports of breeding were received.

First birds of the year were five at North Queensferry on 24th April. One at Goosepools on 6th May, one at Anstruther on 23rd and 1N at Fife Ness on 30th May. One at Dalgety Bay on 2nd Jun, two at Ruddons Point on 6th and three at Fife Ness on 25th. During July: Two at Ruddons Point on 1st, 2N Fife Ness on 7th, one at Dysart and 11 at Goosepools on 11th, 50 on the north shore of the Eden Estuary 15th, 22 at Edenmouth on 16th, one at Dalgety Bay and 280 adults and one juv at Goosepools on 18th, 4N at Fife Ness on 20th with 3S there on 24th, 600+ at Tentsmuir on 20th and 27E past Anstruther on 25th.

In August: Six at Fife Ness on 7th and 6N there on 16th, 60+ at Edenside and Tentsmuir on 9th, two at Goosepools on 10th and 58 at Ruddons Point on 16th. During September: 2N at Fife Ness on 1st, one at Dalgety Bay on 2nd, 50+ at Fife Ness on 2nd, 21 on 5th, 2N on 6th, 1N on 7th, 5S on 11th, ten on 17th and five on 19th. The last record for the year was of a juvenile fishing offshore at Fife Ness on 8th October.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	0

Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)

Abundant in summer offshore, less so in winter, breeds offshore. Amber data list species.

Breeding: There were 28AOS at the colony on Inchkeith 75% up on the previous year. Common Guillemot is a common breeding bird in the Firth of Forth however a complete island count of 23638 birds on breeding ledges was 2599 (12%) up on the previous year (FIBR).

Very few sighting reports received for the year, 16 in total from 11 locations mainly from the first half of the year. Four at Kinraig Point on 4th Jan, six at Dysart on 6th and one at Inverkeithing Bay on 23rd, two at Dalgety Bay on 10th Mar, 20 at Fife Ness on 5th Apr, two at North Queensferry on 6th, and three at Dalgety Bay on 9th with c50 there on 2nd May, six at West Wemyss on 5th and 380 at Kinraig Point on 31st with 320 there on 20th Jun, two at Dalgety Bay on 22nd Jun, six at Ravensraig on 11th Jul, two at Dalgety Bay on 28th Aug, one at Edenmouth on 5th Oct and one at Dysart on 14th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	2	31	51	28	19	16	101	0	2	1

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

Common in summer offshore, scarcer in winter, breeds offshore. Amber data list species.

Breeding on two offshore islands; 62AOS on Inchkeith an increase of 11% and 5AOS on Inchcolm a decrease of 17%. Razorbill is a common in low numbers breeding bird in the Firth of Forth with a population of around 3000-4000. The 2008 Forth island count (3174 pairs) indicates a continuing change down in the order of 6.8% on the previous year (FIBR).

Two at Dalgety Bay on 6th Jan, 16 at Kinraig Point on 12th, three at Inverkeithing Bay on 16th and one at Leven on 22nd, 94 at Kinraig Point on 10th Feb, five at Inverkeithing Bay on 12th, one at North Queensferry on 14th, one offshore at Valleyfield Lagoons 18th and five at Anstruther on 23rd, six at Dalgety Bay and 6S at Fife Ness on 10th, 13 at Inverkeithing Bay on 17th and 85 at Kinraig Point on 22nd, 20 at Fife Ness on 5th Apr, two at North Queensferry on 6th and two at Leven on 14th, 50 at Dalgety Bay on 2nd May and c50 at Pettycur on 11th, 50 at Kinraig Point

on 20th Jun and one at Dalgety Bay on 22nd, eight at Anstruther on 8th Jul, two at Dysart on 2nd Aug, 156 at Ruddons Point 16th, 152 in loose flocks at Kinghorn on 12th Sep, one at Dalgety Bay on 17th and seven at Anstruther on 19th, seven at Leven on 12th Oct and 20 at Kinraig Point on 25th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	3	10	26	29	11	24	7	1	19	3	0	0

Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*)

Scarce but increasing visitor in spring and autumn. Amber data list species.

Only two reports for the year: One at Leven on 25th Mar and one at Ruddons Point on 24th Aug.

Little Auk (*Alle alle*)

Autumn and winter visitor in varying numbers.

As a winter visitor the annual recording involves two winter periods, which can be diversely different. In a poor year for the species, one was found freshly dead on beach between Crail and Fife Ness on 23rd Feb.

Later in the year, one flew north past Fife Ness on 24th Oct with seven off Anstruther on 30th, one east past Kinraig Point on 29th Nov and one west past Elie Ness on 19th Dec.

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

Common in the Forth in summer, breeding on offshore islands, scarce in winter. Amber data list species.

Breeding: This year Forth Seabird Group island counts reported 646 birds on land and sea at Inchkeith, a decrease of 33% on the previous year and 36 on the sea off Inchcolm, again a slight decrease (8%) from the previous year. Although no survey was undertaken this year to determine burrow occupancy the presence of adult birds indicates breeding continues on these islands.

Puffins can be seen regularly in the coastal waters off the East Neuk and east coast of Fife, particularly at Fife Ness and also in the waters between Kinghorn and Inchkeith during the breeding season. However there were only ten reports received for the year. The first sighting of the year was of 3E past Kinraig Point on 28th Mar. One at Anstruther on 7th Apr and eight at Dalgety Bay on 8th, 22 at Kinraig Point on 31st May. One at Dalgety Bay on 15th Jun, 140 at Kinraig Point on 20th and 85N/1hr past Fife Ness on 22nd, 100+ at Fife Ness on 6th Jul, one at Dalgety Bay on 18th and five at Fife Ness on 25th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forth WeBS	0	0	0	0	3	10	2	0	0	0	0	0

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Abundant breeding resident throughout the region.

Breeding: A truly urban and rural species and can be found throughout the region. Breeds mainly from March to September although this species has the ability to breed throughout the year and its presence at suitable locations may be considered to be indicative of breeding.

Very much a bird associated with man made structures using them for roosting and breeding. During the day flocks of birds can be seen to move from the Forth Islands and out of urban and industrial areas to feed in the nearby countryside. It is considered to be very much a pest species both in towns and more particularly on farms, where many farmers find it necessary to eradicate them, by baiting and then trapping and or shooting in order to meet the required food and hygiene controls and regulations in place. This culling will undoubtedly have a suppressing effect on population numbers.

Given the current abundant population actual breeding is significantly under-recorded with breeding reported from only one mainland location at Wester Forret where up to ten pairs were noted. Offshore breeding reported with at least 12 nests found on Inchkeith on 30th May and nests were also found on Inch Garvie on 4th Jun (FIBR).

January: Thirty at Dysart on 6th, three at Pitkinnie Farm on 15th, 22 at Skelpie Farm on 16th, 38 at Balmerino on 18th, c80 at Kirkton Farm on 30th and 70 at Balcomie on 31st.

February: 320 at West Muircambus on 4th, 38 at Priory Farm on 12th, 30+ at Peacehill on 13th, 25 at Inverkeithing Bay, five at North Queensferry and four at Port Laing on 14th and 60 at Balbuthie on 17th.

March: 170 at Dumbarrie Farm on 13th and at least five at Lathockar Mill on 18th.

April: 60 at Russell Mains on 4th, three at Dalgety Bay on 9th and five at Dysart on 21st.

May: Ten at Wester Forret on 1st, four at Inverkeithing Bay, eight at North Queensferry and three at Port Laing on 12th, two at Barnhill Bay and eight at Wester Forret on 16th, 110 feeding amongst pigs to the south-east of Morton Lochs on 27th and c70 on Inchkeith on 30th.

June: Two at Dalgety Bay on 2nd, c80 on Inch Garvie on 4th, five at Belliston on 7th, three at Forret Hill on 12th, 15 at North Queensferry on 18th and 25 at Damhead of Tor on 29th.

July: One at Dumbarrie Links on 12th, 48 at Peacehill on 14th and two at Drumdreel Farm on 21st.

August: Two at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 13th and 175 on the roofs of disused paper mill in Inverkeithing on 19th.

November: 300 at Anstruther, 70 at Collister and 60 at Methil Power Station all on 7th, six at Clinthill, 20 at Fordell and 12 near Balbougie on 11th, at least 200 on Inchkeith on 15th, 11 at Inverkeithing on 15th and 60 at Methilhill on 21st.

December: 150 at West Muircambus on 22nd and 120 at Mountfleurie on 31st.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

Fairly common breeding resident. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Stock Dove has a breeding period of March to October during which it can often have more than one brood. No confirmed breeding reported however birds were reported at apparently on territory (AOT), singing and as pairs all of which are indicative of breeding. Territories were reported from Peppermill Dam (2AOT), Bath (1AOT), Bluebell Wood, Kincardine (1AOT), Gartarry (1AOT) and Piperpool Moss (1AOT). Singing birds were heard at Keils Den on 22nd Apr, Craigtoun and Logie wood on 29th Apr, Rossie Bog on 2nd May, Hospital Mill on 26th May, Inchrye on 8th Jun, Rossie Bog on 12th Jun and Rankeilour 16th Jun, Rossie Bog on 23rd Jul, St Andrews 28th Jul and Bankhead Moss 1st Aug. Pairs were recorded at Kilconquhar Loch on 27th Apr and Leuchars Airfield on 17th Jun.

Other sightings included five at Bowhouse Farm on 12th Jan and ten at Glenduckie on 30th. Five at West Muircambus on 1st Feb, two at Newport on 9th, two at Peterhead on 12th, 16 at Kinnaird Hill and two at Tarvit Farm on 13th. One at Lahill Mains on 6th Mar, three at Inch House on 9th, one at Rossie Bog on 14th, one at Washer Willys on 16th, two at Peppermill Dam on 29th and five at Rossie on 30th.

One at Loch Gelly on 6th Apr, three at Annsmuir on 11th, seven at Pilmuir Tower on 12th, two at Bowhouse on 13th, one at Logie on 19th, c10 at Carnbee and two at Elmwood Farm on 20th, one at Keils Den and two at Peterhead on 22nd, one at Bath on 25th, two at Braefoot also two pairs at Kilconquhar Loch and five at Star on 27th, one at Bluebell Wood, Kincardine and one at Gartarry on 28th, singles at Craigtoun and Logie wood, six at Tarvit Farm and two in the West Saline area on 29th. Two at Rossie Bog on 2nd May, two at Dalgety Bay on 4th, six at Black Loch on 25th and one at Hospital Mill on 26th. One at Piperpool Moss on 1st Jun, three at Kinraig Point on 5th, one at Inchrye on 8th, one at Rossie Bog on 12th, two at Dalgety Bay on 15th, three at Rankeilour on 16th, two pairs at Leuchars Airfield on 17th, three at Glenduckie and three at Linkswood Pond on 20th, two at Tayport on 22nd, up to ten at Leuchars Airfield on 23rd, five at Newport on 28th and one at Rossie on 29th.

Two at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 1st Jul, 27 at Goosepools on 3rd, one at Mountcastle on 4th, 20 at Leuchars Airfield on 9th, two at Kilmarny on 15th, five at Newton Sandpit on 21st, one at Rossie Bog on 23rd, seven at Leuchars Airfield on 25th and four at Dunbog Hill and one at St Andrews on 28th. One at Bankhead Moss on 1st Aug, 12 at Torry on 11th, six at Guardbridge on 12th, singles at Cuparmuir and Rossie Bog on 14th and two at Leuchars Airfield on 26th. Four at Earlshall Muir on 14th Sep.

One at Fincraigs on 10th Oct and two at Dalgety Bay on 24th. Sixteen at Wormiston on 1st Nov, two at Craigtoun and 5W over Kilconquhar Loch on 2nd, nine at Kirktonbarns on 9th and six at Gilston on 11th. Five at Springfield on 11th Dec and one at Dun Moss on 30th.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	30	0.86
2007	48	26	0.50
2008	46	36	0.78

Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Abundant breeding resident with dispersal in winter.

Breeding: Has ability to breed all year around and given its abundant status breeding continues to be very poorly recorded. During the summer 5AOT noted in the West Saline area and 2AOT at Woodlea Farm. Nested successfully at Damhead of Torr with 11 nests recorded and one chick present on 30th Apr. A nest with two eggs was found on Inchcolm on 4th Jun. Recently fledged juveniles were in gardens at Shamrock St, Dunfermline on 18th Jun and Maryknowe, Gauldry on 16th Jul. An adult bird was nest building in Linden Avenue in Newport on 4th Sep.

On 3rd Jan 400 at Brucehaven and 300 at Burnside, 100 at Craigie on 4th, c1000 feeding in crop field at Pattiesmuir on 7th, three adults and two juvs in a garden at Struan Drive in Inverkeithing on 9th, 60 at Fordelhill and 96 at Newport on 11th, one at Skelpie Farm and c60 at Union on 16th, one at Balmerino and c100 at Luthrie on 18th, counts of 18 and three at Newport on 26th and c1000 at Wester Newburn on 29th. On 1st Feb, 2500 were at Balbuthie, 500 at Redwells and 282 at Ribbonfield on 7th, 260 at Luthrie on 9th, 54 at Gauldry and 83 at Kilmany on 12th, 30+ at Guardbridge and 300 at Peacehill on 13th, ten at Cult Ness, five at North Queensferry and seven at Port Laing on 14th, 55 at Newport on 16th, 220 feeding in field at Balbuthie and 60 at Damhead of Torr on 17th and c100 at Murdochcairn on 19th. On 3rd Mar, 125 were at Cameron Reservoir with also at least 1000 in a field below Craigs Plantation and 200 at Pattiesmuir, 40+ at Straiton on 7th, 350 at St Monans on 8th, 30+ at Brackmont on 17th, three at Lathockar Mill on 18th, c50 at Freuchie and 160 at Lundin Links on 21st and 41 at Newport on 28th.

On 5th Apr, 220 were in a pasture field at Kinshaldy, 16+ at Tayfield on 13th, 16+ at Kilminning and 12+ at Peacehill on 14th, 27 at Newport on 19th with 50 there on 20th and 51 on 26th, 140 at Rossie Bog and 17 in the central section of Tentsmuir Forest on 20th, two at Dysart on 21st, six at Braefoot on 27th and 175 at Eastfield on 29th. On 4th May, 45 were at Edenside, at least nine were on Inchcolm on 7th, four at Cult Ness, one at Port Laing and seven at St Margaret's Marsh on 12th, five at Dalgety Bay also six at Nether Bouprie Farm and 45 feeding in grazing field at Pleasants Farm on 16th, 37 at Newport on 17th with 56 there on 24th and 22 in the central section of Tentsmuir Forest on 24th. One pair at Craigsanquhar and 19 at Forret Hill on 12th Jun, six at Cult Ness also five at Port Laing, eight at St Margaret's Marsh and two adults and one juv in Dunfermline on 18th, eight on Kippo Moor and four in Kippo plantation on 19th, 400 at Earlshall Muir on 20th and 41 at Newport on 28th.

On 4th Jul, three adults and one juv at Shamrock Street in Dunfermline, 15 at Tentsmuir on 5th with four there on 13th, one adult and one juv feeding in garden at Maryknowe in Gauldry on 16th, 10+ at Caldwell's Farm and 20+ at Drumdreel Farm on 21st. Fourteen at Newport on 2nd Aug. On 7th Sep, 120 at Tayfield and 12 at Newport.

On 25th Oct, 27 at Newport. On 8th Nov, 12 at Newport, 140 at Kirktonbarns on 9th, 20 at Clinthill, 130 at Fordell, ten to the north of Dalgety Bay and 180 near Balbougie on 11th, 2000 at Damhead of Torr and 40+ at Otterston Loch on 15th, 51 at Cameron Reservoir on 17th, 40+ at East Lomond and 76 at Morendy Wood on 22nd, 1015W/1hr at Elie Ness on 25th and 1000 at Damhead of Torr on 26th. At Damhead of Torr 400 on 4th and 9th Dec, 700 at St Ford on 6th, 80 at Morendy Wood on 7th, 80

at Linkwood Pond on 12th and 22nd, 200+ at East Lomond on 14th, 40+ Holl Reservoir on 21st, 86 at Bath Moor, 41 at Dun Moss and 350 at Golden Loch on 30th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	4	2	11	4	8	6	4	8	6	2	0	7

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	769	21.97
2007	48	1081	22.50
2008	46	991	21.54

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Abundant breeding resident.

Breeding: Breeds March to September but population and breeding generally under recorded. One pair noted copulating at Freuchie on 7th Apr. During the summer; two pair nested in large conifers at Woodhead Street in Valleyfield and 1AOT at Woodlea Farm. During the breeding period birds were reported from 18 separate locations and their presence in suitable habitat could be assumed to be indicative of at least attempted breeding.

Reported as present all year at Dalgety Bay, Valleyfield and Damhead of Torr where numbers (1-12) were halved on previous years due to heavily predation by Eurasian Sparrowhawk. Also present in small numbers at Robertson Road in Cupar throughout the summer but absent during winter months.

In January; three at Shamrock Street in Dunfermline on 3rd and 5th, one at Balmerino on 18th, one at Newport on 18th, three at Frankfield in Dalgety Bay on 26th and three at Struan Drive in Inverkeithing on 29th. During February; one at the North Lodge in Monimail on 5th, 18 at Drumoig and two at Newport on 9th, six at Aberdour and eight at Gauldry on 11th and three at Kilconquhar Loch on 17th. In March; three at Newport on 15th and five at Shamrock Street in Dunfermline on 16th.

During April; one pair at Freuchie on 7th, one at Spalefield on 14th and four at Newport on 19th with one there on 20th. In May; one pair at Grangehill on 8th, two at Nether Bouprie on 16th, seven at Newport on 17th and two at Kingsbarns on 30th. During June; six at Damhead of Torr on 8th, one pair at

Eurasian Collared Dove

by Phil Jones



Gauldry present from 12th Jun to 22nd Jul, one pair at Craigsanquhar on 12th Jun and singles at Glenduckie on 20th Jun and Newport on 28th Jun.

In August; two at Newport on 2nd, one pair at Fife Ness on 16th, two at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 18th and five at Leuchars on 22nd. During September; one at Fife Ness on 8th, seven at Damhead of Torr on 12th and singles at Newport on 14th and Craighead on 21st.

During October; two juveniles at Damhead of Torr on 2nd, four at Newport and 22 at West Grange on 8th, six at Drumoig and five at Kirktonbarns on 9th, 12 at Damhead of Torr on 14th and one seen to escape from a Eurasian Sparrowhawk at Gauldry on 31st. In November; two at Newport on 1st, seven at Gauldry and one at Kirktonbarns on 9th and ten at South Straiton on 28th. During December; four at Drumoig on 12th and three pairs at Gauldry on 14th with seven there on 28th.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	52	1.53
2007	48	91	1.94
2008	46	72	1.57

***Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)**

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red data list species.

Breeding: Whilst all adult birds reported were potential breeders to the region there was little to indicate breeding occurred other than the presence of juveniles; with one perched on the perimeter fence at the east end of Leuchars Airfield on 3rd and 4th Aug, one at Kincaig Point on 19th Aug and one at Goosepools on 22nd Aug.

One called briefly at Harperleas Plantation on 16th May, 15 at Leuchars Airfield on 22nd and one calling at Formonthills on 31st. One calling at Maspie Den on 5th Jun, one flew at Langside on 21st and one at Newport on 28th. One sat on powerlines swooping down to feed in field at Townhill Loch viewed for over two hours on 7th Jul. One at Earlshall Muir on 3rd Aug, one was chased into woods by a Peregrine Falcon at Leuchars Airfield on 17th and one seen at Tentsmuir on 17th and 24th. The last sighting of the year was of one at Earlshall Muir on 14th Sep.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Scarce breeding resident with post breeding dispersal of young birds. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Breeding: Considered to be a scarce breeder within the region, however the full status of this under-recorded species in the county is yet to be realised. The following table summarises data received for the year.

Based upon the current data the Fife Barn Owl Project estimates the Fife population to be in the order of the following:

Sites (Total)	Unknown multiple single bird sightings	Possible birds present in suitable habitat	Probable pair on territory	Confirmed breeding site
36	7	15	7	7

Given the totals in the table above the Fife population could be said to be very healthy and on the up. Sadly however the survey of known breeding sites in 2008, detailed in the table below, paints a very different and very poor picture of the breeding year, with most birds found at the nest sites looking very sorry for themselves. It would seem that the cold wet start to the year adversely affected the shrew/vole populations particularly in the eastern parts of the region and it is this that is considered to be the most likely cause of this year's poor breeding. Close neighbouring pairs in Kinross fared much better successfully producing broods of three young.

Barn Owl breeding during 2008 Fife Barn Owl Project

Territory Site No.	Adults	Eggs laid	Eggs hatched	Young ringed	Young fledged
8C	2	1	0	0	0
15B	1	0	0	0	0
17A	2	0	0	0	0
20A	2	2	2	0	0
25A	2	3	0	0	0
27A	2	0	0	0	0
34B	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	12	6	2	0	0

A good year for sighting reports: In January; one at Leven on 3rd Jan, one at Calais Muir Wood on 6th, one perched by roadside at Balhouffie and one hunting rough ground at 2100hrs at Cellardyke on 11th, one perched on fence alongside the A92 north-east of Rathillet on 14th and 15th, one perched on fence alongside road to Gauldry near Rathillet on 15th and one at Balchrystie on 19th, one at Pattiesmuir on 23rd, one at Inverdovat on 24th, one flew over the A92 at The Starr on 28th and one by the A914 at Strathburn Farm on 29th. In February; one at Troustrie on 5th, one at Pillars of Hercules and one at Easter Cash Farm on 8th, one by the B914 east of Steelend on 13th, one by the A92 at Loch Gelly on 15th, one at Leuchars Airfield at 2100hrs on 18th, one at Struthers Barns on 20th, one at Cults Mill and one at crossroads to Springfield/Scotstarvit on 22nd and one near Pickletille on 25th and singles at Tayport and at Pipeland and nearby Grange Farm south of St Andrews on 28th. During March; one at Rathillet at 2200hrs on 2nd, one at Struthers Barns on 3rd, one alongside the A912 at Balreavie on 4th, one at Pillars of Hercules on 8th, one at Leuchars Airfield on 11th, one at Drumeldrie on 14th, one perched on fence post by side of A914 at Wester Kinnear on 16th, one hunting over field margins at Elmwood College farm on 21st, one perched in a tree at Coal Road in Dunfermline at 2020hrs on 22nd and one at Saline on 29th.

In April; one at Ardross at 2100hrs on 7th, one at Kilmany on 8th, singles at Claremont on 9th, one at Hillcairn and one at Torr of Kedlock at 2300hrs on 13th, one at Cameron Reservoir on 15th and one there on 18th, one north of Kilmany at 2330hrs on 16th, one at Kilrenny on 27th and one at Muirhead on 28th. In May; one flew over the A91 at Collesie on 6th, one hunting to the north-east of Rathillet at road to Gauldry on 10th, one flew over Strathmiglo at 2300hrs on 14th and one was hunting rough ground at

Cellardyke at 2315hrs on 17th. During June; one at Ardrross on 3rd, one east of Pitlessie at 0135hrs and one to the west of Balmalcolm at 0130hrs on 5th.

In July; three by the B922 near Southfield, Glenrothes on 18th. During August; one perched alongside the A917 at Upper Largo and one perched in a tree alongside B9171 near Carvenom on 5th, one flew over the A917 at Upper Largo on 9th, one at Crail Airfield at 0200hrs and one at Falkland on 16th, one perched alongside the Fife Ness road on 18th and one at St Monans on 28th. In September; one perched alongside the A917 near Balchrystie on 3rd, one at Leuchars Airfield on 4th and one at Saline on 17th.

During October; One at Kilmany on 11th, one at Coble Shore on 22nd, one at Upper Largo on 25th and one at the roadside near Blebo Mains on 26th. In November; one at Drumeldrie and three sitting on fence posts at the Waterless Bridge on 8th, one at Kilconquhar on 15th, one by the roadside at Struthers Barn on 20th, one hunting the verge side at the Scottish Deer Centre and one hunting the verge side along the A91 west of St Andrews on 21st, one seen hunting shortly after dusk at East Lomond on 22nd, one at Burnturk on 23rd, one briefly at the roadside near Denork on 27th and one at Wormit on 29th. During December; one flew over the A91 at Wester Rossie on 1st, one at Leckerstone on 3rd and also 9th, one at Struthers Barns on 5th, one at Morton Lochs on 9th, one at Bonerbo on 10th, one at Abercrombie on 13th, one near Redwells Wood on 14th, one at Drumeldrie on 19th, one at Coble Shore on 20th, one flew across the road in front of a car just south of 5 Roads Roundabout and one at St Monans, both on 27th with one at the latter site at 1700hrs on 30th.

During the year five dead birds were found and reported; One found dead in a barn at Kilconquhar on 1st June, also one ringed bird at Prior Muir during June, one dead at side of road between Dairsie and Guardbridge on 20th Sep, one dead by roadside at Wester Pitcorthie on 20th Nov and one dead on the A92 at Linkwood on 29th. The mortality rate for Barn Owls is recognised to be highest for immature birds undoubtedly due in part to their dispersal away from the natal site searching for a breeding territory and mate and the two later deaths are attributed to this. However the individual found dead during June is quite likely to have been one of a breeding pair.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: Only three confirmed records of breeding received. A pair and juvenile were seen out of the nest at Kilrenny in April. An adult and nestling were trapped and ringed at a nest box at Cornceres Farm on 11th May, the nestling successfully fledged. A female and a juvenile were at Damhead of Torr on 12th Jun having bred nearby. Birds were also reported as suspected breeders at Devilla Forest, Valleyfield and Valleyfield Woods. Tawny Owl has a breeding period of March to June and it would not be unreasonable to assume that any reports during that period could relate to breeding birds.

The total of 54 sightings reports were received covering 30 different locations are catalogued by month as follows: January: One at Fincaigs on 11th, 13th and 20th,

one at Dalgety Bay calling over a period of several nights from 18th, one at Balbuthie on 19th and one flew over road at Linkwood Pond on 30th. February: One at Auchtertool on 1st, one at Fincaigs on 8th, 11th and 19th with two calling against each other on 27th, one at Cupar on 10th, one at Braefoot on 11th, three at Kilconquhar Loch on 15th and one south-east of Luthrie on 27th. March: One at Fincaigs on 9th, 27th and 31st, three at Kilconquhar Loch on 14th, one calling in daytime at Ravenscraig Park on 20th and one at Bowhouse Farm on 30th.

April: Singles calling on several dates through the month at Fincaigs and one at Red Myre on 21st. May: One being mobbed at Balcaskie House on 2nd, one at Saline on 4th, two at Fincaigs on 7th and one on 10th, one at Wemyss Moss on 9th and one at Tulliallan Castle on 14th. June: One pair at Clammieduff and one at Fincaigs on 6th, one being mobbed at roost by various smaller birds at Craigluscar on 7th and one found with a broken wing at Crombie on 8th.

August: One at West Saline on 7th, two at Kilconquhar Loch on 12th and one at Longannet PS on 29th September: Two at Kilconquhar Loch on 3rd, one at Fincaigs on 7th and 11th, two at Damhead of Torr on 13th and one at Leuchars Airfield on 23rd.

October: One at Fincaigs and 2-3 calling against each other at Rossie Bog on 5th and one at Bankhead on 26th. November: Singles at Foodie and Muirhead on 15th and Stravithie on 26th. December: Singles at Townhill on 3rd and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 28th.

Birds were reported as regular throughout the year at Damhead of Torr except for the months of April, July and August and at Dalgety Bay during the months January, February and April.

Analyses of the monthly sightings at the various locations to indicate the minimum number of birds present.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	6	9	6	6	7	5	0	3	5	3	2	2
Locations	4	6	4	2	6	5	0	3	4	3	2	2
Birds	4	9	6	2	8	7	0	4	6	4-5	2	2

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

Uncommon to scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding: Although there is an abundance of suitable habitat in Fife to support the breeding of this species its secretive nature makes it easily overlooked and whilst several birds were noted during the breeding period, no breeding was confirmed.

One seen roosting near the boathouse at Kilconquhar Loch on 28th Mar. Singles at Fife Ness Muir on 4th May and Balcomie on 9th May, one seen during day at Lindores Loch on 17th May and one perched on a fence post by the minor road from Kingsbarns flew to the copse near Bell Rock View on 29th May. Singles at Fife Ness on 25th Jun and 3rd Jul and 15th Jul. One in daytime roost at Baldridgeburn on 25th Nov was also present on 5th and 9th Dec.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Very scarce breeding resident, commoner on passage migrant and in winter. Amber data list species.

Breeding: No confirmed reports of breeding and any sighting of birds on territory during the breeding period April and May this year.

A much improved year for sightings particularly in the later half of the year. The early part of the year produced six sighting at four locations involving at least seven separate individuals. One at Valleyfield Lagoons on 21st Feb, three at the east end of Leuchars Airfield on 8th Mar with a single there on 19th, one at East Lomond on 15th Mar with two there quartering the hillside below the car park at the mast on 20th and a late passage individual at Fife Ness on 20th Apr.

The latter half of the year produced 28 sightings at 18 different locations involving at least 24 separate individuals. One hunting in crops Balbuthie on 4th Jul and one flushed from scrub on coastal path (no sign of a nest) at Balgove Bay on 8th Jul. One at the timber yard at Linkwood on 13th Aug, one at Leuchars Airfield on 21st, three at Earlshall Muir and one circling at Muircambus on 22nd, two at Earlshall Muir on 25th and one along the Newburgh road to the west of Gauldry on 29th. One hunting Elie Ness on 1st Sep, one at Anstruther on 8th, one along the south shore of the Eden Estuary on 13th and 15th, one at Saline on 19th, two at Coble Shore on 20th, one at Leuchars Airfield on 23rd and two at Goosepools on 25th.

Two at Saline on 3rd Oct, one at Leuchars Airfield on 15th, one at Lockshaw Moss on 27th, one hunting successfully over fields at 1030hrs near Pittormie on 29th and two along shoreline between Caiplic and Crail from 31st to end of December. One headed northwards out to sea at Fife Ness on 5th Nov, one present in Fife Ness Muir on 6th, one sleeping on fence post during afternoon at Leuchars Airfield on 30th. One perched on runway approach lights of Leuchars Airfield on 8th Dec also present on 24th and one at Lockshaw Moss on 20th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fife 2004	1	9	1	1	2	1	6	2	9	12	12	15
Fife 2005	4	6	12	5	2	0	0	1	1	4	3	1
Fife 2006	2	2	4	2	2	0	0	3	2	1	0	0
Fife 2007	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Fife 2008	0	1	5	1	0	0	2	7	5	7	5	4

Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: In Strathmiglo, 13 birds were seen to be entering roofs under the rones though this was down from 20 birds recorded there in 2007. In Cupar two birds were seen prospecting nest sites on 31st May with young noted in nests from 21st Jul. In Cellardyke four birds were entering nest sites in Shore Road on 28th Jul. Some birds were thought to be nesting in the high flats in Valleyfield.

The first two birds at Loch Gelly on 20th Apr were one day earlier than 2007. It was to be another week before bigger numbers arrived with 13 at the same site on 27th.

West Fife dominated in April with two at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 27th, eight at Valleyfield and four at West Saline all on 29th when a single bird was recorded in the east at St Andrews. Early May saw widespread reports of single-figure counts although Kilconquhar Loch hosted 25 on 2nd with 50 there on 4th. Loch Gelly also saw high counts with 80 on 9th dropping to 30 on 18th. Kilconquhar Loch peaked with 180 on 26th May with 13 at Golden Loch on 27th being the only other double-figure count of that month. As early arrivals settled in to nest, numbers continued to pour in to the county. A flock of 180 passed Goosepools on 10th Jun but the favoured site, Loch Gelly, attracted good numbers as usual with between 250 and 500 recorded for five days from 18th Jun. Damhead of Torr recorded 25 on 15th with ten in Newport on 28th possibly being local nesters.

As soon as some had just arrived, other birds appeared to be leaving with 40S/1hour noted at Kincaig Point on 2nd Jul. Other good counts in July could be of local nesting flocks with 23 in Anstruther on 9th, up to 16 in Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 24th, 40 in Cupar on 26th and 17 in James Street, Newport on 30th. Kilconquhar Loch continued to draw feeding birds with 50 there on 20th Jul. Numbers continued to dwindle in August with 20 crossing Leuchars Airfield on 1st and only ten at Kilconquhar Loch on 10th. Fifty flew south on 12th at Balgove Bay with 25 in Crail on 14th. By late August single birds were seen at Elie, Auchtermuchty and Dalgety Bay. There was a short lull in records until 12th Sep then singles were noted at Dalgety Bay, Guardbridge, Freuchie and Elie Ness until 18th although the exception was a group of nine at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 15th. That appeared to bring the 2008 records to a close but then the last bird of the year made an appearance in Pittenweem on 13th Oct, over a month later than in 2007.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	57	1.63
2007	48	117	2.40
2008	46	130	2.83

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Very scarce breeding resident with dispersal in winter. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

Breeding: Confirmed at one site in the east where two juveniles were seen with adults on 30th May and again later on 29th Jun. In the west of the county two pairs nested at the regular site but one nest with young was blocked up by vandals and the outcome of the other was unknown. During the breeding season singles were noted at Spinney Pond in Dalgety Bay, Cupar Wards, Kilrenny, Morton Lochs, Guardbridge, Rankeilour and the River Ore, east of Lochgelly but there was no evidence of breeding behaviour.

From January to March 1-2 birds were seen regularly at some sites including Morton Lochs, Dalgety Bay, Guardbridge, Kilconquhar Loch, Oriel Road Pond, Valleyfield and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs. Other sites visited by the occasional wanderer were Cocklemill Marsh on 1st Jan, Cupar Wards on 8th Jan, North Queensferry on 11th Jan and Inverkeithing harbour on 18th Feb.

In the second half of the year Guardbridge was the site where this species was seen most regularly with a number of sightings of two birds. Kilconquhar Loch held up to three birds until 14th Aug with further sightings of 1-2 birds until the cold snap in December. Birds were also seen regularly around the Valleyfield area during this period. Occasional single birds were reported from Morton Lochs until 8th Sep although two were seen on 14th Aug. Dalgety Bay also reported occasional birds until 6th Nov. Many other widespread sites, often coastal, saw dispersing birds make fleeting visits. Linkswood Pond hosted its first record of this species on 20th Jul with other singles at Anstruther on 27th Jul and Thornton Pool on 31st Jul. Kilrenny saw singles on 6th Aug, 7-8th Oct and 26th Dec, Tayport was visited on 10th Aug and 13th Nov with a single appearance nearby at Tayfield on 19th Oct. Along the east coast other individuals were seen at St Andrews harbour on 27th Sep, at Boarhills on the following day and on the Kilduncan Burn to the west of Kingsbarns on 12th Dec. In the west, single birds were reported from Longannet on 4th Nov and Seafield on 8th Dec with two birds at Lochore Meadows on 5th Nov.

Notebook: Common Kingfisher West Fife

Birds were seen going into the nest regularly with food but that came to an end when some b*****d put a stick in the nest hole. *A Paton*

***Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)**

Very scarce spring and autumn passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

Not an easy bird to see in the county but one was found along Dane's Dyke at Fife Ness on 14th Sep (Davy Ogilvie).

European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Locally common breeding resident. Amber data list species.

Nearly twice as many records reported compared to 2007.

Breeding: As in 2007 breeding was suspected at Bandrum. No other confirmed breeding but dispersing juveniles were seen at Kingcraig Point on 19th Jul, remaining until the year's end, with another trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on 4th Aug. Birds were heard calling/seen during the breeding season at West Wemyss, Lindores Loch, Muircraigs Farm, Ravenscraig Park / Dysart House garden, Valleyfield, Linkswood Pond, Falkland, Annsmuir Woods, Redlands Pool, Tentsmuir Forest areas, Springfield Muir, Maspie Den, Lathockar, Lucklawhill, Ayton Farm and Tarvit Hill. Many of these sites were core areas throughout the year.

Most reports were of single birds but four were heard in Tentsmuir Forest on 7th Feb with two birds reported there on 24th Feb and 20th Apr. Other counts of two birds came from Annsmuir Woods on 19th Jan and 11th Apr, Saline GC on 9th Feb, Lindores Loch on 20th Feb, Normans Law on 20th May, Glenduckie Hill on 5th Jul and Mountcastle on 20th Jul.

In the early part of the year a single bird was noted feeding on the upper shore between Pittenweem and St Monans on 8th Jan with another at Pittenweem on 16th Mar and one near the old papermill at Inverkeithing on 28th Feb.

Summer saw birds showing at St Margaret's Marsh on 18th Jun, Dumbarrie Links on 12th Jul, Kilconquhar Loch on 20th Jul and 10th Aug, Angle Park on 26th Jul, Pitmedden Forest on 12th Aug, Lomond Hills on 29th Aug and Cullaloe Hills Quarry on 30th Aug.

Sightings during the last third of the year came from many of the previously mentioned sites although this often-elusive species did appear in a variety of other places. Singles also showed at Lochmill Loch on 23rd Sep, Harperleas Reservoir on 28th Sep, St Andrews on 2nd Oct and north of Kincardine on 30th Oct. Dalgety Bay produced records on 4th Nov and 2nd Dec with other birds showing at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 24th Nov and 16th Dec. One at Priory Park, Pittenweem was the only record in that area since the early winter period. Other November sightings included singles at The Common on 16th, at Bogside on 18th and Pitmedden Forest on 22nd. Other sites that hosted birds in December included Ladybank Wood on 12th, Angle Park on 20th, Lockshaw Moss on 26th and East Lomond on 27th.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	7	0.21
2007	48	5	0.11
2008	46	4	0.09

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

Fairly common breeding resident and occasional autumn migrant.

Breeding: Confirmed at Kilconquhar Loch where two nests were found with one containing up to four young on 30th May then later three fledglings were on branches by a nest hole on 15th Jun. At Valleyfield Woods adults were seen feeding young at two nests with an adult and two juvs on a telegraph pole at Valleyfield Lodge on 12th Jun. A pair fed young at a nest at Kirkforthar on 8th Jun and an adult and one juv were at feeders in a Freuchie garden on 15th Jun. A group of four including a juv were at Annsmuir Woods on 10th Jun. On 16th Jun a female and a juv fed on peanuts in Glenrothes and an adult and one juv were at Rankeilour. Later that month a juvenile was at feeders at Damhead of Torr on 29th. A pair was at a nest hole in a pine in Tentsmuir Forest on 25th May with another possible nest hole noted at Hospital Mill on 26th May. A group of six at Mountcastle on 18th Jun was probably a family party (Norman Elkins).

Drumming started as early as 14th Jan when two birds were at Berryhill and at Kilconquhar Loch with one drumming from 20th Jan. From February onwards drumming was widespread, heard at Saline GC (1+), Devilla Forest (2), Strathtyrum (1), Gauldry (1), Cullaloe (1), Glenrothes (1), Springfield Muir (1), Coultra (1), Lindores Loch (3), Giffordtown (1), Easter Kilwhiss (1), Rossie Bog (1), Elie (1), Tarvit Ponds (1), Keils Den (1), West Saline (2), Culross (1), Torry (1) and north of Damhead of Torr (1). Other sites where birds were seen regularly during the breeding season were Lade

Braes in St Andrews, Crowhill Wood, Morton Lochs, Pitmedden Forest, Red Myre, Birnie/Gaddon Lochs and Markinch with occasional sightings at another 18 locations.

The highest count in the early winter was of six at Annsmuir Woods on 19th Jan (Norman Elkins). In addition to previously mentioned sites reports of singles came from Tarvit Hill on 8th Jan, Pitkeirie on 16th Jan, Wester Lathallan on 17th Jan, Grangemuir on 19th Jan, Beleybridge and Gillingshill both on 20th Jan, Braefoot on 29th Jan and with two birds at Glenduckie on 30th Jan. February saw birds at Innerleith (1st), Monimail (5th), Charlottetown (6th), Collessie (6th), three at Strathvithie (6th), Glen Vale (10th), Ceres Road in Cupar (20th) and Inverdovat (24th). Other sites in March included Balass (1st), Drumoig (2nd), Newburgh (7th), Calais Muir Wood (14th), Scotsraig (17th), two at Lathockar Mill (18th) and Blacketyside Farm (29th).

In the latter part of the year single birds remained in many of the above sites. Reres Wood saw high numbers with three there on 25th Sep and six on 25th Nov (Andy Falconer). The feeders at the Eden Centre hide at Guardbridge were regularly attended with three birds there on 13th Dec. Three birds were calling at Kilconquhar Loch on 21st Nov. Two birds were seen at Wemyss Moss on 27th Jun, in the north section of Tentsmuir Forest on 5th Jul, at Glenduckie Hill on 13th Jul, Kilmay on 10th Aug, Kinncraig Point on 14th Sep, Morton Lochs on 12th Oct, West Wemyss on 29th Nov, Cullaloe on 7th Dec, Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 22nd Dec and at Kilrenny throughout the last two months. At least 20 other sites saw single sightings during this period.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	16	0.47
2007	48	27	0.57
2008	46	28	0.61

***Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*)**

Very scarce spring and autumn migrant. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

A slight improvement on the previous two years with birds seen in both seasons. In spring, a female was at Kilrenny on 23rd May (Tom Glass) followed by a male and female together feeding at an oilseed rape field at Wormiston on 29th May (finder unknown). The autumn produced a single at Wormiston cottages on 17th Sep (Chris & Anne-Marie Smout).



Red-backed Shrike © John Nadin

***Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)**

Very scarce, mainly autumn migrant.

After a blank year in 2007, a welcome but brief winter appearance. One was seen on wires at Easter Newburn on 29th Dec (Sandy Morrison) but failed to linger for the masses. It was however relocated a few miles to the southeast in the New Year.

Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica*)

Locally common breeding resident.

Breeding: During the summer three nests were noted at Valleyfield Woods, and two nests at each of three locations, namely, Blairhall Bing, Low Valleyfield and Valleyfield Lagoons. An adult was sitting on a nest at West Quarry Braes on 17th Apr. Three nests were also recorded at Fife Ness Muir where at one nest one adult and a brood of seven were seen in June but this brood subsequently failed. However, a later brood had greater success and one pair and one juv were seen on 2nd Nov. Successful breeding was also noted by a brood of four accompanied by six adults at Townhill Loch on 31st May. Birds reported on territory were at West Saline (2AOT) and Woodlea Farm (2AOT). Birds were also seen in the breeding season at Linksway Pond, Rosyth, North Queensferry, Formonthills, Balmalcolm, Damhead of Torr, Port Laing, St Margaret's Marsh, Dalgety Bay, Nether Bouprie Farm, St Andrews, Pitmedden and Cullaloe.

As usual most reports were from west Fife, but birds were regularly seen in both central and eastern regions of Fife throughout the year. Notable counts were 18 at Dunfermline Public Park on 11th Mar (with 9-11 there during February), 15 at Townhill Loch on 24th Feb, ten at Valleyfield Lagoons on 6th Mar, seven at Pittencrieff Park on 10th Oct, five at Inverkeithing on 25th Mar and five at North Queensferry on 14th Feb. Five at Earlseat on 6th Oct was the first record for the wood and the highest ever count for the local Wemyss area. Other locations where up to four birds were reported were Angle Park (1), Ballo Reservoir (1), Braefoot (2), Burntisland (1), Calais Muir Wood (2), Coul Reservoir (1), Cult Ness, Dunfermline (3), East Lomond (2), Fife Ness Muir (2), Fordell (1), Freuchie (4), Gilston (1), Glenrothes (1), Guardbridge (2), Harperleas Reservoir (1), Inverkeithing (4), Kilminning (4), Kirkton Farm (2), Mossmorran (1), Northfield (1), Pitcairn (1), Pleasants Farm (1), Ribbonfield (1), Raith Lake (2), Rossie Bog (1), Star Moss (1), and Stirton (1).

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	15	0.44
2007	48	14	0.30
2008	46	19	0.41

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Uncommon breeding resident.

Breeding: Successful breeding was reported from Devilla Forest but the number of pairs involved was not stated. A pair bred for the first time at Valleyfield Woods but was thought to have been robbed by Carrion Crows. One pair was also seen nesting at Kilconquhar Loch and one juv and three adults were present at Mountcastle on 4th Jul. Two juvs were noted at Earlseat on 2nd Jun. Birds were also seen in the breeding season at Morton Lochs, Falkland, Wellsgreen, Linkwood Pond, Red Myre, Approach Wood, Cullaloe, Grange Hill, Glassarts, Newport, Rossie Bog, Tentsmuir Forest, Blairhall Bing, St Ford, Lathrisk, Rankeilor, Kippo Moor, Coul Reservoir, Wemyss Moss and Cairngreen.

The species was recorded throughout the year from most parts of Fife, usually as single or pairs of birds. The largest counts were of 17 at Devilla Forest on 12th Dec, at least six at Earlsall Woods on 8th Nov and four at Earlseat on 6th Oct. Counts of three were received from Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 21st Jan, Blebo Craigs at 28th Nov, Craigtoun on 2nd Nov, Grange Hill on 21st Apr, Kilconquhar Loch from July onwards, Kippo Moor on 19th Jun, Linkwood Pond on 18th Oct, Red Myre on 5th Apr, Strathtyrum on 12th Nov and Torloisk on 25th Nov. One was seen to take a juvenile Common Chaffinch at Kilconquhar Loch on 29th Jun. Although not usually associated with open areas, one was seen on the frosty morning of 12th Dec on the shoreline at Balgove Bay.

Other locations where either singles or pairs were reported during the year were Annsmuir Woods, Bankhead Moss, Black Loch, Blebo Craigs, Bow of Fife, Chesterhill, Coultra, Cupar, Damhead of Torr, Dalgety Bay, Devon Common, Dunino, Glenduckie, Kirkton Barns, Leuchars Airfield, Long Wood, Mountcastle, Oakley, Pitcorthie, Pitmedden, Priory Farm, West Saline, Standing Stanes Road, Star Moss, Tayport, Wilderness and 5 Roads Roundabout.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	3	0.09
2007	48	4	0.09
2008	46	4	0.09

Western Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: Breeding of this species was greatly under recorded. Ten birds were seen building nests in the wall above Dysart harbour on 2nd Apr; two nests were recorded in Newport and at least seven nests (one with chick and two eggs) at Sheardrum Farm. At least four pair bred on Inchcolm. Breeding colonies were also reported from Lochmalony Farm and Wester Forret, but no further details were given. At Logie, 3AOT were noted on 12th Jun. Several fledged young were observed at Lucklawhill Quarry on 12th Jun and at least 33 juvs were present at Damhead of Torr on 19th Jul. A brood of two at Sunnybraes were ringed on 7th Jun. For the second year running a pair took up residence in the chimney of an old outhouse at Lingo on 31st Mar.

Another pair was observed inspecting a tree hollow near Carvenom on 14th Apr. Birds were also seen in the breeding season at Culross, Leuchars, Falkland, Brackmont Quarry, Dunfermline, Nether Bouprie Farm, Pleasants Farm, Otterston Loch, Linkswood Pond, Belliston and Dalgety Bay.

The species was recorded throughout the year from most parts of Fife. The largest counts were of 900 at Largoward on 19th Dec, 400 at Fliskmillan on 3rd Jan, 400 at St Monans on 20th Jan, 300 at Burnside on 3rd Jan, 211 at Ribbonfield on 7th Jan, 200+ at Dunbog on 13th Jul, 170+ going to roost at Markinch on 27th Jan, 100 at Brackmont Quarry on 19th Jan (and also on 3rd Jun), 100 at Damhead of Torr on 19th Nov, 100 at Wormit-Gauldry junction on 11th Feb, 88 (including one pied bird) at Angle Park on 1st Feb, 80 at Fordelhill on 1st Feb, 80 at Brackmont Quarry on 17th Mar, 75 at Lucklawhill on 19th Jan (with 60+ still there on 29th Apr and 3rd Jun), 60+ at Star Moss on 5th Jan, 60 at Old Forgan on 9th Nov and 50+ at Dalgety Bay on 24th Oct. One bird of the Nordic race was observed amongst a flock of 50-60 at Torry Bay on 13th & 14th Mar (John Nadin).

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: Counts of AON obtained from rookery surveys during the breeding season were as follows (data from Harry Bell, Paul Blackburn, Alan Brown, Dougie Dickson, Norman Elkins, Andy Falconer, Davie Fotheringham, Terry Mann, Jonathan & Marilyn Nugent, Mark Oksien, Mike Ramage, Chris & Anne-Marie Smout).

Annsmuir	203	Cupar, Moathill	19	Kincardine, Kirk Brae	56
Balcaskie House	24	Cupar, Rathcluan	31	Kincardine, Woodlea	14
Barham	6	Cupar, Haugh Park	9	Kinloss House	24
Blairhall	15	Dairsie	14	Lindores	58
Braefoot	60	Elie	86	Logie	60
Carnock House	82	Hill of Tarvit	40	North Quarter	73
Cluny Bridge	6	Jennystown	70	Rossie	12
Coaltown of Wemyss	58	Kincardine, Bluebell Wood	47	Shanwell	7
Craigsanquhar	25+	Kincardine, Castlepark	102	Silversands	16
Cupar, Elmwood	14	Kincardine, Kilbagie	63		

A pair was observed mating at St Monans on 11th Mar and another pair was on a nest by the road bridge at Newport on 2nd Apr. At Freuchie the first eggs hatched on 9th Apr, four days later than in 2007.

The species was recorded throughout the year from most parts of Fife. Several large counts of rooks were received and the most notable, where the species was specifically counted, were 900+ at Byresloan on 27th Jan, 600+ at Largoward on 19th Dec, 350 at Stravithie on 6th Feb, 300 at Lochty Farm on 29th Jan, 250+ at Logie on 2nd Jan, 230 at Ribbonfield on 7th Feb, 200+ at Bankhead Farm on 15th Jan, 200+ at Cameron Reservoir on 17th Nov, c200 at Strathburn on 7th Feb, c200 at Fordelhill on 3rd Mar (with 150 there on 5th Mar and 100 on 15th Mar), 120 between Newton and

Peacehill on 21st Jan, 100+ at Saline on 20th Sep, 100+ at Little Inch on 4th Feb and 100 at Damhead of Torr on 19th Nov.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	0	351	389	316	355	204	291	0	52	245	157	311

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: Greatly under recorded for this species. Birds on territory during the breeding season were reported at Valleyfield (5AON), West Saline (4AOT), Woodlea Farm (2AOT), Inchkeith (1AOT) and Wester Forret (1AON). A pair was seen on a nest in High Road, Auchtermuchty and four nests were successfully occupied at Damhead of Torr. A nest with four young was observed at Kincaig Point on 8th May and one pair and a brood of four was at Fife Ness Muir on 11th May. A brood of two fledged from a nest in a garden at Duncan Crescent, Dunfermline in June and other juveniles were observed at Pitreavie on 18th Jun, Drumoig on 21st Jun and at Damhead of Torr on 8th Jul. Other locations where birds were reported during the breeding season included Leven, Tentsmuir Forest, Donibristle, Newport, Cult Ness, North Queensferry, Port Laing, Downans Plantation, Dalgety Bay, Nether Bouprie Farm, Pleasants Farm, Kedlock, Kingsbarns, Belliston, Cupar Wards and St Margaret's Marsh.

The species was recorded throughout the year from most parts of Fife. The decline in reported flock size over the past few years has continued and no reports were received of flocks greater than 100 birds. Most reports were of groups up to ten birds in size and those where counts of 20 or more birds were 66 at Rossie Bog on 9th Apr, 65 at Aberhill on 25th Aug, 63 at Leven beach on 16th Mar (49 on 27th Sep, 37 on 12th Apr, 30 on 2nd Apr), 60 at Tiel Burn on 10th Feb, 48 at Tayport on 15th Nov (42 on 24th Mar), 38 at Ravenscraig on 27th Mar, 35 at St Margaret's Marsh on 18th Jun, 31 at Port Laing on 14th Feb, 28 at Cupar Wards on 14th Jun and 23 at Bath Moor on 30th Dec. Three birds were present on Inchkeith on 4th Jun and 7th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	5	5	4	2	2	4	3	0	2	2	3	5

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	354	10.11
2007	48	531	11.10
2008	46	444	9.65

*** Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*)**

Scarce visitor – hybrids more common.

No pure-bred birds were reported this year but a hybrid bird was seen at Dalgety Bay on 9th Oct and one at Culross throughout the year. Up to three hybrid birds were also regularly seen throughout the year in Ceres Road, Cupar.

Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*)

Scarce but increasing breeding resident.

Breeding: There is a minimum of seven pairs now breeding in Fife, which fledged at least ten young. These figures could be an underestimate of the breeding population in the county.

The species was recorded throughout the year mainly from western areas of Fife, but the spread eastwards has continued. The largest counts seen were of six birds at Golden Loch on 5th Sep, four at Craigluscar on 16th Feb, and three at Saline Golf Course on 14th Jun. All other reports which were of 1-2 birds were at Angle Park, Anstruther, Ballinkirk Farm, Brackmont Quarry, Carlingnose Point, Carnock, Craigsanquhar, Cullaloe, Devon Common, Earlseat, East Lomond, Elie, Ferry Hills, Glen Vale, Harperleas Reservoir, Inverkeithing, Lochmill Loch, Lockshaw Moss, Logie Farm, Navitie Hill (attacking a Eurasian Sparrowhawk on 9th Apr), North Queensferry, Ormiston Hill, Outh Hill, Port Laing, Red Myre, Rosyth, Tentsmuir, West Lomond, West Saline and Whirly Kips.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

Abundant breeding resident and passage migrant in varying numbers.

Breeding: One adult was seen feeding a brood at Cupar on 22nd Jul and subsequently one adult and one juvenile were present on 30th Jul. An adult was observed carrying food for young at Mountcastle on 8th Aug. The only other evidence of potential breeding was nest building in progress at Birnie Loch on 10th Apr.

At the start of the year one was at Pittenweem on 1st Jan with three at Valleyfield Lagoons on 2nd Jan, one in the Newport area on 5th Jan and eight at Kilconquhar Loch on 11th Jan. Singles were present at Leuchars Airfield on 17th Jan, Balmerino on 18th Jan, Pittencrieff Park on 19th Jan and Damhead of Torr on 29th Jan. At Angle Park about ten were present on 22nd Jan. February began with two at Stravithie on 6th and this was followed with 19 at the north end of Tentsmuir on 10th, one at Dour Burn, Aberdour harbour on 11th, four at St Margaret's Marsh on 14th and one in the Newport area on 16th. Spring records began with two at Woodhead Street, Valleyfield on 8th Mar, one at Morton Lochs on 9th Mar, one at Dalgety Bay on 19th Mar and two at Birnie Loch on 30th Mar. Two were singing at Beleybridge on 2nd Apr with two at Fife Ness Muir on the same date. A single singing at Glenrothes on 4th Apr was followed with eight in Tentsmuir Forest and 13 at the north end of Tentsmuir, both on 5th Apr. Singles were at Maspie Den on 13th Apr, Fife Ness Muir on 19th Apr and Morton Lochs on 20th Apr with six in Tentsmuir Forest on 20th Apr, two at Den Road, Kirkcaldy on 22nd Apr, four at Fife Ness Muir on 23rd Apr, one at Fife Ness on 26th Apr and one at the station car park at Kirkcaldy on 29th Apr. May produced singles at Norwood, Newport (8th), Lochore Meadows (11th), Morton Lochs (11th), Stathvithie (11th), Dalgety Bay (16th), Tayfield (16th), Fife Ness Muir (24th), Newport area (24th), and Tentsmuir (31st). Two were at St Margaret's Marsh on 12th May with three in Tentsmuir Forest on 24th May. The summer months saw one at Kippo Plantation on 5th Jun, two at Kippo Moor on 19th Jun, seven at the north end of Tentsmuir on 5th Jul, one at Cupar on 22nd Jul, 40 at Tentsmuir Track

16 on 2nd Aug and three at Kincaig Point on 30th Aug.

Autumn records began with one at Fife Ness on 7th Sep, two at Dreelside on 8th Sep and also on 8th Sep at least three at Fife Ness Muir of which two were trapped and ringed. Two were at Damhead of Torr (14th Sep), one at Kilconquhar (14th Sep), 40 at Goosepools (17th Sep), four at Fife Ness Muir (26th Sep) and four at Fife Ness (27th Sep). In October singles were at Dalgety Bay (4th), Anstruther (5th), Boarhills (5th), Cupar (8th) with ten at Kilconquhar Loch (5th), six at Kincaig Point (8th), two at Kingsbarns (9th), 16 at Causewayhead, Chesterhills (19th), and two at Culross Quarry (19th). There was one at Guardbridge (25th), three in the Newport area (25th), one at Cullaloe (26th) and three at Damhead of Torr (30th). At the beginning of November two were in the Newport area on 1st with one at Townhill Loch on 4th. A small fall of migrants arrived on the east coast towards the end of the first week. At Craig Airfield, five were present (5th), also 12 at Fife Ness (5th), two at Kilminning (5th), 20 at Balcomie (7th), 20 in Denburn Wood (7th), two at Dreelside (7th), 15 in the Fife Ness area (7th), ten at Kilminning (7th), five at Boarhills (8th), eight at Craig Airfield (9th) and five in Denburn Wood (9th). One was at Kirktonbarns (9th) with two at Wormit Pond (9th), five at Clinthill (11th), ten at Fordell (11th), two to the north of Dalgety Bay (12th), seven near Balbougie (11th), one at Dalgety Bay (12th), two at Anstruther (17th) and one pair at Glenrothes (17th). Remaining November records were of three at Dalgety Bay on 19th, and singles at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 23rd, at West Wemyss on 29th and Damhead of Torr on 30th. In December, singles showed at Kirkcaldy on 9th and Dalgety Bay on 8th with eight at Kilconquhar Loch on 11th. There were singles at Damhead of Torr on 21st Dec and at Balmakin on 30th Dec. The last two records of the year were on 30th Dec with nine at both Piperpool Moss and Bath Moor.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	6	4	3	2	4	2	3	6	3	3	5	4

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	34	1.00
2007	48	56	1.19
2008	46	68	1.48

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*) (23)

Rare spring and autumn migrant. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

A single bird was trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on 15th Apr (Jim Cobb) and remained there although elusive until 20th Apr.

Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

Abundant breeding resident.

Breeding: Confirmed at Fife Ness Muir where a pair laid nine eggs and were seen on 5th Jun with nine fledglings. At West Quarry Braes two nest boxes contained nine

and ten eggs on 17th May. Another nest box at Woodhead Street, Valleyfield produced five fledglings. Damhead of Torr saw eight occupied nest boxes with another occupied in a garden in Freuchie. Two pairs bred on Inchcolm. Early June saw the appearance of fledglings with five at Damhead of Torr on 9th and a flock of 20 there on 22nd Jun, six at Kedlock on 12th, one at Balgeddie on 15th and four at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing on 17th. Other broods appeared later with two juvs at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 27th Jun with four there on 4th Jul. Six juvs were at the Eden Centre hide at Guardbridge on 6th Jul with five seen at Kilmany on 15th Jul. Breeding also probably took place at Maspie Den where a bird was seen taking moss into a bat box on 5th May. Singing started as early as 9th Feb when five were noted in the Newport area and three singers were reported from Hill of Tarvit on 4th Apr. Single pairs were seen at Craigsanquhar and Logie on 12th Jun. In the west 10AOT were noted in the Woodlea Farm area with 9AOT around West Saline Farm. Possible breeders were reported from at least 16 other sites during the season.

Some high counts were noted in the early winter with 26 at Newport on 11th Jan with the year's peak of 33 trapped at Braefoot on 11th Feb (Mark Oksien). Other good counts included at least ten at Monimail on 5th Feb, ten at Galdry on 12th Feb, at least ten at the Eden Centre hide at Guardbridge in late February. Later 16 were trapped at Cullaloe on 5th Apr and 11 were noted at Nether Bouprie on 16th May. Smaller counts of 1-9 birds were reported from 19 other sites. Birnie/Gaddon Lochs saw sizeable flocks throughout the year.

There were fewer reports from the latter part of the year but high counts included 30 at Kilconquhar Loch on 28th Oct with 25 in the reedbeds there on 11th Dec. Gardens in Buckhaven hosted 28 on 10th Aug, 13 were noted at Dalgety Bay on 10th Sep, 13 at Fordell on 11th Nov, ten at Guardbridge on 11th Dec and double-figure counts were regular at Damhead of Torr during this period. Smaller flocks appeared at 13 other sites.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	26	16	15	17	14	12	11	14	28	7	12	20

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	283	8.09
2007	48	311	6.50
2008	46	338	7.35

Great Tit (*Parus major*)

Abundant breeding resident.

Fewer reports and smaller flocks counted compared to the previous species.

Breeding: Four nest boxes were occupied at Damhead of Torr, one occupied in a garden in Freuchie and broods were recorded in nest boxes at Kippo Plantation and West Quarry Braes. Balgeddie produced three fledglings on 14th Jun, at least three juvs were seen at the Eden Centre hide from 19th Jun, two juvs at Damhead of Torr on 26th Jun and two juvs at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 27th Jun. Three singers

were heard on 27th Jan at Kilconquhar Loch, two singing in the Newport area on 9th Feb increasing to seven singing there by 26th Apr and one singing at the north end of Tentsmuir Forest on 5th Apr. Five AOT were counted at both West Saline Farm and Woodlea Farm in late spring.

Highest count of the year was in January with 18 at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (Tony Wilson) with 16 there in December. Double-figure counts were a regular feature at this site throughout the year. Another 16 were trapped and ringed at Braefoot on 11th Feb. At least ten were at Cullaloe on 15th Mar with ten at Newport on 26th Apr. Birds were reported from 39 sites mainly in small flocks.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	18	17	11	11	8	14	6	11	13	2	4	16

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	186	5.31
2007	48	180	3.77
2008	46	182	3.96

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*) **Abundant breeding resident.**

Over twice as many records were submitted compared to 2007.

Breeding: Confirmed at Balgeddie with an adult and one juv seen on 25th May. At Damhead of Torr, two nests were found and later a pair was seen with a brood of four on 13th June. Two family parties were noted between Kinshaldy and Goosepools on 28th Jul. Singing birds were noted early with 18 heard in the northern part of Tentsmuir Forest on 10th Feb, then 38 singing there on 5th Apr (Paul Blackburn). At least four sang in the Newport area with 5AOT at Bath and single AOT both at West Saline and Logie. Also reported from eleven other sites during the breeding season.

In the first half of the year, Tentsmuir Forest again produced the largest counts with 58 on 10th Feb, 50 on 5th Apr and 36 on 20th Apr (Paul Blackburn). All other counts from 18 sites featured 1-8 birds many reported from garden feeders.

Tentsmuir Forest again dominated during the July to December period with a peak of 50 seen along track number 16 there on 17th Aug. A peak of 12 was noted around Birnie/Gaddon Lochs during September. Damhead of Torr regularly hosted a flock of ten but peaked with 16 on 9th Oct. A group of ten also frequented the feeders at the Eden Centre at Guardbridge during late winter. Six birds were at Fife Ness Muir on 27th Sep. Between 1-7 birds were reported from 13 other sites during this period. BBS results show an increase over the past five years.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	12	6	10	2	2	7	6	8	12	3	6	10

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	84	2.47
2007	48	106	2.21
2008	46	134	2.91

***Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*)**

Rare visitor. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

A minimum of 18 birds were seen over a one hour period on Mugdrum Island viewed from Newburgh harbour on 22nd Oct (Dougie Dickson). The second year in a row birds have been seen at this site – a sunny calm day, patience and a bit of luck is required to see them though.

Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*)

Common breeding resident and passage migrant. Red data list species.

Breeding: Two broods of three were noted at Valleyfield Lagoons on 10th Jun and seven young fledged at Kincaig Hill on 23rd Jun. Breeding territories were recorded at Goosepools (58AOT), Damhead of Torr (2AOT), Valleyfield Lagoons (5AOT), Bath (6AOT), Inch Farm (2AOT), Comrie Colliery/Bickramside (11AOT), Kitchen Green, (1AOT), Piperpool Moss (7AOT), Logie (1AOT), West Saline (12AOT) and Woodlea Farm (28AOT). Singing commenced on 7th Feb and was reported until 5th Jul. Singing birds were noted at Cambo (2), Newport-Tayport (7), Outhead (1), Mountcastle (2), Lower Largo (2), Cocklemill Marsh (8), Rosyth Naval playing fields (1), Inverdovat (1), Drumoig (4), Rossie Bog (1), Scotsraig (9+), Kincaig Hill (10), Formonthills (1), Sheills (16), Anstruther (20), St Monans (11), Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (1), Leuchars Airfield (10+), Newport (2+), Hill of Tarvit (1), Leuchars railway station (3), Cluny Clays (3), Shanwell (2), Tentsmuir Ice House (1), Tentsmuir Point (2), Pitkevy (2), West Muircambus (8), west of Morton Lochs (1), Kedlock (3), South Baldutho (1), Beleybridge (2).

Before the breeding season flocks were mainly recorded at inland sites including 50 at Fliskmillan on 3rd Jan, 30 at Clatto Reservoir on 6th Jan, 28 at Letham on 11th Jan, 50 at Rossie Bog and 17 at Strathvithie both on 6th Feb. Coastal areas did see some flocks with 16 at Cocklemill Marsh on 1st Jan increasing to 112 by 13th Feb. Balbuthie held about 80 and Kincaig Hill had 60 both on 12th Jan. Passage through coastal sites continued in March with 28 at Wormiston on 4th and 20 at Cast Farm on 24th.

Post-breeding counts were few but 16 were at Balmullo on 18th Jun, 20+ at Leuchars Airfield on 21st Jun, 20 at Tentsmuir Point on 3rd Jul, a notable 200+ at Rossie Bog on 6th Aug (Harry Bell) and 15 each at Valleyfield Lagoons and West Saline on 20th Sep and 25th Sep respectively. Passage birds were recorded from late August with 85W at Kincaig Hill on 30th with 68W there on 8th Oct. Nearby 224 flew SW in two hours past Elie Ness on 12th Oct and 110 flew west at Ardrross on 6th Nov. A late movement saw 20W at Kincaig Hill on 6th Dec.

Numbers were low in the last quarter with 20 at Leuchars Airfield on 13th Oct, 18 between Newport and Tayport on 23rd Nov, 25 at Peacehill and 50 at Pittachope both on 24th Nov and 62 at Balbuthie on 30th Nov. Late December saw 40 at Balcomie and 30 nearby at Wormiston both on 31st.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	246	7.03
2007	48	353	7.40
2008	46	352	7.65

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: A slight increase in the number of colonies reported. At the Cocklemill Burn colony 36AON were counted on 7th May with 260 adults and juvs there by 23rd Jun. 110AON were reported there on 8th Jul and ten pairs remained to raise a second brood on 14th Aug. At Newton Sandpit 65AON were spread over three areas on 19th May but some of the nests were destroyed when heavy rain caused the cliff face to collapse on 20th Jun when 80 birds were present. There was an increase (compared to 2007) in the number of birds nesting in pipes in a brick wall at Markinch railway station with at least 10AON there on 28th Apr. There was 9AON there on 16th Jul with all birds having left the site by 9th Sept. Other sites included West Saline (19AON), Damside (28AON), Bowstard Loch (c50AON), Annsmuir (100AON), Wilderness (3AON), Mountcastle (20+AON) and a small colony on the Lochfitty Burn.

Arrival was 11 days earlier than 2007 when three keen birds showed at Peppermill Dam on 9th Mar. There were no other sightings until five flew strongly east at Elmwood College Farm on 18th Mar and then eight at Angle Park on 30th Mar. The first two weeks of April saw a steady trickle of single figure reports from Birnie Loch, Balgove Bay, Mountcastle, Coble Shore, Leuchars Airfield, Drumoig, Otterston Loch, Saline, Cuparmuir, Wilderness, Ballo Reservoir and Lindores Loch. Larger flocks were noted 25 at Angle Park on 4th Apr increasing to 100+ by 14th, 20 at Kilconquhar Loch on 4th Apr, 18 at Newton Sandpit on 5th, 24 at Loch Gelly on 6th, 22 at Annsmuir on 11th and 20 at Mountcastle on 13th. Low numbers continued to pass through many of these sites but early May produced 200 at Angle Park on 1st and 150 at Kilconquhar Loch on 2nd. Smaller numbers were seen at Goat Quarry, Leslie, Balbeggie Pond and Glenrothes.

Departing birds were noted from 13th Aug when ten flew west at Central Park, Cowdenbeath, then 52SW/1hr at Elie Ness on 28th Aug and 1SW at Dalgety Bay on 29th Aug. Sixty were at Kilconquhar Loch on 24th Aug with 23 trapped and ringed in the night roost there on 29th Aug. Cocklemill Burn still held 30 birds on 31st Aug. September produced the last handful of records with six at Easter Kilwhiss on 2nd, 100 at Rossie Bog on 6th and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs hosting 22 on 15th with the final bird there on 19th.



King Eider
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Hooded Merganser
© Willie McBay



Little Egret
© Willie Irvine



Common Buzzard
© Willie McBay

Common Coot
© Iain MacDonald



Common Crane
© John Anderson

Sanderling
© Willie McBay



Pectoral Sandpiper
© Tom Moodie



Lesser Yellowlegs
© John Nadin

Glaucous Gull
© John Anderson



Iceland Gull
© Willie McBay

Common Wood Pigeon

© Willie McBay



Barn Owl

© Willie Irvine

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Abundant breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: A pair raised two broods in a garage at Kilmany Station and three pairs nested in buildings at Newton Sandpit. Six pairs were successful at Windyhill Farm. Nine young fledged from two broods at Kincaig Point. Nests both containing two eggs were noted at Kingbarns and Belliston. A pair raised a brood of four in the guardroom at Leuchars Airfield. Two nests were found in the toilet block on Inchcolm. Other nest sites included Woodlea Farm (8AON), Valleyfield (2AON), West Saline (10AON), Drumdreel (1AON), Formonthills (1AON), Thornton near Balmerino (4AON) and 12 adults visited occupied nests at Logie. Nest building was noted at Cluny Clays and Leslie with adults seen gathering mud.

The first back was nearly three weeks earlier than in 2007 with one at Birnie Loch on 18th Mar increasing to five there the following day. The only other March record was a single at Cellardyke on 29th. Numbers were slow to build up in April with 1-6 birds seen at 29 widely distributed locations. Some sites produced double-figure counts including 18 at Kilconquhar Loch and ten at Kilmany both on 23rd, 15 at Loch Gelly on 27th and 30 at Lochore Meadows on 30th. Report of low numbers continued into May although at Kilconquhar Loch there were 50 birds on 2nd rapidly increasing to 400 by 9th (Mike Ramage). North Quarter held at least ten on 11th and 20 at Leuchars Airfield on 14th.

By late June juveniles were out and flying with reports from Peacehill, Norman's Law, Kedlock and Windyhill Farm. Flocks were beginning to accumulate with 70 at Kilconquhar Loch on 27th Jul, 30+ at Goosepools on 28th Jul, 25 at West Saline on 1st Aug and 60 at Leuchars Airfield on 2nd Aug. The push southwards began in earnest in mid August with 700 gathering at Kilconquhar Loch on 12th leaving only 250 there two days later. Visible migration counters recorded 208W/15 minutes at Dalgety Bay on 13th, 334W/1 hour at Elie Ness on 28th and 408W/2.5 hours on 29th. Passage was also noted at Leuchars Airfield with 70 on 18th Aug, 190 in four groups on 26th Aug and 100 on 3rd Sep. At Lochhead Farm 162 birds were seen going to roost in a maize crop on 25th Aug with 97 there on 31st Aug, then 50 on 1st Sep and 52 on 11th Sep. A **hybrid Barn Swallow x Common House Martin** was amongst 76 birds trapped and ringed in a 500 strong roost in the Kilconquhar Loch reedbeds on 29th Aug. At Goosepools 80 flew south on 10th Sep, 250 gathered on telephone wires before migrating at Newton Sandpit on 15th Sep when 120 flew SW in ten minutes at West Saline. On the coast there were 40SW/2.5 hours at Kincaig Point on 19th Sep, 820SSW/2 hours at Elie Ness and 58W/2 hours at Kinghorn all on 21st. Some reasonable sized flocks were still feeding at inland locations such as 30 at Lindores Loch on 23rd, 20 between Lindifferon and Ferniemill on 24th, 50 at Leuchars Airfield also on 24th, 46 at Letham on 28th and 25 at Cuparmuir on 30th. The last large flock of 72 was counted at Kincaig Point on 8th Oct. Up to six birds were at many sites during October including Anstruther, Dalgety Bay, Tentsmuir, Kilconquhar Loch, Loch Gelly, Cullaloe, Guardbridge, Kirkcaldy, Seafield, Birnie Loch, Rossie Bog and Lochore

Meadows. November saw birds at Fife Ness (1), Valleyfield (2) and Lochore Meadows (2) all on 2nd, two at Kilrenny on 4th, singles at Guardbridge on 10th, Elie Ness on 12th, Fife Ness on 13th and a juvenile feeding over the rooftops at West Wemyss on 15th.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	259	7.40
2007	48	326	6.77
2008	46	336	7.30

Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber data species.

Breeding: Nest building got underway quickly with one pair at Valleyfield started by 27th Apr and three repairing old nests in Cupar on 28th Apr. During May nest building/repairing was noted at Cellardyke, Tayport, Upper Largo, Balcomie and Kedlock. Occupied nests were reported from Woodhead Street, Valleyfield (6AON), West Saline (4AON), Springfield (1AON), Tarvit Hill (1AON), Balmullo (8+AON), Maryknowe, Gauldry (18+AON), Cupar (8AON), Lathrisk (1AON), Ayton (2AON), Dunshalt (4+AON), Star (1AON), Markinch (1AON), Kilmarny (1AON), Lundin Links (1AON), Eden Court, Cupar (1AON). Cellardyke held at least 13AON with three broods fledging from nests on one house. Four nests were at Drumdreel with three containing young on 21st Jul. Eight nests were still occupied at Gauldry post office on 29th Aug.

Arrival was one week earlier than in 2007 with single birds at Loch Gelly on 6th Apr and at Dalgety Bay on 7th Apr. It went quiet until 18th when one was at Kilconquhar Loch and two at Valleyfield followed by seven at Dura Den on 20th and two at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 21st. The last week of April produced one at Drumoig and Kilmarny both on 26th, one at Lindores on 27th, two at Kilrenny and one at Saline all on 28th, three at Glenduckie on 29th and one at Newton Sandpit on 30th. Small numbers (up to four) were reported throughout May at 19 widely dispersed sites but a flock of 12 was at Tayport Pond on 7th. Kilconquhar Loch was the venue for bigger flocks with 20 on 2nd, 50 on 9th and 80 on 26th.

Post-breeding counts started with 11 at Dalgety Bay on 23rd Jul although mid-August saw concentrations of 120 at Kilconquhar Loch on 14th, 50 there on 21st and 70 on 31st. Cellardyke produced the years largest flock with 250+ there on 15th (Dave & Pauline Clugston). On 19th Kincaig Point hosted 60 and at least 30 remained in Gauldry on 29th. Numbers dwindled in September with at least 20 at Leuchars Airfield on 3rd, 25 at Markinch on 8th; the last 12 at Gauldry on 12th and 48 flew south at Elie Ness on 20th. Wormit Pond, Birnie Loch, Cupar, Lindores Loch, Dalgety Bay, Tentsmuir, Newport, Newton Sandpit, Damhead of Torr and Letham saw between 1-9 birds during the month. Also a **hybrid Barn Swallow x Common House Martin** was trapped and ringed at Kilconquhar Loch on 12th Sep.

October saw mainly coastal stragglers with eight at Kincaig Point on 8th, 15 at Dalgety Bay on 17th and ten at Seafield on 25th. Inland, four were at Central Park, Cowdenbeath on 4th and the last of the year lingered at Lochore Meadows on 29th.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	58	1.71
2007	48	80	1.70
2008	46	78	1.70

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

Abundant breeding resident.

Breeding: The first sign of nesting behaviour was on 19th Mar when a pair at Mountcastle was recorded collecting nest material. A nest was found at West Quarry Braes on 17th Apr with a possible nest at the old railway line at Newport on 10th May. Adults were noted collecting food at Lochore Meadows on 11th May and at Balgeddie on 2nd Jun. Valleyfield Woods held two nests, one was predated but the other produced ten young. Fledged young were seen at Glenrothes (1) on 25th May, Mountcastle (4) on 6th Jun, Kilconquhar Loch (4) on 8th Jun with another eight there on 15th Jun and Kedlock (4) on 12th Jun. Also two broods were seen in Cupar on 14th Jun. Other territories recorded included one at West Saline and three between Saline Shaw and Kitchen Green. Probable breeding pairs were noted at nine other sites.

In the early winter, birds were reported from 26 locations mainly in parties of 1-9 individuals. The largest flock was of 21 at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs in January (Tony Wilson) with other notable groups of 15 at Saline on 2nd Feb, 12 at Kirkcaldy on 15th Jan and at Guardbridge on 4th Feb, 11 at Lochore Meadows on 6th Feb and ten by the River Eden at Cupar on 8th Jan.

Later in the year saw a huge increase in reports with many large flocks. The biggest flock of the year was an impressive 34 at Goosepools on 14th Oct (Mike Ramage) with 28 at Reres Wood on 17th Sep (Ranald Strachan). Other sites that held greater than ten birds during July to December included Devilla Forest (12), Buckhaven (18), Saline GC (15), Kilminning (18), Crombie Point (19), Crossford (18), Earlseat (10), Newport (12), Guarbridge (10), Moor Loch (12), Kilconquhar Loch (16), Letham (15), Keils Den (18), Fife Ness (18), Denburn Wood (12), Kinraig Point (14), near Newport jetty (16), near Balbougie (10), Dalgety Bay (14), Valleyfiels Woods (11), Ladybank Woods (14), Pitcairn (12+), Newtown of Falkland (17), St Ninians Quarry (10), St Andrews (14), Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (18) and Anstruther (15). Smaller flocks were noted at 21 other locations many at garden feeders. Unusually high numbers were recorded in the Fife Ness area in early November with ten at Kilminning and 18 at Fife Ness on 5th and 12 at Denburn Wood, at least nine at Balcomie and five still at Kilminning all on 7th.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	21	11	2	0	2	12	8	12	5	10	6	18

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	13	0.38
2007	48	8	0.17
2008	46	26	0.57

* Pallas's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*) (25)

Rare autumn passage migrant.

Following two blank years, this stunning warbler made a welcome return to Fife shores. A single bird was reported at Kilminning on 8th Nov (Brian Allan / Ken Shaw) and was seen by a handful of lucky observers.

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Total		1	1	0	4	3	2	0	0	1

* Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Scarce autumn passage migrant.

No return yet to the halcyon days of 2003 and 2005. Only two records this year with the first being at Priory Park, Pittenweem on 27th Sep (Simon Hayhow). The other record was from Kilminning on 8th Nov (Fiona Butler & Mike Walton).

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	4	1	2	10	1	16	3	2	2

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Occasionally winters.

Breeding: Only one confirmed record of breeding success was when a juvenile was seen with an adult at Rossie Bog on 12th Jun. Four birds were present at Approach Wood on 18th Jun where three were singing and one was noted carrying food. At Valleyfield Woods during the summer months a nest was found with eggs ready for hatching but unfortunately they were predated. AOT were reported from Peppermill Dam (1) on 22nd Mar, Bath (3) on 25th Apr, Blackadder Wood (1) on 28th Apr and Moor Loch (4) on 31st May.

For the second year in succession there were no reports of individuals of this species attempting to over-winter.

The first returning migrant was at Peppermill Dam on 22nd Mar and was followed with one at Devilla Forest on 23rd Mar and three seen there on 25th Mar. A single was at Fife Ness Muir on 28th Mar with singing birds at Lindores Loch (1), Morton Lochs (2+), Pitcorthie (1) and Saline (1) all on 31st Mar. In April, single singing birds were at Guardbridge (1st and 6th), Valleyfield Woods (1st), Angle Park (4th), Glenrothes (5th), Tarvit Ponds (5th) and Cullaloe (6th). There were two at Fife Ness on 4th Apr, two at Dalgety Bay on 6th Apr, one at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 7th Apr and three at Cullaloe on 10th Apr where one was trapped and ringed. At Morton Lochs up to two birds were singing throughout April and May with three singing on 11th May. Similarly in the Newport area and Tentsmuir Forest up to two singing birds were present from April until the end of June and the beginning of July respectively. Elsewhere in April, single singing birds were present at Glenrothes (11th), Heggies Muir (11th), Dura Den (13th), Falkland (13th), Ceres Road, Cupar (14th), Hill of Tarvit (14th), Moor Road, Cupar (14th), Gauldry (14th), Aberdour (16th), Carlingnose Point

(16th), Dalgety Bay (16th), Lundin Wood (16th), and North Queensferry (16th). Two songsters were at Ladybank on 11th Apr with two others at Heatherhall on 13th Apr. At Approach Wood on 17th Apr, seven birds were present with six singing. Further singing singles were reported from Kilconquhar Loch (17th and 20th Apr), Kilrenny (18th Apr), Balcarres Den (19th Apr), Crawford Priory (19th Apr) and Cupar Mill Damside (20th Apr). Eight were at Lindores on 20th Apr, with seven in song while three were at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, five singing at Golden Hill, one singing at both Kilmany and Red Myre, all on 21st Apr. The last week in April saw mainly single singing birds reported from Balchrystie, Balcormo, Keils Den, Kilrenny, Kinloss House, Angle Park, Fife Ness Muir (one trapped and ringed), Birnie Loch, Carlingnose Point, Glassarts, Anstruther, Fetterdale, Damhead of Torr, Glenrothes Town Park, and Lochore Meadows. During this period five were singing at Glenduckie on 29th Apr. In May, singles were at Devon Common (2nd), Rossie Bog (2nd), Calaisburn (3rd), Craigluscar (4th), Fife Ness (5th), Hill of Tarvit (8th), Lindores Loch (9th), Kinraig Hill (11th) and Lochore Meadows (11th). A female was trapped and ringed at Fife Ness on 11th with two at both Birnie/Gaddon Lochs and Port Laing on 12th. Singles were at Kilrenny (12th), North Queensferry (12th) and Anstruther (13th) with four singing at Cullaloe (13th). Other singles were at Wilderness (14th), east of Dalgety Bay (16th), Nether Bouprie Farm (16th), Pleasants Farm (16th), Buddo Rock (17th), Norman's Law (20th), Kilconquhar Loch (23rd), Fife Ness Muir (25th), Dreelside (26th), Pitcorthie (30th) and Harperleas (31st). Two were at Fife Ness on the 30th with two singing at Maspie Den also on 31st.

June through to August produced a mixture of singing and non-singing records with the majority relating to single birds. These records from came from the following locations: Dalgety Bay, Glassarts, Pitmedden, Kippo Plantation, Tarvit Hill, Lindores, Cupar, Annsmuir, Kilconquhar Loch, Lathrisk, Cullaloe, North Queensferry, St Margaret's Marsh, Glenduckie, Balbirnie, Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Wemyss Moss, Maspie Den, Pitcairn Centre, Cairngreen, Formonthills, Fife Ness Muir, Rossie Bog, Clockmadron and Mountcastle. The only multiple records from this period were two singing at Pitmedden on 4th Jun, four singing at Lindores on 8th Jun, two singing at Annsmuir on 10th Jun, two singing at Kilconquhar Loch on 15th Jun, at least three at Cullaloe on 15th Jun, four at Approach Wood on 18th Jun, at least three at Formonthills on 29th Jun and two singing at Maspie Den on 2nd Jul. Also eight were singing at Valleyfield Woods with five singing at Devilla Forest at unspecified times during the summer months.

All of the records from the autumn were of single birds with the first at Fincraigs on 12th Sep. This was followed with other singles at Newport on 14th Sep, Fife Ness Muir on 16th Sep, Birnie Lochs on 19th and 22nd Sep, Morton Lochs on 22nd Sep, Bath Pool on 28th Sep and Mountcastle on 28th Sep. In October, one was in an Anstruther garden on 1st with one in a garden in Buckhaven on 2nd, where it remained in partial song for two days. One was heard calling at Pitreavie industrial estate on 3rd Oct with singles at Boarhills on 5th Oct, Longannet and West Grange, both on 8th Oct and at Tayport Pond on 1st Nov. The last record of the year was of one in a garden in Anstruther with the bird showing characteristics of the northern race *abietinus*.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	9	0.26
2007	48	21	0.45
2008	46	32	0.70

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

Abundant breeding summer visitor and common passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: There were many reports of singing birds from all over the county, but very few reports of breeding success for this locally abundant species. Confirmed breeding came from West Quarry Braes where two pairs and a brood of six were ringed on 12th Jun. At Harperleas Reservoir there was one adult and one juv on 23rd Jun and single juvs were noted at Damhead of Torr on 31st Jul, Cupar on 21st Aug and Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 21st and 22nd Aug. AOT were reported from Comrie Colliery/Bickramside (16) and Piperpool Moss ((9) on 1st Jun and in the summer months from Devilla Forest (10), Valleyfield Woods (3), West Saline area (23) and Woodlea Farm area (12). At Mountcastle on 5th May, seven birds were present, with four singing and one nest building. A lined nest was discovered at St Margaret's Marsh on 12th May with three birds present.

The first two spring migrants were in Valleyfield Woods on 16th Mar and these were followed some time later with a single at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 6th Apr. Single singing birds were at Morton Lochs on 9th Apr and at Innerleith on 13th Apr. Singles were then reported from Earls Hall Muir (16th Apr), Craigmear (20th Apr), Harperleas Reservoir (20th Apr) and Kilrenny (20th Apr). Three were singing in the central section of Tentsmuir Forest (20th Apr) with six at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (21st Apr), nine singing at Grange Hill (21st Apr), three singing at Morton Lochs (21st Apr) and singles singing at Red Myre (21st Apr) and Damhead of Torr (22nd Apr). Two were at Goosepools, several singing at Keils Den, a single at Kilmany and two singing at Springfield Muir, all on 22nd Apr. Six were at Angle Park on 23rd Apr and three, out of four present, were trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on the same day. Throughout the last week in April the majority of birds reported were in song and these came from Tarvit Ponds (1), Keils Den (14), Kilrenny (8), Carlingnose Point (1), Dempster Place, Dunfermline (2), Ladybank (2), Morton (2), Saline (1), Drumoig (1), Fife Ness (1), Formonthills (1), Pitcairn (1), Braefoot (1), Cluny Clays (9), Dalgety Bay (1), Fetterdale (4), Kilconquhar Loch (4), Tentsmuir Forest (7), Cupar (3), Pitreavie Golf Course (2), Craigtoun (6+), Goosepools (8), Valleyfield Lagoons (10) and Lochore Meadows (2). A good count of 37 was noted at Glenduckie on 29th Apr with 34 in song. Singing birds continued to be reported into May with four at Angle Park (1st), three at Townhill Loch (1st), 20 at Lucklaw Wood (2nd), 22 at Rossie Bog (2nd), 17 at Willie's Wood (2nd), one at Linkwood Pond (3rd), one at Ballo Reservoir (5th), four at Craigmear (5th), one at Wester Glassie (5th), two at Damhead of Torr (6th), one at Lindores Loch (9th) and one in the Newport area (10th). On 3rd May, 27 were in the Kingseat area with four at Craigluscar on 4th May, seven at Mountcastle on 5th May and a single at Pitscottie Road, Cupar on 7th May. May continued with eight in the

Newport area (10th), two at Morton Lochs (11th), two at North Queensferry (12th), two at Port Laing (12th), seven at Cullaloe (13th), three at Sheardrum Farm (14th) and singles at Downans Plantation, Dalgety Bay and Nether Boupprie Farm (all 16th). There were four at Pleasants Farm (16th), one singing at the north side of Newport (17th), two singing at West Quarry Braes (17th), at least four at Morton Lochs (18th), seven at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (27th), two singing at Black Loch (27th), one at Fife Ness Muir (29th), three singing at West Quarry Braes (30th), 13 at Harperleas Reservoir (31st), four singing at Townhill Loch (31st) and several singing at Tentsmuir (31st).

During the summer months singing birds became less evident as they busied themselves with raising young. At the start of June, one was singing at Guardbridge on 1st with two singing at Glen Vale on 4th. There were at least five at Kippo Moor (5th) with one at Kippo Plantation (5th), two at Belliston (7th), four singing on the Blairhall cycle path (8th), four at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (9th), four at Linkwood Pond (16th), one at North Queensferry (18th), two at Port Laing (18th), five at St Margaret's Marsh (18th), one singing at Drumoig (21st), one in the Newport area (28th) and three singing at Morton Lochs (29th). July saw ten at the north end of Tentsmuir (5th) with two at Townhill Loch (7th), singing singles at Formonthills (11th) and Monimail (13th), two at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (14th) and singles at Gauldry (14th), Peacehill (14th) and Canmore Grove, Dunfermline (17th). There were six at Lindores Loch (17th) with one female trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir (19th), two at Caldwell's Farm (21st), one at Elie Ness (21st), six at Rossie Bog (23rd), one singing at Morton Lochs (27th) and four at Kincaig Hill (28th). There were six at Valleyfield Lagoons on 1st Aug with one in a garden in Anstruther on 2nd Aug, 14 at Mountcastle on 8th Aug, seven at Kilconquhar Loch on 10th Aug, six at Kincaig Hill on 11th Aug with one there on 16th Aug and 16 there on 19th Aug. Singles were at at Formonthills and Kincaig Hill (both 16th Aug) with one at Damhead of Torr (17th Aug) and six at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (18th Aug). At Fife Ness Muir on 21st Aug, at least six birds were present with four being trapped and ringed. Also on 21st Aug, two were at Linkwood Pond while on 22nd Aug, at least three were at Fife Ness Muir with one being trapped and ringed. Five were at Mountcastle (23rd Aug) with two at Rossie Bog (22nd Aug), three at Guardbridge (23rd Aug) and two at Kilconquhar Loch (24th Aug). At Fife Ness Muir, a minimum of three was present on 26th Aug, with one being trapped and ringed. At Kilconquhar Loch on 29th Aug, at least 15 birds were present with six being trapped and ringed. The last two summer records were of two at Dalgety Bay and one at Earlsall Muir, both on 30th Aug. In autumn, one was at Mountcastle (2nd Sep) with four at Anstruther (8th Sep), two trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir (8th Sep), five at Valleyfield Lagoons (12th Sep) and singles at Tarvit Ponds and Wormiston cottages, both on 17th Sep. At Fife Ness Muir two were trapped and ringed on 19th Sep with one at Elie Ness on 21st Sep and two at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 22nd Sep. The remaining reports were all of singles with individual birds at Dalgety Bay on 27th and 29th Sep. The last record of the year was one at Pathhead on 5th Oct.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	171	4.89
2007	48	201	4.20
2008	46	214	4.65

Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Regularly winters in small numbers.

Breeding: Again there were few confirmed breeding records this year within the county. At Morton Lochs one pair was noted with a brood on 25th May. Also at Formonthills one male was observed feeding two juvs while one juv was at Kilconquhar Loch, both on 2nd Aug. During the summer there were two nests robbed in Valleyfield Woods while two others produced three and four young respectively. AOT were reported from Bluebell Wood, Kincardine (1) on 28th Apr, Valleyfield Woods (5) on 3rd May, Moor Loch (1) on 31st May and Kitchen Green on 1st Jun. Also there were 8AOT at Devilla Forest and 3AOT at Woodlea Farm area during the summer months. A singing bird was at Damhead of Torr on 14th May and probably nested, being seen until 20th Jul.

The number of birds that were reported outwith the "normal" arrival and departure dates for the species showed at least 11 individuals almost certainly over-wintering. Birds normally start to arrive during the first two weeks in April and have departed by the end of November. This year there were three records in March with two of them towards the end of the month and might be considered as early migrants. Similarly there were two records in early December, which could possibly be regarded as late migrants. Assuming these individuals were not migrants then the potential number of recorded over-winterers could be as high as fifteen.

At the start of the year a male was in a garden in Cairneyhill on 3rd Jan while another male was at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 5th and 6th Jan. Also on 6th Jan a male was at Freuchie and was present at feeders all month. Another unspecified bird was present on the feeders at the same location on 2nd Feb. A female was at Balsusney Road, Kirkcaldy on 27th Jan and remained regular in the garden throughout February and March. At Whinfield Place, Newport a bird was on sunflower seed feeders on 16th Feb while a female was there on 24th Feb. Again at feeders, a male was at William Street, Kirkcaldy on 10th Mar. Later in March, and possibly early returning migrants, one female was in a garden in Cupar on 23rd while another bird was at Dalgety Bay on 31st.

The first arrivals in spring were singles at Morton Lochs on 9th Apr and at Kilmany Station on 11th Apr. These were followed by one singing at Tarvit Ponds on 12th Apr with a male there on 17th Apr. Singing birds were reported throughout April till July from all over the region. In April records included two singing at Hospital Mill (19th) with singles, predominantly males, at Morton Lochs (20th), Valleyfield Lagoons (20th), Keils Den (22nd and 26th), the caravan site at Fife Ness (23rd), Fife Ness Muir (23rd), Tarvit Ponds (25th) and Dalgety Bay (26th). At Keils Den, two males and a female were present on 26th Apr with two singing at Kilconquhar Loch, and one singing at Mugdrum Estate, both on 27th Apr. Tarvit Ponds held one male and two females on 28th Apr with two at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs also on 28th Apr. Remaining April records were two singing at Glenduckie (29th), one singing at Glenrothes (29th), one singing at Kilconquhar Loch (29th), two males and a female at Tarvit Ponds (29th), one at Keils Den (30th), a male at Tarvit Ponds (30th Apr) and one at West Quarry Braes (30th). In May one was singing at Kilrenny Common (1st) with two singing at Balcaskie (2nd), two singing at Rossie Bog (2nd), two singing at Hill of Tarvit (3rd) and two males and a

female again at Tarvit Ponds (3rd). Two were at Dalgety Bay on 4th with one singing at Cambo (5th), one singing at West Muircambus (5th), three at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (6th), one at Morton Lochs (6th), two singing at Birnie Loch (9th) and two at Kilrenny Common (9th). Records in May continued with three singing in the Newport area (10th), one singing at Lower Kenly (12th), a female at North Queensferry (12th), three singing at Tayfield (13th), two singing at Loch Gelly (16th), two males at Pleasants Farm (16th), one in Newport area (17th), a male at West Quarry Braes (17th), two singing at Balmerino Wood (18th), one singing at Morton Lochs (18th), two singing at Kilconquhar Loch (23rd), one singing at Cults Hill (24th) and one at Kilrenny Common. Six birds were at Hospital Mill, including five in song, on 26th May while single songsters were at Kilconquhar Loch and West Quarry Braes on 30th May.

The summer months saw records of multiple birds from Mountcastle (2 singing) on 6th Jun, Tarvit Hill (2 singing) on 7th Jun, Lindores (2 singing) on 8th Jun, Cupar (2 singing) on 9th Jun, Rankeilour (3) on 16th Jun, Mountcastle (5 singing) on 18th Jun and Rossie Bog (2) on 23rd Jul. Remaining reports were of predominately single singing birds and came from Norman's Law on 1st Jun, Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 2nd Jun, Kippo Moor on 5th Jun, Tarvit Hill on 7th Jun, West Quarry Braes on 11th Jun, Rossie Bog on 12th Jun, Golden Hill on 13th Jun, Cupar on 14th Jun, Lathrisk on 15th Jun, Linkswood Pond on 16th Jun, Morton Lochs on 20th Jun and 29th Jun, Dalgety Bay on 25th Jun and Kilconquhar Loch on 29th Jun. These continued into July from Cairngreen on 4th, Tayfield on 4th and 18th, Townhill Loch on 7th, Birnie Loch on 10th, Glenrothes on 11th, Monimail on 13th, Mountcastle on 20th and Kinghorn Loch on 27th. In August, singles were at Mountcastle on 8th, Balbeggie Pond on 30th while one was trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on 22nd.

Autumn started with a male at Fife Ness on 8th Sep followed by a male at Crombie Point on 9th Sep and two at Balcomie on 13th Sep. There were then singles at Damhead of Torr on 14th Sep, Fife Ness Muir on 17th Sep, and Craighead on 21st Sep. Two birds were trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on both 22nd and 23rd Sep while two were at Kilrenny Common on 24th Sep. Surprisingly there were no records in October. November saw one at Whinfield Place, Newport on 1st with three being trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on 6th. Single females were present at both Kilminning and Denburn Wood on 7th Nov with one at Boarhills on 8th Nov, a male at Robertson Road, Cupar on 21st Nov and a female feeding on rowans at Kilmany Station on both 22nd and 23rd Nov.

At the start of December singles were at Dalgety Bay on 1st and at Dunfermline on 3rd until 7th. It is impossible to say whether that these individuals were late migrants or birds intending to over-winter. More certain over-winterers were a female at Dalgety Bay on 22nd Dec, a male at Cant Crescent, Ceres on 26th Dec, a male at Hilleraye on 27th Dec and a male at Anstruther with the date given as late December.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	28	0.82
2007	48	36	0.77
2008	46	44	0.96

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, most in autumn.

Breeding: No positive breeding records this year although a report of a destroyed nest in Valleyfield Woods on 19th May was received. The only other breeding records were of 3AOT at Kitchen Green on 1st Jun and 4AOT at Valleyfield Woods during the summer months.

The first returning bird was noted from the Eden Estuary Hide at Guardbridge on 2nd May, which was 17 days later than last years earliest. Single singing birds were present at Kilconquhar Loch (3rd May and 4th May), Kilrenny Common (3rd May) and Devilla Forest (5th May) with three singing there 4th May. Singles were reported throughout May, from Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (6th), Kilmany (6th), Kilrenny Common (9th and 23rd), Cullaloe (13th) and at Coaltown of Balgonie (19th). Singing singles were at Lochore Meadows (11th), Damhead of Torr (13th), Mountcastle (23rd), Bowhouse (24th), Hospital Mill (26th), Craigluscar (27th) and Formonthills (29th). Also in May two were at Birnie Loch on 10th with three near Norman's Law on 20th. At Fife Ness Muir one was trapped and ringed on 29th May and was still present the next day. The summer months saw one singing at Tarvit Hill on 7th Jun, three singing at Lindores on 8th Jun with singles at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 9th Jun, Annsmuir on 10th Jun and Golden Hill on 13th Jun. There were two singing at Lathrisk on 15th Jun with six at Approach Wood on 18th Jun, two singing at Glenduckie on 20th Jun. July saw singles at Cairngreen on 4th, at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 10th and Cupar on 22nd. Three were trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on 21st Aug with a further two on 22nd Aug. In September two were present at Fife Ness Muir on 4th with one being trapped and ringed. A further bird was trapped and ringed there on 8th Sep with another in a garden in Anstruther the same day. Two were at Balcomie on 13th Sep with one still present the next day. Two were trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on 14th Sep with another on 16th Sep. Single birds were re-trapped at Fife Ness Muir on 17th Sep and 19th Sep. Further singles were reported from Kinraig Head on 14th Sep, Balcomie on 17th Sep, Wormiston Cottages on 17th Sep and finally at Craighead on 21st Sep.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	11	0.32
2007	48	12	0.26
2008	46	18	0.39

* Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) (55)

Very scarce autumn passage migrant.

This large skulking warbler has lived up to its status in recent years, becoming very scarce. After a blank year last year, there were four records received that probably involved at least three birds. On 8th Sep a juvenile was trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir (Mark Oksien) with two birds being reported behind the caravans below Fife Ness Muir on 14th Sep (Mark Oksien). Further singles were reported at Fife Ness Muir on 15th and 17th Sep (Mark Oksien) but these could easily relate to the same individuals.

* **Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia curruca*)

Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

A better showing of this warbler than last year but numbers at Fife Ness Muir can inevitably be subject to some duplication due to high observer cover and birds lingering to feed. All records received are given in the species account.

Unlike last year when no spring records were received, this year produced a welcome return. The first arrival was noted at Kilrenny on 24th Apr and remained there until 26th Apr. This was followed with a single at Fife Ness on 5th May and a male at North Queensferry on 12th May. The majority of spring records came from the Fife Ness area during the last week in May. At Fife Ness Muir a male was reported on 24th and also on 25th. Two records from Fife Ness Muir on 29th May involved an individual that was trapped and ringed and another reported as singing. Whether these relate to one or two individuals is not clear. A further record from Fife Ness Muir on 30th involved a singing individual. Meanwhile at West Quarry Braes a single was present on 30th May. A single was at Fife Ness Muir on 11th Jun while a male was at North Queensferry on 18th Jun.

A single was present at Kincaig Hill on 30th Aug while another was beside the caravans below the path to Fife Ness Muir on 14th Sep. At Fife Ness Muir two birds were trapped and ringed on 15th Sep with another two being trapped and ringed on 16th along with another unringed individual being present. A further two birds were trapped and ringed there on 17th Sep. Two birds were at Kilminning on 25th Sep with a single at Fife Ness on 28th Sep.

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Breeding was confirmed at West Quarry Braes where one pair with two juvs were trapped and ringed on 17th May and a pair and three juvs were noted on 11th Jun. Also on 11th Jun, one pair with two juvs was present at Fife Ness Muir. At Kincaig Hill a brood of four fledged on 28th Jul with another brood of four fledged on 19th Aug. These two late broods were seen as being indicative of a poor breeding season in the area. Seven adults were present at Balmullo on 18th Jun and this included a pair with three juvs while at Star there were five birds on 20th Jun, which included one adult feeding a juvenile. At Coble Shore three fledged young were seen on 1st Aug. Adults were seen carrying food for young at Pitmedden on 4th Jun, Mountcastle on 6th Jun, St Monans on 9th Jun, Rossie Bog on 12th Jun and at Milldeans on 27th Jun. AOT were reported from Gallowridge (2) on 16th May, Inch Farm (1) on 27th May, Comrie Colliery (8) on 1st Jun, Piperpool Moss (4) on 1st Jun, Windyhill Farm (3) on 27th Jun and at Longanet (1) and Woodlea Farm area (9) during the summer months.

The first returning summer migrant was at Fife Ness on 26th Apr with two there the next day. These were followed with two singing at Glenduckie and one at Kilrenny all on 29th Apr. The main arrival started in the first week of May with singles at Craigluscar and Culross on 1st. Also on 1st, two were singing at Angle Park with two singing at Dunfermline landfill site and two at Pitenweem. Singles

were at Balcaskie (2nd May), Carriston Cotton (2nd May), Hawkcraig Point (2nd May) with four singing at Rossie Bog (2nd May), three singing at Devilla Forest (3rd May), three singing at Longannet (3rd May) and three at Craigluscar (3rd May). Two were singing at Leslie (5th May) and singles singing at Maspie Den and West Muircambus (both 5th May) and two at West Wemyss (5th May). Records continued with singles at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (6th May), Kilmany (6th May), Damhead of Torr (7th May) and Lower Largo (7th May). At Kincaig Hill nine pairs were present on 8th May with two at Thornton Pool on the same date and singles at Balcomie on 9th May and at Newport (near Tay Road Bridge) on 10th May. There were two singing at Fife Ness (11th May), one singing at Guardbridge Mill Pond (11th May), three at Kincaple (11th May), one singing at Lochore Meadows (11th May), three at St Margaret's Marsh (12th May) and singles at Wormit pond (12th May) and Cullaloe (13th May). Two were at the south side of Inverdovot (13th May), two at Pleasants Farm (16th May), one in the Newport area (17th May), one singing at Balmerino Wood (18th May), one singing at Thornton, Balmerino (18th May) and three near Norman's Law (20th May). Singles were singing at Bowhouse (24th May) and Cults Mill (26th May) with a male at Fife Ness (29th May), one at Kilminning (29th May), three singing at Red Myre (29th May), two singing at Woodmill (29th May) and two singing at Woodmill (29th May). One was singing at Balbuthie (30th May), one at Balcomie (30th May), two at Fife Ness (30th May), one at Leuchars Airfield (30th May), one singing at Wormiston (30th May), three singing at Ballo Reservoir (31st May), seven singing at Cluny Clays (31st May) and one singing at Cuparmuir (31st May).

Records during the first week in June were mainly of single birds and came from Glenrothes Hospital (1st), Kinghorn Loch (1st), Loch Gelly (2nd), Pitmedden (4th), Kippo Muir (5th), Kippo Plantation (5th), Belliston (7th) and South Baldutho (7th). There were two at Lundin Links (4th), two at Mountcastle (6th), two singing at Cupar Wards (7th) and two singing at Tarvit Hill (7th). Continuing on in June, four were singing on the Blairhall cycle path (8th), with two at Lindores (8th), one at Seafield (8th), one singing at Cupar (9th), one at St Monans (9th), 11 at Rossie Bog (12th), five at Golden Hill (13th), two at Red Myre (13th), eight at Lathrisk (15th) and three singing at Linkswood Pond (16th). North Queensferry held four on 18th with eight at St Margaret's Marsh (18th), four at Glenduckie (20th) and five at Star (20th). Singles were at Kippo Moor (19th), Windygates (19th) and Milldeans (27th). Two were singing at Ballo Reservoir on 2nd Jul with singles at Kippo Farm and Pittarthie Farm on 3rd Jul. One was singing at Tayport (5th Jul) with two at Leuchars railway station (7th Jul), one at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing (7th Jul), two at Townhill Loch (7th Jul), one at Monimail (7th Jul) and one singing at Gauldry (14th Jul). Elsewhere during the summer, three were singing in the West Saline area with three at Lindores Loch on 17th Jul and singles at Fife Ness Muir on 19th Jul, Tayport on 20th Jul and Kilminning entrance on 23rd Jul. Three were at Rossie Bog on 23rd Jul with one at Kincaig Hill on 16th Aug and one at Easter Kilwhiss on 22nd Aug.

Autumn records started with a single at Fife Ness Muir on 8th Sep and continued with singles at Dalgety Bay on 13th Sep, Kincaig Hill on 14th Sep and by Crail Golf Clubhouse on 17th Sep. Two were present at Fife Ness Muir on 15th Sep with one

being trapped and ringed. This individual was re-trapped at Fife Ness Muir on 17th Sep. The last two records of the year were of singles at Kincaig Hill on 19th Sep and at Craighhead on 21st Sep.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	80	2.29
2007	48	84	1.79
2008	46	81	1.76

* **Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)**

Scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Red data list species.

There were no positive breeding records but there were 2AOT at Piperpool Moss on 1st Jun and "reeling" birds were reported from the end of April through till the last week in July.

The first records this year were nine days later than last year with single birds singing at Glenduckie and Valleyfield Lagoons both on 29th Apr. In May three sang at Rossie Bog on 2nd while singles were singing at Newburgh (3rd), Cullaloe (5th), Mountcastle (5th) and Goosepools (6th). A single was present for a day at Kilrenny on 7th May with one at Thornton Pool on 8th May. A singing individual was at Lindores on 13th May with two at Kilrenny on 23rd and 24th May. Single singing birds were at Rossie Bog on 12th Jun, Formonthills on 29th Jun and again at Rossie Bog on 23rd Jul.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Breeding: Not many breeding records, with the first being a pair with three juvs at Valleyfield Lagoons on 13th Jul. This was followed with one juv at Kincaig Hill on 11th Aug. Despite these records, birds were reported as seeming to be scarce within both these areas. Two were at Glenduckie on 20th Jun and three were at Mouncastle on 22nd Aug with birds at both locations being seen carrying food for young. AOT were reported from Comrie Colliery / Bickramside (5) and Piperpool Moss (4) on 1st Jun with 3AOT in the Woodlea Farm area during the summer months. Two pairs were at West Quarry Braes on 30th May but no further information was received on possible breeding attempts. BBS results show a continuing substantial increase in numbers over the past couple of years.

The first returning migrant was a singing individual by the River Ore at Cluny Clays on 27th Apr. This was followed with singles at Cupar (singing) on 28th Apr, Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 29th Apr and Kilrenny on 30th Apr. Singles were at Anstruther (4th and 5th May), Craigluscar (4th May), St Mary's Road, Cupar (4th May) and Fife Ness (5th May). As is usual with this species, location in spring and early summer is most often achieved by hearing individuals singing. This year was no different and a high proportion of the records received referred to singing birds. On unspecified dates in May, two were singing at Blairhall Bing with three singing along the Blairhall cycle path. Elsewhere, two were singing at Cocklemill Burn (5th

May), nine singing at Mountcastle (5th May), three singing at Kilmany (6th May), two singing at Kilconquhar Loch (7th May) and four at Kilrenny (7th May). Other May records were two singing at Lower Largo (7th), one singing at Bawbee Bridge (8th), four at Fife Ness (8th), one at Morton Lochs (8th), four singing at Birnie Lochs (9th), one singing at Lindores Loch (9th) and seven singing at Loch Gelly (9th). Three were singing at Fife Ness (11th May), two singing at Kincaig Hill (11th May), one singing at Lochore Meadows (11th May) and two were singing at Morton Lochs (11th May). Five were at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (12th May), two at St Margaret's Marsh (12th May), at least four at Cullaloe (13th May), two singing at Kilmany (17th May), one singing at West Quarry Braes (17th May) and **15 singing at Loch Gelly (18th May) the highest count of the year** (Dougie Dickson). A single was at Newton Sandpit on 19th May with singing birds at Barnyards Marsh (2) on 20th May, Bankhead Moss (2) on 23rd May, Kilconquhar Loch (5) on 23rd May, Kilmany (3) on 24th May and Goosepools (2) on 27th May. Towards the end of the month three were seen at Field of Hope, Cupar and at Fife Ness, both on 29th with two singing at Formonthills and two in the reedbed on the Eden Estuary at Leuchars Airfield on 31st May. In June singing birds were at Cupar (2) on 4th, Mountcastle (4) on 6th, Cupar Wards (6) on 7th and Kedlock (1) on 12th. Three were at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 9th Jun with a good count of 13 at Rossie Bog on 12th Jun. Singles were singing at Damhead of Torr and Kilmany on 15th Jun with two singing at both Motray Water and Linkwood Pond on 16th Jun. Two were at St Margaret's Marsh on 18th Jun with singing birds at Drumoig (1) on 21st Jun, Peacehill (3) on 28th Jun, Morton Lochs (1) on 29th Jun, Kilmany (4), Mouncastle (6) on 4th Jul and Kilmany (1) on 15th Jul. As the summer progressed the number of records of singing birds gradually decreased. Two were at Monimail on 13th Jul, with two at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 14th Jul, three at Lindores Loch on 17th Jul and three at Mountcastle on 20th Jul. Two were singing at Newton Sandpit on 21st Jul with three at Rossie Bog on 23rd Jul and three at Morton Lochs on 27th Jul. In August, one was at Bankhead Moss on 1st with one at Mountcastle on 8th and 14 at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 18th. There were nine at Kilconquhar Loch on 29th of which eight were trapped and ringed, one being a control. The last records of the year were on 8th Sep consisting of singles at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs and Fife Ness.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	13	0.38
2007	48	43	0.91
2008	46	44	0.96

Notebook: Sedge Warbler Cleughie Burn W of Kilmany

Eleven territories were held all summer in 2007 compared to this year when, after ditching operations in December 2007 destroyed reedy habitat, only 4 males were on territory in July. *A Cage*

***Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)**

Scarce autumn passage migrant, scarce in spring.

After a blank year in 2007 and only one record in 2006, this year sees a welcome increase, with five birds being recorded. The first record was in summer when a singing bird was present at Golden Loch on 1st Jun. Further records were primarily as a result of birds that were trapped and ringed. On 29th Aug an individual was trapped and ringed at Kilconquhar Loch, while singles were trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on 14th and 17th Sep. The remaining record was of a single that was present at Kilrenny on 15th and 16th Sep.

*** Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)**

Irregular winter visitor in varying numbers.

A reversal of the downward trend of the last three years, with the number of individual birds reported being estimated to be around 1500. This estimate allows for the inevitable duplication of numbers recorded from nearby localities on dates close to each other.

For completeness all records received are included in the species account.

At the start of the year all the records came from one locality. In Dunfermline, 14 were at Linburn Road on 19th Jan with six at Old Lynburn Road on 24th, 26th and 27th Jan increasing to seven at the latter site on 29th Jan.



Bohemian Waxwing © Willie McBay

By far the largest number of records came from the end of the year and started with 27 at East Baldrige Farm, Dunfermline on 31st Oct. In November ten were at Thistle Street, Dunfermline on 1st with 1W at Coaltown of Balgonie on the same date. Five showed at Easter Lathrisk with four at Victoria Terrace, Dunfermline, all on 2nd. There was a single at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (3rd), 25 at Buckhaven (3rd), 50 at Baldrige, Dunfermline (6th), one at Balcomie feeding on apples (7th), 15 at Crail (7th) and c30 at Main Street, Cairneyhill (7th), 30 at Dalgety Bay (8th), 15 at Edenside (8th) and 30 at Mitchelson Industrial Estate, Kirkcaldy (8th). Records continued with 100 at Dalgety Bay (12th Nov), nine at Douglas Drive, Dunfermline (12th Nov), 4W over Lockshaw Moss (12th Nov), 33 at Halbeath Road, Dunfermline (13th Nov), at least 50 at Horseleys Park, St Andrews (13th Nov), 130 at Moray Way North, Dalgety Bay (13th Nov) and 18 to the south of Dempster Place, Dunfermline (13th Nov). Elsewhere, there were at least 27 on the west side of Buckhaven (14th Nov), eight at Anstruther (16th Nov) with nine on the coastal path by Donibristle House, Dalgety Bay (16th Nov), six at Kilmany with Fieldfares and Redwings (16th Nov), 25 at East Baldrige Farm, Dunfermline (17th Nov), 45 to the south of Dempster Place, Dunfermline (17th Nov), 35 at Auchtermuchty (18th Nov), five at Burnside, Balmullo (18th Nov), eight at Lower Methil (18th Nov) and 32 at Burnside, Balmullo (19th Nov). At North Haugh Street, St Andrews there were 20 birds on 21st Nov including one colour-ringed in Aberdeen on 11th Nov. Remaining November records were of 76 at Whitefield Road, Dunfermline (21st), at least 50 at South Acres, Cairneyhill (22nd), 12 over the B925 Crossgates-Mossmorran road (26th), at least 40 at Admiralty Road, Rosyth (29th) and c80 between Rosyth and Inverkeithing (30th). In December a single was at Dalgety Bay on 1st with 18 at Kincardine on 2nd, four at Lower Largo on 3rd and an increase to 40 at Kincardine on 4th. **The highest count of the year was of 252 at Crossford on 7th Dec (N Woods).** Further December records were 15 at Balmullo on 15th, five at both Cairneyhill and at the west end of Valleyfield on 23rd, 55 at Gartarry Roundabout on 25th and Kincardine seeing a further increase to 50 on 30th.

Eurasian Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) (5)

Vagrant.

The elusive bird first seen in 2007 stayed into the New Year, again seen in trees and at feeders in a garden in South Road, Cupar on 1st Jan (Alan McRitchie) though not reported subsequently.

Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

Common breeding resident.

A twofold increase in the number of records submitted this year compared to 2007. Breeding: Early April saw the first signs of breeding activity with nest building recorded at Tarvit Ponds on 10th and at Heatherhall Woods on 11th. Singing birds were noted from late April at Valleyfield Woods, Kilconquhar Loch, Kilrenny, Tayfield, Tentsmuir Forest. Hill of Tarvit and Devilla Forest both held two singers. Fledged young were seen at Kilrenny on 28th May. Early June saw further nest

building, this time at Tayfield and adults were noted carrying food at Kilconquhar Loch. Five birds were seen at the latter site on 13th Jul, surely a family party. During the season other pairs were seen at Balgeddie, Approach Wood (3 birds), Tentsmuir North, Hospital Mill and Rankeilour with singles noted at 13 other sites.

In the first winter period single birds were recorded at 15 sites with four birds at Lindores, three each at Kilconquhar Loch and Rossie Bog and two at Cupar. A single bird at Braefoot showed its faithfulness to the site when it was retrapped on 17th Mar.

Late summer through to the second winter period saw birds recorded at 29 sites. Again most records concerned single birds but a peak of five again noted at Kilconquhar Loch on 28th Nov (Mike Ramage). Three birds were recorded at Rossie Bog on 23rd Jul, along track 16 in Tentsmuir Forest on 17th Aug and 13th Nov, Cullaloe on 7th Dec and Mountcastle on 8th Dec. Counts of two came from the Eden Centre at Guarbridge, Mugdrum Island, Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Logie Farm, Gilston, Mountcastle, Damside, Morendy Wood, West Wemyss and Tarvit Ponds. Two were also at Fife Ness Muir during September with one trapped and ringed there on 8th. BBS results appear to be stable over the past three years.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	9	0.26
2007	48	10	0.21
2008	46	11	0.24

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Abundant breeding resident.

Breeding: There was a fledged brood of eight at Kilconquhar Loch on 8th Jun with an adult and two juvs at Craigsanquhar and an adult with five juvs at Kedlock, both on 12th Jun. At Kippo Moor an adult and three juvs were present on 19th Jun with two juvs at Damhead of Torr on 14th Jun and eight juvs there on 29th Jul. Seven nests were reported from Damhead of Torr, with two being in woodcrete nest boxes and one in a bat box. At the north end of Wemyss Moss a brood of five was present on 12th Jul. During the summer months nesting was reported from Freuchie (one pair), Braefoot (two nests), Torry (1AON) and Valleyfield Lagoons (1AON). Also there were five nests in Valleyfield Woods and all contained eggs. AOT were reported from Saline Shaw/Dun Moss (15) on 1st Jun, West Saline area (16) and Woodlea Farm area (26). One pair was reported as nesting at Easter Kilwhisk on 11th Apr but no further information was received. BBS results were the highest since 2005.

At the start of the year singles were reported from Struan Drive, Inverkeithing (5th Jan), Kirkton Farm (15th Jan and 30th Jan), Skelpie Farm (16th Jan), Frankfield, Dalgety Bay (27th Jan) with three in the Newport area (11th Jan) and two at Balmerino (18th Jan). February brought one at Cullaloe (3rd), two at North Lodge, Monimail (5th), one in the Newport area and one at Dalgety Bay (9th), eight at Tentsmuir (10th), one at Cult Ness (14th), two at North Queensferry (14th), two at Port Laing (14th) and two at St Margaret's Marsh (14th). In spring, between 15th Mar and 10th May, five birds were reported singing in the Newport

area with up to 15 birds on 26th Apr. Elsewhere, two were singing at Hill of Tarvit (4th Apr), 17 singing at Tentsmuir on 5th Apr, four at Gauldry (15th Apr), one singing at West Quarry Braes on 17th Apr, six at Newport North (19th Apr), 23 in the central area of Tentsmuir Forest (20th Apr) and two at Fife Ness Muir (23rd Apr). May started with singles at Townhill Loch (1st), North Quarter (11th), and Cult Ness (12th) and continued with two at North Queensferry (12th), six at Port Laing (12th), 13 to the east of Dalgety Bay (16th), three at Nether Bouprie (16th), one at Pleasants Farm (16th), ten at the north side of Newport (17th), two at Balmerino (18th), 22 in the central area of Tentsmuir Forest (24th), one at Kilconquhar Loch (25th), two at Balcomie (29th), two at West Quarry Braes (30th) and six at Townhill Loch (31st).

In summer, singles were at both Kippo Plantation and Kippo Moor on 5th Jun, at Cullaloe on 15th Jun and Cult Ness on 18th Jun. There were seven each at North Queensferry, Port Laing and St Margaret's Marsh on 18th Jun with 17 in the Newport area on 28th Jun, 20 at the north end of Tentsmuir on 5th Jul, 14 at Damhead of Torr on 20th Jul, two at Nochnary Farm on 21st Jul and singles at Drumdreel Farm on 21st Jul and Kilminning entrance on 23rd Jul. August saw only two records of singles in the Newport area on 2nd and near Cullaloe on 30th. Autumn began with one singing in Tentsmuir (2nd Sep) and continued with four in the Newport area (14th Sep), two there (8th Oct), two at the south end of Tentsmuir (11th Oct), one at Drumoig (19th Oct), two at Guardbridge (1st Nov), two at Kirktonbarns (9th Nov), one at West Wemyss (9th Nov), and two at each of Clinthill, Fordell, and Dalgety Bay (11th Nov). There were five near Balbougie on 11th Nov with one at Auchtermuchty Common on 15th Nov, four at Morendy Wood on 21st Nov, two at the south end of Tentsmuir on 6th Dec, two at Dalgety Bay on 9th Dec and two at Pitcairn on 14th Dec. Five were reported at a height of 320m on East Lomond on 20th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	4	3	2	7	2	4	2	3	4	4	2	4

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	309	8.83
2007	48	409	8.53
2008	46	448	9.74

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Common breeding resident. Red data list species.

Breeding: Greatly under recorded. Nests were noted at Kilconquhar Loch where three were found in tree holes. Three nests were found in Newport. Nestlings were heard in a roof at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing on 8th May. A pair nested successfully at Damhead of Torr and another pair nested in a roof in Freuchie. Territories were recorded at West Saline (10AOT) and Woodlea Farm (2AOT). Juveniles were noted from 30th May with nine at Damhead of Torr and 50 there accompanied by 51 adults on 8th Jun. Also on 30th May, juvs were seen being fed at West Quarry Braes and

Townhill Loch. On 12th Jun, a pair with four juvs showed at Logie and four adults with eight juvs were seen at Forret Hill.

Large flock sizes were reported throughout the year. Those where at least 200 were seen included 3000 at the pig farm at Kilrenny on 18th Aug, 2000 at Kilconquhar Loch on 1st Nov, c2000 roosting on Mugdrum Island on 21st Dec, 1200 at Carnbee on 26th Oct, 900 at Dumbarrie Links on 13th Mar, 800 in the roost at Anstruther on 31st Jan, c800 at Collessie tip on 6th Feb, c800 in Abbeyview, Dunfermline on 10th Nov, 619 in the roost in a *Leylandii* hedge at Kilmany on 24th Dec, 300 at Duloch Park on 8th Mar, 400 picked through the seaweed at Balcomie beach on 5th Apr with 300 nearby at Balcomie Castle on 7th Nov, c400 at Den Walk, Buckhaven on 21st Aug, c300 at Redwells Wood on 17th Jan, c300 at Cellardyke piggery on 7th Apr, 265 at Damhead of Torr on 8th Feb (200 on 1st Jan and on 28th Nov), 200+ at Auchtermuchty on 1st Jan, c200 at Strathkinness on 23rd Jan and 200 at Crail Golf Course on 11th Jun. Single leucistic birds were observed at Methil on 23rd Feb and at Guardbridge from 29th Jun to 6th Jul.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	6	0	10	0	12	11	2	0	0	127	47	19

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	613	17.51
2007	48	994	20.70
2008	46	802	17.43

White-throated Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

Scarce breeding resident and occasional passage migrant.

Breeding: There were three birds holding two territories on the Lothrie Burn, Glenrothes on 14th Feb while two birds were seen carrying nesting material into a culvert on the River Eden at Cupar on 12th Mar. One pair was nesting at Dura Den on 20th Apr while three birds were present at Rankeillour including one pair nest building on 22nd Apr. Later in the year on the Lothrie Burn a pair with a brood was seen on 24th May with an adult and two juvs present there on 30th Jun. On the Bluther Burn an adult and two juvs were present on both 14th and 23rd Jun. At Glenrothes, on the River Leven an adult with one juv was seen on 28th Jun.

At the start of the year, three were at Cupar Wards on 8th Jan, with two at Lothrie Burn, Glenrothes on 23rd Jan and singles at Dairsie Bog on 1st Jan and at Inverkeithing harbour from 11th till 30th Jan. In February, one was at Dura Den on 6th with two on the Rankeillour Burn on 12th and one on the River Leven, Glenrothes also on 12th. In spring, three were at Dura Den on 5th Mar with two on the River Eden at Cupar on 12th Mar, these birds being seen regularly throughout the year. Similarly on the Lothrie Burn at Glenrothes, three pairs were present over a 2km stretch of the river and 2-3 birds were being reported on the river to the end of October. Elsewhere, singles were at Ceres on 22nd Mar, the River Leven at Leslie on 22nd Mar and at Parkview, Newburgh on 23rd Mar. In April, Cupar Wards held two on 9th, with

singles at Cupar on 14th, Hospital Mill on 19th and one heard at Keils Den on 24th. Other summer records were of singles at Ceres on 2nd Jun, Damside on 7th Jun, Kilmany Station on 20th Jun, Kilmany on 23rd Aug and Tiel Burn on 31st Aug.

In September two were at West Mill on 11th with two at Burnside, Cupar on 15th, one at Dura Den on 21st and one at Boarhills on 28th. The remainder of the autumn records were of single birds and came from Pathhead on 14th Oct, Keil Burn at Lower Largo on 1st Nov, River Leven at Glenrothes on 13th Nov and Damside on 3rd Nov. Records of single birds continued into December and came from Kilmany on 6th, River Leven at Glenrothes on 10th and Springfield on 11th. The last record of the year was of four on the Kenly Water at Boarhills on 15th Dec.

Notebook: White-throated Dipper Lothrie Burn, Glenrothes 19/03/08

We walked along a 2km stretch of the Lothrie Burn and saw six Dippers in total. A pair together at NO262018, one gathering stalks and leaves – both flew downstream. One at NO257020 flew upstream and was attacked by one further upstream at NO258022 – presume this was a territorial dispute, The burn is a good area for Dippers since it has plenty of stones, overhanging vegetation and waterfalls. *J & M Nugent*

*** Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*)**

Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant. Has bred.

This continues to be a scarcely recorded species in Fife. There was only one record of a male in Denburn Wood on 9th Apr.

Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

Abundant breeding resident and common passage migrant.

Breeding: In a garden at Anstruther an unspecified number of eggs hatched on 6th Apr, while an adult female was on a nest containing young at North Quarter on 11th May. At Coaltown of Balgonie two juvs were present on 9th May with one juv at Kilconquhar Loch on 26th May and an unspecified number of juveniles seen at Inch Farm on 27th May. At Damhead of Torr there were 9AON and breeding was successful with one juv present on 18th May, four juvs on 25th May and three juvs on 11th Jun. Logie produced an adult with two juvs on 12th Jun, with a male and a juv at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 27th Jun and two juvs at Kilconquhar Loch on 13th Jul. There were two pairs at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing all year and breeding occurred. One male was seen collecting food there on 6th Jun. At Woodhead Street, Valleyfield six birds fed regularly in the garden all year and one pair reared four young. Breeding was noted during an Atlas Count in the Balmullo area with 53 birds recorded on 27th Apr. During the summer nesting occurred at Freuchie. One male was seen gathering food at Robertson Road, Cupar on 26th Apr with one female collecting nest material at the same location on 9th May. During the summer there were 16AOT in the West Saline area and 9AOT at Woodlea Farm area.

At Damhead of Torr between 18 and 30 birds were present all year. Similarly at Dalgety Bay where up to three birds were seen regularly all year. At the start of the year four were in the Newport area with four at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing and five nearby at the inner bay at Inverkeithing all during the first week of January. At Shamrock Street, Dunfermline there was five present on 6th Jan, all remaining there until 10th Feb. There were 28 at Kilconquhar Loch (11th Jan) with five at Newport (11th Jan), two at Kirkton Farm (15th Jan), one at Pitkinnie Farm (15th Jan), five at Templehall Farm (15th Jan) and two at Skelpie Farm (16th Jan). Eight were at Balmerino (18th Jan) with one near Ballindean (18th Jan), two in the Newport area (26th Jan), three males and a female at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing (29th Jan) and one at Kirkton Farm (30th Jan). February saw two at Cullaloe (3rd), six at North Lodge, Monimail (5th), 13 in the Newport area (9th), eight at Birnie Loch (10th) and singles at Moss Plantation, Braefoot (10th) and Cullaloe (10th). There were 20 at Gauldry (12th), 12 at Kilmany (12th), at least 15 at Peacehill (13th), six at Cult Ness (14th), three at North Queensferry (14th), four at Port Laing (14th) and four at St Margaret's Marsh (14th). A single was at Otterston Loch on 15th Feb with three singing at Coaltown of Balgonie on 18th Feb, one singing at Cupar on 23rd Feb, one at Calaisburn, Dunfermline on 25th Feb and ten at the Eden Centre hide, Guardbridge on 27th Feb.

Spring records were few in March with 12 at Straiton on 5th, seven in the Newport area on 15th and one at Cullaloe on the same date. Records increased again in April with a pair at Beleybridge (2nd), 12 in the Newport area (6th), two at Otterston Loch (6th and 13th), at least 14 at Kilmany (14th), at least eight at Peacehill (14th) and a minimum of 17 at Gauldry (15th). One pair was at West Quarry Braes (17th) with 16 at Newport (19th), two in Tentsmuir Forest (20th), one at Drumeldrie (23rd) and 17 at Whinfield Place, Newport on 26th Apr. In May singles were at Otterston Loch and Fife Ness (3rd) with 13 in the Newport area (10th), four at Cult Ness (12th), seven at North Queensferry (12th) and six at Port Laing (12th). One was at Leckerston (14th) with ten to the east of Dalgety Bay (16th), 16 at Nether Bougie Farm (16th) and ten at Pleasants Farm (16th). One was at Otterston Loch (17th) with eight at Vicarsford Cemetery (18th), three in Tentsmuir Forest (24th), one at Kingsbarns (30th), three pairs at Kincaig Hill (31st) and ten at Townhill Loch (31st).

During the summer months one was at Kippo Plantation (5th Jun) with a pair at Craigsanquhar (12th Jun), two at Cult Ness (18th Jun), ten at North Queensferry (18th Jun) and three at Port Laing (18th Jun). One was at Kippo Moor (19th Jun) with 13 at Newport (28th Jun) and nine on the football pitch at Gauldry (6th Jul) increasing to over ten there (15th Jul). Surprisingly there were no records from August and only two from September. Nine were in the Newport area on 14th Sep and one was at Cullaloe on 21st Sep. October was not much better with four in the Newport area on the 11th, seven at Valleyfield Woods on the 26th, 14 at Lochore Meadows CP on 29th and 16 at Kincaig Hill on 30th. At the beginning of November five were at Birnie / Gaddon Lochs (1st) with 12 in the Newport area (1st) and one singing at Dysart House (3rd). An autumn "fall" of migrants occurred on 7th Nov with 30 at Balcolmie, at least 20 at Kilminning and **over 200 birds in the Fife Ness area, making this the highest count of the year** (K.D. Shaw). The next day there were still 50 at Crail. One was at Kirktonbarns (9th Nov), four at Clinthill (11th Nov), 26 at Fordell (11th Nov),

three near Balbougie (11th Nov), seven at Linkswood Pond (12th Nov), 52 at Bogside (18th Nov) and 17 at Morendy Wood (22nd Nov). At the end of the year one was at Cullaloe (7th Dec) with six at Frankfield, Dalgety Bay (7th Dec), at least ten at Guardbridge (20th Dec), eight at Bath Moor (30th Dec) and 12 at Balcomie (31st Dec).

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	25	17	14	15	14	14	6	5	9	2	10	16

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	382	10.91
2007	48	611	12.70
2008	46	611	13.28

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant in varying numbers. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

Numbers reported were down on last year, but this species continues to be more prevalent in Fife than its Scandanavian cousin, Redwing. The ratio of Fieldfares to Redwings this year was 3:1. A total of nearly 4500 birds was recorded, with twice as many being at the start of the year reflecting last years high autumn / winter influx.

At the start of the year 200 were at Muircambus on 1st Jan with a single at Damhead of Torr on the same date this bird holding its feeding territory until 17th Feb. There were 12 at Newton Farm Pond on 4th Jan with 49 at Star on 6th Jan and 85 at Letham on 11th Jan. On 12th Jan, 200 were at Kedlock Feus with 25 at Muircambus and 19 at Newport. Six were at Pitkinnie Farm on 15th Jan with at least one at Skelpie Farm on 16th Jan, 21 at Devon Common and six at Lower Largo, all on 19th Jan. Further January records saw ten at Easter Friarton (20th), six at Inverdovat (20th), 20 at Tentsmuir (20th), 20 at Letham (22nd), 50 at Horselaw (26th), 16 at Goosepools (27th), 60 at Norman's Law (27th), about 40 at Hurlmakin Wood (29th) and 25 at Kirkton Farm (30th). In February 20 were at Stravithie on 6th, 90 at Cullaloe on 8th, 102 at Kinshaldy on 12th, 32 at Kinnaird Hill on 13th, 50 at Foxton on 16th, three at Birnie Loch on 19th and 50 at Cluny on 20th. The 25th Feb saw 130 at Angle Park, three at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs and 90 at Kennoway with 118 at Wester Kilgour on 28th Feb. In March there were **230 at Kinshaldy (7th), the highest count of the year** (Mike Ramage), c140 at Straiton (7th), c70 at Easter Lathrisk (9th), 33 at Saline Golf Course (17th) and 25 just west of Saline (21st). April saw 18 at Lochore Meadows on 3rd with 25 at Kinshaldy pasture on 5th, 85 at Craigluscar on 6th, c135 at Woodside on 12th, 50N over Kinshaldy on 22nd, a single at Kilrenny on 28th and an increase to 60 at Kinshaldy pasture on 29th. The only records for May were of singles at Rossie Bog on 2nd and at Tosh on 11th.

The first winter migrants were 80 at Torry on 15th Oct followed by five at Kilrenny on 17th Oct, 65 at Longannet on 19th Oct, six at Lochore Meadows on 29th Oct and 12 at Blairhall Bing and six at East Baldridge Farm, both on 31st Oct. In November, there were 50W at Logie Farm on 1st, 70 at Lindores on 3rd, five at Townhill Loch on 4th and five at Lochore Meadows on 5th. A single was at Fife Ness Muir on 7th Nov

with 12 at Star on the same date. Further November records saw c50 at Bankhead Moss (8th) with 80W at Kinraig Point (6th), two at Crail (9th), 20 at Barns Farm (11th), six at Clinthill (11th), nine at Damhead of Torr (11th), two at Fordell (11th), 12 to the north of Dalgety Bay (11th), 30 at Gilston (11th), 20 near Balbougie (11th), five at Cluny (12th) and singles at both Tayport Pond and Fife Ness (12th). The 15th brought at least 100 at Auchtermuchty Common with 90 at Damhead of Torr. Other records were of a single at Kilrenny (16th), 25 at Townhill Loch (16th), 40 at Bogside (18th), 50 at Coaledge (18th), 20 at Townhill Loch (18th), 36 at Cults Mill (22nd), ten at Fordell Wood (22nd), 20 at Kedlock Farm (22nd), five at Blairhall (27th), about 180 at Fordellhill Farm (28th) and four at Damhead of Torr (30th) with one of these birds remaining there until the end of the year. In December 22 were at Balgove Bay on 5th with 20 at Kedlock Feus on 9th, 40 at Dunshalt on 12th, 60 at Kilrenny on 23rd, a good count of 200 at Muirside Cottage on 25th and a single at East Lomond on 27th. At the end of the year 12 were at Dun Moss on 30th Dec while the last record was of a single at Leuchars Airfield on 31st Dec.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

Common breeding resident and passage migrant. Red data list species.

Breeding: A nest was found with fresh eggshells at Fife Ness Muir on 23rd Apr and a nest box contained four eggs and one chick at Braefoot, on 24th Apr. There were six nests in the Valleyfield area all containing eggs on 30th Apr. At Robertson Road, Cupar one juv was present on 4th Jul with one juv at the Eden Centre hide at Guardbridge on 6th Jul. Other juveniles were at Kilconquhar Loch (1) on 13th Jul, Ardrross (2) on 16th Jul and Fife Ness Muir on 22nd Jul where the bird was ringed. An adult was noted carrying food by Pitreavie industrial estate on 11th Jul. Breeding was noted during an Atlas Count at Logie on 2nd May, which produced six birds. During the summer AOT were reported from the West Saline area (2) and Woodlea Farm area (4).



Song Thrush © Willie McBay

A large number of records were submitted from all over the region with the only comment on numbers being that birds were scarce in the Valleyfield area. There were 1-2 birds regularly present at Dalgety Bay and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs throughout the year.

In January seven were seen at Shell Bay on 1st with three at Cupar on 4th and two at the Public Park, Dunfermline on 8th. All other January records were of singles and came from Cupar Wards (8th), Gauldry (11th), Mountcastle (11th), Dreelside (14th), Lower Largo (19th), Seafield (19th), Leuchars Airfield (22nd), Struan Drive, Inverkeithing (22nd), Kirkton (30th) and Damhead of Torr (31st). In February single singing birds were reported from Pathhead (2nd), Newport area (3rd), Cupar (10th), Kinghorn Loch (19th), Townhill Loch (24th) and Glassarts (27th). Records of multiple singers were two at Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline (6th), four at Pathhead on (10th), two at Springfield (12th) and three at Lindores (13th). Other non-singing records from February were 2 at Rossie Bog (6th), four at Downans Plantation (11th), two at Peacehill (13th) and singles at Seafield (10th), Aberdour (11th), Guardbridge (13th), St Margaret's Marsh (14th), West Wemyss (16th), Cullaloe (17th), Rathillet (19th), and Calaisburn, Dunfermline (25th). In spring one was at Calaisburn on 2nd Mar with two at Cupar Wards on 3rd Mar, two singing at Mountcastle on 4th Mar, two at Straiton on 5th Mar and singles at Vicarsford Cemetery on 8th Mar and Morton Lochs on 9th Mar. Six were at Kincaig Hill (13th Mar) with five singing at Kilconquhar Loch (14th Mar), two singing in the Newport area (15th Mar) and singles at Drumoig (16th Mar), Gauldry (16th Mar) and Newton Sandpit (19th Mar). Two pairs were at Scotsraig Golf Course (23rd Mar) with one at Braefoot (26th Mar), one singing at Pitmedden (27th Mar) and four singing at Edenwood (30th Mar).

In April six were singing at the east end of Coaltown of Balgonie (2nd) with singles singing at Loch Gelly (2nd), Mountcastle (2nd) and St Monans (7th). Other singles were at Fife Ness Muir (2nd), Balbeggie Wood (5th), Linkwood timberyard (5th) Birnie Loch (10th), Beveridge Park (12th), Leuchars Airfield (13th), Kilmany (14th), Peacehill (14th), Gauldry (15th), Cupar (19th) and Cullaloe (20th). Three were at Mountcastle (17th) with three on the north side of Newport (19th), three at Springfield (19th), seven in the central area of Tentsmuir Forest (20th), three at Red Myre (21st), ten in the Newport area (26th) and three at Glenduckie (29th). Remaining singles in April were one singing at central Coaltown of Balgonie (23rd), one singing at Rossie Bog (23rd) and non-singers at Drumeldrie (23rd) and Braefoot (24th). May started with one at Townhill Loch (1st) with six at Logie (2nd), four at Rossie Bog (2nd), two at Gauldry (3rd) and singles at West Wemyss, Mountcastle and Kilconquhar Loch (all 5th). Four were singing at Thornton Pool (8th) with one singing at Kilminning entrance (9th), four singing at Kilrenny Common (9th) and eight singing at Wemyss Moss (9th). Two were at Fife Ness (11th), two at Port Laing (12th), one at St Margaret's Marsh (12th), two at Wormit Pond (12th), two at Aberdour (16th), eight at Downans Plantation (16th), two at Nether Bouprie Farm (16th) and four singing in the Newport area (17th). Five were at Newport North on 17th May with one at Balmerino on 18th May, six on the south side of Coaltown of Balgonie on 19th May and five singing at Norman's Law on 20th May. Two were singing at Kilconquhar Loch (23rd) with three singing at Kilrenny Common (23rd), three in the central area of Tentsmuir Forest (24th), eight between Cadham and West

Mill (26th), seven at Springfield (26th) and one at Kilminning (29th). Remaining May records came from Kingsbarns (1), West Quarry Braes (1) and Wormiston (1 singing) all on 30th and two singing at Townhill Loch on 31st.

Summer began with one at Kinghorn Loch (1st Jun), 11 at Norman's Law (1st Jun), two at Tayfield (2nd Jun), two singing at Colzie Pool (4th Jun) and singles at Kippo Moor (5th Jun), Kippo Plantation (5th Jun) and Otterston Loch (7th Jun). Three were singing by the River Ore, Thornton (10th Jun) with singles at Dura Den and West Quarry Braes (11th Jun). One pair was at Craigsanquhar (12th Jun), with three at Leuchars Airfield (15th Jun), one singing at Lower Largo (15th Jun), two at Linkwood Pond (16th Jun), six at North Queensferry (18th Jun), and one at Port Laing (18th Jun). Records continued with one singing at Dunshalt (20th Jun), eight singing at Balbirnie (23rd Jun) and singles at Kilconquhar Loch (27th Jun) and Drumoig (28th Jun). Seven were in the Newport area on 28th Jun with nine singing on the north side of Coaltown of Balgonie on 1st Jul and singles singing at Falkland and Harperleas Reservoir, both on 2nd Jul. Again at Coaltown of Balgonie two were singing on the south east side (12th Jul) with three at Kilrenny (15th Jul) and two at Hilton (21st Jul).

There were no records from August but in the autumn at least 12 were at Fife Ness Muir (14th Sep) where three were ringed. There were two in the Newport area on 14th Sep with one at Fife Ness on 17th Sep, six at Mountcastle on 28th Sep, four at Easter Kilwhiss on 2nd Oct, two at Cupar on 10th Oct and singles at Leuchars Airfield on 13th Oct and between Causewayhead and Chesterhills on 19th Oct. Eight were at Mountcastle on 22nd Oct with singles at Guardbridge on 11th Oct, Morendy Wood on 22nd Nov, Newton Sandpits on 12th Dec and Sandford also on 12th Dec. At the end of December two were at Bath Moor (30th) with four at Kilrenny Common (30th) and two at Leuchars Airfield (31st).

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	123	3.51
2007	48	157	3.30
2008	46	186	4.04

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Regular common winter visitor and passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Red data list species.

The records for this winter thrush continue to vary from year to year. Around 1500 birds were reported in total, with three times as many being seen in the autumn compared with over-winterers from the previous year. The over-wintering birds seen at the start of the year had mainly left by mid-March, although one late bird was reported from Kilrenny on 28th May. Autumn arrivals started with four at Fife Ness on 26th Sep and gradually built up with the main arrivals being in late October and early November.

At the start of the year, six were at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 4th Jan, one at Star Moss on 5th Jan, ten at Star on 6th Jan and nine at Dalgety Bay on 9th Jan. There were 16 in the Newport area with 28 on Rosyth Naval playing fields, both on 11th Jan and

at least 37 at Edenside on 13th Jan. A single was at Pitkennie with at least three at Templehall, both on 15th Jan. Further January records saw 28 at Rosyth Naval playing fields on 17th, 65 at Barns Farm on 18th with two at Easter Friarton and 17 at Inverdovat, both on 20th. The 26th saw a single at Carslogie, with three at Horselaw. In February two were in the Newport area on 3rd with one at Guardbridge on 4th, 50 at Kilconquhar Loch on 9th, six at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 10th and a single at Kinnaird Hill on 13th. The Public Park, Dunfermline saw 30 on 17th with one at Dalgety Bay on 22nd, two at South Duloch, Dunfermline on 25th and ten at Kilconquhar Loch on 27th. At the beginning of March 13 were at Pitreavie Playing fields on 4th with three at Straiton on 7th, three at Dalgety Bay on 10th and 21 at Valleyfield Woods on 20th. After this date birds became quite scarce with only singles or small numbers being reported. There were singles seen at Saline on 21st Mar, Peppermill Dam on 29th Mar with two at Birnie Loch on 30th Mar. A further single was at Kilmany on 22nd Apr and the late individual at Kilrenny on 28th May.

Returning birds in autumn started with four at Fife Ness on 26th Sep then a single at Freuchie on 5th Oct, five at Kirennay on 7th Oct and further singles at West Grange (after dark on 8th) and at Anstruther on 11th Oct. Two birds were heard at Kilmany Station on 16th and 18th Oct calling during the night although none were seen during daylight hours. On 17th Oct, "many" were reported from Hill of Beath and "scores" at Kilrenny. There were 70 at Longannet on 19th Oct with three at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs and a single at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline, on 27th Oct, 22 at Lochore Meadows CP on 29th Oct, three at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 30th Oct and 44 at Blairhall Bing on 31st Oct. November saw 100 at Lochore Meadows CP on 3rd, 14 at Townhill Loch on 4th with 15 at Pitreavie Industrial Estate and at least 35 near Arncroach, both on 7th. **The highest count of the year was also on 7th Nov with 150 at Valleyfield** (Ally Paton). Next day, 8th Nov, c50 were at Bankhead Moss, 120 at Goat Quarry and 30W at Kincaig Point. A single was at Damhead of Torr on 11th Nov with four at Fordell on the same date. Elsewhere, 26 were at Cluny with 16 at Strathtyrum, both on 12th Nov, ten at Damhead of Torr on 15th Nov and 120 at Bogside, 20 at Coaledge, six at Dalgety Bay and ten at Townhill Loch, all on 18th Nov. Mountcastle held five on 20th Nov with 15 at Cults Mill, ten at Fordell Wood and a single at Guardbridge, all on 22nd Nov. Further November records were seven at Serpentine, Scotsraig on 23rd, four at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 24th, two at Blairhall on 27th and 12 at Damside on 30th. In December 16 were at Stratheden on 11th with six at Boarhills on 15th.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

Fairly common breeding resident and occasional passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Few confirmed breeding records this year. One juvenile was at Kincaig Hill on 8th May with one pair and one juvenile at Logie on 18th Jun. At Linkwood Pond on 21st Aug, a group of 18 birds was present with most being reported as juveniles. At Tarvit Hill on 5th Jun, a bird was noted carrying food for young and similarly at Valleyfield Woods on 10th Jun and at Saline Golf Course on 11th Jun,

adults were seen feeding young. One pair was noted at Peppermill Dam nest building on 29th Mar. There were 3AOT at Devilla Forest during the summer months. Four pairs were at St Ford on 13th Mar, but unfortunately no juveniles were seen there later in the year. There was a notable decrease in the BBS results.

At the start of the year single birds were at Cupar on 4th Jan and at inner bay at Inverkeithing on 6th Jan. Five were at Star on 6th Jan with five in the Newport area on 11th Jan, two pairs at Kinraig Hill on 12th Jan, singles at Damhead of Torr on 13th Jan, Red Myre on 14th Jan, Bankhead, Kirkton and Pitkinnie, all on 15th Jan and at Damhead of Torr on 20th Jan. Six were at Forgan Smithy on 20th Jan and two at Glenduckie on 30th Jan. February saw two at Dalgety Bay (2nd) with six at Kilconquhar Loch (3rd), one at Duncan Crescent, Dunfermline (4th), three singing in the Newport area (9th), six at Eastfield (10th), two at Tentsmuir (10th), two at Aberdour (11th), two pairs at Gauldry (12th), one at Springfield Muir (12th), three at Leuchars Airfield (15th) and three at Pitmedden (27th). From January until March six were present at Valleyfield Lagoons.

In spring one was singing at Rossie on 18th Mar with four at Leuchars Airfield on 19th Mar, two at Dalgety Bay on 26th Mar and a single at Birnie Loch on 30th Mar. April saw one singing at Bowstard Loch on 20th with two singing at both Red Myre on 21st and Pitmedden on 25th. Singles were in the Newport area on the 26th and at Glenduckie on the 29th. During April single pairs were noted at Blairhall Bing, Valleyfield Woods and Valleyfield Lagoons. Singles were at Mountcastle on 5th May, in the Newport area on 10th May, Drumoig on 24th May, Craigmear and Harperleas Reservoir, both on 31st May. The summer months produced three at Norman's Law on 1st Jun, four at Leuchars Airfield on 20th Jun, 16 at Tentsmuir on 28th Jun, two at Beveridge Park on 7th Jul, eight at Leuchars Airfield on 18th Aug and one in the Falkland Estate on 25th Aug.

The autumn started with one at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 8th Sep and continued with 15 at Lindores Loch on 11th Sep, four at Kinraig on 20th Sep, eight at Leuchars Airfield on 27th Sep, two at Dalgety Bay on 4th Oct, two at Stratheden on 11th Oct, five at Gilston on 13th Oct, 22 at Kinghorn Loch on 13th Oct, c20 south west of Gilston on 15th Oct and seven at Longannet on 19th Oct. Also on 19th Oct, three were at Scotsraig with four at Abden on 21st Oct, five at Pathhead on 26th Oct and singles at Damhead of Torr on 27th Oct and at both Logie Farm and in the Newport area on 1st Nov. A flock of 18 were at Lindores Loch on 3rd Nov with six at Valleyfield on 7th Nov, four at Fordell on 11th Nov, three at Dalgety Bay on 24th Nov, two at Kirkcaldy on 4th Dec and singles at Damhead of Torr and Frankfield, Dalgety Bay, both on 7th Dec. Later in December two were at Kinraig on 14th with two at Dalgety Bay on 20th.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	16	0.47
2007	48	22	0.47
2008	46	14	0.30

***Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)**

Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Red data list species.

A better showing than last year particularly during the autumn passage although breeding numbers were down again.

Breeding: The regular birds at Dalgairn were present on 24th May but as in 2007 they failed to breed. A pair appeared agitated at Townhill Loch on 31st May. At least one bird was seen at Gathercauld on 26th Jul with a juvenile there on the following day. On 29th Jul, an adult and two juvs were at Auchtermuchty Common. Singles at Dura Den and Kitchen Green, both on 11th Jun, Lindores Loch on 22nd Jun, Steelend on 24th Jun, Saline on 13th and 20th Jul and at Earlseat on 27th Jul may have been possible breeders.

Spring passage began in May with singles at Kilmany Station on 10th, Fife Ness Muir on 11th, Bankhead Moss and St Margaret's Marsh both on 12th and to the east of Dalgety Bay on 16th. A small fall in the East Neuk saw two at Kilrenny on 27th with singles at Fife Ness Muir on 29th and at Balcomie on 30th.

Early August saw the return passage begin with singles at Balcomie on 5th, at Fife Ness Muir on 7th with two at Crail Airfield on 8th. Inland, one was at Pitmedden Forest on 12th with another at Linkwood timber yard on 20th and at Formonthills and Thornton, both on 30th. Further single coastal records in August came from Fife Ness Muir on 21st, at Earlshall Muir and Kilrenny, both on 30th. Apart from three together at Newhill on 7th Sept, the remainder of the records came from the East Neuk, all in September. Fife Ness Muir held 1-3 birds almost daily from 8th until 17th with a maximum of three birds present on 15th when they were trapped and ringed.



Spotted Flycatcher © Willie McBay

One was at Wormiston cottages on 7th with two there on 17th when there was also another two nearby at Wormiston Farm. On 14th Sep, two were at Craighead with a single nearby at Balcomie and another at Kilrenny on 15th. Last birds of the year were two at Fife Ness Muir on 21st with a single there on 27th.

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Abundant breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

Breeding: There was positive breeding at Morton Lochs with five adults and one juv present on 25th May. This was followed with one nest in a garden at Woodhead Street, Valleyfield producing a brood of three on 29th May. Two juveniles were at Damhead of Torr on 3rd Jun with one juvenile at Kedlock on 12th Jun. One adult and two juveniles were at the Eden Centre hide at Guardbridge on 13th Jun with two juvs at Damhead of Torr and two juvs at Kincaig Point on 19th Aug. Birds were present all year at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing and breeding took place. Similarly one pair was present at Freuchie nesting in a garden. During the summer months AOT were reported from Damhead of Torr (5), which resulted in nesting success, and also at West Saline area (18) and Woodlea Farm area (11).

Birds were seen regularly all year at Dalgety Bay (1-7), Damhead of Torr, Struan Drive, Inverkeithing and Valleyfield.

The first week in January saw three in the Newport area, three at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing and singles at the Inner Bay at Inverkeithing and Shamrock Street, Dunfermline. Ten were in the Newport area on 11th Jan, with one at Pitcairn (12th Jan), two at Tayfield (12th Jan), two at Kirkton Farm (15th Jan), two at Skelpie Farm (16th Jan) and one at Balmerino (16th Jan). Seven were at Silverburn (25th Jan) with singles at Frankfield, Dalgety Bay (26th) and Kirkton Farm (30th). February saw one at Dalgety Bay on 2nd and 9th with three at Cullaloe on 3rd, two at North Lodge Monimail on 5th, eight in the Newport area on 9th and one at Dalgety Bay also on 9th. At Struan Drive, Inverkeithing five were trapped and ringed on 4th Feb with another unringed bird present on 6th Feb. One was at Braefoot (10th Feb) with 11 at Tentsmuir Forest (10th Feb), 11 at Gauldry (12th Feb), nine at Kilmany (12th Feb), at least seven at Peacemill (13th Feb), seven at Cult Ness (14th Feb), six at North Queensferry (14th Feb) and two at Port Laing (14th Feb). There were five at St Margaret's Marsh (14th Feb) with two at Otterston Loch (15th Feb), six at Leuchars Airfield (16th Feb), three at Cullaloe (17th Feb) and one at Calaisburn (25th Feb).

In spring, 12 were singing in the Newport area (15th Mar) with one at Beleybridge (2nd Apr), four at Hill of Tarvit (4th Apr), 24 in Tentsmuir Forest (13th Apr), eight in the Newport area (6th Apr and 19th Apr), two at Otterston Loch (6th Apr and 13th Apr) and at least nine at Gauldry (15th Apr). Birds of the continental race were noted at Fife Ness on 17th and 23rd Apr. There were 15 in the central area of Tentsmuir Forest on 20th Apr with five at Morton Lochs on 21st Apr, 13 in the Newport area on 26th Apr and one singing at Braefoot on 27th Apr. Two were present at Otterston Loch in May with eight pairs at West Muircambus (5th May), seven in the Newport area (10th May), three at Cult Ness (12th May), three at Port Laing (12th May), one at St Margaret's Marsh (12th May), two at Barnhill Bay (16th May), three at Nether

Bouprie Farm (16th May) and three at Pleasants Farm (16th May). Three were on the north side of Newport (17th May) with two singing at Balmerino (18th May) and 23 in the central area of Tentsmuir Forest (24th May).

There were fewer records from the summer months as birds became quieter and less obvious during breeding. However singles were at Kippo Moor and Kippo Plantation on 5th Jun with further singles at Cullaloe on 15th Jun, North Queensferry on 18th Jun, St Margaret’s Marsh on 18th Jun, and Dalgety Bay on 23rd Jun. Eight were in the Newport area on 28th Jun with 12 at the north end of Tentsmuir on 5th Jul, five at Kilmany on 15th Jul and three in the Newport area on 2nd Aug. One was trapped and ringed at Fife Ness on 21st Aug with 11 at Mountcastle on 22nd Aug and 16 at Kinraig Point on 30th Aug. Autumn began with four at Linkwood timber yard on 14th Sep, 20 in the Newport area on 20th Sep, 17 at Mountcastle on 28th Sep and 11th Oct. Seven were at Damhead of Torr on 29th Sep with two at the north end of Tentsmuir on 11th Oct, ten in the Newport area on 8th Nov and one at Kirktonbarns on 9th Nov. There were five at Clinthill with six at Fordell, three to the north of Dalgety Bay and four near Balbougie, all on 11th Nov. Singles were at Auchtermuchty Common and Otterston Loch on 15th Nov with nine at Morendy Wood on 21st Nov, six at Damhead of Torr on 4th Dec, two at the south end of Tentsmuir on 6th Dec and singles at Frankfield, Dalgety Bay on 7th Dec and Pitcairn on 14th Dec and 21st Dec. At the end of the year seven were at Linkwood Pond on 22nd Dec with three on Leuchars Airfield on 31st Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	7	11	12	11	10	5	3	6	15	11	11	16

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	181	5.17
2007	48	259	5.36
2008	46	288	6.26

*** Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)**

Scarce spring and autumn migrant. Schedule 1 species.

A single bird at Fife Ness Muir on 8th May (Malcolm Ware) was the first record of this species since 2004.

*** Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)**

Uncommon to scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn, wintering occasionally. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

An increase in numbers this year from the one of last year, with four individuals being recorded. The first record was of a female at Anstruther on 16th Apr and this was followed with a male at Fife Ness on 23rd Apr. A further male was seen inland at Balmullo on 3rd May, visiting gardens on the west side of the village. The last

record was of a female/first-winter bird, which was found on the shore at Boathaven on 11th Dec. This is the second year running a bird has been recorded in December.

*** Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)**

Scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant in varying numbers. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Two AOT were reported from Kitchen Green on 1st Jun while a female/juvenile was seen at Townhill Loch on 6th Jul.

A good year for the species with 25 individual records although some duplication around the Fife Ness area cannot be positively excluded. The majority came from the east coast during autumn migration. In summer, singles were at Tentsmuir on 21st Jul, Wormiston on 11th Aug and at Fife Ness Muir on the same date. Autumn passage saw two at Craighead on 5th Sep, one at Fife Ness Muir on 9th Sep, a male resting on top of the tower at Seafield on 13th Sep, a male at Kincaig Head and a female at the caravan site at Crail, both on 14th Sep. Also on 14th Sep, a male and female were trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir with two being reported from the Fife Ness area on 15th Sep. A single was at Fife Ness Muir on 16th Sep with three at Wormiston cottages, a male and a female/imm by Crail Golf Clubhouse, two at Fife Ness and a single at Craighead Farm, all on 17th Sep.

Notebook: Common Redstart Tentsmuir 21/07/08

Are these late July birds that we get most years, Highland birds going south? It seems more likely than local breeders and the Scandinavians surely come later with other easterly drift migrants. *C & A-M Smout*

*** Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)**

Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: No positive proof of breeding this year, but singing birds were noted at Glen Vale (1) on 4th Jun, Craigsanquhar (2) on 12th Jun and at Forret Hill (2) also on 12th Jun. A single sang at Harperleas Reservoir on 23rd Jun. A female was seen in scrub by the Cleughie Burn at Kilmany on 4th Jul. This constitutes the first record for the area.

In spring singles were at Fife Ness Muir on 4th May, Damhead of Torr on 19th May and at Kilminning on 29th May. Late summer saw other single birds at Kincaig Hill on 13th Aug, Coaltown of Wemyss on 21st Aug, Valleyfield Lagoons on 21st and 22nd Aug and at Cocklemill Marsh on 27th Aug. In September, Fife Ness produced a single on 15th with another being trapped and ringed at Fife Ness Muir on the same date. Also on 15th there was a male and a female/imm at Kilminning. Singles were again at Fife Ness on 17th Sep and at Craighead on 21st Sep with four at Leuchars Airfield on 18th Sep. The last of the year was one at Balgove Bay on 15th Oct.

Eurasian Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*)

Scarce breeding resident and passage migrant.

Breeding: A continued increase in the breeding records this year in line with this species apparent increase in both numbers and distribution within the region. One pair was observed carrying nesting material near Harperleas Reservoir on 13th Apr while three were at Rossie Bog on 2nd May including one pair carrying food for young. Similarly a pair at Craigluscar Hill on 18th May was also noted carrying food to a nest. There was 1AOT reported at Bickramside on 1st Jun. The first reports of young came from Tentsmuir on 24th May where one pair raised a brood of four. At Kinraig Point there was a pair with two young on 31st May with a pair and two juvs at Dunbog on 4th Jun and three juvs at Glen Vale also on 4th Jun. In the summer one pair fledged five young at Devilla Forest. There were two pairs present at Goosepools but at least three breeding attempts failed. However, a pair with three young were noted at Goosepools on 10th Jun with one adult feeding a juv at Kingsbarns also on 10th Jun, three juvs at Rossie Bog on 12th Jun, a pair and two juvs at Red Myre on 13th Jun, a male with one juv at Largo Bay on 15th Jun and a pair with three young at Kinraig Point 26th Jun. In July there were four pairs between Tayport and Tentsmuir Point on 3rd producing a brood of four, a brood of three, a brood of five and a nest containing young. There was a pair with one juv at Harperleas Reservoir on 2nd with an adult and a juv at Kinneddar Muir on 4th, two juvs at Leuchars Airfield on 9th, a pair with four young at Kinraig Point on 14th, three juvs at Ardross on 16th, a male and a juv at Leuchars Airfield on 17th, and two broods, each of three, at Tayport on 20th. Further July records included three juvs at Tentsmuir on 21st with a pair and three young at Goosepools on 23rd and a pair with at least three young between the Goosepools and Kinshaldy on 28th. August saw a male with two juvs at Leuchars Airfield on 2nd Aug, one juv at Balgove Bay on 12th Aug, three juvs at Fife Ness on 14th Aug, a pair with two juvs at Kilminning on 14th Aug and two juvs at Elie beach on 23rd Aug. In autumn an adult and one juv were at Leuchars Airfield on 21st Oct and on 21st Nov with a female and two juvs there on 29th Nov.

The year started with one at Ballinbreich (2nd Jan), and continued with two at Seafield (3rd Jan), one female at Clatto Reservoir (6th Jan), three at Leuchars Airfield (6th Jan), four at Tayport (6th Jan) and one at Dalgety Bay (7th Jan). One pair were at each of Pittenweem and Coaltown of Wemyss on 7th Jan and 8th Jan respectively with four at Rossie Bog on 6th Feb, two pairs at Tayport on 10th Feb, one male at Lower Largo on 13th Feb, four at Leuchars Airfield on 15th Feb and a male at Drumoig on 16th Feb. Spring started with three at Shell Bay on 6th Mar, seven at Tayport on 9th Mar, two pairs at the Goosepools on 11th Mar, two males at Leuchars Airfield on 18th Mar and a pair at Ardross on 20th Mar. April saw a male at Ruby Bay on 1st followed by four near Craighead on 2nd, one pair at Fife Ness on 4th, two at Ardross on 7th, three at Leuchars Airfield on 11th and a female at Drumcarrow on 12th. One male was at Swinkie Farm on 14th with a pair at Kinneddar Muir on 16th, a pair at Auchtermuchty Common on 19th, three in the Lomond Hills on 20th, five at East Lomond on 25th and a male at Tentsmuir on 27th. In May, one pair was at Craigluscar (1st), with three there (4th), one male at Swinkie Farm (5th), two pairs at

Kincraig Point (8th), one male at Crail Golf Course (11th), one at Kilminning (11th), one male at Leuchars Airfield (13th), and seven males and two females on passage at Glen Vale (16th). Two were at Drumcarrow on 17th May with one male at Elie East Links on 30th May and one at Tentsmuir on 31st May. Non-breeding records during the summer months started with one male at Leuchars Airfield on 6th Jun and continued with a female at Tentsmuir on 9th Jun, one at Fife Ness on 22nd June, two males at Leuchars Airfield on the same date and singles at Kilminning and Cocklemill Burn on 6th Jul and 8th Jul respectively. Two were at Dumbarrie Links on 12th Jul with one at Tentsmuir on 28th Jul, two at Shell Bay on 12th Aug, a pair at Kilminning on 14th Aug, a pair at Leuchars Airfield on 20th Aug, one at Coaltown of Wemyss on 21st Aug and a male to the east of Elie on 27th Aug.

Autumn records started with two males at Leuchars Airfield (3rd Sep) and continued unabated with two at Fife Ness (8th Sep), two near Thornton Pond (12th Sep), four at Kincraig Point (14th Sep), a male at Fife Ness (21st Sep), three at Goosepools (25th Sep), two at Fife Ness (26th Sep) and a pair to the east of Carrick Villa (27th Sep). Singles were present at Fincraigs (27th Sep) and Craigmead (28th Sep) with ten at Earlshall Muir (28th Sep), six at West Lomond (28th Sep) and two males at Cuparmuir (30th Sep). There was one male at Cellardyke on 28th and 29th Sep and this was reported as a new site for the species. October started with singles at Saline (3rd), Leuchars Airfield (4th), Stenhouse Reservoir (12th), Coble Shore (15th) with three at Kilminning (6th) and ten at East Lomond (16th). One female was at the Eden Estuary on 16th Oct with two at Leuchars Airfield on 21st Oct, a female at Elie on 22nd Oct and two on the beach at Silverburn on 28th Oct. Singles were at Rossie Bog on 27th Oct, by the Cleughie Burn at Kilmany on 30th Oct, at Logie Farm on 1st Nov and at Cambo on 2nd Nov. There were four at Kincraig Point on 4th Nov with two at Fife Ness on 9th Nov, two at Bankhead Moss on 8th Nov, a male at Fife Ness on 9th Nov, one pair at Clinthill on 11th Nov, two at Tayport on 15th Nov and five at Tentsmuir also on 15th Nov. Outhead provided two on 21st Nov with a male at Kilmany on 22nd Nov, two at Denhead on 26th Nov, two at St Margaret's Marsh on 6th Dec and four at Cocklemill Marsh on 10th Dec. Remaining December records were of singles from Seafield (11th), Kilmany (13th), East Lomond (20th) and Rossie Bog (23rd) with four at Tayport (13th), two at St Margaret's Marsh (20th), two at Little Ballo (28th) and two at Valleyfield Lagoons (31st).

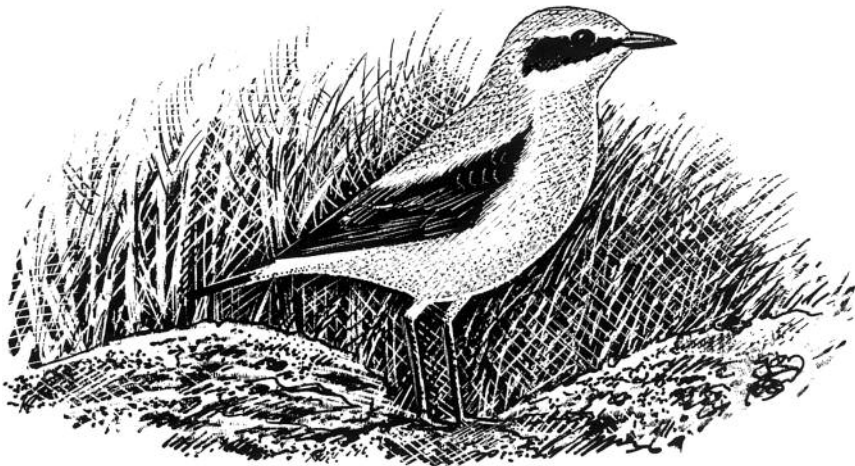
Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

Scarce breeding summer visitor and common passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: In May there was 1AOT at Seamark Hill with the pair being seen regularly. The first juveniles reported were two at Harperleas Reservoir on 2nd Jul and were followed by one on the beach at Kilrenny on 8th Jul, two at Elie Ness on 17th Jul and two at Saline Hill on 21st Jul. One pair and one juvenile were at Leuchars Airfield on 16th Aug with one juv at Tayport on 17th Aug and a female with two juvs to the east of Elie on 27th Aug. Single juveniles were at Fife Ness on 2nd Sep, West Saline on 3rd Sep and Wemyss Moss on 5th Oct.

The first returning bird was seen at the Eden Estuary on 16th Mar and this was followed by singles at East Lomond on 30th Mar, Leuchars Airfield on 2nd Apr, Loch Gelly on 6th Apr, Goosepools on 8th Apr and at the Eden Centre hide at Guardbridge on 15th Apr. Three were at Valleyfield Lagoons (15th Apr) with singles at Pittenweem (19th Apr), Balcomie beach (20th Apr), Guardbridge (20th Apr) and Kilmarnock (21st Apr). At Leuchars Airfield there were one or two present throughout April and May with five on 27th Apr and six on 29th Apr. Elsewhere, two were at Crail Golf Course (23rd Apr), one at Lochty Farm (25th Apr), two at Hurlmakin (28th Apr), four at Goosepools (29th Apr), two at Guardbridge (29th Apr) and one at Valleyfield Lagoons (29th Apr). In May, one was in fields at Anstruther and three at Saline on 1st with one at Guardbridge (2nd), two at Ruddons Point (2nd) and singles at Craigluscar (4th), Crail (4th), Dalgety Bay (4th), Fife Ness (4th), Kingsbarns (5th), Ribbonfield (6th), and Fife Ness (8th). Also on 8th, two were at Kincaig Point, with singles at Devil's Burdens (16th) and East Lomond (24th). Two were also at both Anstruther on 17th and Kincaig Point on 28th.

The summer brought more records of single birds at Kinnaird Hill on 8th Jun, Harperleas Reservoir on 23rd Jun, East Lomond on 2nd Jul and Saline Golf Course on 9th Jul, 12th Jul and 15th Jul. There were two at Valleyfield Lagoons on 10th Jul with three there on 23rd Jul and two on 1st Aug. A single female was present at Leuchars Airfield on 16th Jul, 17th Jul, 25th Jul and 1st Aug. Two were present at Valleyfield Lagoons for most of August. A single was at Kirkcaldy Harbour (9th Aug) with two at Shell Bay (12th Aug), two at East Lomond (14th Aug), one at Wormiston (15th Aug), three at Goosepools (17th Aug), two at West Saline (20th Aug) and singles at Anstruther and Dalgety Bay both (22nd Aug). Three were at Fife Ness (22nd Aug) with one lingering for a week at Elie Ness from 23rd Aug. Leuchars Airfield hosted nine on



Northern Wheatear by Phil Jones

26th Aug with six still present the next day. Three were at Ruddons Point (27th Aug) with singles at Dalgety Bay (29th and 30th Aug), Fife Ness (29th Aug) and Earls Hall Muir (30th Aug). Records in the autumn were virtually all of single birds with the exception of three at Leuchars Airfield on 18th Sep and 12th Oct and three at Fife Ness on 26th Sep. September records of single birds were from Dalgety Bay (2nd and 17th), Orkie Miln (2nd), Valleyfield Lagoons (2nd and 27th), Balcomie beach (9th), Leuchars Airfield (11th, 19th and 25th), the south end of Tentsmuir (13th), Fife Ness (16th and 17th), Dalgety Bay (17th), Wormiston (17th), Craighead (21st), Pettycur (24th) and West Lomond (28th). In October single birds were reported at Fife Ness from 7th to 9th.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	3	0.09
2007	48	9	0.20
2008	46	5	0.11

***European Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)**

Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant. Amber data list species.

A single spring record but a reasonably good showing in autumn after a blank year in 2007.

The spring record consisted of one showing at Fife Ness Muir on 27th May.

The first birds of the autumn were both at Fife Ness Muir with one on 7th Aug and then another on 21st Aug. September saw the next wave with singles at Dreelside on 10th, at Fife Ness on 13th and at Priory Park, Pittenweem and Fife Ness Muir on 14th. A juvenile showing some characteristics of Collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*) was trapped at Fife Ness Muir on 15th but despite claims to the contrary it was always considered to be European Pied. The following day saw a second bird there with both remaining until 17th. Also on 17th, Wormiston Farm held two with another nearby at Wormiston spinney. Wormiston saw the last bird of the year on 21st.

Dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*)

Abundant breeding resident and common passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Two juveniles were at Damhead of Torr on 26th May and an adult was seen feeding an unspecified number of young at North Queensferry on 4th Jun. On 6th Jul, an adult and a juvenile were at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing and a pair with two juvs was at the Eden Centre, Guardbridge. An adult with an unspecified number of juveniles were at Lower Largo on 12th Jul and one adult with two juvs at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing on 19th Aug. In Valleyfield Woods during the summer there were five nests and nine young were successfully reared. Also at Valleyfield, in a garden in Woodhead Street, one nest produced a brood of three. During the summer months AOT were reported from Damhead of Torr (3+) where nesting was successful, at Craigsanquhar (1), in the West Saline area (4) and Woodlands Farm area (8). An adult was noted carrying nesting material at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 10th May.

This is a common species throughout the county and the reports reflect its geographical distribution but not its abundance. Birds were seen regularly all year at Dalgety Bay, Damhead of Torr (2-6), Robertson Road, Cupar (small numbers), Shamrock Street, Dunfermline (2) and Struan Drive, Inverkeithing (4).

At the start of the year one was at Star Moss (5th Jan), four in the Newport area (12th Jan), one at Pitcairn (12th Jan), six at Ardrross (15th Jan) with singles at Whinfield Place, Newport on (26th Jan) and at Kirkton Farm (30th Jan). In February two were at North Lodge, Monimail on 5th with one at Dalgety Bay on 9th. One was trapped and ringed at Braefoot on 11th with one at Port Laing on 14th, four at St Margaret's Marsh on the same date and four in the Newport area on 16th.

Four were singing in the Newport area on 15th Mar while one pair was at Braefoot on 17th Mar, two pairs each at both Birnie Loch on 24th Mar and Ardrross on 4th Apr. One was trapped and ringed at Cullaloe on 6th Apr with five singing in the Newport area on the same date. Later in April at least eight were at Gaudry on 15th with two at West Quarry Braes on 17th, four at Linkswood Pond on 19th, two at Tentsmuir on 20th, three at Fife Ness Muir on 23rd and nine in the Newport area on 26th. At Kincaig Hill two pairs were present on 8th May with three singing in the Newport area on 10th May. Singles were noted at Nether Bouprie Farm and Pleasants Farm, both on 16th May and also at Tentsmuir on 24th May. One was at Balcomie on 29th May and two at West Quarry Braes on 30th May and 11th Jun.

In the summer months singles were at Cult Ness (18th Jun) and North Queensferry (18th Jun), with five at Port Laing (18th Jun), two at St Margaret's Marsh (18th Jun), two at Dalgety Bay (23rd Jun), two at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline (27th Jun), four in the Newport area (28th Jun) and five at Kincaig Hill (30th Aug). In autumn singles were in the Newport area on 8th Oct and at Dalgety Bay on 12th Oct with two at Kirktonbarns on 9th Nov and one at Clinthill on 11th Nov. Two were at Fordell on 11th Nov with singles near Balbougie on the same date and at Morendy Wood on 22nd Nov and Dalgety Bay on 9th Dec. A flock of ten were in a field at Springfield on 11th Dec with the last record of the year being of two seen mobbing a cat at Pitcairn on 14th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	5	2	3	3	2	4	2	1	2	0	0	3

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	99	2.83
2007	48	143	3.00
2008	46	160	3.48

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Abundant breeding resident. Red data list species.

Breeding: Greatly under recorded. Early April saw a pair mating at Newport. A pair set up home in an old Common House Martin nest at Leuchars on 27th Apr. One pair nested in a roof at Freuchie and two pairs produced five fledglings in a roof at

Woodhead Street, Valleyfield. The first fledglings were noted with three at Ladybank on 14th May. A pair raised a brood of three in a nestbox at Damhead of Torr. Three juvs were recorded at Gauldry with several fledged young seen at Balmullo, all in mid-June. West Saline accommodated 6AOT with 1AOT at Balmerino but the outcomes were unknown. Birds were reported from Kilmany, Fordell, Dysart, Guardbridge, Cult Ness, North Queensferry, Dalgety Bay, Nether Bouprie Farm, Pleasants Farm, Kingsbarns and Belliston during the breeding season.

The species was observed throughout the year in all areas of Fife. The largest groups reported were 100 at Coal Farm on 11th Aug, 60 at Kilconquhar Loch on 21st Aug, 58 at Balmullo on 12th Jun, 56 at Elie on 6th Jul, c50 at Lundin Links on 8th Aug, 50 at Anstruther on 15th Aug (35 on 16th Jul), c40 at Ballingall Mill on 17th Aug, 33 at Easter Kilwhiss on 22nd Aug, 30 at Kirkton Farm on 30th Jan, 29 at Newport on 14th Sep (21 on 15th Mar and 20 on 1st Nov), 25+ at West Mill on 4th Mar, 25+ at Dunfermline on (20+ on 26th Jan), 25 at Leven promenade on 15th Feb, 24 at West Saline on 25th Sep, 20 at Skelpie Farm on 16th Jan, 20 at Dalgety Bay on 14th Sep, 18 at Nether Bouprie Farm on 16th May, 15+ at Nochnary Farm on 21st Jul, 15 at Kilmany on 14th Apr, 14 at Gauldry on 31st Aug and 12 at Valleyfield all year. Counts of ten birds came from Struan Drive in Inverkeithing, Dysart, Lathockar Mill, Belliston, Leuchars railway station, Gauldry and Fordell.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	367	10.49
2007	48	436	9.10
2008	46	487	10.59

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Fairly common breeding resident and possible winter visitor. Red data list species.

Breeding: A total of 24AON were noted at Damhead of Torr with some nesting successfully and producing young in nest boxes including one pair using a bat box. Successful nesting was also recorded at Balmullo and a pair was seen mating at Rossie Bog on 2nd May. A pair with three juvs was seen in a garden at Fordell on 25th May. Juveniles being fed were observed at Dunbog on 13th Jul and at Cupar on 4th Jun. One pair bred at Drumeldrie with several pairs noted at Kilrenny. Another indication of successful breeding was a bird carrying food at Denmuir on 1st Jun. Pairs were reported from Abercrombie and Kingsbarns in early May. Birds were seen at 15 other locations during the season but there were no indications of breeding.

Once again more reports were received for this species than the more common House Sparrow. Notable flocks reported were 48 at Stenton Farm on 30th Dec, 40 at Struthers Barn on 25th Nov, from 21 up to 40 at Damhead of Torr from 30th Jan to 4th Dec, 30 at Kirkforthar on 14th Jan, 25 at Teasses on 25th Jan, 22 at Coaltown of Wemyss on 13th Jan, 21 at East Baldrige Farm on 31st Oct, 20 at Easter Kilwhiss on 2nd Oct, 17 at Balmullo on 27th Apr, 14 at West Grange on 8th Oct, 12 at Bowhouse Farm on 2nd Mar, ten at Balmalkin on 26th Dec, ten at Findas Knowe on 20th Jan, up

to ten in a St Andrews garden from January to April and also from September to December. Some visible passage was seen at Elie Ness on 20th Jul (3SW) on 19th Aug (20W) and on 29th Sep (5W), Kincaig Point on 8th Oct (4W) and on 30th Oct (20W).

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	25	0.74
2007	48	27	0.57
2008	46	25	0.54

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Scarce passage migrant in both spring and autumn. Red data list species.

Two individuals were recorded this year with the first being seen adjacent to Fife Ness Muir on 5th May (Malcolm Ware). The other record was of a juvenile and came from Letham on 5th Oct (Davy Ogilvie).

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Fairly common breeding resident and occasional passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: On 28th March a pair was on the Bluther Burn and they were seen later with three young. Three immatures were also seen on there on both 10th Jun and 23rd Jun making it possible that two pairs had bred. At Denmuir two juvs were present on 1st Jun with one juv at Kilmany on 20th Jun and one juv at Harperleas Reservoir on 23rd Jun. Later in the year a pair with two juvs was at West Saline on 3rd Sep. Indications of potential breeding were noted at Lothrie Burn, Glenrothes where two males and a female held two territories on 27th Mar. Also one pair were displaying on the River Eden at Cupar on 4th Apr and adults carrying either nest materials or food were noted at Newport jetty on 17th and 23rd May, Cluny Clays on 31st May and on the River Leven at Glenrothes on 2nd Jun.

At the start of the year singles were at Anstruther (4th Jan), Cupar (4th Jan), Ravenscraig (6th Jan) with two each at Tayport (6th Jan), Cupar Wards (8th Jan) and Guardbridge (11th Jan). Further singles were at Kilconquhar Loch (11th Jan), Lochore Meadows CP (11th Jan), Newton Sandpit (12th Jan), Beveridge Park (15th Jan), Horselaw (26th Jan) and Leuchars Airfield (30th Jan). In February one flew north at Kincaig Point (10th) with one male at Whitehill Black Lodge (11th), one on the Lyne Burn (14th Feb) and two at Dalgety Bay (14th Feb). In March two were seen regularly all month in Anstruther while one was at Cupar (3rd) with two there (15th), two at Cullaloe (23rd) and singles at Lower Largo (28th), at South Street, Cupar (30th) and at Thornton Pool (30th).

Spring records continued with two on the Lyne Burn (1st Apr), one pair at Cupar (4th Apr), one at Cupar Wards (9th Apr), two at Craigtoun CP (11th Apr), one at Pathhead (11th Apr), two at Kilmany Station (11th Apr), one pair at Maspie Burn (13th Apr), two pairs at Cupar (14th Apr), two at Dura Den (20th Apr) and singles at Guardbridge (20th Apr), Luthrie (20th Apr), Pathhead (20th Apr), Springfield Muir

(22nd) Apr and Keils Den (30th) Apr. The only non-confirmed breeding record in May was of one pair at Falkland on 5th. The summer months started with two at Ceres on 2nd Jun followed by two at Cupar on 4th Jun and singles at Damside on 7th Jun, Ballantager on 18th Jun and Newport jetty on 28th Jun. Records continued with three on the Bluther Burn on 4th Jul, one at Pathhead on 14th Jul, two on the Cleughie Burn at Kilmany on 15th Jul, two at Cupar on 22nd Jul, 1SW at Buckhaven on 23rd Jul and two at Cameron Reservoir on 30th Jul. A pair was on the Keil Burn at Lower Largo on 8th Aug with 1S at Kinraig Point on 16th Aug, five at Pathhead on 18th Aug and singles at Kilconquhar Loch on 21st Aug and Dalgety Bay on 22nd Aug.

In autumn the majority of records were of single birds. In September two were at Saline Golf Course on 6th with two at Fife Ness on 8th and 3S there the next day, two at Burnside, Cupar on 15th and 7W/1hr at Elie Ness on 18th. All other September records were of single birds and came from Mountcastle (2nd), Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (8th), Fife Ness (9th), Kinghorn (12th and 21st), Kinraig Head (14th), Linkswood (14th), Letham (15th), above Kemback (21st), Balcomie (21st), Dura Den (21st), Burnside, Cupar (23rd) and Holl Reservoir (28th). Similarly in October three were at both Letham and Pathhead on 5th with two at Longannet on 8th, two at Pathhead on 8th, two at Guardbridge on 9th and three at Pathhead on 14th. All other October records were singles and came from Rossie Bog (2nd), East Garvock Hill, Dunfermline (9th), Dunfermline town centre (10th), Kirkcaldy town centre (10th), Dysart (14th), Causewayhead (19th), Washer Willys (19th), Mountcastle (22nd) Guardbridge (26th) and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (27th). In November two were at Pittencrieff Park on 1st with two at Longannet on 3rd and two at Heatherhall Wood on 30th. All other records were of singles and came from Guardbridge (1st), Seafield (1st), Cambo (2nd), Easter Lathrisk (2nd), Rossie Bog (2nd and 22nd), Tayport Pond (4th), Townhill Loch (4th), Dalgety Bay (11th), Pathhead (15th), West Wemyss (16th), Springfield (22nd), Inverkeithing (27th), Saline (27th) and Beveridge Park (30th). Further singles were at Damhead of Torr on 1st Dec, Stratheden on 11th Dec, East Garvock Hill, Dunfermline on 12th Dec, a female at Torry on 15th Dec, Denburn Wood on 26th Dec and Dalgety Bay on 31st Dec.

BBS	1km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	6	0.18
2007	48	7	0.15
2008	46	4	0.09

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*)

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Breeding: Five birds, encompassing a fledged brood, were at Belliston on 7th Jun with an adult and three juvs at Logie on 18th Jun, two juvs at Harperleas Reservoir on 23rd Jun, four juvs at Kinraig Point on 5th Jul, four adults and four juvs at Guardbridge on 5th Jul and one adult feeding a juvenile in a garden at Letham Way,

Dalgety Bay on 24th Jul. An unspecified number of fledglings were reported being fed at Pitreavie playing fields on 24th Jun with adults and juveniles present at Dumbarrie Links on 12th Jul. Two were reported carrying nest material at Beleybridge on 2nd Apr while one was noted carrying food on the approach track to Rossie Bog on 19th May. One pair was seen carrying food at Valleyfield Lagoons on 20th May while another individual was doing similarly at Drumoig on 24th May. AOT were reported from Bath (2) on 25th Apr and from both Valleyfield Lagoons (1) and Woodlea Farm (3) during the summer months. Also two family parties were reported from the West Saline area during the summer.

At the start of the year four were at Dysart on 1st Jan with six at Letham on 11th Jan, one in the Newport area on 12th Jan, six at Balbuthie on 13th Jan, two at both Dalgety Bay and Leven beach on 16th Jan and singles at Balmerino on 18th Jan and at Lower Largo and St Andrews on 19th Jan. Easter Kilwhiss saw at least 16 on 22nd Jan with two at the Scoonie Burn mouth on the same date and one at Frankfield, Dalgety Bay and two at Kirkton Farm all on 30th Jan. One was at Dalgety Bay on 2nd Feb, while **at least 100, the highest count of the year, were in a roost at the Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline on 9th Feb** (Howard Wix). Elsewhere, 19 were at Letham on 10th Feb with one at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 18th Feb, four at Calaisburn on 24th Feb, ten at Valleyfield Lagoons on 6th Mar, 14 at Balcomie Bay on 13th Mar, five at Kilconquhar Loch on 14th Mar, three at Leuchars Airfield on 18th Mar and singles at Lathockar Mill on 18th Mar, Dalgety Bay on 19th Mar and Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 22nd Mar. A good count of 30 was found at Anstruther on 24th Mar feeding amongst seaweed. In April one was at Fife Ness on 2nd with six at Leuchars Airfield on 3rd, 18 at Kilconquhar Loch on 4th, six at Coble Shore on 5th and nine at Peacehill on 6th. Singles were at both Dalgety Bay and Charlottetown on 9th with 20 at Kilconquhar Loch on 18th, one on the north side of Newport on 19th, a pair at Aberdour on 21st, 30 at Kilconquhar Loch on 23rd, two in the Newport area on 26th and ten at Leuchars Airfield on 27th. In May two were at Dunfermline landfill (1st) with one at Calaisburn (3rd), a pair at Pitkevy (5th), a pair at Wester Glassie (5th), two at Fife Ness (8th), two at Sheardrum Farm (14th), one male at Barnhill Bay (16th), one male at Pleasants Farm (16th) and one on the north side of Newport (17th). Ten were at Leuchars Airfield on 21st May with two pairs at Fife Ness on 24th May, two at Wormiston on 29th May and singles at both Tentsmuir on 25th May and Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 26th May.

Summer records began with at least 15 at Leuchars Airfield (7th Jun) and singles at Otterston Loch (7th Jun), Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (9th Jun), Logie (12th Jun), North Queensferry (18th Jun) and Drumoig (21st Jun). There were three at Cullaloe (15th Jun), six at Newton Farm Pond (20th Jun) and three in the Newport area (28th Jun). Records continued with 25 at Tentsmuir Pond on 3rd Jul, one at the north end of Tentsmuir on 5th Jul, 11 at Peacemill on 20th Jul, two at Drumdreel Farm and at least ten at Newton Sandpit all on 21st Jul with eight at Balcomie on 23rd Jul. August saw five at Tayport on 2nd with 24 there on 10th, eight at Vicarsford Cemetery on 16th, at least 15 at Leuchars Airfield on 17th, 15 at Tayport Pond on 28th and 14 at Dalgety Bay on 30th. In September there were 31 on the playing field at Elie (2nd) with at least

18 at Leuchars Airfield (2nd), eight at West Saline (3rd), four at Linkwood fuel depot (14th), two at Fife Ness (15th), at least six at Leuchars Airfield (18th), three at Kemback (21st) and two at Damhead of Torr (25th). In October eight were at Dalgety Bay on 4th with 17 feeding on a newly sown field at Elie Ness on 8th and 18 at Coaltown of Wemyss on 12th. Autumn passage was noted at Elie Ness where there were 60WSW/1hr on 7th Oct. Two birds were noted at both Kirkton Barns and the south end of Tentsmuir on 9th Nov with singles at Clinthill and Dalgety Bay on 11th Nov. The Queen Margaret Hospital roost in Dunfermline held between 30-50 birds from 17th Nov until at least 24th Nov. At the south end of West Sands at least six birds showed on 28th Nov. December saw two records, both of singles at Dalgety Bay on 20th and at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 30th.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	34	0.97
2007	48	67	1.36
2008	46	48	1.04

* **White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba alba*)**

Passage migrant in spring and autumn.

A much improved showing this year with up to twenty individuals being recorded. There were slightly more records in spring with the first being a single at Coble Shore on 5th Apr. This was followed with a single male at Mountcastle on 13th Apr and two at Edenside on 15th Apr. Further April records were of singles at Fife Ness on 18th, at Edenside on 19th, 21st, 26th and 29th and at Balcomie on 30th. There were four were at Valleyfield Lagoons on 29th Apr. In May singles were at Balcomie beach on 3rd and at Balcomie cottages on 9th.

Later in the year singles were at Anstruther on 23rd Aug, 4th Sep and 28th Sep with further singles at Pitenweem on 4th Sep, Crail Golf Course on 15th Sep and finally Letham on 31st Oct.

* **Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)**

Very local breeding summer visitor and scarce passage migrant. Red data list species.

Breeding: For the second successive year there were no positive breeding records. However, single AOT were reported from Gartarry on 28th Apr and from Comrie Colliery and Kitchen Green on 1st Jun. During the summer 1AOT was located in the West Saline area. In Devilla Forest two birds were singing on 9th Apr but were only present for two to three days, while one pair and two singles were noted there on 3rd May. Other spring records were of singles at Craigluscar on 5th May and at Goosepools on 6th May. In late summer one was at Bankhead Moss on 2nd Aug.

Two calling migrants were seen moving south at Kinraig Point on 13th Aug with another single bird moving south on 30th Aug. Further migrants were 2W at Elie Ness on 4th Sep and a single at Kinraig Point on 30th Sep.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

Very common breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Confirmed at Valleyfield Lagoons, where on 11th Jun one nest contained a brood of five and at another three adults were noted carrying food for different young. The next day a different nest was found which contained three eggs. At Goosepools 23 pairs were present on 29th Apr and nesting took place, but there was poor success due to Carrion Crow predation. Two birds were seen carrying food for young at Leuchars Airfield on 16th May while three were at Elie East Links doing similarly on 30th May. AOT were reported from Valleyfield Lagoons (5) on 19th Apr, Comrie Colliery (6) and Kitchen Green (2) both on 1st Jun, and during the summer months at Woodlea Farm (3).

This species was reported in all months of the year, with by far the largest numbers observed during the autumn passage at east coast locations.

At the start of the year, 20 were at Goosepools on 7th Jan with two each at Letham on 11th Jan, at Skelpie Farm on 16th Jan and at Leuchars Airfield on 30th Jan. In February, 14 were at Rossie Bog (6th), 26 at Stravithie (6th), nine at Newburgh (9th), 12 at Valleyfield Lagoons (12th), one at Kinnaird Hill (13th) and 12+ at Calaisburn (25th). Spring records started with two at Calaisburn on 2nd Mar, eight at Leuchars Airfield on 27th Mar, five at Pitmedden on 27th Mar and one near Bonnyburn Farm on 2nd Apr. Passage was noted at Goosepools and Kincaig Hill on 2nd Apr with 80N/1hr and 50N/1hr respectively. Again at Goosepools 100N/1hr were reported on 8th Apr. At Leuchars Airfield three pairs were present on 3rd Apr and 27th Apr with ten at Coble Shore on 4th Apr, 75 at Loch Gelly on 6th Apr, two at Tentsmuir on 13th Apr, c45 at Angle Park on 14th Apr, four at Cupar on 14th Apr, three at Luthrie on 20th Apr and two at Fife Ness on 23rd Apr. A single was at Cambo (11th May) with three at Kilminning (11th May), two at Tentsmuir (31st May), eight at Leuchars Airfield (7th Jun), one at Craigsanquhar (12th Jun), three at Glenduckie (20th Jun) and four at Leuchars Airfield (22nd Jun).

July produced three at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 1st, one singing at Cairngreen on 4th, one at the north end of Tentsmuir on 5th, three singing at Kilminning on 6th, one singing at Taymount on 7th, three at Leuchars Airfield on 9th and five at Goosepools on 28th. In August there were 30 at Easter Lomond on 14th with two at Tayport on 16th, one at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 25th and 140+ at Rossie Bog on 31st. Mid-August saw the start of migrant passage with 140SW/1hr at Kincaig Point on 16th and an impressive 720W/2hrs there on 30th. Elsewhere, one was at Tentsmuir on 2nd Sep with ten there on 11th Sep, three at Letham on 14th Sep, six at Dalgety Bay on 8th Sep and three at Leuchars Airfield on 19th Sep. Autumn migration continued with c100W/2hrs at Kincaig Point on 19th Sep, 419SW at Elie Ness on 20th Sep with 290SW/2hrs past the latter site on 29th Sep, 95W at Kincaig Point on 8th Oct and 223SW/2hrs at Elie Ness on 9th Oct. Other autumn records saw 60 at Saline Golf Course on 20th Sep, ten at Letham on 21st Sep, 30 at West Saline on 2nd Sep, nine at Letham on 28th Sep with five on 11th Oct and four there on 22nd Oct.

In November three were at Kilminning (7th), one at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs (11th), five at Clinthill (11th), two at The Common (16th) and four at Peacehill (24th). At the

end of the year three were at the south end of Tentsmuir on 6th Dec with 54 at Bickramside on 8th Dec, 15 at Goosepools on 23rd Dec, eight at Kinraig Point on 25th Dec and 22 at Piperpool Moss on 30th Dec. The last two records of the year were 18 at Valleyfield Lagoons and 24 at Wormiston both on 31st Dec.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	26	0.74
2007	48	62	1.28
2008	46	32	0.70

Eurasian Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*)

Fairly common breeding resident and occasional passage migrant.

Breeding: Two pairs were noted nesting at Kinraig Point on 31st May and positive breeding was recorded there on 14th Jun with a pair with two young present and on 19th Jul with a pair with four young. At Elie Ness on 27th Jun one adult was feeding a juvenile.

At the start of the year 18 were at Cocklemill Marsh on 1st Jan with singles at Guardbridge on 4th Jan and St Andrews on 12th Jan. A single bird was noted on a farm track 0.5km inland near Cornceres on 2nd Jan. There were five at Tayport on 6th Jan with two at Guardbridge on 11th Jan, 12 at Ardross on 15th Jan and one at St Andrews on 19th Jan. A good count of 20 was noted at Cambo on 7th Feb with singles at Tayport on 10th Feb and Dalgety Bay on 21st Feb. Two were at Guardbridge on 22nd Feb. Spring records started with 18 at Ardross on 3rd Mar and continued with two at Tayport on 9th Mar. One bird frequented the courtyard at the museum in Anstruther during March and April. Other singles were seen at Guardbridge on 9th Mar and at Leven on both 31st Mar and 2nd Apr. Two pairs were at Cellardyke harbour on 9th Apr.

In August three were at Shell Bay on 12th with two to the east of Elie on 27th. There were no further records until October when five were at Guardbridge on 14th with singles at West Wemyss on 16th and at Dalgety Bay on 17th. Five were at Pathhead on 26th Oct with singles at Lundin Links on 1st Nov and at Dalgety Bay on 9th Nov. Three were at Guardbridge on 11th Nov with eight at Cocklemill Marsh on 13th Nov, three at Tayport on 15th Nov and one at Guardbridge on 18th Nov. December saw one at Dalgety Bay on 20th with eight at Kinraig Point on 25th, two at Earlsferry on 28th, five at Anstruther on 29th and three at Earlsferry on 31st.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	6	0.18
2007	48	5	0.11
2008	46	5	0.11

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Abundant breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding: The level of breeding was under reported. Birds on territory during the breeding season were reported at Piperpool Moss (12AOT), Saline Shaw/Dun Moss (10AOT), Valleyfield Woods (8AON), West Saline area (42AOT), Woodlea Farm area (25AOT) and Inchcolm (1+AOT). Damhead of Torr hosted five successful pairs and an occupied nest was found at Star on 27th Apr. Valleyfield Woods held 8AON but two nests were ripped out although the remainder produced 18 fledglings. During April, males holding territory were reported from Aberdour, Fordell, Fife Ness Muir, Inverkeithing and West Quarry Braes. Reports came from 24 other locations during the breeding season.

There were many reports of small groups of birds but some more substantially sized flocks were also reported. Those with counts greater than 20 were 350 at West Muircambus on 1st Feb, 150 at Torry on 11th Aug, c140 at Dalgety Bay on 31st Dec, 100 at Tentsmuir on 3rd Nov, 81 at Dun Moss on 30th Dec, 75 at Red Myre on 14th Jan, 64 at Bickramside on 8th Dec, 60 at Ribbonfield on 7th Feb, 80 at Damhead of Torr on 4th Dec (with 56 from 2nd to 17th Feb and 47 on 30th Dec), 50 at Easter Kilwhiss on 23rd Dec, 50 near Balbougie on 11th Nov, 50 at Kinraig Hill on 1st Dec, 45 at Balmakin on 26th Dec, 37 at Gauldry on 12th Feb, 33 at Morendy Wood on 9th Nov, 33 at Tentsmuir on 5th Apr (28 on 24th May), 34 at East Lomond on 27th Dec, 33 at Torry on 15th Dec, 30 at Brucefield on 5th Feb, 30 at Rossie Drain on 29th Dec, 22 at Blairhall Bing on 3rd Mar and 20+ at Guardbridge on 20th Dec. Migrants were noted at Kilminning with 15SW over there on 26th Oct. One bird was still on Inchcolm on 15th Nov.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	22	35	15	25	18	23	15	20	21	8	6	23

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	532	15.20
2007	48	642	13.38
2008	46	607	13.20

*Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

Winter visitor and passage migrant in varying numbers. Schedule 1 species.

Another poor year for this species and even worse than 2007 (which was noted as probably the worst year in living memory!). No sizeable flocks were observed and all but one report was of either one or two birds. In total, sightings of only 18 birds were received (and there is possibly overlap in some of these sightings).

Reported sightings in the early part of the year were at Guardbridge (one male on 11th Jan and also on 20th Feb), at Pitcairn (one male on 12th Jan) and at Edenside (two males on 14th Jan) and at Damhead of Torr (one on 27th Jan). There were no further sightings until a 1st winter male showed at Newmill Gardens, St Andrews on 19th Apr with another summer plunaged male in a garden in Kingsbarns from 28th Apr to 1st May.

Kilrenny saw one on 24th Sep and three on 7th Oct with a male at Balcomie on 8th Oct. On 15th Oct, Kilrenny held another single and one showed at Elie Ness. One bird put in a two-day stay in a garden in Anstruther from 21st Oct. November brought one again to Kilrenny on 12th and one was seen in the far west near to the entrance to Longannet PS on 27th.

European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: The level of breeding was under reported. A nest was found at Blairhall Bing with two nests at Valleyfield Woods, one of which contained five eggs. A pair nested successfully at Damhead of Torr where two juvs were seen on 4th Jun. A pair with two juvs was seen at the Eden Centre hide at Guardbridge on 8th Jun with three juvs there on 24th Jun. A single juv was noted in a garden in Robertson Road, Cupar on 6th Jul. Birds were on territory at West Saline (1AOT), Blackadder Wood, Kincardine (1AOT), Bluebell Wood, Kincardine (1AOT), Kedlock (1AOT) and Newport (5AOT).

This year no counts above 100 were returned. The most notable counts were 80 at Damhead of Torr on 5th Jan (and ranging from 16 to 40 throughout the rest of the year), 50 at Tentsmuir on 3rd Nov, 39 at Balmullo on 6th Feb, 25 at Guardbridge on 27th Feb (ten on 16 Mar, 8th Apr), 20 at Tayport on 20th Jan, 12 at Valleyfield on 3rd Mar and on 5th Dec.

Some visible passage was seen at Kinraig Head on 19th Sep (18SW) and at Kilminning on 26th Oct (8SW).

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	2	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	8	0	0	0

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	145	4.14
2007	48	199	4.10
2008	46	196	4.26

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Common breeding resident.

Breeding: The level of breeding was under reported. A juv was in a garden in Church Street, Ladybank on 24th May, a pair and four juvs were at Valleyfield Lagoons on 10th Jun, an adult and three juvs were at Logie on 12th Jun, two juvs at Damhead of Torr on 13th Jun, four adults and one juv in a garden at Struan Drive, Inverkeithing on 21st Jun, a pair with one juv in a garden at Robertson Road, Cupar on 24th Jun and a pair feeding another juv there on 10th Sep, a pair and two juvs at Leuchars Airfield on 4th Jul with a pair with six juvs there on 19th Sep, two adults and eight immatures at Valleyfield Lagoons on 1st Aug. A territory was being held on 30th Jun at Windyhill Farm when two juvs from an earlier brood were still present. Other birds reported on

territory during the breeding season were 2AOT at Bluebell Wood, Kincardine on 28th Apr, 2AOT at Piperpool Moss on 1st Jun, 1AOT at West Saline and 5AOT at Woodlea Farm. Recorded from 14 other locations during the breeding season.

As in the previous year there were few reports of large flocks and there only six counts greater than 100 which were 200 at Devilla Forest on 6th Sep (120 on 27th Dec), 153 at Pitscottie Road, Cupar on 17th Sep, 130 at Cocklemill Marsh on 16th Aug with 60 still there on 27th Aug, 120 at Devilla Forest on 27th Dec and 100 at Kincaigh Hill on 13th Aug (with 60 on 19th Aug). Other notable counts were 86 at Wemyss Moss on 31st Aug, 70 at Cellardyke on 15th Aug, c60 at Shiells on 1st Nov (and c30 on 2nd Sep), 55 at Damhead of Torr on 19th Jan (36 on 11th Dec), 55 at Crail Airfield on 8th Sep, 50 at Goosepools on 25th Aug and 25th Sep, c50 at Dalgety Bay on 24th Jan, 40 at Glenduckie on 30th Jan, 40 at Loch Gelly on 15th Feb and 9th Mar, c40 at Newton Farm on 18th Dec, 40+ on Inchkeith on 7th Dec (and c30 on 15th Nov), 30 at Valleyfield Woods on 3rd Mar, 32 at Ardross on 6th Nov, 30 at Caldwell's Farm on 21st Jul, 30 at Dreelside on 26th Jan, 30 at Lower Largo on 19th Sep, 30+ at Wemyss Moss on 14th Aug, 29 at Morendy Wood on 22nd Nov, 27 at Newport on 11th Jan, 26 at Cults Mill on 22nd Nov, 25 at Fife Ness on 8th Sep, 25 at Seafield on 11th Oct, 24 at Ladybank on 23rd Dec, 23 at Fordelhill on 2nd Feb, 21 at Cupar on 14th Feb and 20 at Strathburn on 26th Oct.

Some visible migration was seen at Elie Ness on 26th Oct (220WSW/2hrs) and at Seafield on 26th Oct (97S/2hrs).

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	5	0	0	4	2	0	2	11	11	0	0	21
Leuchars Airfield	9	5	0	5	4	11	4	4	24	20	2	0

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	76	2.24
2007	48	123	2.57
2008	46	113	2.46

Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)

Scarce breeding resident, common autumn and winter visitor.

Breeding: No definite reports of breeding were received but 11AOT were noted at Pitmedden on 27th Feb, 4AOT at Innerleith pool on 14th Mar, 1AOT at Lindores on 20th Apr, 3AOT at Bath on 25th Apr, 1AOT at St Ford on 3rd May and 1AOT at Kitchen Green on 1st Jun. Although there was no indication of breeding behaviour, birds were reported from 17 other locations during the breeding season.

Notable count sizes received were 300 at Valleyfield Lagoons on 2nd Jan, c300 at Pitmedden on 9th Mar, 200 at Newmills on 8th Jan (40+ on 3rd Mar), c200 at Thornton Pool on 11th Jan, 100 at Lochore Meadows on 11th Jan, c100 at Otterston Loch on 7th Jan, 80 at Devilla Forest on 23rd Mar, 55 at Braefoot on 11th Feb (30+ on 29th Jan), 50 at Cupar on 4th Jan, 44 at St Ford on 1st Jan, 40 at Dalgety Bay on 13th

Jan, 30 at Washer Willys on 24th Feb, 27+ at Red Myre on 20th Jan, 22 at Cameron community woodland on 5th Jan, 20 at Guardbridge on 20th Jan, 15 at Elie Ness on 29th Sep, 15 at Tentsmuir on 20th Jan, 15 at Scotsraig on 24th Feb, 18 at Goosepools on 17th Nov (14 on 7th Jan), 15 at Dalgety Bay on 2nd Dec, 12 at Mountcastle on 11th Jan, 12 at Black Hill on 14th Jan and 12 at Kilconquhar Loch on 27th Jan. Several reports were also received of up to eight birds feeding on garden feeders, especially during the winter months.

Some visible migration was seen at Kincaig Head on 14th Sep (18SW), on 19th Sep (27SW), at Kinghorn on 21st Sep (10W), and at Coaltown of Wemyss on 12th Oct (12W) and at Earlseat on 19th Oct (20W).

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	79	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	32

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	18	0.53
2007	48	4	0.10
2008	46	11	0.24

Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)

Common breeding resident. Red data list species.

Breeding: Few confirmed breeding reports received. A fledged brood of three was seen at Kincaig Hill on 5th Jun with a fledged brood of one there on 12th Jul. One pair and three juvs were at Elie Ness on 27th Jun. Four territories were noted at Valleyfield Lagoons where a nest containing five eggs was found. Birds were reported on territory at Bath (1AOT on 25th Apr), Comrie Colliery (1AOT on 1st Jun), Inch Farm (1AOT on 27th May), Kitchen Green (2AOT on 1st Jun), West Saline (2AOT), Windyhill Farm (1AOT on 30th Jun), Inchcolm (several AOT), Forret Hill (1AOT), Dumbarrie Links (at least 1AOT) and Woodlea Farm (2AOT). At least 12 birds were in suitable breeding habitat at Norman's Law on 20th May.

Several large flocks were seen, the largest being 450+ at Langside on 2nd Feb, c450 at Blairhall Mains on 30th Aug, 400 at Devon Common on 19th Jan, c400 at Clatto Reservoir on 17th Feb, 220 at Kincaig Hill on 29th Nov and 22nd Dec, 200+ at Cornceres on 5th Jan, c200 at Giffordstown on 11th Mar, 150 at Newark on 16th Mar, 140 at Lower Largo on 13th Jan, 120 at Crail on 20th Jan, 200 at St Monans on 2nd Feb, 120+ at Dumbarrie Links on 10th Aug, 120 at St Monans on 21st Jan (100+ on 5th Jan), 120 at Peacehill on 24th Nov, 100+ at Dunshalt on 12th Jan, 100 at Newark on 1st Feb, 100 at Carriston Farm on 9th Mar, 100 at Coble Shore on 23rd Sep and 15th Oct, 100 at Kincaig Hill on 4th Nov, 100 at Pittachope on 24th Nov, 100 at Balcomie on 31st Dec and c100 at St Monans on 29th Dec. Two birds were on Inchkeith on 7th Dec. A leucistic bird was at Beleybridge on 3rd Jul.

Visible migration was seen at Elie Ness with 419WSW on 26th Oct, 12SW at Kilminning on 26th Oct and 99S/2hrs at Seafield on 26th Oct.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Leuchars Airfield	7	0	15	16	28	50	12	20	8	20	0	0

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	215	6.14
2007	48	287	6.00
2008	46	202	4.39

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

Uncommon autumn and winter visitor. Red data list species.

In the early part of the year 25 were at Cameron Reservoir on 3rd Mar, 11 at Goosepools on 5th Feb, ten at Cornceres on 5th Jan, three at both Dunshalt on 12th Jan and Ardross on 15th Jan, two each at Star on 6th Jan, Cocklemill Marsh (a "hot-spot" in recent years) on 12th Jan and also at Leuchars Airfield on 19th Mar.

Later in the year birds were seen from mid October. Two were at Elie Ness on 12th Oct and this number rose to 12 on 26th Oct and declining to one on 16th Nov. 17 were at Wormiston on 1st Nov, 6-7 at Kincaig Hill from 1st Nov to 28th Nov, six at Kilrenny shore from 13th Nov to 23rd Nov two at Goosepools on 28th Oct, one at Kilminning on 26th Oct and two at Kilrenny piggery on 17th Oct. Finally, one was at Dunshalt on 12th Dec.

Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)

Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor. Red data list species.

Breeding: One adult and three juvs were seen at Valleyfields Lagoons on 10th Jul and a territorial dispute between two males was observed at Pitcairn on 12th Jul. Also seen at West Lomond, Wemyss Moss, Coaltown of Balgonie, Tentsmuir, Annsmuir, Thornton, Harperleas Reservoir and Rossie Bog during the breeding season.

Notable sized counts reported were 81 at Tentsmuir on 10th Feb, c40 at Bath Pool on 28th Sep, 20+ at Devilla on 23rd Mar, 12 at Leuchars Airfield on 30th Jan, ten at Saline on 21st Jan and ten at Birnie/Gaddon Lochs on 7th Jan. The majority of reports (37 other locations) received were of small groups of birds (1-10).

Visible migration was seen at Elie Ness with 45W in one hour on 12th Oct, 3SW at Kincaig Point on 16th Aug, 19th Sep and 8th Nov with 4SW there on 1st Nov, ten west over Thornton Pool on 12th Sep and ten at Shamrock Street, Dunfermline on 13th Nov.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	0	0.00
2007	48	5	0.11
2008	46	0	0.00

Common Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)

Uncommon to common visitor in all seasons, breeding status uncertain.

Schedule 1 species.

Breeding: There were two pairs at Pitmedden on 30th Mar where one male was singing. One pair with one juv was seen at Milldeans on 27th Jun and one juv was at Fife Ness on 21st Sep.

As with the previous year it was a good year for sightings with reports from all months.

Reports of groups of greater than ten birds were 96N at Dun Moss on 1st Jun, 31 at Earlseat on 27th Jul, 30 at Devilla on 16th Nov, 24S at Kinraig Point on 5th Jun (with 21S on 20th Jun and 16S on 27th Aug), 17 at Wemyss Wood on 7th Dec, 16 at Tentsmuir on 20th Jun with 15 there on 25th Nov, 15 at Bankhead Moss on 21st Jun, 15 at Wemyss Wood on 23rd Nov, 14 at Tayport on 3rd Nov, 13 at Wemyss Wood on 19th Oct, at least 12 at Peppermill Dam on 13th Sep, 12 at Devilla Forest on 15th May, 12 at Pitmedden on 23rd Aug, ten at Craigmead on 2nd Jul, ten at Red Myre on 31st Aug and ten at Reres Wood on 23rd Dec. Other sites where groups of up to ten birds were reported were Bath Pool, Black Hill, Bogside, Cambo, Coaltown of Wemyss, Drumbrae Plantation, Dun Moss, Elie Ness, Grange Hill, Harperleas Reservoir, Kilminning, Kinraig Point, Kirkforthar, Kirktonbarns, Lacesston Muir, Lindamus Hill Wood, Long Wood, Morton Lochs, Pirrwindy, Saline, Shell Bay, St Andrews, Tayport, and Wormiston.

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	47	1.34
2007	48	3	0.06
2008	46	5	0.11

Eurasian Bullfinch (*Pyrrhulla pyrrhulla*)

Uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber data list species.

Breeding: An adult with three juvs was noted at Valleyfield Lagoons on 14th Jun and nearby a nest containing a brood of three was found at Valleyfield Woods on 23rd Jun. One female and three juvs were at Keils Den on 16th Jul. A pair feeding one juv was seen at Gathercauld on 27th Jul and one juv was at Formonthills on 16th Aug. A male was observed displaying to a female at Coul Reservoir on 2nd May and a male sang at the east end of Loch Gelly on 18th May.

Most reported sightings were of single birds or of small groups. Those where more than five or more birds were present during the pre-breeding season were 15 at Newport on 5th Jan, 14 at Tentsmuir on 10th Feb, 14 at Wemyss Wood on 31st Aug, 11 at Goosepools on 12th Feb, ten (7m3f) at Devon Common on 19th Jan, nine at Inverkeithing on 31st Jan, eight at Culross Quarry on 2nd Nov, eight at Kilmany on 27th Dec, seven at Cullaloe on 24th Oct, seven at Goosepools on 7th Jan (five on 10th Aug), seven at Lochore Meadows on 29th Oct, six at Blairhall Bing on 31st Oct, six at Glenrothes on 12th Jan, six at Valleyfield on 7th Nov, six at Loch Fitty on 14th Nov,

six at Morton on 22nd Nov, five at Valleyfield Woods on 22nd Nov and 28th Nov and 6th Dec, five (3m2f) at Cupar on 17th Jan, five at Dreelside on 2nd Feb, five at Shell Bay on 5th Feb and five at Cash Wood on 28th Dec.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	6	7	4	6	3	3	0	2	4	8	0	2

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	21	0.62
2007	48	14	0.30
2008	46	17	0.37

*Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Schedule 1 and Amber data list species.

At the start of the year from 6th to 27th Jan, 10-12 birds were at Kinshaldy reducing to six by 2nd Mar. The 2-8 birds seen at Goosepools in January and February were probably part of the same flock. Four birds were at Dunmore on 20th Feb and single birds were located at Norman's Law on 27th Jan, Elie Ness on 15th Feb, West Lomond on 30th Mar and Valleyfield Lagoons on 10th Apr.

There were no further reports until 6th October when a single bird was seen at Valleyfield Lagoons. Another single bird was at Coble Shore on 15th Oct and three at Goosepools on 22nd Oct. At the latter site, birds coming in off the sea increased the numbers to 20 on 28th Oct. The flock stayed in Goosepools area to the end of the year by which time it had increased in size to 32. A flock of 32 (up from five on 8th Nov) was also seen at Kinraig Point on 26th Nov. Other sightings were four at Elie Ness on 12th Nov, two at Valleyfield Lagoons on 7th Nov, one at Wormiston on 1st Nov, one flew over at Fife Ness Muir on 11th Nov, one flew north-east over Drumain on 16th Nov and one at Outhead on 21st Nov.

Notebook: Snow Bunting Valleyfield Lagoons 10/04/08

This was the first bird I have seen on the lagoons for a while. It was exhausted, I could have picked it up and it was still in the same place three hours later. *A Paton*

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) (1)

Vagrant.

Totally unexpected and the first Nearctic passerine to be added the Fife list. One was present in a private garden in the St Michaels area (J & J Bullivant, John Harwood) on 17th May. Information on its presence was not generally available until after the bird's departure with only the Bullivant family actually seeing the bird. This is only the second record for Scotland, the first being on Fair Isle on 15th -16th May 1977.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*)

Common breeding resident. Red data list species.

Breeding: Very few reports of breeding were received and these were one adult and one juv at Meikle Balquhomie on 23rd Jun, one adult and one juv at Cupar on 28th Jun, one pair and one juv at Damhead of Torr on 8th Sep and two juvs at Kincaig Hill on 28th Jul. Singing males were heard during March to July at Belliston (1), Bonnytown Farm (1), Bowhouse Farm (1), Coaltown of Balgonie (5), Craigsanquhar (4), Damhead of Torr (3), Drumoig (1), Formonthills (1), Forret Hill (8), Inverdovat (2), Kedlock (6), Keils Den (1), Kilminning (2), Kingsbarns (1), Leslie (2), Leuchars railway station (2), Logie (2), Lundin Links (1), Morton Lochs (2), Newport (1), Peacehill (1), Tayport (1), West Quarry Braes (1) and Woodend (1). Birds were reported on territory from April to June at Bath (1AOT), Blairhall (4AOT), Comrie Colliery/Bickramside (4AOT), Gallowridge (2AOT), Gartarry (3AOT), West Saline (2AOT), Windyhill Farm (3AOT) and Woodlea Farm (12AOT). Birds were reported from 17 other sites during the breeding season.

Reported counts were smaller than 2007 with none being greater than 50. The largest counts were c50 at Kirkton Farm on 30th Jan, c50 at Nochnary Farm on 16th Nov, 42 at Kincaig Hill on 6th Dec, 42 at Pittenweem on 30th Dec, c40 at Morton of Pitmilley on 18th Mar, 38 at Wester Kilgour on 28th Feb, 31 at Dalgety Bay on 29th Dec (18 on 18th Jan), c30 at Shell Bay entrance on 6th Jan, 28 at Kilrenny Mill on 28th Jan, 28 at Peacehill on 14th Apr, 25 at Norman's Law on 27th Jan, 25 at Springfield Muir on 12th Feb, 24 at Gaudry on 12th Feb, 23 between Cellardyke and Kilrenny on 12th Jan, at least 20 at Gaddon Loch on 14th Feb and 20 at Elie Estate on 21st Mar, 18 at Damhead of Torr on 18th May (15 on 23rd Mar), 17 at Bow of Fife on 10th Feb, 17 at Springfield on 22nd Nov and 15 at Roseberry Hill on 20th Jan.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	0	25	12	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	119	3.40
2007	48	176	3.74
2008	46	217	4.72

Common Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

Common breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber data list species.

Breeding: Two nests were found at Valleyfield Lagoons, one of which had five eggs and the other containing a brood of three and one egg. Nests at Kincaig Hill and Cocklemill Marsh produce four and three fledglings respectively. Seventeen pairs at Goosepools produced 15 young from only six broods. A pair feeding young were observed at Lindores Loch on 28th Jul and another pair was feeding young at Fife Ness on 19th Jul. A pair was seen gathering food at Formonthills on 31st May with

further pairs taking food to young at Rossie Bog on 12th Jun. Two males were engaged in a territorial dispute at Tayport Pond on 27th Apr. Birds were reported on territory at Bath (1AOT), Comrie Colliery/Bickramside (4AOT), Piperpool Moss (4AOT), Shiresmill Pond (3AOT), Windyhill Farm (1AOT). During the breeding season singing males or pairs were observed at Ballo Reservoir (1), Barnyards Marsh (3), Cairngreen (1), Cupar Wards (2), Drumoig (1), Dunbog Marsh (2), Elie (1), Harperleas Reservoir (3), Holl Reservoir (1), Keils Den (1), Kilconquhar Loch (5), Lindores Loch (3), Loch Gelly (11), Morton Lochs (1), Mountcastle (6), Peacehill (1), Stirton (1), Tayport marsh (1), Thornton (2) and Wilderness (1). Reported from 11 other sites during the breeding season.

Other notable counts were 45 at Springfield Muir on 12th Feb, 35 at Kincaig Hill on 6th Dec (29 on 15th Nov), 16 at Kilconquhar Loch on 21st Aug, 15 at Balgove Bay on 29th Oct, 15 at Rossie Bog on 27th Mar (11 on 12th Jun), 14 at Ardrross on 7th Apr, 14 at Bickramside on 8th Dec, 12 at Leuchars Airfield on 7th Feb, ten at Elie on 30th Dec and ten at Kilconquhar Loch on 27th Apr.

Visible migration was seen at Elie Ness with 25W/2hrs on 12th Oct.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birnie/Gaddon	3	8	1	3	4	2	2	3	0	0	0	0

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1km square
2006	35	11	0.31
2007	48	31	0.60
2008	46	39	0.85

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)

Uncommon to scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Red data list species.

The annual breeding survey organised by Chris Smout reported a total count of 101 singing males, the best figure for at least ten years. This was achieved by an increase in density on and around those farms where the RSPB have intervened. No birds were found at Star and only two at Strathkinness. The colony at Kenly also could not be relocated but outliers in new localities were reported near Damhead of Torr and near Newport on Tay.

Other notable counts were 19-22 at Cellardyke from 12th to 20th Dec, 21 at Balbuthie on 9th Oct, 20 at Kilrenny Mill on 24th May (12 on 9th Apr), 19 at Coal Farm on 29th Dec, 16 at North Quarter on 12th Dec, 16 at Anstruther on 30th Dec, 16 at Cellardyke on 27th Jan, 15 at St Monans on 2nd Feb, 11 at Elie Ness on 8th May, 11 at Kilrenny on 5th Nov and ten at Cornceres on 28th Jan. All other reports were of 1-6 birds and these included the additional sites of Boarhills, Carnbee, Crail, Damhead of Torr, Dumbarrie Links, Elie Links, Kilduncan Farm, Kingsbarns, Muircambus, Pittenweem, Strathkinness and West Pitcorthie.

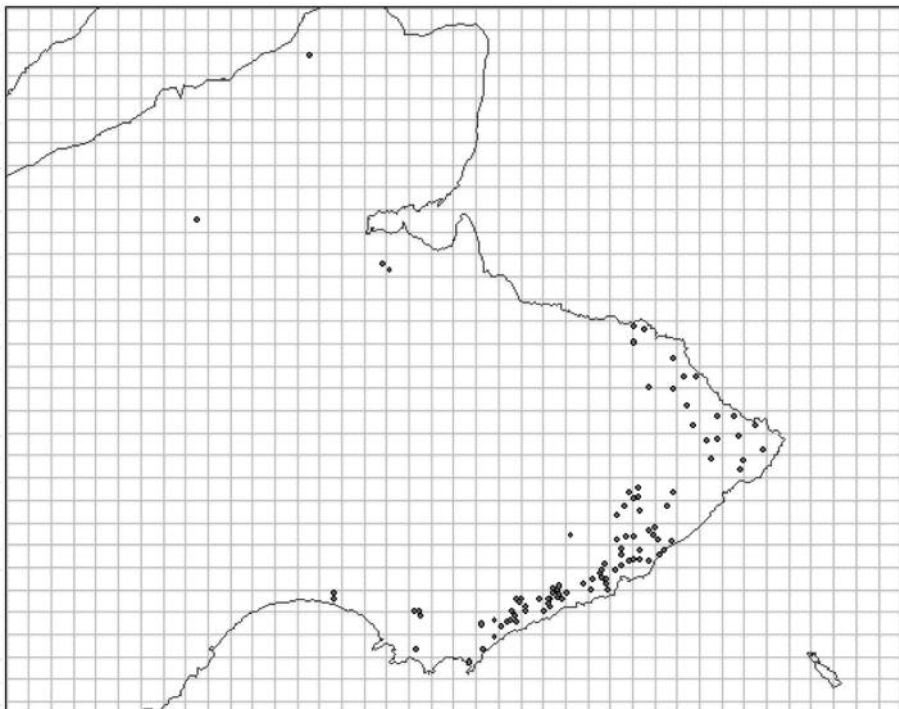


Figure 1. Distribution of singing male Corn Buntings in Fife during 2008

BBS	1 km squares surveyed	Total Individuals	Density per 1 km square
2006	35	7	0.21
2007	48	11	0.23
2008	46	14	0.30

Notebook: Corn Bunting Elie Ness 08/05/08

With a late spring, many birds were slow to go to breeding grounds; there were eleven feeding on docken seed at Elie Ness as late as 8th May. This flock flew west out over the bay, though I have no doubt they turned to land on the eastern side of Elie once they were out of sight. *C & A-M Smout*

Escapes / Unknown origin

***Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)**

Australia, introduced New Zealand.

A single bird was seen at Angle Park on 12th Jan and presumably the same bird took up residence at Letham pools from 26th Jan until 10th Mar. It was last reported from Rossie Bog on 14th Mar. It was presumed to be one of the two birds, which escaped from the nearby Fife Animal Park and had frequented Fife and Kinross during 2007. At least 14 individuals have been recorded in the county in eleven years since 1992.

***Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*)**

East Asia.

A pair was on Cameron Reservoir on 15th Nov at least. There are no previous records of this species in Fife although it has been recorded as an escape on a few occasions elsewhere in Scotland.

***White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)**

West Indies, Galapagos, South America.

A male was noted on Gaddon Loch on 26th Jan with presumably the same bird at Rossie Bog three days later. A pair was on Gaddon Loch on 24th Feb and on Birnie Loch on 10th Apr. In the autumn one had moved further afield being seen at Anstruther on 7th Oct and then nearby at Kilrenny Mill on the following day. A pair was again on Gaddon Loch on 30th Oct.

The Fife Animal Park adjacent to Birnie and Gaddon Lochs is the likely source of these birds. Previous county records occurred in 2004 and 2007.

***Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)**

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

One of the birds from Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline was reported outside Peacocks fashion store on the High Street on 16th Dec. The story was reported widely on television and the national press. There are at least four previous records in Fife since 1999.

***Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)**

Sub-Saharan Africa.

A falconer's bird made a brief flight for two hours freedom from the Eden Estuary Open Day event at Guardbridge on 24th Aug. No previous escape records of this species elsewhere in Scotland.

***Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*)**

SE Australia.

One in Anstruther on 28th April was known to be a local escape. No previous escape records of this species in Fife or Scotland.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)*SE Asia, Africa, introduced England and Europe.**

The resident individual was still present in the Bennochy Cemetery area in central Kirkcaldy. Reported from the cemetery on four dates between 27th Jan and 6th Jun. This bird has been in the area since November 2004 and continues to be reported into 2009. A second individual was in Crail churchyard on 8th Nov at least.

Increasing numbers are being reported in Edinburgh so this species may be added to the official Scottish list at some time in the future.

Eurasian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)*Eurasia.**

The resident bird was noted on three dates between 19th Mar and 30th Dec at St Ninians opencast mine. It has been on this site for about five years and was still present into 2009.

There are two previously published records of this species in the county – one at Newburgh Quarry from February to November 1999 with an older record noted as being shot in Fife before 1777 (Smout 1986). There have been at least 19 records in Scotland since 1984 including a breeding pair but all are considered to have originated from captivity.



Hooded Vulture © Willie McBay

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 A Cotton
 D Crosbie
 I Cumming
 DE Dickson
 D Dowse
 R Eaves
 Edenside Logbook
 N Elkins
 G Evans (the late)
 A Falconer
 H Falconer
 Fife Ness Logbooks
 A Ford
 D Forsyth
 Forth Seabird Group
 D Fotheringham
 N Fraser
 R Gardner
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 L Gibson
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 M Ware
 D Waters
 A Watt
 G Webster
 D Whitton
 WWT
 Wilkinson
 T Wilson
 C Wimlett
 B Winton
 B Wix
 H Wix
 N Woods

Summer visitors in 2008

First and Last dates of summer migrants in Fife 2008

Species	First	Last	2006
Garganey	26 Apr	30 Aug	26 Apr - NR
Common Quail	30 May	21 Jul	20 May - NR
Western Marsh Harrier	06 Apr	13 Sep	13 Apr - 24 Aug
Osprey	30 Mar	22 Sep	11 Apr - 14 Sep
Little Ringed Plover	20 Mar	12 Aug	11 Apr - 07 Jul
Little Stint	NR	09 Nov	NR - 07 Oct
Curlew Sandpiper	NR	19 Oct	NR - 13 Oct
Eurasian Whimbrel	03 Apr	29 Dec	18 Mar - 11 Nov
Common Sandpiper	24 Mar	15 Sep	04 Apr - 14 Sep
Little Tern	01 May	24 Oct	18 May - 31 Jul
Black Tern	28 May	21 Sep	NR - 04 Oct
Sandwich Tern	05 Apr	28 Oct	02 Jan - 24 Oct
Common Tern	16 Apr	28 Oct	05 May - 04 Nov
Roseate Tern	04 Jun	18 Aug	May - 12 Oct
Arctic Tern	24 Apr	08 Oct	04 May - 22 Nov
Common Cuckoo	16 May	14 Sep	20 Apr - 20 Aug
Common Swift	20 Apr	13 Oct	21 Apr - 05 Sep
Sand Martin	09 Mar	19 Sep	20 Mar - 30 Sep
Barn Swallow	18 Mar	15 Nov	06 Apr - 12 Nov
Common House Martin	06 Apr	29 Oct	13 Apr - 15 Oct
Tree Pipit	09 Apr	13 Sep	27 Apr - 30 Sep
Yellow Wagtail	05 May	05 Oct	19 Apr - NR
Black Redstart	16 Apr	11 Dec	NR - 07 Dec
Common Redstart	01 Jun	17 Sep	NR - 29 Jul
Whinchat	04 May	15 Oct	27 Apr - 30 Sep
Northern Wheatear	16 Mar	12 Oct	02 Apr - 28 Oct
Ring Ouzel	09 Apr	NR	25 Jan - NR
Common Grasshopper Warbler	29 Apr	23 Jul	20 Apr - 08 Oct
Sedge Warbler	27 Apr	08 Sep	24 Apr - 07 Sep
Eurasian Reed Warbler	01 Jun	21 Sep	06 May - NR
Eurasian Blackcap	03 Jan	27 Dec	09 Apr - 25 Dec
Garden Warbler	02 May	21 Sep	15 Apr - 04 Sep
Lesser Whitethroat	24 Apr	28 Sep	09 Jun - 16 Oct
Common Whitethroat	26 Apr	21 Sep	22 Apr - 15 Sep
Common Chiffchaff	22 Mar	13 Nov	18 Mar - 30 Nov
Willow Warbler	16 Mar	05 Oct	11 Mar - 21 Sep
Spotted Flycatcher	10 May	27 Sep	17 May - 12 Sep
European Pied Flycatcher	NR	21 Sep	NR - NR
Red-backed Shrike	23 May	17 Sep	24 May - NR

NR - No records

National and local rarities committees

The British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC), Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) and the Fife Local Records Committee (FLRC) are the three bodies that adjudicate on the rare and scarce bird records submitted to them, usually through the network of local recorders.

In general, the rarer the bird, the higher it is sent for adjudication. From time to time, the lists change due to the status of certain species being revised, so the lists are by no means static. Recent changes in the FLRC list include the deletion of European Storm Petrel and Mediterranean Gull due to the increasing numbers reported and the inclusion of Golden Eagle due to the recent record. Also a number of species previously adjudicated by SBRC have now been delegated to local committees for consideration.

Shown here, within this report, are the two lists which most affect local and visiting birders and reference to these is essential to keep abreast of current changes. Observers should refer to the BBRC website for a list of species considered by BBRC. As both national bodies only include accepted records within the body of their reports, so does this report. Those records not accepted, appear in the Committee Decisions section of this report. Observers are reminded that descriptions should be submitted as soon as possible and preferably within one month after the event, on a form obtainable from the local recorder or by e-mail address. A description may be requested for a species not on the list at the discretion of the local recorder.

Fife Local Records Committee - List of Species

Bean Goose	Red Phalarope
American Wigeon	Sabine's Gull
Green-winged Teal	Ring-billed Gull
*Garganey	Long-tailed Skua (juv's only)
*Red-crested Pochard	European Nightjar
Ring-necked Duck	European Bee-eater
*Surf Scoter	Shore Lark
Black Grouse	Richard's Pipit
Western Capercaillie	Icterine Warbler
Balearic Shearwater	Barred Warbler
Leach's Storm Petrel	Pallas's Leaf Warbler
Little Egret	Siberian Chiffchaff
White Stork	Firecrest
Eurasian Spoonbill	Red-breasted Flycatcher
European Honey-buzzard	Marsh Tit
Red Kite	Willow Tit
Northern Goshawk	Eurasian Nuthatch
Golden Eagle	Eurasian Golden Oriole
Eurasian Hobby	Rosy Starling
Spotted Crane	Red-billed Chough
Common Crane	Hooded Crow

American Golden Plover
 Temminck's Stint
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Red-necked Phalarope

Hawfinch
 Common Rosefinch
 Common Redpoll
 Lapland Bunting
Key: *Females and eclipse males

SBRC List

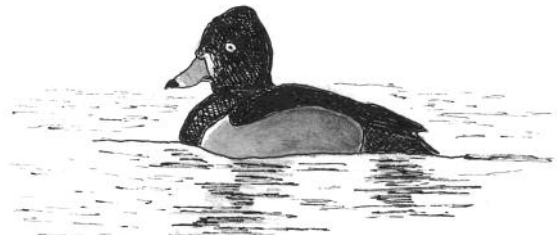
Ferruginous Duck
 White-billed Diver
 Cory's Shearwater
 Great Shearwater
 Wilson's Storm Petrel
 Black-crowned Night Heron
 Cattle Egret
 Great Egret
 Purple Heron
 Black Kite
 Montagu's Harrier
 Rough-legged Buzzard
 Red-footed Falcon
 Eurasian Stone-curlew
 Kentish Plover
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Yellow-legged Gull
 Caspian Gull
 White-winged Tern
 Alpine Swift
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
 Greater Short-toed Lark
 Wood Lark

Red-rumped Swallow
 Tawny Pipit
 Red-throated Pipit
 Water Pipit
 Common Nightingale
 Cetti's Warbler
 Aquatic Warbler
 Marsh Warbler
 Melodious Warbler
 Dartford Warbler
 Subalpine Warbler
 Greenish Warbler
 Radde's Warbler
 Dusky Warbler
 Woodchat Shrike
 European Serin
 Arctic Redpoll
 Parrot Crossbill
 Gull Bunting
 Ortolan Bunting
 Rustic Bunting
 Little Bunting

The Scottish Bird Report will only include records of the above species if they have been accepted by either SBRC or a local records committee. Assessment of a record can only take place by a committee, if a full written description is provided by the observer. This should be submitted by the observer to the Local Recorder.

All 'new' pre-1950 records of species appearing on the BBRC List, require to be accepted by SBRC.

In addition to the above, all records of subspecies recorded in Scotland on twenty or fewer occasions, should be examined by either BBRC or SBRC.



Ring-necked Duck by Stuart L. Rivers

List of subspecies recorded in Scotland on 20 or fewer occasions

Snow Goose	(Greater)	<i>Anser caerulescens atlanticus</i>
*Brent Goose	(Black Brant)	<i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>
Red-necked Grebe	(American)	<i>Podiceps grisegena holboellii</i>
Great Cormorant	(Continental)	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>
*Whimbrel	(Hudsonian)	<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>
Little Auk	(Franz Josef Land)	<i>Alle alle polaris</i>
Barn Owl	(Dark-breasted)	<i>Tyto alba guttata</i>
Yellow Wagtail	(Sykes's)	<i>Motacilla flava beema</i>
*Yellow Wagtail	(Black-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>
Yellow Wagtail	(Eastern Blue-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava simillima</i>
*Common Nightingale	(Eastern)	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos hafizi</i>
*Arctic Redpoll	(Hornemann's)	<i>Carduelis hornemanni hornemanni</i>
Yellowhammer	(Continental)	<i>Emberiza citrinella citrinella</i>

* Records of these subspecies are examined by BBRC. Records of all others should be submitted to SBRC.

All potential new species / subspecies additions to the Scottish List require to be accepted by either BBRC (and BOURC if new for Britain) or SBRC. The Secretary of SBRC can advise Local Recorders/ observers of the correct procedure for each particular taxon involved.

Committee Decisions

The following records were circulated to BBRC, SBRC and FLRC mainly during 2008. The list contains no species for which no description was forthcoming. Records are listed in chronological order and those species, which have been considered as returning birds to the county, are not shown here having been previously adjudicated.



King Eider with Common Eider by Phil Jones

Fife Local Records Committee

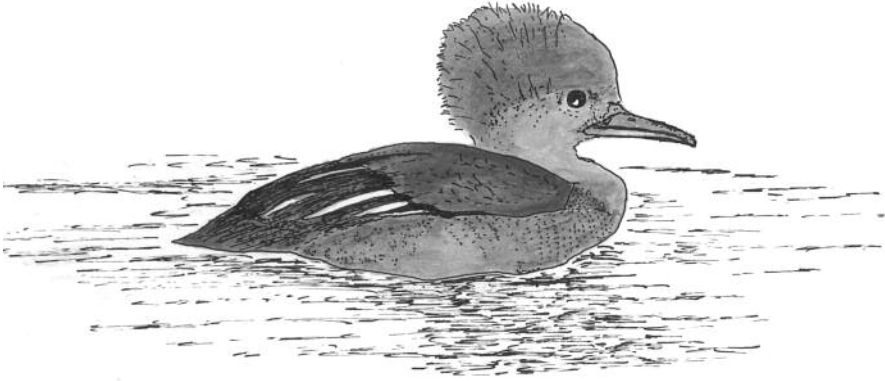
Eurasian Hobby	Kilconquhar Loch	12/09/2007	Accepted
Long-tailed Skua	Fife Ness	15/09/2007	Accepted
Northern Goshawk	Calais Muir Wood	12/01/2008	Accepted
Northern Goshawk	Cullaloe	07/02/2008	Accepted
Surf Scoter	Largo Bay	11/03/2008	Accepted
Taiga Bean Goose (4)	Kincraig Point	15/03/2008	Accepted
Green-winged Teal	Rossie Bog	16/03/2008	Accepted
Northern Goshawk	Southfield	16/03/2008	Accepted
Green-winged Teal	Redlands Pool	22/03/2008	Accepted
Little Egret	Ballinbreich	23/03/2008	Accepted
Little Egret	Kilconquhar Loch	09/04/2008	Accepted
White Stork	Kirkcaldy	24/04/2008	Accepted
White Stork	Kirkcaldy	25/04/2008	Accepted
Little Egret	Guardbridge	07/05/2008	Accepted
Red Kite	Carnock	01/06/2008	Accepted
Ring-necked Duck	Loch Gelly	20/07/2008	Accepted
Eurasian Hobby	Kilrenny	07/08/2008	Accepted
Garganey (3)	Rossie Bog	30/08/2008	Accepted
Long-tailed Skua	Edenside	31/08/2008	Accepted
Balearic Shearwater (2)	Kinghorn	06/09/2008	Rejected
Eurasian Hobby	Wormiston spinney	07/09/2008	Accepted
Eurasian Hobby	E of Wormiston	08/09/2008	Accepted
Pectoral Sandpiper	Letham Pools	13/09/2008	Accepted
European Honey-buzzard	Guardbridge	14/09/2008	Accepted
European Honey-buzzard	Kinghorn	14/09/2008	Accepted
Barred Warbler	Fife Ness Muir	15/09/2008	Accepted
European Honey-buzzard	Kinghorn	20/09/2008	Accepted
Sabine's Gull	Fife Ness	20/09/2008	Accepted
European Honey-buzzard	Denburn Wood	21/09/2008	Accepted
European Honey-buzzard (2)	Kinghorn	21/09/2008	Accepted
Northern Goshawk	Tentsmuir Forest	24/09/2008	Accepted
Northern Goshawk	Lockshaw Moss	25/09/2008	Accepted
Pectoral Sandpiper	Letham Pools	03/10/2008	Accepted
Pectoral Sandpiper	Rossie Bog	05/10/2008	Accepted
Common Crane (3)	Goosepools	14/10/2008	Accepted
Pallas's Warbler	Kilminning	08/11/2008	Accepted
Northern Goshawk	St Andrews	24/11/2008	Rejected

Scottish Birds Records Committee

Rough-legged Buzzard	Earlshall Muir	06/05/2008	Rejected
Rough-legged Buzzard	Kilconquhar	05/10/2008	Rejected

British Birds Records Committee

Little Shearwater	Fife Ness	09/09/2002	Rejected
King Eider	Ruddons Point	27/03/2008	Accepted
White-crowned Sparrow	nr St Michaels	17/05/2008	Accepted
Lesser Yellowlegs	Guardbridge	03/09/2008	Accepted
Hooded Merganser	Tayport Pond	26/10/2008	Accepted



Hooded Merganser by Stuart L. Rivers

Hooded Merganser at Tayport Pond – first record for Fife

On the 26th October I was completing the Lucky Scalp-Tayport section of the Tay WeBS count and was checking Tayport Pond at 1300hrs for waders and wildfowl, the regular counter having temporarily migrated to warmer climes. Whilst counting a flock of Common Redshank I became aware of a female sawbill in the corner of my eye that I first thought was a female Red-breasted Merganser. On giving the bird my full attention I realised it was a species I did not immediately recognise and my first thought was that it was a female Smew. However the lack of any white on the cheeks and a prominent crest ruled this out. I watched the bird for 30 minutes.

On returning home I checked my bird books and came to the conclusion that it was a female Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). I emailed various parties and the identification was confirmed the next day. There remained the possibility that the bird was an escape but there had been several records of these in the UK following a periods of westerly gales, including a male bird in Dorset featured on the BBC's Autumnwatch. The Fife record was subsequently accepted as a wild bird by the BBRC.

Description

A small sawbill, much smaller than a Mallard which it swam past, and approximately the size of a Common Goldeneye. In general a rather nondescript bird with grey-brown upperparts but with a very striking crest which appeared red-brown when it caught the sun. The crest ran along the top of the head and down the nape and gave the appearance that the bird was wearing a 'Mohican'. A very active bird which frequently dived. The pond is approximately 100m x 100m and I had excellent views of the bird through binoculars and telescope from a distance of about 50m.

Paul Blackburn

now pulled up to my stance, and at the same time my son was making signs to me in a certain direction, so, instead of pursuing my winged duck, we obeyed his signal, and soon spied a solitary bird, which proved a female eider. Upon nearing her she dived, but being hard hit in the body, soon came to the surface again, when we made her safe by a shot.

This happy right and left having supplied a companion to each of the eider drakes, we triumphed in anticipation of our collection being adorned with these superb examples of natural history. Could I have foreseen that ere the day closed another of these much-admired eiders would have deprived me of a shot at the rarest sea-bird I ever detected in the Firth, I might not have regarded them so complacently.

Having landed to search one of the homeward islands, a male eider was asleep on a promontory which flanked a tiny bay. A ledge of rocks, parallel to both, made the stalk after fowl either in this creek or on the promontory very easy. Neglecting (contrary to my wont) to examine the bay, I gave my whole notice to the unsuspecting drake, struck him badly at the sitting shot, and brought him down dead with the other.

Before I could rise from my hiding, three little sea-fowl swam rapidly into view from the bay. They never saw me, and seeming more surprised than frightened, never attempted to fly. The leader had

a hood like a hoopoe, and in the centre of the hood a white star,—the Hooded Merganser! It was a tempting and mortifying moment to watch the little trio, within such fair distance at first, quickly paddle out of reach long before I was "shotted."

Leaving the eider where he fell, we were soon in full chase; but the American strangers had, on second thoughts, betaken themselves to their wings, when I ran to warn the men to bring the boat, and I have never fallen in with this rare *mergus* before or since. When we returned to pick up the dead drake, the fishermen, far from sympathising with my chagrin at losing such a prize, were firmly convinced that the eider ought to be ample consolation, and was by far the more valuable "fule" of the two.

With the exception of the black guillemot, and the great cormorant when dignified by his credentials, my museum now contained all the native sea-birds of the Firth of Forth. A pair or two of these sable guillemots sometimes hatch on the Island of May, whose dizzy crags also afford a secure night-roost to the scart, while its boisterous sea-coves are the favourite retreat of the green cormorant or shag. The distance of "the May" from North Berwick is eight miles, but it is necessary to be cautious in crossing this channel in an open boat, as a little wind soon raises a heavy sea.

My usual skipper, Glass, being absent at the herring-fishing, we hired the most sea-worthy fishing-

Possible record of Hooded Mergansers in the Firth of Forth in 1864, from John Colquhoun "Moor and Loch" (Edinburgh, 1878) vol I pp.218-9 per Chris Smout.

Lesser Yellowlegs at Guardbridge – first record for Fife

At around 0740hrs on 3rd September 2008, after I'd made Andrew's breakfast I went into the conservatory for a scan over the Eden Estuary through the telescope, as I often do during migration periods. The tide was falling and many waders were leaving their roost to begin feeding on the exposed mud. It wasn't long before I picked up a rather dainty looking *Tringa* at about 300m range on the edge of the saltmarsh. When it flew a short distance to join a small group of Common Redshank on the mud alarm bells started ringing. Was it the Wood Sandpiper that had been reported the previous week, or what it actually looked like - a Lesser Yellowlegs? At this point I fetched Sue (who needed Lesser Yellowlegs for her British list!). We each watched it for a short while before it flew upstream towards the Eden Estuary centre and out of view. The legs looked yellow (and very long) and I thought the supercilium stopped at the eye, but the low angle of the light was rather awkward and I felt Wood Sandpiper had not been completely eliminated. At this point I phoned it out as a probable Lesser Yellowlegs and consulted *Shorebirds* and the Collins guide to confirm the ID features to look out for. I then went to the bridge over

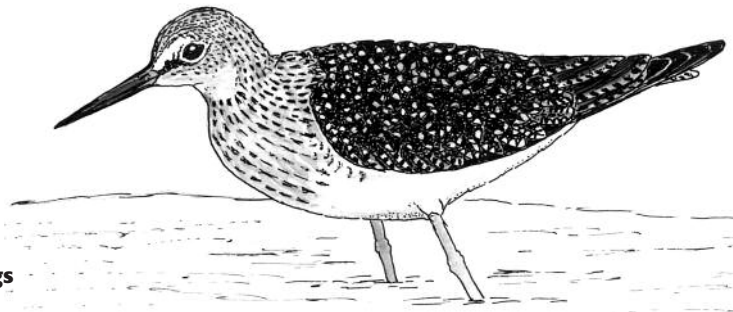
the Eden in the village to see if I could relocate it. My first scan drew a blank so I crossed the road and had a quick look upstream of the bridge – nothing. I decided on one more look from the bridge – and there it was! During my earlier scan it must have been hidden amongst Common Redshank. With reasonably close views in excellent light it was easy to confirm that it was indeed a Lesser Yellowlegs. I phoned Sue and the Birdline Scotland hotline and after a few minutes study I returned home. Childcare duties meant that we had to take it in turns to walk from the house up to the bridge and watch it! On one of my visits I obtained a few record shots. It was still showing very well when I left it to go to work at 0905hrs.

The bird continued to show well for the rest of that day on the mud opposite the Eden Estuary centre. It then went missing for a week before reappearing on 10th September. We last saw it over the high tide on 14th September, though it continued to be reported for another nine days or so. This was a long overdue first for Fife, and fulfilled an ambition held since we moved into our house – of seeing (and preferably finding) a BB rarity for the garden list!

Description

First impressions were of a small, long-legged and elegant *Tringa*. The bill was slender and mostly dark, brownish at the base when seen in good light. The bill was around 1.5X the length of the head. The bird had a white eyering, much fainter than a Common Redshank's, not always visible and rarely noticeable. There was a broad white supercilium extending as far as the eye. When seen face on, this produced a marked white V pattern. The head was a soft grey, paler than Common Redshank and the whole cast of the head and neck was much greyer than that species. The mantle was browner with white flecking. The primaries were all dark and projected beyond the tail. Coverts and tertials were extensively spangled as on Wood Sandpiper, with pronounced barring on the tertials. The underparts were white. The tail was white with narrow dark bars, thickest in the centre. The legs were golden yellow and thinner than those of a Common Redshank. The tarsus was around the same length as Common Redshank, but the tibia was noticeably longer. This, combined with the overall slim appearance of the bird gave a knock-kneed almost stilt-like impression.

Rob Armstrong



Lesser Yellowlegs
by Stuart L. Rivers

White-crowned Sparrow near St Michaels – first record for the county

At about 0850hrs on the morning of 17th May, John and Jane Bullivant found a sparrow-sized bird with an unusual head pattern feeding just inside the open greenhouse in the garden of their house at St Michaels, Fife (between Tayport and St Andrews). They showed it to their mother and father, July and Jim, who managed to photograph the bird at about five metres range with a conventional digital camera (Canon Powershot A610). The bird was seen several times later that morning feeding underneath a bird feeder in the back garden, often in the company of a small flock of Eurasian Tree Sparrows, which were similar in size, and with a Dunnock and a European Greenfinch also present. Weather conditions on the day had been dry but overcast with 7 oktas cloud cover and F2-3 easterly wind.

I was shown the photograph on the morning of 19th May, because the Bullivant's had not been able to identify the bird (apart from the fact that it was a strange looking sparrow) in any of their field guides. I searched the property on the evening of 19th May but was unable to find the bird and it was not seen subsequently.

Although the image is somewhat blurred, the black-and-white striped crown, lack of a white throat spot or stripe, and the brown flanks all confirmed the identity of the bird as a White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. The photo also shows the rather long-necked appearance, which is also a characteristic of this species.

Following reference to Sibley p495 (Sibley, D.A. 2000. The Sibley Guide to Birds. Alfred A Knopf, New York), the pink bill and dark lores suggest that the bird in the photo is a member of the 'East Taiga' group, more usually referred to as Eastern White-crowned Sparrow *Z.l.leucophrys* [The definitive reference for identifying *Z.leucophrys* subspecies appears to be Dunn, Garrett, and Alderfer. 1995. "White-crowned Sparrow Subspecies: Identification and Distribution" *Birding* 27: 182-200, but I was not able to track down a copy of this at the time]. However, the identification as this form seems fairly clear. It is interesting to speculate whether or not this could be the same individual which over-wintered at Cley, Norfolk from January into March 2008, though sadly the St. Michaels individual did not linger long enough to be seen by anyone other than the Bullivants.

John Harwood

The Status of White-crowned Sparrow in Scotland/Britain

This species breeds across North America from Alaska and northern Canada and southwards through the western USA along the Rocky Mountains, with the subspecies Zonotrichia l. leucophrys occupying the range eastwards from northern Ontario into Newfoundland. The northern populations are almost entirely migratory and it winters along the Pacific coast from Alaska and from southern USA into Mexico.

There has only been one previous record in Scotland – an adult trapped on Fair Isle on 15th May 1977 and still present the next day. This was the first British record, and was closely followed by the second at Hornsea Mere, East Yorkshire on 22nd May 1977. There have been two others since: a 1st-winter at Seaforth, Lancashire on 2nd October 1995 and the adult at Cley, Norfolk from 3rd January to 14th March 2008, with one in Ireland – on Dursey Island, Co. Cork on 20th-27th May 2003. There are additional accepted records in Europe from France on 24th August 1965, Iceland on 4th-6th October 1978 and the Netherlands from mid-December 1981 to mid-February 1982.

Stuart Rivers

The ones that got away

During the past thirty odd years of birding in the county, I have experienced first hand or heard of several major rarities that could've been on the Fife list but by some twist of fate or otherwise, they have not made the grade. This article is a look at those missed species in date order. It is not intended to be a permanent record (although it can be treated as such), for the majority were not submitted to any adjudicating body, nor were they submitted for any recent body of work or journal. Three of the records were my own however two of these were witnessed by others while accompanying me or independently by others on a different date, which makes one specific record all the more incredulous. I have asked other selected observers to submit their own records however the response was not as good as I'd hoped for with only three replying. Perhaps you can add to the list? We start way back in 1978!

Tuesday 25th July 1978

A long hot summer (remember those?) had produced an array of low water level reservoirs with one in particular, Ballo in the Lomond Hills, very low indeed. It was so low that you could walk to the island and the exposed mud at the west end was many metres past the brick wall that runs through it. I had gone up to the Lomonds for a day's birding not hoping in those days for anything special as I'd only been seriously birding for a year, birdwatching really! It was a gloriously hot day and as I cleared the crest of the hill on the south side of Ballo Reservoir, I could see immediately that the levels were very low. I scanned the water and then the mud at the west end whereupon I picked up a small wader, on its own, almost in the middle of the brown mud. (Now bear in mind that we were on the crest of a revolution in birding then, scopes, field guides, bins and latterly mobiles. What was on offer for the birder then was Roger Tory Peterson's much thumbed field guide. No BWP, no CD-Rom, no Helm guides, no Birding World). Without further ado I decided to get closer and to avoid flushing any of the other birds, I moved in a huge arc and got into a position along the small stream, which runs into the reservoir, keeping low all the way and not daring to raise my head. I got to a position which I thought was satisfactory and looked up scanning with my bins (no scope in those early days). The bird was still there but the heat haze was immense. It had not moved and as I

watched it through the haze, it picked steadily at food items like a Dunlin does without frantic movement. It was tiny, had an orange upper breast, white below, an orange head with a darker orange back (or so it seemed) and short legs and bill both of which could not be seen well enough. I must have watched the bird for an hour at least. Why I don't know because I had made my mind up that it was a Sanderling *Calidris alba* and at that stage of my birding apprenticeship, I'd never heard of a bird called a Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*!!!

If I had known then what I know now it would've been a formality and the normally-running-around-like-a-headless-chicken Sanderling would have been ruled out and Red-necked Stint might've been on the British List at that stage. (I managed to catch up with the species at Blacktoft Sands, Humberside on the almost similar date of 27th July 1986!).

August/September 1984

That summer had been a very good year for Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* in the upper Forth with hundreds sitting around and flying around Inchkeith. Large numbers would occasionally fly east as if moving out of the estuary but there was never any real depletion in their numbers and it is presumed that they flew back again at some time. It was towards the end of the period that some of these feeding flocks were seen independently off Anstruther by Chris Smout and by me and Rab Shand off Fife Ness and within one flock was a large all black petrel, I say large but it was not a storm-petrel and as I recall it was a little smaller than the accompanying Manxies. It flew in a different manner to them, more a side to side banking style of flight with occasional shearing but a strong flyer. It was seen at a great distance by RS and me but in good light, moving east out of the Forth. What it was is a mystery but it could have been a diurnal flyer such as a Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*. There was never a chance of obtaining a good description but the fact that the bird was all black and flying in a different manner suggests that it was potentially, one that got away. With the knowledge and capability of Scottish birders today, this bird would likely have been 'pinned down' and added to the British list.

31st December 1993

A former Angus birder by the name of Martin Scott was searching for the long-staying drake King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* at Monifeith this day in freezing conditions. The light was strong due to the low winter sun and there was a light south-easterly breeze blowing in across St Andrews Bay. His luck was in that day but not with the eider! At 1400hrs, he noticed a small gull just 70 metres offshore flying in from Barry Buddon...and it wasn't a Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. It was a Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* and an adult at that. It fed in the wake of a ship, which was moving downstream, swinging round and moving up to Broughty Ferry and back. The bird was still present when Martin returned from making his phone calls however at about 1510hrs the bird did a quick circle of a buoy and headed off south and into Fife waters, being last seen off Tentsmuir Point. It was accepted by BBRC but...should it be on the Fife list?

1st July 1997

Stephanie Little, the then ranger at Torry Bay LNR found an unusual wader on the Valleyfield ash lagoon near Preston Island. It was distant but identifiable as a stint or peep. Having ruled out Little *Calidris minutus* and Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii*, she phoned Brian, her husband, at his work to relay the salient points she had noted from her sketch of the bird. It was a tough decision but after some discussion it was decided it was more than likely one of the small American waders. As fate would have it, the rain was incessant the next day. The bird was still present but further out on the lagoon and with the visibility poor, no further details could be obtained on the identification. The next day the bird was nowhere to be seen and the identification of the mystery peep in July went down in history. That is until 0815hrs on 9th August when Ian Andrews discovered a stint at Musselburgh, which was to be Britain and Ireland's eighth Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*. It seems very plausible indeed that this was the bird seen by Stephanie five weeks previously and would tie in nicely coupled with the fact that a pale stint had been present at Musselburgh from 25th July.

Monday October 5th 1998

I was seawatching at the relatively new Fife Ness hide that day. Steve Harley was the only other observer present, sitting to my left. The wind was easterly force 4-5 with squally showers and it was quite cold for the time of year as I recall. We had been seawatching for over one hour with depressing results, the highlight being three Sooty Shearwaters *Puffinus griseus* flying east. It was towards the end of the watch and, although we had been talking, we were still concentrating despite the poor results. Steve had momentarily however taken his eye off his 'scope when a phalarope flew right to left across my field of vision just yards beyond the rocks. I tried to follow it but in the strong easterly wind, it was moving quickly so I changed to my binoculars and had brief views of it disappearing behind the pillbox. It was as quick as that, Steve never saw the bird at any time but I was convinced it was a Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. A Red-necked Phalarope was watched off Arbroath during the following four days...

Sunday May 17th 2009

An unusual Willow/Chiff *Phylloscopus* was found at Kilminning by Willie McBay, when it was seen apparently dozing in a bush and allowed close approach for photographs to be taken. It was however a very tired bird, so tired that it appeared it could not muster enough energy to sing or call, but it was seen to move its bill as if to try. It looked most like a Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* in plumage terms but the primary projection was too short. The bird was obviously a chiffchaff sp albeit with pale-ish legs. It was sitting with its wings drooped and this revealed a greyish rump. Upperpart colouration was a pale brownish/grey with underparts being creamy white. The legs were a dark pink, rather than black. The bill showed a dark upper mandible, with the lower mandible showing an orange/yellow basal part, with a dark tip. The dark eye looked large and stood out. The supercilium was not strident, but was nonetheless obvious. When it did decide to move through the bushes it did so with an obvious "tail-pumping" action. I thought it reminded me of

the Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus* that I saw at Pressmennan, Lothian some years ago, but the mere mention of that species on the Surfbirds Forum sent alarm bells ringing! Comments from other areas were that you would need song recordings or at least a good description of the song, a pre-requisite by BBRC as far as I am aware. This would have been ideal however the bird remained silent and frustratingly it was not identified to species level. I returned the next day in the hope that I could use an Iberian Chiffchaff tape-lure but there was no sign of the bird and it became apparent that the record had gone. Pictures of the bird were sent to an ex BBRC member, who should remain nameless, who thought the bird showed "a few good pro-Iberian Chiffchaff features".

Dougie Dickson

Visible Migration at Elie Ness

I have been making regular observations of visible migration at Elie Ness for eleven autumns, beginning in 1998. During that time I have seen 87000 migrants of over 70 species and spent a total of nearly 300 hours staring at the sky. My time has been unequally divided: in 2008 I spent 68 hours watching, in 2004 fewer than 6 hours. But in the past three years I have generally been able to spend more time there than before. Most of the time my eyes are trained to the east or north as I concentrate on passerine movement over the land, so observations of seabirds, waders and ducks over the sea are mostly incidental.

Why Elie Ness? A glance at the map shows it to lie directly south of St Andrews, on a route that day-flying migrants might take if they follow the eastern shore of Angus and Fife south, cutting overland to avoid a detour to Fife Ness. It also picks up birds coasting down from Fife Ness, which lies to the northeast. If a bird wants to cross the Forth here it will find the shortest crossing in the East Neuk (14 kms south to North Berwick). Alternatively it may prefer to continue south-west out over Largo Bay or follow the shore more carefully towards the west, and perhaps cross at or beyond Kinghorn, where it is still narrower. It is a kind of crossroads.

It is a good spot, but not overwhelmingly so. Clive McKay watching at Arbroath and Carnoustie in Angus sees many more birds heading south along the coast than ever turn up at Elie Ness. It seems that the birds from Angus disperse over the sea or change direction to cross the Firth of Tay, probably then crossing Fife on a broad front. Some, like many geese, clearly set out from Angus toward Fife Ness and then carry on to the Lothian coast from there. Elie Ness may not even be the best place to see visible passerine migration in Fife. Less systematic observations by other folk show that the area of Outhead and Balgove Bay by St Andrews is also promising, as is Kinraig Head, Ruddons Point and Kinghorn itself. There could be inland watch points, especially at reservoirs or on the edge of hills. I have plans to watch at Carnbee, for example. We simply do not know yet.

But the watches that Ali Shuttleworth has undertaken at Culalloe and Dalgety Bay do show that on a given morning Elie Ness normally gets considerably more passerines than these more westerly sites. Plainly birds do not simply stream along the shore until they reach Queensferry: probably most cross the Forth before then. On the other hand, the observations of Stephen Welch at Ferny Ness south of Aberlady also turn up fewer birds and a different mix of species than at Elie Ness, so it does not seem as if they mostly stream over the Forth at the short crossing, following the East Lothian shore south, either. Just what happens is far from clear.

The best conditions for seeing movement (not necessarily the best conditions for movement, which may be out of sight in calm weather) is with a slight to moderate head wind. If it is too light, they fly high and are hard to see, too strong (over force 5) and they are grounded. Usually they move when I can see the Lothian shore and stop when there is fog or rain, though a few spots will not necessarily put them off. Herein lies a problem for watching visible migration on the south Fife coast – it is on the days of best visibility that the highest proportion of birds may be tempted to fly directly to the Lothian shore from Angus, cutting out over the sea from Carnoustie or Arbroath and not following the leading lines of the Fife coast to Elie Ness and beyond. A wind from any sector from southeast to north stops migrants in their tracks, but if it persists some birds (larks and pipits) will begin to fly north-east towards Fife Ness. I generally give up when this happens. Perhaps some day-migrating rarities come down to Fife Ness under these conditions, arriving not from the east but from the west - like rare pipits or buntings, though most of what I see at Elie Ness, are common migrants probably of Scottish origin.

The autumn watch begins in earnest in the last week of August. Migrants can be seen from the start of July (Common Swifts in small numbers), but as September approaches the Meadow Pipits and Barn Swallows begin to mass. September indeed probably sees more birds than October, but finches and wagtails peak in the latter month. Early November is still good for buntings and finches, and if there is going to be a Common Wood Pigeon passage it usually comes then. During late November and early December the movement tails off rapidly and ends well before Christmas.

I usually start my watch shortly after dawn, and if the migration is appreciable I watch for an hour. In 2008, I began watches of two hours or more, after it was explained what a lot I might miss by terminating the watch too soon — but I don't have the stamina for watches of several hours such as are often undertaken in the south. Most birds in autumn (less so in spring, I gather) are early risers, but larks usually leave it until later: 'up with the lark' turns out to be a misleading injunction.

The mix of species that I see at Elie Ness is idiosyncratic and not quite the same as Clive McKay sees on the Angus coast, or as occurs on sites in England, for instance in the Pennines or on the coasts of Yorkshire and Norfolk. Elie Ness is excellent for Barn Swallows and Meadow Pipits, and for cardueline finches like Common Linnets, European Goldfinches, and European Greenfinches. Common Wood Pigeons occur in moderate numbers in some years, but even when they do they are not anything

like as numerous as in many other places. Numbers of Sky Larks and Common Starlings are comparatively small compared to English sites, but wagtails are common, including a regular movement of Grey Wagtails. There are few Common Chaffinches or Eurasian Siskins compared to many places in the south.

Certain red-letter days were very memorable, like 10th Sep 2001, when 4340 Meadow Pipits passed in an hour, 13th Nov 2005, when 2050 Common Wood Pigeons passed in an hour and 21st Sep 2008, when 820 Barn Swallows passed in two hours. I believe many of the latter roost at Kilconquhar Loch overnight. Some years are good for certain species: 2008 saw a total of 267 redpoll sp. pass, 2005 saw 51 Bramblings, 2007 saw 108 Eurasian Siskins. Different birds have their little ways – Common Wood Pigeons will almost never cross the sea but continue along the coast west, hirundines vary between doing that and setting off south for Lothian more directly and readily than most species. One has also to distinguish between migration and feeding movements – sometimes thousands of Pink-footed Geese fly in to the East Neuk from their roost at Aberlady, filling the sky with distractions.

Then there are less numerous birds that still turn up every year. Small numbers of Goosander pass in August and September, still smaller numbers of Eurasian Teal and Common Snipe. Among the specialities are a regular passage of Eurasian Tree Sparrow and Twite, a small passage of Snow Buntings, always one or two Tree Pipits (oddly scarce in passage in Fife) and a few Lapland Buntings most years (total 11 in 11 years). It should be explained that the last named do not now get past the Fife Local Rarities Committee, which some years ago decided not normally to accept fly-over 'Laps' on call. As that is the only way I have of detecting them they miss out on the *FBR*, but of course they still fly over. I have come to realise that Dunnocks are also regular, and Yellowhammers probably are. One of the most extraordinary occurrences was a party of seven Blue Tits flying over my head and out to sea, as straight as bees, on 6th Oct 2008. It is always exciting to see raptors, and I have had Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Hobby, Common Buzzard, Common Kestrel and Eurasian Sparrowhawk, though only the first and the last are annual.

TABLE 1. Commonest migrants at Elie Ness, 1998-2008.

Species	Totals	% of Total	Species	Totals	% of Total
Meadow Pipit	31871	36.4	European Greenfinch	1156	1.3
Common Wood Pigeon	11385	13.0	Common Reed Bunting	1094	1.3
Barn Swallow	10894	12.5	Greylag Goose	778	0.9
Common Linnet	10756	12.4	Redpoll sp.	518	0.6
European Goldfinch	3697	4.2	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	507	0.6
Pied/White Wagtail	3538	4.0	Common Chaffinch	483	0.6
Sky Lark	2838	3.2	Common House Martin	445	0.5
Pink-footed Goose	2471	2.8	Sand Martin	292	0.3
Common Starling	2136	2.4	Twite	212	0.2

The oddest absentees are the thrushes. In eleven years I have recorded just a single Redwing, 30 Fieldfares, a Common Blackbird and 10 Mistle Thrushes. Even when Redwings and Fieldfares are pouring down the Angus coast, arriving at Fife Ness in hundreds and moving through Kilrenny and Anstruther, I fail to see them. Back in the 1980s I do recall seeing a fall of hundreds at Elie Ness, but it has not happened at least since 1998. I imagine they move through Fife inland and to the west.

What has this taught me about the movement of birds through Fife? Firstly, what a lot of fun one can have out of seeing the sky alive with little birds in autumn. Secondly, that some birds are migrants to a degree that I had not suspected, like European Greenfinches and Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Thirdly, that there is a great deal that we do not understand about visible migration, and that co-ordinated watches between different spots on the Fife, Lothian and Angus coasts have the potential to teach us a great deal. We tried this once in 2008, on 26th Oct, in a stiff south-west wind. Simon Hayhow saw a migrating crossbill sp. at Fife Ness, and 40 minutes later at Elie Ness I was nearly hit on the chest by a crossbill sp. flying west low along the dunes to avoid the wind. I bet it was the same bird.

All the counts are entered on the Dutch migration site www.trektellen.nl, which is attracting more and more British watchers to share their observations. Anyone interested can find full details about the Elie Ness and other UK and continental observation sites there.

Thanks to Clive Mckay for his comments on this piece.

Chris Smout

The decline of Whinchat as a breeding bird in mainland Fife

Since the 1960s and 1970s Whinchat has declined as a breeding species throughout Scotland, particularly in the east (Shaw K.D.2007 in *The Birds of Scotland*, Forrester *et al.*, SOC, Aberlady) Over the last 15 years many observers have commented that this species has disappeared from its former breeding grounds in Fife. The Fife Bird Atlas (Elkins, N, Reid, J.B., Brown, A.W., Robertson, D.G. & Smout, A-M. 2003. *The Fife Bird Atlas*, Woodland Studios, Dunfermline) estimated only five to ten pairs for the whole of mainland Fife although Whinchats were seen in 29 tetrads, two-thirds of these being noted as probable or possible breeding. During the period 2002 to 2007 I and other observers checked traditional Whinchat sites annually, recording presence or absence, breeding success and any significant habitat change.

In the winter of 2007/08 we received a small grant from the Fife Atlas fund to help monitor all potential Whinchat sites in Fife during the 2008 breeding season to establish the total breeding population for the county.

This work was tied in with the first year of the BTO/SOC/IWRC Breeding Bird Atlas so that there was good coverage of all potential Whinchat breeding sites. Using *Fife Bird Reports*, Smout A-M. 1986 (*The Birds of Fife: an outline of their status and distribution*. John Donald, Edinburgh) and the Fife Bird Atlas I mapped all known Whinchat sites from the last 20 years. I also arranged with both the county recorder and Atlas coordinator to be informed of all breeding Whinchats as they were reported during the breeding season of 2008 so I could follow up every sighting. Key observers visited all historic Whinchat sites in their local areas.

A total of six territories were found at two sites. The two breeding areas were Glen Vale where three pairs bred, and a site near Rathillet where two singing males were recorded during Atlas work. In 2008, four male Whinchats took up territory in Glen Vale and three pairs bred but no birds were seen at any other site in the Lomond Hills. At the Rathillet site two singing males were recorded early on 12th June 2008. This is an area of extensive gorse and it is possible that further pairs were present. In the early 1980s, Smout (1986) described Whinchat as a local breeder in the west of the county. She went on to say there had been reports of breeding, all from central and west Fife and quoted 30+ pairs from the Lomond Hills in 1984 and 20 pairs from Glen Vale in 1983. She mentioned Lochore Meadows, Pitcairn, Kirkforthar and Loch Glow as breeding areas. All these areas were checked during the breeding season of 2008 but no birds were found.

So why is Glen Vale still suitable for Whinchats to some extent and other sites unsuitable? Whinchat is a bird of open habitats breeding in grassland, bracken, mixed low vegetation, gorse, heather and young conifer plantations. Suitable perches for singing and hunting are essential and young conifer plantations particularly in the uplands are significant (Gray D.B.1973, Whinchats on a disused railway, *Bird Study* 20: 81–82). Glen Vale provides the open habitat that Whinchats require to breed. It is a mixture of heather, bracken and young trees. Fence posts and the taller young trees provide the essential singing and hunting posts. In the 1990s Whinchats utilized young forestry plantations as breeding habitat in upland Fife. However, when the trees reached the thicket stage Whinchat was lost. Thus Whinchats were lost from other sites in the Lomond Hills in 2005 and from breeding sites in the Cleish Hills around the turn of the century. Ironically the last Cleish birds were recorded on exactly the same site as the last Fife Black Grouse in 1996.

In conclusion there has been a severe decline in breeding Whinchats in mainland Fife since 1980. Young conifer plantations helped the species survive into this century but as the plantations reached thicket stage Whinchats were lost. Whinchat's future in Fife as a breeding species is on a knife-edge and for it to survive the mixed open areas where the last few pairs breed must be maintained.

I thank Norman Elkins, Dougie Dickson and Jeremy Squire who helped at all stages of the project. Rab Shand was, as always, very helpful in providing information. Dougie Dickson, Terry Mann, Tom and Bryan Moodie and John Nadin assisted with fieldwork. Norman Elkins kindly commented on the draft. Thanks also to the Fife Atlas fund who assisted with travel.

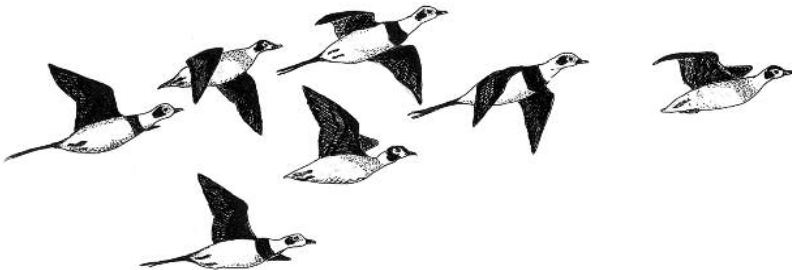
Ken D. Shaw

Checklist of the birds of the Fife recording area (4th Edition) *Includes all accepted records to the end of 2009*

Status

RB	resident breeder
rb	scarce/irregular resident breeder
SB	common summer (migrant) breeder
sb	scarce/irregular summer (migrant) breeder
NB	regular non-breeding visitor
nb	scarce/irregular non-breeding visitor
PM	common passage migrant
pm	scarce passage migrant (annual in small numbers)
Rpm	rare passage migrant (not quite annual in last 10 years)
	(s) denotes passage predominantly in spring
	(a) denotes passage predominantly in autumn
WV	regular winter visitor
wv	scarce winter visitor (annual but in small numbers)
Rwv	rare/irregular winter visitor
Ext	previous population now believed to be extinct in Fife (with year of last record in brackets)
Int	sightings almost certainly include individuals from species re-introduction schemes (e.g. Red Kite, White-tailed Eagle)
SV	scarce vagrant – several records per decade
V	vagrant – recorded very infrequently - number of individual birds recorded pre-1950 and since 1950 in brackets plus last year of occurrence.

Allocation of status is generally based on the main seasonal pattern and level of occurrence of each species in the last 10 years. Allocation of status for a species as a rare passage migrant, scarce vagrant or vagrant is based on the number of formally accepted records where the respective species are deemed to be BBRC, SBRC or FLRC description species.



Long-tailed Ducks by Stuart L. Rivers

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mute Swan	RB/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bewick's Swan	Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whooper Swan	WW/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taiga Bean Goose	Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tundra Bean Goose	V (0, 4) 2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pink-footed Goose	WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose	ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Greater White-fronted Goose	Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greylag Goose	WW/nb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snow Goose	ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater Canada Goose	pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barnacle Goose	PM(a)/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pale-bellied Brent Goose	pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-breasted Goose	V (0, 2) 2002
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Shelduck	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandarin Duck	V (1, 17+) 2007
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Wigeon	PM/WW/sb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	American Wigeon	V (2, 10+) 1997
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gadwall	PM/WW/sb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Teal	rb/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green-winged Teal	V (0, 9) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mallard	RB/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Pintail	WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Garganey	pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Shoveler	rb/PM/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-crested Pochard	V (1, 23+) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Pochard	rb/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ring-necked Duck	V (0, 13) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ferruginous Duck	V (0, 3+) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tufted Duck	RB/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater Scaup	WW/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesser Scaup	V (0, 1) 2007
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Eider	RB/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	King Eider	V (many, 7+) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-tailed Duck	WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Scoter	NB/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Surf Scoter	ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Velvet Scoter	nb/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Goldeneye	nb/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hooded Merganser	V (0, 1) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smew	ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-breasted Merganser	NB/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Goosander	NB/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruddy Duck	RB/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Grouse	rb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Grouse	Ext. (1996)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Capercaillie	Ext. (1993)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-legged Partridge	rb/Int.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Partridge	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Quail	sb
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Pheasant	RB/Int.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-throated Diver	PM/pm/WV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-throated Diver	pm/wv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Northern Diver	pm/wv
<input type="checkbox"/>	White-billed Diver	V (0, 4) 2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-browed Albatross	V (0, 2) 1972
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Fulmar	RB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cory's Shearwater	V (0, 27) 2005
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Shearwater	V (1, 5) 2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sooty Shearwater	PM/pm (a)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manx Shearwater	nb/PM/Rwv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Balearic Shearwater	V (1, 45+) 2005
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Storm Petrel	nb/pm (a)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leach's Storm Petrel	V (1, 13) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Gannet	NB/PM/wv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Cormorant	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Shag	RB/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Bittern	V (5+, 1) 2001
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Bittern	V (1, 2) 1979
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-crowned Night Heron	V (0, 1) 1992
<input type="checkbox"/>	Squacco Heron	V (0, 1) 2005
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Egret	V (0, 14) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Egret	V (0, 3) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Heron	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	White Stork	V (0, 7) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Glossy Ibis	V (1, 0) 1842
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Spoonbill	V (0, 9) 2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Grebe	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Crested Grebe	RB/WV/wv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-necked Grebe	nb/pm/wv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Slavonian Grebe	pm/WV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-necked Grebe	sb/pm/Rwv
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Honey-buzzard	V (5, 8+) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Kite	V (1+, 7) 2009/Int?
<input type="checkbox"/>	White-tailed Eagle	V (1, 1) 2000 / Int**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Marsh Harrier	sb/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hen Harrier	pm/wv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Goshawk	[rb] nb/wv
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	RB/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Buzzard	RB/pm (a)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rough-legged Buzzard	V (5+, 9) 1997
<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden Eagle	V (c5, 4) 2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	Osprey	pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Kestrel	RB/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-footed Falcon	V (2, 0) 1941

<input type="checkbox"/>	Merlin	pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Hobby	Rpm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peregrine Falcon	rb/pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Rail	RB/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted Crake	V (several, 3) 1989
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corn Crake	V (bred, 15+) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Moorhen	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Coot	RB/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Crane	V (several, 18) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Bustard	V (1, 0) 1840
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Oystercatcher	RB/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pied Avocet	V (1,16) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Stone-curlew	V (1,1) 1965
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Ringed Plover	sb/Rpm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ringed Plover	RB/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kentish Plover	V (0, 2) 1985
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Dotterel	Rpm
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Golden Plover	V (0, 2) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Golden Plover	PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Plover	PM/pm/WW/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Lapwing	RB/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Knot	PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sanderling	PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Stint	pm (a)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Temminck's Stint	V (0, 5) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pectoral Sandpiper	V (0, 7) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curlew Sandpiper	Rpm (s)/pm (a)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple Sandpiper	pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dunlin	nb/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Broad-billed Sandpiper	V (2, 0) 1946
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	V (0, 9) 2002
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruff	pm/Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jack Snipe	pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Snipe	rb/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Snipe	V (2, 1) 1951
<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-billed Dowitcher	V (1, 1) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Woodcock	RB/pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-tailed Godwit	nb/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bar-tailed Godwit	nb/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Whimbrel	PM/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Curlew	rb/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Sandpiper	sb/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Sandpiper	pm (a)/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted Redshank	pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Greenshank	nb/PM/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesser Yellowlegs	V (0, 1) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood Sandpiper	pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Redshank	rb/PM/WW

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Short-eared Owl	rb/pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Nightjar	V (bred, 1) 2002
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chimney Swift	V (0, 1) 1991
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Swift	SB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Swift	V (0, 1) 1985
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Kingfisher	rb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Bee-eater	V (0, 2) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Hoopoe	V (3+, 22) 2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Wryneck	Rpm (a)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Green Woodpecker	rb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Spotted Woodpecker	RB/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Golden Oriole	V (3, 7) 1994
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Isabelline Shrike	V (0, 1) 1993
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-backed Shrike	Rpm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesser Grey Shrike	V (0, 4) 1999
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Grey Shrike	SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Woodchat Shrike	V (0, 3) 2002
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Masked Shrike	V (0, 1) 2004
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Jay	rb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Magpie	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-billed Chough	V (? , 2)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Jackdaw	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rook	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carriion Crow	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hooded Crow	SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Raven	rb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Goldcrest	Rb/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Firecrest	V (0, 29+) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Tit	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Tit	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coal Tit	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Willow Tit	Ext. (~ 1935)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bearded Tit	sb (?) /SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood Lark	V (1, 0) 1924
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sky Lark	RB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shore Lark	V (7, 27) 2001
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sand Martin	SB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barn Swallow	SB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common House Martin	SB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-rumped Swallow	V (0, 3) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-tailed Tit	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenish Warbler	V (0, 7) 2004
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arctic Warbler	V (0, 1) 1996
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	V (0, 26) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow-browed Warbler	Rpm (a)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hume's Leaf Warbler	V (0, 2) 2004
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Radde's Warbler	V (0, 2) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dusky Warbler	V (0, 1) 2001

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood Warbler	Rpm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Chiffchaff	SB/PM/Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Willow Warbler	SB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Blackcap	SB/PM/Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Garden Warbler	SB/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barred Warbler	SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesser Whitethroat	sb/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Whitethroat	SB/PM/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Subalpine Warbler	V (0, 2) 1996
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sardinian Warbler	V (0, 1) 2005
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Grasshopper Warbler	sb/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	River Warbler	V (0, 1) 1994
<input type="checkbox"/>	Icterine Warbler	V (0, 38) 2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sedge Warbler	SB/PM/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blyth's Reed Warbler	V (0, 1) 2001
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh Warbler	V (0, 1) 2002
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Reed Warbler	Rpm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Reed Warbler	V (0, 1) 1970
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bohemian Waxwing	Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Nuthatch	V (0, 7) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Treecreeper	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winter Wren	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Starling	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rosy Starling	V (1,12) 2002
<input type="checkbox"/>	White-throated Dipper	rb/Rpm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-bellied	V (? , 4) 2005
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ring Ouzel	pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Blackbird	RB/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fieldfare	PM/pm/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Song Thrush	RB/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Redwing	PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mistle Thrush	RB/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted Flycatcher	sb/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Robin	RB/PM/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thrush Nightingale	V (0, 1) 1985
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Nightingale	V (0, 1) 1990
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bluethroat	SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-flanked Bluetail	V (0, 2) 2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Redstart	pm/Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Redstart	sb/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whinchat	sb/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Stonechat	rb/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Wheatear	sb/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pied Wheatear	V (0, 2) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	Desert Wheatear	V (0, 1) 2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-breasted Flycatcher	SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Collared Flycatcher	V (0, 1) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Pied Flycatcher	pm/Rpm

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dunnock	RB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	House Sparrow	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	RB/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow Wagtail	[sb/pm] SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue-headed	[sb/ rpm] SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey-headed	V (0, 6) 1996
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Wagtail	RB/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pied Wagtail	RB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	White	pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard's Pipit	V (0, 8) 2000
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tawny Pipit	V (0, 1) 1979
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Olive-backed Pipit	V (0, 1) 2005
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Pipit	sb/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meadow Pipit	RB/PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-throated Pipit	V (0, 1) 1998
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Rock Pipit	RB/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Pipit	V (0, 4) 2001
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Chaffinch	RB/pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brambling	PM/pm/WW/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Greenfinch	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	European Goldfinch	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Siskin	rb/pm/WW
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Linnet	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twite	pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesser Redpoll	rb/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Redpoll	SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arctic Redpoll	V (0, 2) 1996
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Crossbill	rb/NB/nb
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scottish Crossbill	V (0, 1) 2001
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Rosefinch	V (0, 5) 1997
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasian Bullfinch	rb/pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hawfinch	V (11+, 9) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snow Bunting	pm/ww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lapland Bunting	Rpm/Rww
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	White-crowned Sparrow	V (0, 1) 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellowhammer	RB
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ortolan Bunting	V (0, 3) 2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Bunting	V (2, 4) 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow-breasted Bunting	V (0, 3) 2000
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Reed Bunting	RB/PM/pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-headed Bunting	V (1, 0) 1886
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Corn Bunting	rb/ww
323 species (to end 2009)											

Category D

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruddy Shelduck	V 15+ (2006)
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Fife Ringing Report 2008

Bird ringing is carried out in Fife by a number of trained individuals not affiliated to a particular group and some members of the Tay Ringing Group (TRG).

The totals for 2007 amended to include the Fife Island data are 7670 new birds of 78 species which represents a decrease of only 192 birds or 2.4% on 2006. This year a total of 6481 new birds of 86 species were ringed and whilst the number of species increased, this represents a further decrease of 616 birds or 15.5% on the previous year and a 35.4% on the mean total since 2002. This year a single Twite was caught ringed and represents a new species to the list since at least 2002.

Adults of larger species of non-passerine are mainly caught by TRG cannon-netting sessions and the totals vary from year to year largely dependent on suitable catching conditions rather than changes in species populations. Seabird ringing is mainly carried out on the Firth of Forth islands and during 2007 the Lothian Ringing Group (LRG) ringed the following species Common Eider, Northern Fulmar, Great Cormorant, European Shag, Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Guillemot and Razorbill on the Forth Islands.

Migration at Fife Ness

In general another rather disappointing year and the third autumn in a row without an October fall.

March produced very little in the way of returning thrushes despite easterlies mid month. It was in a SE'ly with rain overnight that a ringed Common Chiffchaff was seen but not caught. There was another Common Chiffchaff on 14th April with a Firecrest the next day and a continental European Robin appeared on 17th. Easterlies on 23rd produced a Black Redstart, Common Chiffchaff, Eurasian Siskin and three Willow Warblers and a Long-eared Owl the next day. Easterlies at the end of the month saw a few more Willow Warblers and a Eurasian Blackcap. Early May saw easterlies on many days but few migrants except a Spotted Flycatcher on 11th. The easterlies continued nearly to the end of the month with a Lesser Whitethroat on 24th and a European Pied Flycatcher on 27th. Other than the three resident Sedge Warblers, a Lesser Whitethroat and another Spotted Flycatcher thus ended a dismal spring.

The autumn began with a Common Greenshank flying over on 2nd Aug and on 4th a European Green Woodpecker was present. There were easterlies for the following week but no migrant birds. The 13th saw three Common Crossbills and although there were easterlies on 17th the next arrivals were on 21st with six Willow Warblers and singles of European Pied and Spotted Flycatchers. There were two Garden Warblers and a Eurasian Blackcap new in on 22nd as well as a single Merlin and several Eurasian Whimbrel flying over. Seventeen Common Buzzards moved south on 23rd (this movement is annual and maybe indicates that the enlarged local population is partially migratory). There was a Northern Wheatear and three Willow Warblers on 31st. A good day in early September produced at least 20 Eurasian Siskin, two Common Crossbill, two Barred Warblers, two Spotted Flycatchers, a Eurasian Stonechat and a single Sedge Warbler, Eurasian Blackcap and Common Whitethroat with a Common Redstart seen the next day. The 15th saw the capture of an interesting bird which showed features of Collared Flycatcher. However after

some study and re-trapping the following day it was clearly an aberrant European Pied Flycatcher. Later there were four Spotted Flycatchers and three Lesser Whitethroats as well as a Barred Warbler present and a Eurasian Hobby flying over. It might be worth adding that over the years many "odd" birds have been caught; Eurasian Blackcaps with bright yellow underneath, Garden Warblers with totally grey collars, European Pied Flycatchers with very strange juvenile plumage – most of these are no doubt from very distant parts of Europe. A Eurasian Reed Warbler was caught on 17th and with this years good Blackberry crop Lesser Whitethroats stayed on as did at least one Barred Warbler also a few Goldcrests remained until the end of the month with the odd leftovers. October started with six Lesser Redpoll and the first Redwing of the autumn then two Eurasian Treecreepers, a Common Chiffchaff and more Goldcrests were present on 3rd. Even though there were occasionally easterlies there was little new except a steady trickle of new Goldcrests including a bird ringed ten days earlier on the Isle of May and indication perhaps of the diverse movements of migrants. The 17th and 18th saw the arrival of a few Redwing and Blackbirds and on 19th a Water Rail was caught in one of the traps. The rest of October passed by with a few new Goldcrests most days and a Common Chiffchaff on 23rd and a Common Crossbill was caught on 31st. The season was saved by an all day arrival on 6th Nov with light easterlies and low cloud, mostly Common Blackbirds with a few other thrush species mixed in, perhaps 1000 Common Blackbirds in all. During the same period there were also about 100 continental European Robins with about the same number of Goldcrests a few Eurasian Blackcaps and Eurasian Woodcock. A total of 120 Common Blackbirds were ringed including three already ringed (Fair Isle, Humberside and The Netherlands). There were small numbers next day with a stronger easterly. Sadly there was little other than leftovers afterwards.

Constant Effort Ringing

Sadly, due to personal circumstances and significant habitat changes the long running CES project at West Quarry Braes was concluded prior to the start of the 2008 season. This marks the ending of a long run of constant effort ringing in Fife since Jim Cobb first started ringing under the scheme at Kippo Plantation in 1987 (20 years) and also with projects at Kilconquhar (5 years) and latterly West Quarry Braes (11 years). Fife has had a long and creditable history of providing constant effort ringing and hopefully ringers in Fife will at a future date take up the challenge again and renew Fife's contribution to this important scheme.

Retrapping Adults for Survival

The Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) Project was started by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) in 1998 with the objective of gathering retrap information to enable the monitoring of survival rates for a variety of species and habitats, particularly those of conservation concern and those not well monitored by other current BTO ringing. RAS will use captures (or re-sightings of colour-marked individuals) of adult birds to calculate what proportion survive each year. Recaptures generally give much higher quality information on adult survival per unit ringing effort than recoveries of dead birds. This information on survival rates will help us to

understand the changes in bird populations and is considered to be a key element for effective conservation action.

Jim Cobb is currently running a RAS project on Common Chaffinch and would appreciate any records of colour-ringed birds.

Retrapping Adults for Survival – Common Chaffinch capture totals

Age Year	First Year		Adult	
	New	Retraps	New	Retraps
2000	17	5	11	8
2001	67	6	66	82
2002	70	7	51	79
2003	177	52	98	136
2004	60	3	37	173
2005	117	12	66	219
2006	102	5	36	260
2007	11	1	29	333
2008	19	0	30	259

The 2008 breeding season is believed to have been relatively poor, but ill-health and reduced fieldwork during early autumn may also contribute to the low numbers of first year birds re-caught. The adult population appears much the same but this species is relatively long lived and the local population of adults are increasingly ringed. The vast majority of “retraps” are in fact colour-ring sight records. Nearly all Common Chaffinch ringed in the study have three colour-rings, one on the leg with the BTO ring and two on the opposite leg. Many of these are sighted in April before the breeding season has begun coming in to bait laid in open sites where they can be checked with a telescope. During 2008 John Anderson with great patience photographed at one of these sites and the photos can be seen on his excellent website at Crail Birder (http://www.pbse.com/crail_birder)

The BTO conviction is that birds have a relatively short memory of being caught, but in my experience this is certainly untrue, for some species it is lifetime memory, however a few occasionally make a second mistake! Previous CES and RAS studies at Kippo have demonstrated that birds, particularly Willow Warbler and particularly adult males acquired a life time memory of nets and most avoided recapture which made unique colour ringing essential. It is also very much the same for Common Chaffinch, most are caught initially in a mist net and may later be re-caught in a whoosh net fired over them but otherwise they are unlikely to be re-caught again making colour-ringing an essential tool.

Looking at the retrap ages, birds colour sighted average two years older than those just retrapped. One Kippo bird survived 13 seasons on the same territory which is in fact a U.K. longevity record. Many of the Kippo chaffinches are seven or eight years old. A few have been re-sighted by people elsewhere including one in Dumfries and another at Loch Tay. Some of these birds are winter visitors from Scandinavia but these can usually be detected by their longer wing lengths. However it would appear that most local chaffinches stay local throughout their lives.

Barn Swallow Roost Ringing

Although the EURING/BTO Swallow Roost Project has ended, Jim Cobb and Mark Oksien with the assistance of Harry Bell and Willie Irvine have continued roost ringing of hirundines in the reed beds at Kilconquhar Loch. Unfortunately circumstances this year resulted in a reduced effort with only six sessions undertaken, one of which resulted in only three Barn Swallows being caught. However we did in the end catch 238 new birds and two controls. The by-catch which was also very productive and interesting and gave us 26 Sand Martin, three Common House Martins and another hybrid swallow/martin was caught on 12th Sep. Other species caught included 44 Sedge Warbler, one Eurasian Reed Warbler on 29th Aug, a Common Chiffchaff, 19 Willow Warblers and 50 Common Reed Buntings

From the onset of the Swallow Roost Project at Kilconquhar Loch in 2002 into 2008 we have now ringed at total of 12116 birds. The table below details the annual ringing and recovery totals and illustrates the particularly disappointing aspect in respect of the low number of bird recoveries.

Swallow roost ringing at Kilconquhar Loch 2000 - 2008

	New birds	In year re-traps	Previous year re-traps	Controls	Recoveries from year	Year totals
2000	1411	0	0	8	0	1419
2001	509	1	0	2	1	513
2002	409	0	1	0	0	410
2003	1933	1	0	4	6	1944
2004	2928	3	6	7	8	2952
2005	1738	1	6	5	4	1754
2006	1445	0	3	4	4	1456
2007	1415	0	1	8	4	1428
2008	238	0	0	2	0	240
Totals	12026	6	17	40	27	12116

Storm Petrels

All in all eight sessions were undertaken during the months of July and August one less than that of the previous year. A total of 120 European Storm Petrels were caught comprising 111 new birds, nine controls, giving an average session catch rate of 15 birds. The new bird catch was 19 down on the previous year whereas the control rate of 7.5% crept over the previous ten year mean of 7.44%, with the fifteen year mean standing at 9.24%.

The first session on the night of 3rd/4th July saw 14 birds (13 new, one control) caught. This was followed by 14 (12 new, two controls) on 13th/14th, nine on 22nd/23rd (8 new, one control), 15 on 23rd/24th (13 new, two controls), 11 on 26th/27th (11 new). The best catch of the year 42 birds was during the night of 4th/5th August (40 new, two controls), then 11 on 8th/9th (9 new, two controls) and finally five on 15th/16th (5 new).

This year a Leach's Storm Petrel was trapped at 0105hrs on 27th July, the fourth since 1993 and the second in the last three years.

Details of all the controlled and recovered birds reported are shown in the Recoveries section of this report

FBC Braefoot Nest Box Scheme

This long running scheme is now in its fourteenth year is located in the woodlands surrounding the Shell UK LPG Transfer Facility at Braefoot near Aberdour.

Due to the age of the boxes and squirrel and weather damage the number available each year is now beginning to fluctuate. This year of the 59 tit boxes erected only 53 were useable of which 12 required repairs prior to the breeding period. Other boxes in the scheme include one creeper and eight open boxes.

Each year during May/June the young are ringed and the population and survival is monitored by trapping and ringing throughout the non-breeding period by Mark Oksien.

Braefoot Nest Box Scheme

	Blue Tit		Great Tit	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Boxes used	19	16	18	18
Successful nests	13	15	13	18
Young hatched	94	111	83	86
Young ringed	84	100	54	84
Young fledged	86	96	82	80
Young died	5	10	1	4
Average clutch size	7.85	7.80	7.50	5.78
Productivity	6.62	6.40	6.31	4.44

Another good breeding year for Blue Tits with both the average clutch size and productivity almost mirrored that of the previous year giving us and being close to the long term (14 year) trends for average clutch size and productivity of 8.50 and 6.73 respectively.

The Great Tit saw a mixed year, whilst both average clutch size and productivity decreased the number of nests successful fledging young increased by some 30% on the previous year. The long term (14 year) averages of clutch size and productivity are 6.84 and 5.66 respectively.

Monimail Nest Box Project

This is an established collection of nest box of circa 30 mixed boxes in a small private garden/woodland. With a little re-development it will hopefully in time provide us with good comparative data for that of Braefoot. The table below details the outcome for the first year.

Monimail Nest Box Project 2008

	Blue Tit	Great Tit
Boxes used	5	2
Successful nests	4	2
Young hatched	28	11
Young ringed	28	10
Young fledged	28	10
Young died	0	1
Average clutch size	7.0	6.0
Productivity	7.0	5.0

Peregrine Falcon

The project to fit Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags to Peregrine Falcons continues. The tags are metal rings that contain a uniquely identifiable ‘microchip’ like those used to identify pets and domestic animals. Since 2002, Natural Research Ltd working in cooperation with members of Scottish Raptor Study Groups has been using PIT tags to collect data on Peregrine Falcon demography and recruitment in southern Scotland and northern England. A reader is placed in the nest and used to identify and store tag ID data. Since 2004 Mark Oksien has been participating in the project by ringing Peregrine Falcon pulli at accessible sites in Fife.

Fife Barn Owl Project

Mark Oksien and Willie Irvine continue the work under this project to ring nestlings and adults and to monitor the population and distribution of Barn Owl in Fife.

Given the totals in the breeding pair outcomes table below the Fife population could be expected to be very healthy and on the up. Sadly however the survey of known breeding sites in 2008, detailed in the table below, paints a very different and very poor picture of the breeding year, with most birds found at the nest sites looking very sorry for themselves. It would seem that the cold wet start to the year adversely affected the shrew/vole populations particularly in the eastern parts of the region and it is this that is considered to be the most likely cause of this year’s poor breeding. Close neighbouring pairs in Kinross fared much better successfully producing broods of three young.

To date 65 young and ten full grown Barn Owls have been ringed under the Project.

Outcomes of breeding pairs

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Totals
Pairs	1	2	3	4	6	7	2	6	7	38
Young	3	3	6	14	12	15	7	21	2	83
Fledged	3	3	6	9	8	12	4	21	0	66
Ringed	3	2	6	11	9	12	4	18	0	65

The table below details Barn Owl mortalities recorded by the project. This year two nestling at one nest site were found dead and two full grown birds were reported dead at roadside locations.

Barn Owl mortalities

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Died pre-fledging	-	-	0	5	3	3	3	0	2	16
Dead adults	2	2	0	1	2	2	2	4	4	19

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all ringers and their helpers for their contributions to ringing undertaken in Fife and the use of their data in this report. In particular thanks go to; Simon Burton, Brian Little, Stephanie Little, and also the Tay Ringing Group and Lothian Ringing Group members for their Fife ringing records.

Selected List of Recoveries

This section of the report deals with recoveries. The list primarily covers the year 2007 although late records from previous years are also included.

The format and codes generally follow the conventions laid down in the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) annual ringing report produced in the *Ringing and Migration* journal; however it should be noted that the site co-ordinates are omitted. The recoveries are arranged in species order with the ringing information on the first line and the recovery data below. (Note some records contain multiple lines of recoveries). The symbols and conventions used are listed below:

Species	<i>Scientific name</i>	(BTO scheme longevity in years)
Ring No.	Condition on recovery.	Age\Sex Date and place of ringing site Date and place at recovery Distance, direction and time lapsed in days from the date of ringing

Age when ringed:

EURING

No.	Definition
0	Age unknown
1	Pullus
2	Fully grown, year of hatching unknown
3	Definitely hatched during current calendar year
4	Hatched before current calendar year
5	Definitely hatched during previous calendar year
6	Hatched before last calendar year, exact year unknown
7	Definitely hatched in calendar year before last
8	Hatched 3 or more years ago, exact year unknown
9	Definitely hatched 3 years ago
10	Hatched 4 or more years ago, exact year unknown
11	Definitely hatched 4 years ago
12	Hatched 5 or more years ago, exact year unknown
13	Definitely hatched 5 years ago
14	Hatched 6 or more years ago, exact year unknown
15	Definitely hatched 6 years ago
16	Hatched 7 or more years ago, exact year unknown
J	Indicates bird is still in/or has juvenile plumage

Sex: M = male
F = female

Condition at recovery:

Code	Definition
X	Found dead
XF	Found freshly dead or dying
XL	Found dead (not recent)
+	Shot or intentionally killed by man
+F	Shot or intentionally killed by man – fresh
+L	Shot or intentionally killed by man - not recent
SR	Sick or injured, released with ring
S	Sick or injured – not known to have been released
A	Alive and probably healthy - fate unknown
AC	Alive and probably healthy – now captive
V	Caught or trapped by man released with ring, not by ringer
N	Alive and probably healthy, caught and released but not by ringer - nesting
VV	Ring number read in field/sight record of colour ring or marks
NN	Alive and probably healthy, ring or marks read in field, not by ringer - nesting
R	Caught and released by a ringer at the original site of ringing (re-trapped)
B	Bird ringed, re-trapped or controlled in breeding condition
RR	Alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field by a ringer
BB	Alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in field by ringer - nesting
//	Condition on finding unknown
C	Caught and released by a ringer away from the original site of ringing (controlled)

In addition the circumstances of the recovery where known is added for information (e.g. Killed by cat, Road casualty, Hit window etc).

Reporting ringed birds**Local colour ringing and special marking schemes**

Please send information on any sighting of colour-ringed birds to the following persons/organisations.

Great Cormorant Darvics in Scotland (Forth colours; white ring green letters)

Raymond Duncan Raymond@waxwing.fsnet.co.uk

All other Darvics to Stuart Newson ~ email stuart.newson@bto.org

Mute Swan Darvic rings code and colour ~ Allan & Lyndesay Brown, 61 Watts

Gardens, Cupar, Fife KY15 4UG ~ email swans@allanbrown.co.uk

or Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Jenny Earle, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT

e-mail: Jenny.Earle@wwt.org.uk

Colour ringed **Black-tailed Godwit** and **White-throated Dipper** records ~ Les Hatton, Edenvale, Lydox Mill, Dairsie, Fife KY15 4RN

Colour ringed **Willow Warblers** and **Common Chaffinch** ~ Dr J. Cobb 3 Station Road, Kingsbarns, Fife KY16 8TB

Isle of May Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) schemes

European Shag: Darvic rings letter code and colour. **Common Guillemot, Razorbill** and **Atlantic Puffin:** Combination of three coloured rings also a few Guillemots have engraved rings (a letter and two numbers and colour) which were ringed as chicks. **Black-legged Kittiwake:** Three coloured rings but one of the rings has stripes on it (black-yellow-black, green-white-green, orange-white-orange or black-orange-black). ~ Dr Mark Newell, CEH Edinburgh, Bush Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0QB ~ email Mark at manew@ceh.ac.uk.

Selected Scottish colour ringing and special marking schemes

Greylag Goose Darvic ring and neck collar codes ~ Bob Swann, 14 St Vincent Road, Tain, Ross-shire IV19 4JR ~ email bob.swann@hcs.uhi.ac.uk

Pink-footed Goose Darvic ring and neck collar codes ~ Richard Hearn c/o Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT ~ email richard.hearn@wwt.org.uk

Great Black-backed Gull Darvic rings code and colour ~ Sightings Co-ordinator for Caithness Great Black-backed Gull colour-ringing Project, Mark Oksien, 32 Struan Drive, Inverkeithing, Fife KY11 1AR (Tel 01383-419503; e-mail: gbbgulls@btinternet.com)

Common Reed Bunting Colour ringed records ~ Clive Walton, 5 Corstorphine Hill Road, Edinburgh EH12 6JZ, ~ email Walton@cw Walton.freereserve.co.uk

Details of the above and the many other colour ringing schemes from other areas can be found on the www.Aves.be website under cr-projects at: <http://www.cr-birding.be/>

What to do when you find a ringed bird

Please report any ringed bird that you find to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU or via the BTO Website Home Page at <http://www.bto.org> or www.ring.ac

The following guidance is provided to assist you with the report:

- Write down the number and, if the bird is dead, please enclose the ring taped to your letter. Note the ring will be returned to you if you wish to keep it) If it is not a BTO ring (i.e. address starting BTO or British Museum), then please give the address as well.
- Give the location of where the bird was found including the name of the nearest town or village and a grid reference if possible.
- Give the date and time of when the bird was found.

- Give the circumstance; say if the bird was alive or dead. If dead, please give the cause of death if known, e.g. hit by car, brought in by cat, or found oiled on beach. Also note if the bird was freshly dead or decomposed etc. if the bird was alive please say what happened to it.
- Write down the type or species of bird, (*if you know it*).
- Finally don't forget to provide your name and postal address so that you can be sent the information of when and where the bird had been ringed. If you send a report of a ringed bird by email please include your postal address.

Further information

If you would like more information about bird ringing, or are interested in training to become a bird ringer, please write to; The Ringing Unit, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Tel: 01842 750050. Email: ringing@bto.org Website: <http://www.bto.org>

Jim Cobb & Mark Oksien

Recapture History:

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (26:09:08)

W18468	6F	12/09/2007	Tayport, Fife
	R	09/12/2007	Tayport, Fife (88 days)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (23:03:07)

A6848	1	19/08/2003	Burfellsvatn, Jokuldalsheidi, Iceland (Yellow 46B)
	S	25/01/2008	Mantons Farm/Lowes Farm, Hilgay Fen, Norfolk. (1620 days)
	S	07/11/2008	Kilconquhar Loch, Fife. (1907 days)

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (18:08:02)

DZJ	3M	18/10/1998	Loch Eye
	S	05/03/1999	near Newburgh, Aberdeenshire
	S	16/03/1999	Backworth, Northumberland
	S	02/11/1999	Harpsdale, Caithness
	S	06/02/2001	Lizziewells, Fife
	S	18/04/2001	Burnside, Newton, Elgin
	S	12/11/2001	Blackpark, Caithness
	S	20/12/2001	Westfield, Elgin
	S	02/11/2003	NW of Cupar, Fife
	S	10/02/2004	Druridge Pool NR, Northumberland
	S	14/11/2004	Muirton, Lossiemouth
	S	23/01/2005	Bowhouse, St Monans, Fife
	S	25/02/2005	Carnbee Reservoir, Fife
	S	04/11/2005	Kilconquhar, Fife
	S	08/02/2006	Colinsburgh, Fife
	S	11/11/2006	Incharvie, Kilconquhar, Fife
	S	15/12/2006	East Chevington Pool, Northumberland

S	6M	26/10/2007	Kilconquar Loch, Fife
S	6M	16/12/2007	Kilconquhar, Fife
S	6M	02/11/2008	Kilconquhar, Fife
S	6M	07/11/2008	Kilconquhar, Fife (10 years 20 days)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (38:07:07)

CGTCV	3F	16/12/2007	Loch of Lintrathen, Angus
S	5F	15/04/2008	Vane Farm area, Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross
S	5F	02/11/2008	Kilconquhar Loch, Fife
CCTJN	2F	16/12/2007	Loch of Lintrathen, Angus
S	2F	09/03/2008	Inverord, Aberdeenshire
S	2F	02/11/2008	Kilconquhar Loch, Fife
CGTVN	4M	16/12/2007	Loch of Lintrathen, Angus
S	4M	02/11/2008	Kilconquhar Loch, Fife
1412388	3M	22/10/2006	Lintrathen, Angus
X	0	04/11/2008	Inverkeithing, Fife (74km, SSW, 2 years 13 days)

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (24:08:24)

GN03836	6M	18/03/2006	Eden Mouth, Fife
XL	0	16/05/2007	Tynninghame Bay, East Lothian (45km, SSE, 1 year 59days)

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (34:07:00)

FA53611	6M	18/02/2001	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
XF	0	20/01/2007	Nochnary, near Falkland, Fife (4km, SSW, 5 yrs 336 days)
FA88276	4F	22/10/2003	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
+F	0	17/11/2003	Tayport, Fife (22km NE 26 days)
FP06565	3M	19/12/2004	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
R		23/12/2005	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife (1 year 4 days)
+F	0	28/12/2007	Kinross, Perth & Kinross (20km, SW, 3 years 9 days)
FP06931	4M	02/11/2003	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
XF	0	24/01/2007	Nochnary, near Falkland, Fife (4km, SSW, 3 years 83 days)
FP26633	6F	02/03/2005	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
XF	0	12/11/2007	Eden Mouth, Fife (23km, ENE, 2 years 255 days)
FP26640	6F	02/03/2005	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
XF	0	16/10/2005	Auchtermuchty area, Fife (5km, WSW, 228 days)
FP26734	4	06/03/2005	Eden Mouth, Fife
+F	0	20/08/2007	Hallorsfjarden, Vaasa, Finland , (1638km, ENE, 2 years 167 days)
FP26748	3F	18/12/2005	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
R		10/02/2006	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife (54 days)
XF	0	30/12/2006	Collessie, Fife (1 year 12 days)
FP26807	6M	10/02/2006	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
+F	0	10/04/2007	Dolgorukovskiy distr, Lipetsk O., Russia Federation (2722km, E, 1 year 59days)
FP26856	5F	10/02/2006	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
X	0	21/11/2007	near Letham, Fife (4km, ENE, 1 year 284 days)
FP26910	3M	23/12/2005	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
+F	0	15/11/2006	Pittendreich, Elgin, Moray (149km, N, 327 days)

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (20:05:17)

GN03812 2M 23/12/2005 Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife
 + 13/11/2007 Letham, Fife (3km, NE, 1 year 325 days)

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* (31:11:09)

Birds ringed at Fife Ness;

2532521	4	27/07/2002	Fife Ness
C	6	16/06/2008	Priest Island, Highland Region (257km, NW, 2151 days)
2559025	4	22/08/2007	Fife Ness
C	4	22/07/2008	Dunbeath Beach, Highland (224km, NNW, 335 days)
2559026	4	22/08/2007	Fife Ness
C	4	24/07/2008	Twinyees, North Ronaldsay, Orkney (343km, N, 337 days)
2559043	4	08/08/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	21/08/2008	Tres Ness, Sanday, Orkney (328km, N, 13 days)
2571881	4	22/07/2004	Fife Ness
C	4	17/08/2004	Isle of May, Fife (9km, SSE, 26 days)
C	4	15/08/2005	Isle of May, Fife (9km, SSE, 1 year 24 days)
R	4	27/07/2006	Fife Ness (2 years 5 days)
C	4	29/07/2006	Eyemouth, Borders (54km, SE, 2 years 7 days)
C	4	06/09/2007	Copeland Bird Observatory, Down (255km, SW, 3 years 46 days)
C	4	02/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 4 years)
C	4	05/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 4 years)
2571936	4	11/07/2005	Fife Ness
C	6	30/07/2006	Eilean nan Ron, Highland Region (274km, NNW, 1 years 19 days)
C	6	20/06/2008	Eilean Hoan, Highland Region (285km, NNW, 2 years 345 days)
2571972	4	23/07/2005	Fife Ness
C	4	16/08/2006	Ailsa Craig, South Ayrshire (194km, SW, 1 year 24 days)
C	4	05/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 3 years)
2571982	4	24/07/2005	Fife Ness
C	4	29/07/2006	Copeland Bird Observatory, Down (255km, SW, 1 year 5 days)
C	4	03/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 3 years)
C	4	05/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 3 years)
2571991	4	24/07/2005	Fife Ness, Fife
C	4	02/08/2008	Isle of May, Fife (9km, SSE, 3 years 9 days)
2589633	4	29/07/2007	Fife Ness
C	4	23/07/2008	Eilean nan Ron, Highland (274km, NNW, 360 days)
2589643	4	29/07/2007	Fife Ness
C	4	03/08/2008	Isle of May, Fife (9km, SSE, 371 days)
2589686	4	09/08/2007	Fife Ness
C	4	28/07/2008	Eilean nan Ron, Highland (274km, NNW, 354 days)
2589726	4	26/07/2006	Fife Ness
C	4	31/07/2006	Isle of May, Fife (9km, SSE, 5 days)
C	4	02/08/2008	Craig Stirling, Aberdeenshire (88km, NNE, 2 years 7 days)
2589734	4	26/07/2006	Fife Ness
C	4	05/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 2 years)
2589742	4	27/07/2006	Fife Ness
C	4	05/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 2 years)
2589761	4	05/08/2006	Fife Ness
C	4	02/07/2007	Copeland Bird Observatory, Down (255km, SW, 331 days)

2589780	4	08/08/2006	Fife Ness
C	4	25/07/2008	Dunbeath, Highland (224km, NNW, 1 year 352 days)
2589799	4	08/08/2006	Fife Ness
C	6	11/08/2008	Fair Isle, Shetland (367km, N, 2 years 3 days)
2589829	4	04/07/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	19/08/2008	Harrington, Cumbria (195km, SSW, 46 days)
2589830	4	04/07/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	08/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 35 days)
2589841	4	13/07/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	19/07/2008	Souter Point, Whitburn, Tyne and Wear (165km, SSE, 6 days)
2589847	4	14/07/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	04/08/2008	Isle of May, Fife (9km, SSE, 21 days)
2589849	4	14/07/2008	Fife Ness
C	6	26/07/2008	The Headland, Hartlepool (197km, SSE, 12 days)
2589864	4	26/07/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	08/08/2008	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (217km, WSW, 13 days)
2589877	4	04/08/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	18/08/2008	Isle of May, Fife (9km, SSE, 14 days)
2589896	4	05/08/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	13/08/2008	Kilnsea Clays, East Riding of Yorkshire (344km, SSE, 8 days)
2589900	4	05/08/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	05/08/2008	Isle of May, Fife (9km, SSE, 55 minutes)

Birds controlled at Fife Ness;

2359542	4	22/07/2008	Low Hauxley, Northumberland
C	4	05/08/2008	Fife Ness (124km, NNW, 14 days)
2361677	4	28/07/2007	Craig Stirling, Aberdeenshire
C	4	05/08/2008	Fife Ness (88km, SSW, 1 year 8 days)
2476249	1	07/09/2002	Mousa, Shetland
C	4	14/07/2008	Fife Ness (421km, S, 5 years 311 days)
2560927	6	24/06/2008	Lunga, Treshnish Isles, Argyll and Bute
C	4	24/07/2008	Fife Ness (237km, E, 30 days)
2581444	4	11/07/2008	Souter Lighthouse, Tyne and Wear
C	4	23/07/2008	Fife Ness (165km, NNW, 12 days)
2581469	4F	19/07/2008	Souter Lighthouse, Tyne and Wear
C	4	08/08/2008	Fife Ness (165km, NNW, 20 days)
2594513			Unknown details
C	4	04/07/2008	Fife Ness
C	4	24/07/2008	Fife Ness (20 days)
2630509	4	10/08/2007	Craig Stirling, Aberdeenshire
C	4	14/07/2008	Fife Ness (88km, SSW, 339 days)
2637760	4	02/08/2008	Craig Stirling, Aberdeenshire
C	4	09/08/2008	Fife Ness (88km, SSW, 7 days)

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (23:06:28)

5226483	1	10/06/2007	Dunbar, East Lothian
XL	0	20/02/2008	Pusk Farm, Fife (49km, NNW, 255 days)

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (30:06:24)

G8462	1	05/07/2006	Isle of May (Darvic BJI)
XL	0	23/04/2008	Fife Ness (Darvic found on beach) (9km, NNW, 1 year 293 days)
1398482	8F	31/05/2006	Isle of May (Darvic)
XF	6	07/08/2008	Fife Ness Muir (Part eaten by Fox) (9km, NNW, 799 days)
1407083	1	09/07/2007	Staple Island, Farne Islands Northumberland
XF	5	14/01/2008	Fife Ness (94km, 321deg, 189 days)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (30:11:00)

1311872	1	15/07/1997	Site Confidential, near Kirriemuir, Angus
VV		26/05/2007	Mugdrum Island, Fife (39km, SSW, 9 years 315 days)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (17:02:01)

GN22542	1	07/06/2005	Site Confidential, Fife
C	6F	18/05/2008	near Shotts, North Lanarkshire (77km, SW, 2 years 346days)

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (36:02:06)

FV87913	7	15/03/1980	Eden Mouth, Fife
XF	0	15/06/2007	Buddo, Boarhills, Fife (10km, SE, 27 years 92 days)

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus* (19:10:28)

DB99427	4	19/09/2004	Brora, Highland
R		28/07/2007	Coble Shore, Fife (193km, SSE, 2 years 312 days)
DK06497	6	05/04/2003	Guardbridge Marsh, Fife
XF	0	05/05/2008	Guardbridge Paper Mill, Fife (5 years 30 days)

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (26:08:24)

EW55091	1	10/06/2008	Cokes Pit, Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire
VV	3	03/08/2008	Balcomie beach, Fife Ness, Fife (515km, N, 54 days)

Common Gull *Larus canus* (22:06:25)

ET61062	1	16/06/1998	Craigoshina, Glenesk, Angus
XF	0	29/12/2006	Lower Largo, Fife (76km, SSW, 8 years 196 days)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (30:09:14)

DK06393	6	15/08/1992	Tentsmuir, Fife
RR		03/07/2005	Griend, The Netherlands (626km, SE, 12 years 322 days)

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (16:10:16)

ES64362	4	14/07/2002	Kingsbarns, Fife
X	0	09/04/2008	Crail, Fife (6km, SSE, 5 years 270 days)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (13:04:10)

GN22571	1	04/07/2007	Site Confidential, Fife
XL	0	01/06/2008	Kilconquhar Mains, Kilconquhar, Fife (333 days)
GA35145			Unknown details
X	0	June 2008	Prior Muir, Fife

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* (10:09:22)

CW19038	5F	24/02/2007	Braefoot Plantation, Fife
R	4F	11/02/2008	Braefoot Plantation, Fife (352 days)

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (07:11:12)

BR3372	3	01/10/2003	Penon de Zapata, Alhaurin de la Torre, Malaga, Spain
R	4	23/07/2005	Ladybank, Fife (2249km, N, 1 year 295 days)
V042193	4	10/07/2006	Ladybank, Fife
R	4	27/08/2007	Icklesham, East Sussex (648km, SSE, 1 year 48 days)

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (11:01:11)

AD10981	0	15/01/2004	South of Paley, Cape Province, South Africa
C	4	01/09/2004	Kilconquhar, Fife (10049km, NNW, 230 days)
T685727	3	22/08/2005	Kilconquhar Loch, Fife
R	4	20/09/2008	Cove, Aberdeen, Grampian (108km, NNE, 3 years 29 days)
V045452	3	30/08/2007	Drum, Montrose Basin, Angus
R	3	03/09/2007	Kilconquhar, Fife (60km, SSW, 4 days)
V479688	1	28/06/2008	Bur Wick, South Ronaldsay, Orkney
C	3	29/08/2008	Kilconquhar Loch, Fife (282km, S, 62 days)
X261342	3	30/08/2008	Loch Achnacloich, Ardrross, Highland
C	3	19/09/2008	Kilconquhar Loch, Fife (189km, SSE, 20 days)

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* (14:02:01)

CL41954	5M	16/04/2006	Fair Isle, Shetland
C	4M	06/11/2008	Fife Ness (367km, S, 2 years 204 days)
CL68080	3F	17/10/2005	Fife Ness, Fife
XL	0	13/05/2008	Philpstoun, West Lothian (67km, WSW, 2 years 209 days)
CW09052	3F	26/12/2005	Ladybank, Fife
XF	0	13/07/2007	nr Pitlessie, Fife (3km, SE, 1 year 199 days)
CW72403	4M	28/11/2006	Kilnsea Clays, East Riding of Yorkshire
C	4M	06/11/2008	Fife Ness (344km, NNW, 1 year 344 days)
LA23973	4M	23/12/2007	Ladybank, Fife
XF	0	01/07/2008	Collessie, near Ladybank, Fife (3km, NW, 191 days)

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (07:11:28)

V275982	3J	21/08/2007	Crail, Fife
C	4	16/08/2008	Icklesham, Sussex (633km, SSE, 361 days)
X261208	3	26/08/2008	Loch Achnacloich, Ardrross, Highland
C	3	29/08/2008	Kilconquhar Loch, Fife (189km, SSE, 3 days)

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (07:07:24)

CBB049	3	05/10/2007	Icklesham, East Sussex
C	4M	11/07/2008	near Mill Farm, Aberdour, Fife (630km, NNW, 280 days)

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* (04:10:09)

CAY746	3F	09/10/2008	Isle of May, Fife
C	3F	19/10/2008	Fife Ness (9km, NNW, 10 days)

A northward movement of a migrating bird.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* (08:09:26)

T362748	3	22/10/2005	Braefoot Plantation, Fife
R	4	11/02/2008	Braefoot Plantation, Fife (2 years 112 days)

A resident bird with multiple recaptures.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* (09:09:03)

T362781	3	22/10/2005	Braefoot Plantation, Fife
X	0	24/05/2008	Dalgety Bay, Fife (2km, W, 2 years 215 days)
V042780	3	08/12/2006	Ladybank, Fife
XL	0	31/05/2007	Birnie/Gaddon Lochs, Fife (3km, NW, 174 days)
R175029	4	10/08/2002	Cullaloe Wildlife Reserve, Fife
R	4	06/04/2008	Cullaloe Wildlife Reserve, Fife (5 years 240 days)
R641533	3	26/10/2003	Braefoot Plantation, Fife
R	6	11/02/2008	Braefoot Plantation, Fife (4 years 108 days)

Great Tit *Parus major* (13:11:05)

TA40072	1	08/06/2005	Craigtoun, Fife
XF	0	06/06/2008	St Andrews, Fife (1km, E, 2 years 364 days)
TH76470	1	03/06/2007	Ladybank, Fife
XF	0	03/10/2007	Rankeillour Estate, near Springfield, Fife (2km, E, 122 days)
VT35148	1	10/06/2003	Braefoot Plantation, Fife
X	0	07/05/2008	Dalgety Bay, Fife (1km, W, 4 years 332 days)
TB96632	1	23/05/2004	Braefoot Plantation, Fife
R	4F	11/02/2008	Braefoot Plantation, Fife (3 years 264 days)
TB96635	1	23/05/2004	Braefoot Plantation, Fife
R	4M	17/03/2008	Braefoot Plantation, Fife (3 years 299 days)

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (17:07:25)

CT42338	6F	09/05/2006	Inverkeithing, Fife
R	6F	13/05/2009	Inverkeithing, Fife (3 years 4 days)

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (11:07:21)

P972843	3JM	25/08/2002	Lydox cottages, Fife
RR	4M	10/04/2007	Kippo Plantation, Fife (15km, ESE, 4 years 228 days)
R720660	4F	14/10/2003	Fife Ness, Fife
C	4	13/02/2008	Hjerting, Esbjerg, Denmark (687km, E, 4 years 122 days)
R913539	5M	24/04/2004	Kingsbarns, Fife
O	4M	13/04/2007	Kippo Wood, Fife (4km, WSW, 2 years 354 days)
S	4M	17/04/2008	Crail, Fife (6km, SSE, 3 years 359 days)
R939841	3F	19/11/2004	Cairneyhill, Fife
XF	0	02/05/2008	Cairneyhill, Fife (1km, E, 3 years 165 days)
T349840	6F	05/02/2005	Kippo Wood, Fife
C	6F	15/02/2008	Fife Ness (7km, ESE, 3 years 10 days)
V276127	3F	30/08/2007	Crail, Fife
C	5F	02/04/2008	Kippo Wood, Fife (6km, NW, 216 days)

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* (12:00:15)

TC37496	3M	28/10/2006	Fife Ness Muir, Fife	
	R	5M	06/02/2007	Kippo Wood, near Kingsbarns, Fife (7km, WNW, 101 days)
	R	5M	09/02/2007	Fife Ness Muir, Fife (104 days)
	X	0	24/03/2008	St Andrews, Fife (14km, WNW, 1 year 148 days)
TC44939	3JF	29/09/2007	Lydox cottages, Fife	
	XF	0	18/05/2008	Forfarm Angus (33km, N, 232 days)
TC44983	6M	02/02/2008	Lydox cottages, Fife	
	SR	07/05/2008	Kemback Bridge, Cupar, Fife (2km, S, 95 days)	
	R	6M	27/07/2008	Lydox cottages, Fife (176 days)
TC80688	5M	27/07/2007	Coble Shore, Fife	
	XF	0	29/08/2007	Edenside, Fife (2km, W, 33 days)
TC80691	3JF	28/07/2007	Coble Shore, Fife	
	XF	0	08/07/2008	Tayport, Fife (10km NNW 346 days)
TH75914	5M	08/02/2007	Barry Mill, Mains of Ravensby, Barry, Angus	
	XL	0	17/11/2007	Newport on Tay, Fife (13km, SW, 282 days)
VF66138	3M	22/12/2001	Lydox cottages, Fife	
	XF	0	08/03/2008	Blebocraigs, Fife (2km, SSE, 6 years 77days)

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* (08:08:04)

P970655	6M	24/02/2002	Craigluscar, Fife	
	XF	0	17/04/2008	Dunfermline, Fife (2km, SSE, 6 years 53 days)

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus* (09:02:01)

R941480	3F	24/12/2004	Townhill, Fife	
	XF	0	09/07/2007	Insh, Highland (116km, NNW, 2 years 197 days)
R941520	5M	25/03/2005	Townhill, Fife	
	R	5M	01/04/2005	Townhill, Fife (7 days)
	XF	0	13/07/2007	Strathmiglo, Fife (23km, NNE, 2 years 110 days)
T573331	3F	07/07/2007	Townhill, Fife	
	C	5	17/02/2008	Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent (603km, SSE, 225 days)
	C	5	20/02/2008	Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent (603km, SSE, 228 days)
V566230	5M	24/02/2008	Townhill, Fife	
	C	5	25/04/2008	Tarbert, Cnoc, Loch Lomond, Argyll and Bute (78km, W, 61 days)
	C	5	29/04/2008	Tarbert, Cnoc, Loch Lomond, Argyll and Bute (78km, W, 65 days)

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (08:02:25)

V046264	4F	17/02/2007	Coble Shore, Fife	
	XF	0	19/08/2007	Leuchars, Fife (4km, N, 183 days)

Redpoll sp. (Common/Lesser) *Carduelis flammea/cabaret*

9732750	3M	26/10/2005	Blauberg, Antwerpen, Belgium	
	C	4	26/11/2006	Ladybank, Fife (787km, NW, 1 year 31 days)

Species Ringing Totals	Ad/Juv	Pullus	2007 Total	*Grand Total
Mute Swan	0	0	0	6
Brent Goose	0	0	0	1
Common Shelduck	0	0	0	230
Eurasian Wigeon	22	0	22	517
Eurasian Teal	0	0	0	35
Mallard	17	0	17	170
Northern Pintail	0	0	0	23
Common Eider	0	0	0	23
Grey Partridge	0	0	0	2
Northern Fulmar	1	127	128	577
European Storm Petrel	111	0	111	1055
Leach's Storm Petrel	1	0	1	2
Great Cormorant	0	16	16	225
European Shag	26	62	88	355
Western Marsh Harrier	0	0	0	10
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	4	0	4	56
Common Buzzard	1	1	2	10
Common Kestrel	0	0	0	23
Peregrine Falcon	0	3	0	15
Water Rail	1	0	0	2
Common Moorhen	0	0	0	12
Eurasian Oystercatcher	10	1	11	199
Great Ringed Plover	0	1	1	25
European Golden Plover	0	0	0	1
Northern Lapwing	0	3	3	59
Red Knot	3	0	3	5
Dunlin	13	0	13	45
Jack Snipe	1	0	1	1
Common Snipe	1	0	1	2
Eurasian Woodcock	3	0	3	18
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	4
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	5
Eurasian Curlew	0	0	0	6
Common Redshank	32	1	1	282
Common Greenshank	0	0	0	1
Common Sandpiper	0	1	1	8
Black-headed Gull	0	34	34	45
Common Gull	0	0	0	2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	0	2	12
European Herring Gull	0	0	0	7
Black-legged Kittiwake	38	107	145	1145
Little Tern	0	0	0	2
Common Tern	0	13	13	214
Arctic Tern	0	0	0	1
Common Guillemot	1	0	1	4
Razorbill	1	6	7	17
Atlantic Puffin	0	0	0	34

Species Ringing Totals	Ad/Juv	Pullus	2007 Total	*Grand Total
Stock Dove	0	0	0	4
Common Wood Pigeon	6	0	6	133
Eurasian Collared Dove	1	0	1	30
Barn Owl	2	0	2	66
Tawny Owl	1	1	2	7
Long-eared Owl	0	0	0	4
Common Kingfisher	0	0	0	3
Eurasian Wryneck	0	0	0	1
European Green Woodpecker	1	0	1	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	18	0	18	147
Sky Lark	0	0	0	24
Sand Martin	173	0	173	2598
Barn Swallow	270	272	542	12272
Common House Martin	8	0	8	55
Tree Pipit	0	0	0	2
Meadow Pipit	0	0	0	37
Eurasian Rock Pipit	0	3	3	5
Grey Wagtail	0	0	0	15
Pied Wagtail	17	21	38	413
Bohemian Waxwing	0	0	0	6
White-throated Dipper	0	0	0	8
Winter Wren	71	0	71	889
Dunnock	187	32	219	1704
European Robin	263	0	263	2014
Common Redstart	4	0	4	14
Whinchat	1	0	1	2
Eurasian Stonechat	1	0	1	7
Ring Ouzel	0	0	0	3
Common Blackbird	434	47	481	3952
Fieldfare	0	0	0	67
Song Thrush	34	35	69	750
Redwing	16	0	16	339
Mistle Thrush	2	3	5	23
Common Grasshopper Warbler	0		0	2
Sedge Warbler	51		51	714
Marsh Warbler	0		0	1
Eurasian Reed Warbler	3		3	12
Icterine Warbler	0		0	1
Eurasian Blackcap	26		26	252
Garden Warbler	18	4	22	126
Barred Warbler	1		1	3
Lesser Whitethroat	6		6	25
Common Whitethroat	10		10	122
Sardinian Warbler	0		0	1
Greenish Warbler	0		0	1
Pallas's Leaf Warbler	0		0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler	0		0	5

Species Ringing Totals	Ad/Juv	Pullus	2007 Total	*Grand Total
Wood Warbler	0		0	2
Common Chiffchaff	16		16	114
Willow Warbler	103	6	109	1867
Goldcrest	179	0	179	1881
Firecrest	1	0	1	3
Spotted Flycatcher	4	0	4	10
Red-breasted Flycatcher	0	0	0	2
European Pied Flycatcher	2	0	2	46
Long-tailed Tit	135	0	135	810
Blue Tit	510	356	866	7798
Great Tit	250	333	583	4743
Coal Tit	165	0	165	1266
Eurasian Treecreeper	12	0	12	159
Red-backed Shrike	0	0	0	1
Masked Shrike	0	0	0	1
Eurasian Jay	2	0	2	19
Eurasian Magpie	2	0	2	9
Eurasian Jackdaw	0	2	2	10
Rook	0	0	0	1
Crow species	2	0	2	12
Common Starling	42	0	42	316
House Sparrow	53	2	55	729
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	24	0	24	636
Common Chaffinch	374	38	412	4735
Brambling	1	0	1	70
European Greenfinch	182	4	186	3340
European Goldfinch	120	0	120	1525
Eurasian Siskin	598	0	598	2252
Common Linnet	58	36	94	2182
Twite	1	0	1	1
Lesser Redpoll	17	0	17	73
Common Redpoll	0	0	0	19
Redpoll species	0	0	0	29
Common Crossbill	1	0	1	2
Common Bullfinch	29	0	29	272
Yellowhammer	48	0	48	1009
Common Reed Bunting	60	4	64	849
Corn Bunting	0	0	0	7
Hybrid species	1	0	1	2
Two unspecified species	0	1	1	39
TOTAL	4906	1576	6482	69619

*The Grand Total column denotes the totals of species ringed in Fife since the start of 2002 (7 years). Due to some data unavailability these totals in some cases may not be 100% correct but they will in most cases be highly indicative of the numbers of birds actually ringed. Unfortunately the BTO Ringing Scheme paper and electronic data recording systems currently in place do not afford easy access to allow the listing of the overall species and ringing totals for Fife since the start of the ringing scheme at present. It is however hoped that one day with the continued ever growing electronic submission and archiving of data that full totals will be available at a future time.

Fife Bird Club

The Club was formed in 1985 by a small group of keen birders to meet the needs of a changing scene. Today it has over 300 affiliated members. Members have access to three hides and to private land owned by Scottish Power. Slidetalks and outings are held regularly and members can access a website which is operated within the Club.



For more information about Fife Bird Club, and how to join, please contact:

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Members received a copy of this Annual Report as a part of the yearly subscription. A quarterly newsletter, *Scope*, which gives current news and articles by members, is also distributed.

Fife Bird Club would wish to thank The Russell Trust, the Gillman Trusts, Shell U.K. and Fife Council for their donations in the past and hope to continue their associations in future.

Gazetteer

Place	Grid ref			
5 Roads Roundabout	NO425267	Baldridge Burn	NT095889	Bernard's Smithy
Abden	NT276879	Balgeddie	NO258027	Berryhill
Abdie	NO259163	Balgonie Castle Wood	NO310008	Beveridge Park
Abercraig	NO374238	Balgove Bay	NO485185	Bickramside
Abercrombie	NO525018	Balgove Farm	NO483171	Billow Ness
Aberdour	NT193852	Balgownie Mains	N5981889	Birkhill
Aberhill	NO370000	Balgriebank	NO353044	Birnie Loch
Abernethy Bank	NO217190	Balhelvie	NO308218	Birns Farm
Abertay Sands	NO525285	Balhouffie	NO550065	Bishops Wood
Aiky Hill	NT004929	Balkaithly	NO549110	Black Craig
Airdrie	NO566084	Ballantagar	NO311139	Black Earnside
Angle Park GP	NO293114	Ballgillie Reservoir	NO239037	Black Hill
Annfield	NO318079	Ballinbreich	NO273201	Black Loch
Annfield Farm	NO399063	Ballindean	NO368223	Black Wood
Annsmuir	NO313112	Ballingall Mill	NO249028	Blacketside Farm
Anstruther	NO565035	Ballinkirk Farm	NO326048	Blacklaws
Approach Wood	NO302130	Ballo Craig Wood	NO224057	Blairadam Forest
Ardie Hill	NO357225	Ballo Farm	NO222056	Blairhall Bing
Ardross Farm	NO508007	Ballo Reservoir	NO225050	Blairhall Farm
Arncroach	NO512052	Balloomill	NO329107	Bleachfield
Auchindownie	NO420057	Balmakin	NO489049	Blebo
Auchmuir Bridge	NO219011	Balmalcolm	NO320084	Bluebrae Plantation
Auchterderran	NT214961	Balmerino	NO358248	Bluther Burn
Auchtermuchty Common	NO245131	Balmonth Reservoir	NO542068	Boarhills
Auchtertool	NT220906	Balmullo	NO426212	Boathaven
Ayton Farm	NO301184	Balmungo	NO523148	Boghall beach
Aytonhill Pond	NO295188	Balmuto	NT221899	Boglily Farm
Babbet Ness	NO593142	Balneil Farm	NO473057	Bogside
Baincraig	NO230120	Balwearie Castle	NT251904	Bonerbo
Balass	NO391144	Bandrum	NT039915	Bonfield
Balbaird	NO435058	Bankhead Moss	NO445103	Bonnet Stane
Balbarton Tip	NO625099	Barham	NO317127	Bonnytown
Balbedie Farm	NT195997	Barnhill Bay	NT186842	Bonnytown
Balbeggie Pond	NT291961	Barns Farm	NT168846	Bordie Moor
Balbirnie	NO294024	Barnslee	NO305015	Boreland
Balbougie	NT142848	Barnsmuir	NO597064	Boulterhall sand pit
Balbuthie	NO502020	Barnyards Marsh	NO485023	Bouprrie Banks
Balcarres Den	NO477050	Barrington	NO218089	Bow of Fife
Balcaskie Estate	NO525035	Bath	N5977908	Bowershall
Balchrystie	NO460030	Bath Moor Plantation	N5970913	Bowhouse Farm
Balcomie	NO625099	Bawbee Bridge	NO375007	Bowhouse Farm
Balcomie beach	NO632103	Beleybridge	NO541101	Bowstard Loch
Balcormo Farm	NO515042	Bell Rock View	NO538092	Brackmont Quarry
Balcurvie	NO341011	Bellfield Farm	NO319011	Bracks Plantation
Baldinnie	NO430112	Belliston	NO500056	Braefoot Point
		Bellknowes	NT091844	Brewsterwells
		Bellsknowe Pond	NT126839	Brighouse
		Benarty Hill	NT153979	Broombrae Farm
		Bents Farm	NT054924	Broomhall
				NT197881
				NO258159
				NT270910
				NT010910
				NO561027
				NO338234
				NO292128
				NO292119
				NO457153
				NO311199
				NO250180
				NO226076
				NO262149
				NO390235
				NO385029
				NO565064
				NT120955
				NT004884
				NS997877
				NO302004
				NO423146
				NO243070
				NS990885
				NO565142
				NO571149
				NO595135
				NT253911
				NS967903
				NO548074
				NO453162
				NO189071
				NO546125
				NO546126
				NS955873
				NT302946
				NO422244
				NT177859
				NO320129
				NT100910
				NO270101
				NO515017
				NO265171
				NO431224
				NO224067
				NT177832
				NO481098
				NO408216
				NO241124
				NT080836

Broomhall Estate	NO436186	Carrick Villa	NO438024	Colinsburgh	NO465033
Brownhills	NO527152	Carriston Cotton	NO320043	Collessie	NO285133
Brucefield Farm	NO296105	Carriston Farm	NO323041	Collessie Den Pond	NO280139
Brucehaven	NT090836	Carriston Reservoir	NO327037	Collister	NO572074
Bruckley	NO436186	Carslogie	NO351144	Colvins Knowe	NT188919
Bruntsheils	NO433097	Carvenom	NO548057	Colzie	NO211145
Buckhaven	NT358985	Cash Wood	NO235088	Colzie Hill	NO228145
Buddo Rock	NO563151	Cassindonald Farm	NO465123	Comerton	NO468213
Bullions Farm	NT036849	Cast Farm	NO462228	Comielaw	NO521046
Burnbrae Plantation	NO554100	Castlandhill	NT120827	Comrie Colliery	NT002910
Burnside	NO455275	Cauldcots	NO556049	Comrie Mains Farm	NT008897
Burnside Farm	NO575140	Causewayhead	NO433277	Cornceres	NO579053
Burntisland Golf Course	NT245866	Cellardyke	NO575039	Coul Reservoir	NO269038
Barrowine Muir	NS965899	Ceres	NO400115	Coultra Wood	NO354230
Byresloan	NT315994	Ceres Den	NO402105	Cowdenbeath	NT166918
Cabbagehall	NO545088	Ceres Moor	NO395131	Cowdenlaws	NT307957
Cadgerford	NS988925	Chance Inn	NO373103	Cowdenshaws Strip	NT304951
Cadham	NO278021	Chapel Level	NT251939	Cowstrandburn	NT038908
Caiplie Pond	NO589053	Chapel Wood	NT318946	Craigie Gull	NO201070
Cairncluse Farm	NO538092	Charleshill Point	NT186838	Craigencalt	NT261875
Cairneyhall Woods	NO273159	Charlestown	NT066836	Craigend Farm	NO200002
Cairneyhill	NT047863	Charleton House	NO460039	Craigiehill Den	NO405105
Cairnfield	NO300109	Charlottetown	NO293107	Craighead Farm	NO630099
Cairngreen Wood	NO440140	Chesterhill	NO569145	Craigie	NO453243
Cairnie Hill	NO279155	Chesterhills	NO440277	Craigluscar NR	NT070906
Cairniehall	NO272159	Clammieduff	NO199136	Craigmead	NO231059
Cairnsmill	NO496148	Claremont	NO459147	Craigrothie	NO379107
Calais Muir Wood	NT130868	Clatto Farm	NO437156	Craigs Plantation	NT070849
Calaisburn	NT126867	Clatto Hill	NO355065	Craigsanquhar	NO397194
Caldwells Farm	NO268133	Clatto Reservoir	NO360079	Craigtoun CP	NO475145
Cambo Den	NO605116	Clayton Caravan Park	NO432182	Crail	NO613075
Cambo Ness	NO611119	Cleish Hills	NT070960	Crail airfield	NO625085
Cameron	NT347994	Cleughie Burn	NO375213	Crawford Priory	NO346113
Cameron Com. wood	NO351002	Clinthill	NT155854	Crawhill	NO557040
Cameron Farm	NO474116	Clockmadron	NO427088	Criech	NO328213
Cameron Kirk	NO474117	Cluny	NT246955	Croftgary Farm	NT183868
Cameron Reservoir	NO472112	Cluny Mains Farm	NT242965	Crombie	NT050850
Camilla Loch	NT221915	Coal Farm	NO533021	Crombie Point	NT032846
Cantyhall	NO521048	Coaledge	NT163884	Crossford	NT066867
Car Craig	NT199831	Coaltown of Balgonie	NT298995	Crossgates	NT145888
Cardenbarns Farm	NT216942	Coaltown of Burnturk	NO329075	Crowhill Wood	NT173838
Cardenden	NT223950	Coaltown of Callange	NO418116	Cruivie Farm Pond	NO403223
Carlhurlie Reservoir	NO396048	Coaltown of Wemyss	NT330957	Crumble Hill	NO411221
Carlingnose Point	NT133802	Coble House Point	NO464198	Cullaloe	NT187877
Carnbee Reservoir	NO525068	Coble Shore	NO468194	Culross	NS985860
Carngour	NO521127	Cockairnie	NT170853	Cult Hill	NT026963
Carnock	NT043888	Cocklaw	NO582093	Cult Ness	NT123812
Carphin	NO319195	Cocklemill Burn	NO468013	Cults	NO352093
Carpow Lea	NO295190	Cocklemill Marsh	NO460009	Cults Hill	NO346084

Cunnoquhie	NO311153	Drumrack	NO545082	Fetterdale	NO473255
Cupar	NO375145	Drumtenant	NO298091	Fife Ness	NO639098
Cupar Mill Damside	NO363128	Duloch Park	NT130882	Fife Ness Muir	NO636099
Cupar Wards	NO375132	Dumbarnie Links	NO449025	Fincaigs Farm	NO368229
Cuparmuir	NO361134	Dun Moss	NS982925	Findas Knowe	NO364099
Cuttlehill Farm	NT157895	Dunbog	NO284179	Fleecefaulds	NO401086
Daftmill Farm	NO316123	Dunbog Hill	NO288165	Flisk Wood	NO330229
Dairsie	NO414173	Dunfermline	NT090877	Fliskmillan	NO301211
Dairsie Bridge	NO416162	Duniface	NO356011	Foodie	NO385172
Dairsie Brig	NO416162	Dunino	NO538109	Foodieash	NO378165
Dalbeath marsh	NT147906	Dunmore	NT170985	Fordelhill	NO435241
Dalgairn	NO376152	Dunnikier Park	NT280942	Fordell Firs	NT135857
Dalgety Bay	NT165835	Dunshalt	NO249105	Forgan Church	NO446259
Dalginch	NO312024	Dura Den	NO413145	Formonthills	NO259036
Damhead of Torr	NO378199	Dysart	NO305930	Forret Hill	NO390204
Damside	NO379178	Earlseat	NT319974	Forretmill	NO392217
Damside Cupar	NO363129	Earlsferry	NT482998	Forthar Wood	NO291050
Dandies Wood	NO385235	Earlshall Muir	NO490225	Foxton	NO391164
Dean Wood	NT053886	East Baldridge Farm	NT086886	Frances Colliery	NT310940
Demperston	NO223115	East Lomond	NO244062	Freuchie	NO285067
Denbrae Farm	NO391188	East Wemyss	NT340968	Frithfield Farm	NO557075
Denburn Wood	NO614081	Easter Friarton	NO438262	Gaddon Loch	NO289123
Denhead	NO468138	Easter Kilwhiss	NO279108	Gallatown	NT293939
Denmuir	NO302189	Easter Kincaple	NO474179	Gallow Law	NO470034
Dennet Bank Farm	NO578077	Easter Kinnear	NO403231	Gallowridge	NS980877
Denork	NO454139	Easter Kinsleith	NO333185	Gartarry	NS935909
Devilla Forest	NS960880	Easter Lathrisk	NO283082	Garvock Hill	NT105875
Devil's Burdens	NO194062	Easter Newburn	NO446049	Gateside	NO182091
Devils Elbow	NO388210	Easter Pitcorthie	NO501039	Gathercauld	NO422098
Devon	NO340058	Eastfield	NS996946	Gauldry	NO380238
Devon Common	NO339051	Eden Estuary Centre	NO451193	Gibliston Mill	NO494055
Dogton Farm	NT236970	Eden LNR	NO478195	Giffordtown	NO291113
Donibristle Bay	NT160826	Eden Park	NO378146	Gillingshill Reservoir	NO510064
Douglasbank Cemetery	NT091839	Edenbank Forest	NO354064	Gilston Marsh	NO435068
Dour Burn	NT195852	Edenside	NO457192	Glascairn	NO293193
Downans Plantation	NT186847	Edenstown	NO292101	Glassart Burn	NO234125
Downing Point	NT159825	Edenwood	NO356119	Glen Burn	NT079872
Dreel Burn	NO545035	Elderburn	NO463138	Glen Vale	NO190058
Dreelside	NO562035	Elie Ness	NT496993	Glenduckie	NO285187
Drumain	NO213048	Elie woods	NO496008	Glenduckie Hill	NO283194
Drumain Reservoir	NO223043	Elmwood College Farm	NO357129	Glenrothes	NO265015
Drumbrae Plantation	NO220075	Falkland	NO255075	Goat Quarry	NT175867
Drumcarro	NO452129	Falklandwood	NO249088	Golden Hill	NO252159
Drumcarrow Craig	NO459133	Falside	NO543053	Golden Loch	NO259156
Drumdreel Farm	NO206089	Feddinch	NO485135	Goosepools	NO495218
Drumeldrie	NO442032	Fernie Castle	NO315147	Gowarfield	NS983871
Drumly	NO551102	Ferniemill	NO313152	Graingemuir	NO539042
Drummie Wood	NO318053	Ferry Hills	NT129813	Grange	NO516154
Drumlog	NO438250	Ferrytoll	NT124821	Grange Hill	NO250140

Grange of Lindores	NO261169	Iron Craig	NT292822	Kinshaldy riding centre	NO488237
Grangehill	NO478002	Ironmill Bay	NT055840	Kippo Farm	NO579105
Grantsmuir Farm	NT276956	Jennystown	NO313111	Kippo Plantation	NO565107
Grassmiston	NO602097	Kame Bridge	NO383079	Kirkcaldy	NT278912
Green Hill	NO225073	Kedlock	NO382192	Kirkcaldy Harbour	NT286919
Green Scalp	NO490287	Kedlock Feus	NO380199	Kirkforthar Wood	NO291046
Greenside	NO323055	Keils Den	NO414039	Kirklands	NO617088
Greigston Burn	NO439109	Keir Loch	NS962877	Kirkmay	NO603074
Guardbridge p.mill dump	NO452197	Keirsbeath Pond	NT131890	Kirkton	NT211900
Halbeath	NT131885	Kellie Castle	NO520050	Kirkton Barns	NO450263
Harleyshaw Farm	NT959929	Kellie Law	NO517065	Kirkton of Cults	NO353098
Harperleas Reservoir	NO212053	Kelty	NT140943	Kitchen Green	NS994922
Harperleas Wood	NO208046	Kemback	NO420153	Kittocks Den	NO557147
Harran Hill	NT163968	Kenly Burn	NO570141	Knightsward	NO509077
Hawkcraig Point	NT201849	Kennoway Den	NO348022	Knockhill	NT054937
Haystack	NT178825	Kerewhip Bank	NO225195	Knockhill of Nydie	NO441165
Hazelton	NO338221	Kettlehill	NO325075	Knockhill Wood	NO424255
Heatherhall Woods	NO290097	Kilconquhar Castle	NO495027	Knockmurdo	NO232153
Heggies Muir	NO310105	Kilconquhar Churchyard	NO485020	Lacesston Muir	NO186086
Helen's Myre	NO292107	Kilconquhar Loch	NO488018	Ladath Strip	NT168968
Hermit's Well	NO599058	Kilconquhar Muir	NO500026	Ladeddie	NO442129
High Valleyfield	NT005869	Kilduncan	NO577122	Ladybank	NO304098
Higham	NO278187	Kilmany	NO388218	Ladybank GP	NO319102
Hill of Beath	NT138901	Kilminning	NO632088	Ladybank Wood	NO312100
Hill of Tarvit	NO381118	Kilrenny	NO574046	Ladyburn	NO375147
Hillcairn	NO365186	Kilrenny Common	NO574055	Lahill Mains	NO445044
Hilleraie	NO578095	Kilrenny Mill	NO584046	Lammerlaws	NT239856
Hillhead	NT082912	Kilrie Farm	NT239894	Langside	NO342037
Hilton	NO367166	Kinaldy	NO513104	Lappy ash tip	NT303958
Hilton of Kirkforthar	NO308051	Kincaple Farm	NO452178	Largo Bay	NO420010
Holl Reservoir	NO226037	Kincardine Inch Farm	NS941865	Largo Law	NO427050
Hopeward Bay	NT180834	Kincardine PS	NS952853	Largoward	NO470077
Horselaw	NO356148	Kincraig	NO467003	Lassodie	NT127925
Hospital Mill	NO344113	Kincraig Point	NT466996	Lathalmond Hill	NT085923
Humbie Wood	NT199866	Kingask	NO543146	Lathockar	NO492110
Hurlmakin	NO531081	Kinghorn Harbour	NT265861	Lathockar Mains	NO489094
Inch Farm	NS940867	Kinghorn Loch	NT259873	Lathockar Mill	NO495095
Inch Garvie	NT137795	Kinglassie	NT230986	Lathones	NO474088
Inch House	NS936868	Kingsbarns beach	NO602126	Laverock Law	NO432280
Inch Marton	NT188859	Kingsseat	NT102885	Law Drum	NO559116
Inchcolm	NT189827	Kingsmuir	NO537084	Lawfield	NO328104
Inchdairniemuir	NT248978	Kinkell Braes	NO530157	Lechiebank Farm	NO224122
Inchgarvie riding stables	NO481027	Kinkell Ness	NO539158	Leckerston	NT024929
Inchkeith	NT294828	Kinloss House	NO365158	Leslie	NO246015
Inchrye	NO271168	Kinnaird Hill	NO266178	Letham	NO307144
Innerleith	NO283112	Kinneddar Muir	NT015917	Letham Farm	NT148837
Inverdovot	NO437273	Kinness Burn	NO516164	Leuchars	NO453215
Inverkeithing	NT130830	Kinninmonth	NO424125	Leuchars Airfield	NO468208
Inzevar Wood	NT028883	Kinshaldy beach	NO500237	Leuchars Castle Farm	NO452222

Leuchatsbeath	NT149908	Lumbennie Hill	NO217156	Mountquhanie	NO348212
Leven	NO382007	Lumbo Den	NO489150	Mugdrum House Pond	NO224181
Leven beach	NO385004	Lumphinnans Pond	NT170932	Mugdrum Island	NO225189
Leven Cut	NO200004	Lumquhat Farm	NO242139	Muir Dens	NO344225
Levenmouth	NO382003	Lundin Bridge	NO468279	Muir Row Wood	NT157876.
Leys Farm	NO588082	Lundin Links	NO406025	Muircambus	NO469024
Limekilns	NT083833	Lundin Wood	NO395028	Muiredge	NO573069
Lindamus Hill Wood	NO305205	Luthrie	NO331197	Muirhead	NO288054
Lindifferon	NO315168	Lydox	NO421165	Muirhead	NO373083
Lindores Loch	NO265165	Lylowan	NT089926	Muirhead Farm	NO583091
Lingo	NO503089	Lyne Burn	NT060844	Muirside	NT043859
Links Sands	NT281907	Magus Muir	NO460151	Muirside of Kinnedar	NT022901
Linkswood	NO415248	Mairsland Farm	NO231129	Murdochcairnie	NO354196
Little Ballo	NO223056	Markinch	NO297018	Myrecairnie	NO370178
Little Couston	NT177850	Maspie Den	NO235067	Myriehall Muir	NT046918
Little Inch	NO380246	McInnes's Bank	NO255206	Navitie Hill	NT171985
Little Lun Farm	NT336998	Meadowfield	NT224891	Nether Bouprie	NT183854
Little Saline Farm	NS987939	Meikle Balquhomie	NO226028	Nether Pratis	NO388052
Loch Fitty	NT121914	Meikle Couston	NT168847	Nether Radernie	NO454107
Loch Gelly	NT201925	Melville Lodges	NO304128	New Inn	NO280050
Loch Glow	NT087958	Methil Docks	NT375993	Newark	NO518012
Loch Glow Woods	NT090953	Methil PS	NO381003	Newbigging of Blebo	NO430135
Lothead	NT193914	Methillhill	NO360000	Newburgh	NO235183
Lochfitty Burn	NT165947	Michael Colliery	NT310940	Newburn	NO453035
Lochgelly	NT201925	Mid Duloch	NT134857	Newhill	NO215133
Lochhead Farm	NT318962	Mill Dam	NT263910	Newington	NO347188
Lochmalony Farm	NO373200	Mill Lade, Cupar	NO375142	Newmills	NT016864
Lochmill Loch	NO223163	Milldeans Wood	NO328053	Newport-on-Tay	NO410270
Lochore Meadows	NT165955	Miller's Loch	NO212067	Newton Farm	NT331970
Lochton	NO588090	Milton Farm	NO445205	Newton Farm Pond	NO400245
Lochty Farm	NO525081	Milton of Balgonie	NO320009	Newton Hill	NO398240
Lochtyside	NT296983	Muirhead Farm	NO294052	Newton Sandpit	NO408248
Lockshaw Moss	NS989909	Monksholm Farm	NO464175	Newtown of Balcormo	NO518047
Logie Farm	NO289208	Monkstown	NO298098	Newtown of Falkland	NO268071
Logie House	NT078862	Montrave	NO375063	Nochnary Farm	NO264097
Lomond Hills	NO215068	Moonzie	NO347181	Norman's Law	NO305203
Long Craig	NT126803	Moor Loch	NS944884	North Baldinnie	NO428113
Long Wood	NO494022	Morendy Wood	NO426248	North Baldutho	NO498073
Longannet	NS955853	Mortimer's Deep	NT188833	North Callange	NO420123
Lordscairnie	NO350179	Morton Lochs	NO463265	North Cassingray	NO482083
Low Valleyfield	NT002863	Morton of Pitmilly	NO583128	North Duloch	NT142869
Lower Kenly	NO562127	Morton of Pitmullo	NO585130	North Quarter	NO574113
Lower Largo	NO415025	Moss Wood	NT308971	North Queensferry	NT130806
Lower Methil	NT375994	Mossmorran	NT190900	North Scotstarvit	NO359109
Lower Valleyfield	NT000863	Motray Burn	NO424239	North Straiton	NO421234
Lucklaw Hill	NO419216	Mount Hill	NO331164	Northhall	NO301025
Lucklaw Wood	NO414212	Mount Pleasant	NO464019	Northbank	NO483108
Lucklawhill Quarry	NO419214	Mountcastle GP	NO307130	Northfield	NO429288
Lucky Scalp	NO481288	Mountfleurie	NO373017	Nydie Mains	NO438175

Nydie Mill	NO438175	Pittenweem	NO550025	Ruby Bay	NT496995
Oakley	NT029888	Pittormie	NO418185	Ruddons Point	NO453004
Orkie Miln Farm	NO291072	Pleasance Farm	NT126891	Rummond	NO473167
Ormiston Hill	NO234172	Pleasants Farm	NT174858	Russell Mains	NO356122
Orrock Quarry	NT218887	Port Laing	NT134811	Saline	NT023924
Otterston Loch	NT167851	Poultry Farm	NO573119	Saline GC	NT032919
Outh Hill	NT060957	Pow Burn	NO242188	Saline Glen	NT027924
Outhead	NO494197	Powmill	NT020980	Saline Shaw Farm	NS994935
Ovenstone	NO530051	Pratis	NO382062	Sandford	NO405235
Over Carnbee	NO531076	Preston Island	NT007852	Scoonie	NO384015
Overkellie	NO509069	Prior Muir	NO527135	Scooniehill Farm	NO509142
Parbroath	NO324179	Priorletham	NO498127	Scotsraig	NO448280
Parkhill Farm	NO246187	Priorwell	NO353236	Scotshall Farm	NO532053
Pathhead	NT288921	Priory Farm	NO384238	Scotstarvit	NO369112
Pattiesmuir	NT094837	Purin Hill	NO253063	Scottish Deer Centre	NO330130
Peacehill	NO389252	Pusk Farm	NO440207	Seafield	NT280885
Peat Inn	NO454098	Queenies Wood	NS994875	Seamark Hill	NT155974
Peppermill Dam	NS950895	Radernie	NO471095	Seggie	NO445191
Peterhead	NO329113	Raith Lake	NT264914	Serpentine Walk	NO424029
Pettycur Bay	NT259862	Rameldry	NO313062	Shambleton Wood	NO387230
Phantassie	NT308963	Ramornie	NO321096	Shanwell Burn	NO473278
Pickletillem	NO436247	Randerston Farm	NO608108	Shawsmill	NT235938
Pile Lighthouse	NO463293	Rankeilour	NO328120	Sheardrum	NT035943
Pillars of Hercules	NO241082	Rathillet	NO366209	Shell Bay	NO459002
Pilmuir	NO395038	Ravenscraig	NT291925	Shelly Point	NO474199
Pilmuir Cottage	NO496178	Red Myre	NO254140	Shiells	NO282090
Piperpool	NS973932	Redcraigs Quarry	NT085925	Shiresmill Pond	NT012869
Pirrwindy	NO411071	Redlands	NS943877	Silver Sands	NT200853
Pitcairlie Farm	NO236148	Redlands Pool	NO314104	Silverburn	NO393021
Pitcairn Centre	NO270027	Redwells Wood	NO555086	Silversands Bay	NT205856
Pitconochie	NT055869	Reedieleys Farm	NO234104	Skelpie	NO360087
Pitcorthie estate	NT105860	Rennyhill	NO573049	Smithygreen	NO378055
Pitcruvie	NO414047	Reres Wood	NO485213	South Annsmuir	NO313112
Pitfirrane	NT061862	Rex Park	NT104868	South Baldutho	NO505065
Pitkerrie	NO558059	Rhynd Farm	NO466238	South Straiton	NO420229
Pitkevy	NO246036	Ribbonfield	NO594085	Spalefield	NO554065
Pitkinnie	NT210896	River Eden	NO493204	Springfield Muir Pond	NO335112
Pitlair	NO320110	River Ore	NO335003	Springfield Wood	NO338128
Pitlessie	NO336096	Riverside Park	NO265017	St Andrews	NO510165
Pitlathie Farm	NO460221	Roome Bay	NO619077	St Andrews Uni Pond	NO496169
Pitliver	NT062853	Roscobie Reservoir	NT093933	St Davids Harbour	NT147825
Pitlour House	NO205118	Rosebank	NO329008	St Ford	NO481013
Pitmedden	NO226141	Roseberry Hill	NO433267	St Fort	NO413258
Pitreavie GC	NT115853	Rosemount Farm	NO428113	St Margaret's Hope	NT110818
Pitreavie Ind. Est	NT119848	Ross Plantation	NT163832	St Margaret's Marsh	NT118818
Pitscottie	NO417131	Rossie Bog	NO270110	St Michael's Wood	NO445230
Pittachope	NO312211	Rossie Drain	NO280103	St Monans	NO525016
Pittarhie Farm	NO515082	Rossie Quarry	NO249121	St Ninians Com. wldand	NT112922
Pittencrieff Park	NT088872	Rosyth	NT110840	St Ninians Opencast Pond	NT129925

Stand Alane Farm	NT007920	Thirdpart	NO590068	Wester Bucklyvie	NT170888
Star	NO313032	Thornton	NT290977	Wester Forret Farm	NO385206
Star Moss	NO306042	Thornton	NO344237	Wester Glassie	NO236051
Steelend	NT040922	Threefords	NO459119	Wester Gospetry	NO162063
Stenhouse Farm	NT123811	Tiel Burn	NT279902	Wester Kilgour	NO218080
Stenhouse Reservoir	NT210877	Tipperton Moss	NT082953	Wester Kinnear	NO405230
Stenson's Knowe	NO376192	Tofthill	NO286033	Wester Kinsleith	NO319191
Stenton Farm	NO512030	Toldrie	NO582085	Wester Lathallan	NO448064
Stenton Pond	NT280983	Torloisk	NO347052	Wester Newburn	NO442052
Stinky Pool	NO637099	Torr of Kedlock	NO377197	Wester Rossie	NO250121
Stirton	NO358218	Torry Bay	NT020855	Westerton Farm	NT189925
Stirton Mill	NO361218	Torryburn	NT023861	Westfield	NT210985
Straiton Sandpit	NO416238	Tosh	NO524106	Wether Hill	NT044957
Strathburn Farm	NO430235	Townhill CP	NT098897	Whalleyden	NO359047
Stratheden	NO350130	Townhill Loch	NT099893	Whinnybank Farm	NO231167
Strathkinness	NO460163	Troustrie	NO591076	Whinpark Quarry	NO232179
Strathmiglo	NO215100	Troustrie	NO592076	Whirly Kips	NO309191
Strathtyrum	NO490173	Tulliallan Castle	NS938881	Whitehill	NT180859
Stravithie	NO535114	Tullybothy Craigs	NO633107	Whitehill Black Lodge	NT180859
Struthers	NO377099	Tullybreck Farm	NT315986	Wilderness	NO320101
Struthers Barns	NO382093	Tullylumb Plantation	NT235939	Wilkieston	NO450121
Sunnybraes	NO552096	Union	NO382081	Willie's Wood	NO414207
Sunnyside	NT015909	Upper Largo	NO425035	Windygates	NO344008
Swallowcraig	NT192828	Uthrogle	NO338135	Windyhill Farm	NS941891
Swans Pond	NT171932	Valleyfield Lagoons	NT005855	Winthank	NO479133
Sweethome	NO324105	Valleyfield Woods	NT005874	Woodend	NO407158
Swinkie Farm	NO557102	Vicarsford Cemetery Pond	NO455248	Woodend	NT209964
Sypies Wood	NO606083	Walton Hill	NO362105	Woodlands Farm	NO390128
Tarvit Farm	NO385139	Wards Farm	NO472227	Woodlea Farm	NT143877
Tarvit Ponds	NO385142	Washer Willys	NO442277	Woodmill Farm	NO249096
Tarvitmill	NO361124	Waterless Bridge	NO529027	Woodside	NO423080
Tay Bridge	NO424288	Waulkmill Farm	NT059847	Woodside Cottages	NT219938
Tayfield	NO450280	Wellwood	NT091890	Wormiston Farm	NO617096
Taymount	NO350222	Wemyss Castle Woods	NT328952	Wormiston spinney	NO614093
Tayport	NO457285	Wemyss Moss	NT308972	Wormiston Wood	NO610096
Tayport Pond	NO462286	West Balgothrie	NO232044	Wormit	NO400265
Teasses	NO406081	West Conland	NO256044	Wormit Bay	NO388261
Templehall	NT206885	West Grange	NS985896	Wormit Farm	NO395258
Tentsmuir Forest	NO485250	West Lingo	NO491087		
Tentsmuir Point	NO505280	West Lomond	NO198067		
Tesco Pond	NT126867	West Mains	NO443111		
Thane Croft	NO234166	West Mill	NO298010		
The Begg Farm	NT255951	West Muircambus	NO471014		
The Binn	NT235870	West Pitcorthie	NO570070		
The Common	NO213026	West Quarry Braes	NO597089		
The Mires	NO320015	West Sands	NO500190		
The Mount	NO339163	West Vows	NT474990		
The Pans	NO606066	West Wemyss	NT326947		
The Starr	NO349201	Wester Balrymonth	NO501143		

Contact the report editors if any errors or omissions in the gazetteer are noted.

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R.A.C.
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