

## Caithness Bird Report 2023



*Waxwings feeding on ground*

*Karen Munro*

210 **Redwings**, St John's, 02.01; 666 **Greylag Geese**, Sandside Farm, 04.01 and 390 at St John's Loch, 29.01; 21 **European White-fronted Geese**, Calder Mains, 03.01; 2 **Jack Snipe**, Baillie Hill, 06.01; 2 **Iceland Gulls**, Scrabster, 06.01, 07.01; a female **Smew**, Loch Watten, 07.01 and again on 22.01; 130 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, Loch of Mey, 07.01; 10+ **Brambling**, Oldhall, 07.01; 30 **Snow Buntings**, Dunnet Sands, 07.01 to 24.01; 1 **Great Grey Shrike**, Reay, 10.01; 65 **Oystercatchers**, Sandside Bay, 13.01; 2 **Little Auks** flying north, Nybster, 15.01; 1 **Glaucous Gull**, Nybster, 15.01, 18.01; 1 juvenile **Glaucous Gull**, Nybster, 16.01; 1 **Magpie**, Wick, 16.01; 1 **Jack Snipe**, Newtonhill, 17.01; 500 **Skylarks** per hour flying west in heavy snow, Thurso, 17.01; 87 **Oystercatchers**, Thurso Bay, 20.01; 84 **Curlews**, Thurso East, 20.01; 1 **Little Gull**, Scrabster, 20.01; 4 **Iceland Gulls**, Scrabster, 20.01; 80 **Common Redshanks**, Thurso Bay, 20.01; 1 **Iceland Gull**, Gills Bay, 20.01; 66 **Mute Swans** between Lochs Scarmclate and Watten, 22.01; 270 **Lapwings**, Loch Scarmclate, 22.01; 204 **Wigeon**, Loch Watten, 22.01; 200+ **Goldeneyes**, Loch Watten, 22.01; 68, **Turnstones**, Thurso Beach, 24.01; 55 **Turnstones**, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01; 17 **Great Northern Divers**, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01; 44 **Long-tailed Ducks**, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01; 60 **Turnstones**, Sandside Bay, 26.01; 1 **Kingfisher**, Waas, 27.01; 27 **Purple Sandpipers**, Auckengill, 28.01; 41 **Turnstones**, John O'Groats, 28.01; 257 **Lapwings**, Greenland, 28.01; first **Common Shelduck** of the year was one at Sandside Bay on 29.01; 15 **Pintails** at St John's Loch, 29.01; 98 **Ringed Plovers**, Sandside Bay, 29.01; 9 **Ruff**, St John's Loch, 29.01.

1 **Jack Snipe**, Shebster, 02.02; 3 **Woodcock**, Shebster, 02.02; 1 **Waxwing**, Lybster, 03.02; 1 **Little Auk**, Nybster, 04.02; 1 **Green-winged Teal**, St John's Pool, 04.02 to 11.06; 120 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, Broubster, 05.02; 103 **Whooper Swans**, Biggins, 08.02; 227 **Wood Pigeons**, Sandside Farm, 08.02; 1 **Little Auk**, Dunnet Links (killed on road), 09.02; 500 **Lapwings**, Loch Scarmclate, 10.02; 100+ **Mallards**, Loch of Mey, 12.02; 34 **Common Pochards**, Loch Scarmclate, 12.02; 230 **Lapwings**, Brawlbin, 12.02; first records of **Skylarks** singing, 2 at Phillip Mains, 2 at Achreamie, 12.02; 128 **Oystercatchers**, Sandside Bay, 14.02; c.70 **Siskins**, Nybster, 15.02; 1,500 **Common Starlings**, Puldagon, 16.02; 32 **Black Guillemots**, Nybster, 16.02; 146 **Teal**, Loch Heilen, 18.02; 230 **Lapwings**, Loch Heilen, 18.02; 105 **Curlews**, Thurso East, 18.02; 25 **Purple Sandpipers**, Thurso Bay, 18.02; 99 **Oystercatchers**, Thurso Bay, 18.02; 41 **Oystercatchers**, Dunnet Bay, 18.02; 250 **Lapwings**, Loch Watten, 19.02; 388 **Tufted Ducks**, Loch Watten, 19.02; 30 **Coots**, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02; 1 **Marsh Harrier**, Loch Heilen, 19.02;

149 **Oystercatchers**, Sandside Bay, 20.02; 1 **Iceland Gull**, Brough, 21.02; 11 **Black-throated Divers**, Sinclair's Bay, 21.02; 50 **Rock Pipits** (attracted by flies), Brough, 21.02; 1 **Glaucous Gull**, Skinnet, 24.02; 1 juvenile **Glaucous Gull**, N, Nybster, 24.02; 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> winter **Glaucous Gull**, Broubster, 24.02; 1 **Snow Goose**, flying from Loch of Wester to Killimster, 26.02; 1 **Iceland Gull**, Watten, 28.02; 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, Achscrabster, 28.02.

1 **Glaucous Gull**, Loch of Wester, 06.03; 450+ **Skylarks**, Harpsdale, 06.03; 960/hr **Skylarks** (cold weather movement along coast), Thurso, 07.03; 400+ **Skylarks**, Brims, 08.03; 3 **Jack Snipe**, Reay, 8.03; 15 **Barnacle Geese**, Newtonhill, 08.03; 1,500 **Pink-footed Geese**, Newtonhill, 08.03; 1 **Iceland Gull**, Shebster, 10.03; 2 **Iceland Gulls**, Nybster, 11.03; 108 **Oystercatchers**, Dunnet Bay, 11.03; 6 **Pintail**, Loch of Mey, 12.03; 220 **Wigeon**, Loch of Mey, 12.03; 234 **Goldeneyes**, Loch Watten, 12.03; 2,000 **Linnets**, Dunn, 13.03; 1 **Taiga Bean Goose**, Winless, 14.03; first report of displaying **Curlew**, Newtonhill, 15.03; 2 **Little Auk**, Freswick, 18.03; 1 **Glaucous Gull**, Freswick, 19.03; first display recorded of **Lapwing**, 1 at Achalone, 19.03; 106 **Oystercatchers**, St John's Loch/Pool, 20.03; first **Northern Wheatear** of the year, 1 at Weydale, 20.03; 8 **European White-fronted Geese**, St John's Loch, 21.03; 9 **Velvet Scoters**, Sinclair's Bay, 22.03; 1 **Iceland Gull**, Castlehill, 23.03; 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> yr **Glaucous Gull**, Sandside Bay, 23.03; first **Osprey** of the year, a male at Dorrery on 23.03; 7 **Scaup**, Loch Heilen, 24.03; 2,950 **Greylag Geese**, Caithness roost count, 25.03; 6,944 **Pink-footed Geese**, Caithness roost count, 25.03; 218 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, Caithness roost count, 25.03; first **Sand Martin** of the year, 1 at St John's Pool, 25.03; 60 **Twite**, Harpsdale Mains, 25.03; 4 **European White-fronted Geese**, Loch of Wester, 27.03; first **Sandwich Tern** of the year at Dunnet Bay, 28.03; 1 **Chiffchaff** (S), St John's Pool, 28.03; 1 **Kingfisher**, Wick, 30.03; 1 **Great Skua** flying north, Nybster, 30.03; 1 **Common Snipe** displaying, Dorrery, 30.03.

First **Swallow** of the season, 1 at Dunnet Bay on 01.04; **Greylag Geese** paired by early April; **Red-throated Divers** on breeding grounds, 02.04; 1,500 **Kittiwakes** flying over Dunnet Forest, 02.04; 1,000s flying east passed Holborn Head towards Dunnet Bay, 02.04; 1 **Red Kite**, Claredon, 03.04; 1 "**Nordic**" **Jackdaw**, Thurso, 03.04, 13.04; 1 **Red Kite**, Langwell, 04.04, 09.04; 70+ **Fieldfares**, Loch Calder, 05.04; 1 **White Wagtail**, Thurso Beach, 06.04; 27 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, Achreamie, 07.04 (last record of winter); 10 to 40 **Ravens**, Beinn Freicedean, 07.04, 10.04; first **Greenshank** of the year, 1 at Loch Toftingal, 07.04; 1 **Marsh Harrier**, Drumhollistan, 09.04; 1 **Shore Lark**, Dunnet Bay, 09.04; 22 **Black-tailed Godwits**, Loch of Wester, 10.04; 1 **Magpie**, Thurso, 10.04; first **Willow Warbler** of the season, 1 at Dunnet Forest on 10.04; first **House Martin** of the season, 1 at Freswick on 11.04; a possible **Gyr Falcon** seen Broubster, Reay and Drumhollistan, 11.04 to 17.04; 1 **Grey Plover**, Loch of Wester, 12.04; 230 **Golden Plovers**, Loch Scarmclate, 13.04; 200 **Golden Plovers**, Watten Mains, 13.04; 1 **Red-footed Falcon**, Dunnet Head, 14.04 (subject to acceptance by SBRC); 100+ **Long-tailed Ducks**, Thurso Bay, 14.04; 1 **Great Crested Grebe**, Scrabster, 14.04; 1 **Red Kite**, Loch Calder, 16.04; 1 **Blackcap** (S), Castletown, 16.04; first **Common Sandpiper** of the season, 1 at Westerdale, 17.04; 300 **Golden Plovers**, East Murkle, 17.04; 260 **Golden Plovers**, Brawlbin, 17.04; 110 **Golden Plovers**, Dale, 17.04; 2,000 **Golden Plovers**, Hilliclay, 18.04; 1 **Great Crested Grebe**, Brawlbin Inlet, 18.04; 1 female **Smew**, Loch Watten, 19.04, 20.04; first **Common Terns** of the season, 2 at Loch of Wester, 20.04; 132 **Long-tailed Ducks**, Dunnet Bay, 20.04; first **Cuckoo** of the season, 1 at Skiall, 22.04; 1 **Arctic Skua**, Keiss Beach, 22.04; 1 **Pomarine Skua**, Nybster, 22.04; 1 **Black Redstart**, Loch Calder, 23.04; 36 **Black-tailed Godwits**, St John's Pool, 23.04; 1 **Hawfinch**, Thrumster, 24.04; 1 **Hawfinch**, Sandside, 24.04; first **Arctic Tern** of the season, 1 at St John's Pool, 25.04; 1 **Hawfinch**, Shebster, 26.04; 100 **Whimbrel**,

Murkle Bay, 28.04; 1 **Spotted Flycatcher**, Castletown, 28.04; 33 **Twite**, Auckengill, 29.04; 1 **Garden Warbler** (S), Achvarasdal, 30.04.

1 **Redwing**, Nybster, 01.05; 7 **Purple Sandpipers** (last of season), Auckengill, 02.05; first **Sedge Warbler** of season, 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.05; 2 **Grasshopper Warblers**, Loch of Mey, 02.05; 1 **Garden Warbler**, Nybster, 02.05; 1 **Red Kite**, Skiall Wood, 04.05; 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> summer **Mediterranean Gull**, St John's Pool, 04.05 to 09.05; 1 **Wryneck**, John O'Groats Quarry, 05.05; 1 **Black-winged Stilt**, Thuster, 06.05 to 10.05; 2 **Common Cranes**, Killimster, 06.05; 1 **Common Crane** flying south, Tannoch, 06.05; 124 **Ringed Plovers**, Sandside Bay, 06.05; 95 **Dunlins**, Sandside Bay, 06.05; 3 **Grey Plovers**, Sandside Bay, 07.05; 1 **Black Kite**, Nybster, 07.05; 1 **Garganey**, Thuster, 07.05; 1 **Brambling** (S), St John's Pool/Loch, 07.05; 2 **Fieldfares**, Auckengill, 09.05; 1 **Red-rumped Swallow**, Nybster, 09.05; 18 **Goosanders**, Wick Riverside, 10.05; first **Swift** of season, 1, Thurso, 10.05; 1 **Whitethroat**, Wick Riverside, 11.05; 12 **Common Shelduck**, Wester River, 11.05; newly-fledged **House Sparrows**, Lyth, 11.05, Thurso, 20.05; 1 **Little Tern**, Castlehill, 12.05; 12 **Great Northern Divers**, Dunnet Bay, 12.05; 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> yr **Little Gull**, St John's Pool, 13.05; c.220 **Shags**, Noss Head, 13.05; 1 **Iceland Gull**, Noss Head, 13.05; 1 **Lesser Scaup**, St John's Pool, 14.05 to 22.06; 1 **Tree Pipit**, Blar nam Faileag, 15.05; 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> yr **Glaucous Gull**, Thurso Beach, 16.05; 40+ **Black Guillemots**, Latheronwheel, 17.05; 1 **Common Redstart** (S), Skiall Wood, 17.05; 1 **Great White Egret**, Loch Scarmclate, 17.05; 1 **Great White Egret**, Loch Watten, 19.05; 3 **Goldeneyes**, Loch of Mey, 19.05; 15,676 **Common Guillemots**, Caithness east coast, 19.05 to 21.05; 14,618 **Razorbills**, Caithness east coast, 19.05 to 21.05; **Fulmars**, 1290 AOS, Caithness east coast (Ord to Dunbeath), 19.05 to 21.05; 30+ **Great Cormorants**, Ord, 19.05; 1,230 **Shags**, Caithness east coast (Ord to Dunbeath), 19.05 to 21.05; 960 **Herring Gulls**, Caithness east coast (Ord to Sarclet), 19.05 to 21.05; 155 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, Caithness east coast (Ord to Sarclet), 19.05 to 21.05; 350 pairs **Black-headed Gulls** bred St John's Pool, present 20.05; 34 **Sanderling**, Sandside Bay, 21.05; newly-fledged young **Blackbirds**, Thurso, 21.05; 6 **Little Terns**, Reiss, 22.05; 1 **Wood Sandpiper**, Durran, 22.05; 1 **Little Egret**, Ham Pool, 22.05, 23.05; 2 **Garganey**, Wick Riverside, 23.05; 1 **Whitethroat**, Sibster, Wick, 23.05; 3,000, Dunnet Head, 24.05; **Quail** singing Freswick, 25.05, 05.06, 08.06; **Common Kestrel** bred in nestbox, Harpsdale, four fledged on 25.05; newly-fledged young Common Starlings, Wick, 26.05; 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> yr **Mediterranean Gull**, St John's Pool, 26.05; 1 **Jay**, Loch More, 26.05; 1 **Pink-footed Goose**, Wick Riverside, 27.05; 1 **Ptarmigan**, Scarabens, 27.05; 1 **Water Rail**, Ham Pool, 27.05; 1 **Wood Sandpiper**, Wick Riverside, 27.05; 1 **Whinchat**, Westerdale, 28.05; 1 **Whitethroat**, Loch Olginney, 28.05; **Tree Sparrows** bred Lyth and Lybster; **White Wagtails** bred Lyth; 3,293 AON **Rooks**, Caithness, late April to May; **Whooper Swans** bred RSPB Broubster, 1 pair present 28.05; **White-tailed Eagle** bred successfully in the county in 2023, the first time in over one hundred years.

1 **Ring-necked Duck**, St John's Pool, 02.06; 1 **Magpie** flying west, St John's, 02.06; 21 **Sanderling**, Freswick, 02.06; **Greylag Geese**, young by early June; 1 **Turtle Dove**, Thurso, early June; 6 Turnstones, Thurso Beach, 03.06; 1 **Whitethroat**, Dunbeath, 03.06; 1 **Whitethroat**, Freswick, 05.06; 1 singing **Ring Ousel**, Ord, 05.06; 70 pairs **Arctic Terns** bred St John's Pool, 06.06; 9 pairs **Common Terns**, St John's Pool, 06.06; 76 **Canada Geese** flying north, Nybster, 06.06; 1 **Hobby** flyig south, Thurso, 06.06; 1 **Lesser Scaup**, Loch Watten, 07.06, 08.06; 1 **Quail**, Broubster, 08.06; 1 **Marsh Warbler** singing, Freswick, 08.06; 1 **Common Redpoll**, Freswick, 08.06, 10.06; 1 **Marsh Warbler** singing, John O'Groats, 10.06; 1 **Curlew Sandpiper**, Dunnet Bay, 08.06; 14 to 15 pairs **Sandwich Terns** bred, St John's Pool, 10.06; 1 juvenile **White-billed Diver**, Dunnet Bay, 10.06 to 24.06; 1 **Quail**, Keiss, 11.06; 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> yr **Little Gull**, St John's Pool, 11.06; 5 broods **Gadwall**, St John's Pool, 11.06 to 18.07; 5 **Shovelers**, St John's Pool, 16.06; 41

AON **House Martins**, Gerston, 20.06; 2 **Egyptian Geese** flying north, Nybster, 21.06; 1 **Spotted Crake** singing, St John's Pool, 21.06 to 05.07; 1 juvenile **Long-tailed Duck**, St John's Pool, 22.06; 1 **Quail**, Reay, 22.06 to 24.06; 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> summer male **Surf Scoter**, Thurso Bay, 23.06, 24.06; 1 **Quail**, St John's Pool, 23.06, 25.06; 1 **Magpie**, Reay, 23.06 to 28.08; 1 **Turtle Dove**, Gills, 25.06; 100 AON **Kittiwakes**, Stroma, 25.06; 8 pairs **Great Skua**, Stroma, 25.06, 10 pairs on 16.07; 61 pairs **Great Black-backed Gulls**, west side Stroma, 25.06; 15 to 18 **Canada Geese**, Loch Stemster, 29.06 to 13.08.

2 **Common Redpolls**, Cnoc Beul na Faire, 05.07; 18 pairs **Arctic Terns** breeding, Thurso, 08.07; 23 AON on one house, **House Martins**, Freswick, 09.07; 1 **Goldeneye**, Loch Hempriggs, 09.07; 2 **Jays**, Olgrimore, 14.07; 350 **Greylag Geese**, moulting flock, off Stroma, 16.07; 24 **Storm Petrels** caught for ringing, Nybster, 16.07; 1 **Marsh Harrier**, Loch Olginey, 16.07; 2 **Jays**, Dorrery, 19.07, 20.07; 1 **Whitethroat**, Dunbeath, 20.07; 1 **Cuckoo**, Dorrery, 20.07, last record of the season; 100+ **Arctic Terns** (A), Stroma, 22.07; 50+ **Common Terns**, Stroma, 22.07; 1 **Common Sandpiper**, St John's Pool, 25.07; 70 **Common Eiders**, moulting flock, Dunnet Bay, 26.07; 2 **Turnstones**, Dunnet Bay, 26.07; 1 **Sooty Shearwater**, Nybster, 27.07; 38 **Swifts**, Thurso, 31.07.

1 **Quail**, Upper Dounreay, 05.08; 1 **Spotted Redshank** flying west, Hilliclay, 05.08; 1 **Whinchat**, Achaeter, Forsie, 05.08; 124 **Lapwing**, Westerdale, 06.08; 64 **Manx Shearwater**/hr, Wick, 10.08; 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, Newtonhill, 10.08 (last record of season); 1 **Red Kite**, Killimster, 11.08; **Robin** singing, Thurso Riverside, 13.08; 1 **Quail**, Thurso (in fog), 14.08; 65 **Dunlin**, Wester River, 14.08; 1 **Little Tern**, Nybster, 17.08 (last record of season); 1 **Little Gull** flying north, Nybster, 18.08; 23 **Great Skuas** flying north, Nybster, 18.08; 1, **Cory's Shearwater** flying north, Nybster, 18.08; 144 **Manx Shearwater** flying north, Nybster, 18.08; 2 **Garden Warblers**, Duncansby, 19.08; **Lesser Whitethroat**, John O'Groats Quarry, 19.08; 1 **Pied Flycatcher**, Noss Head, 19.08; 3 **Pied Flycatchers**, Freswick, 19.08; 1 **Pied Flycatcher**, John O'Groats, 19.08; 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, Nybster, 20.08; 1 **Pied Flycatcher**, Nybster, 20.08; 1 **Greenish Warbler**, Nybster, 20.08; 9 **Little Grebes** (maximum count at major breeding site), Loch Watenan, 20.08; 2 **Grey Plovers** flying north-east, Hilliclay, 20.08; 14 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, Keiss Beach, 22.08; 43 **Common Eiders** (moulting flock), Thurso Bay, 24.08; 96 **Ringed Plovers**, Thurso Beach, 24.08; 1 juvenile **Green Sandpiper**, St John's Pool, 24.08; 810+ **Turnstones**, Thurso (roost), 24.08; 1 **Osprey**, Loch Calder, 25.08 (last record of season); 300 **Lapwings**, Calder to Halkirk, 25.08; 5 **Sand Martins**, St John's Pool, 27.08 (last record of season); 1 **Whinchat**, Auckengill, 27.08; 1 **Garden Warbler**, John O'Groats Quarry, 27.08.

c.30 **Common Scoter**, Dunnet Bay, 01.09; 1 **Sedge Warbler**, John O'Groats Quarry, 02.09, 09.09 (last record of season); 1 **Little Stint**, Freswick, 02.09, 03.09; 1 **Whimbrel**, Dunnet Bay, 03.09; 1 **Wilson's Phalarope**, Dunnet Bay, 03.09, 04.09; 1 juvenile **Black Tern**, Dunnet Bay, 03.09, 04.09; 1 **Sandwich Tern**, Keiss Beach, 03.09 (last record of season); 42 **Red Knot**, Freswick, 03.09; 46 **Sanderling**, Sandside Bay, 03.09; 44 **Sanderling**, Freswick, 03.09; 5 **Velvet Scoter**, Dunnet Bay, 04.09; 17 **Pink-footed Geese** flying south, Slickly, 05.09 (first for this season); 12 **Sooty Shearwaters** flying north/ 3/4 hr, Nybster, 05.09; 1 **Jay**, Ousdale, 05.09; 5 **Sooty Shearwaters** flying north, Nybster, 06.09; 29 **Common Eider** (moulting flock), Ushat Head, 08.09; 27 **Red Knot**, Ushat Head, 08.09; 1 juvenile **Curlew Sandpiper**, Dunnet Bay, 09.09; 1 **Goldeneye**, St John's Pool/Loch, 10.09 (first for this season); 1 **Green Sandpiper**, St John's Pool, 11.09 to 16.09; 1 **Spotted Flycatcher**, Reay, 15.09; 5 **Whooper Swans**, Loch Heilen, 17.09 (first for this season); 1 **Greenshank**, Loch of Wester, 17.09 (last record of season); 48 **Sanderlings**, Freswick, 17.09; 1 "**Blue**" **Fulmar**, Nybster, 17.09; 1 **Pied Flycatcher**,

John O'Groats Quarry, 18.09; 1 **Common Redstart**, Nybster, 18.09; 1 **Common Redstart**, John O'Groats Quarry, 18.09; 1 **Jack Snipe**, Backlass, 18.09; 64 **Turnstones**, Sandside Bay, 19.09; 109 **Ringed Plover**, Sandside Bay, 19.09; 300+ **Lapwings**, Stirkoke, 19.09; 1 **Whitethroat**, Duncansby, 19.09, 23.09, 24.09; 1 **Marsh Harrier**, Loch Watten/Gillock, 20.09; 2 **Common Redstart**, Nybster, 22.09; 100 **Goldfinch**, Dunnet Forest, 22.09; 8 **Snow Buntings**, Thurso Beach, 22.09 (first for this season); 1 juvenile **Little Gull**, Dunnet Bay, 23.09; 1 **Glaucous Gull**, Dunnet Bay, 23.09; 1 **Long-tailed Skua**, Nybster, 24.09; 1 **House Martin**, Wick, 25.09 (last record of season); 1 **Long-tailed Duck**, Thurso Bay, 25.09 (first for this season); 1 **Common Swift**, Thurso, 27.09 (last record of season); 19 **Barnacle Geese**, Brims Ness, 29.09; 1 juvenile **Sabine's Gull**, Brims Ness, 29.09; 1 **Common Tern**, Dunnet Bay, 29.09 (last record of season); 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, Biel of Duncansby, 30.09; 1 **Firecrest**, Biel of Duncansby, 30.09.

1 **Green Sandpiper**, John O'Groats, 01.10; 1 **Jay**, Dorrery, 01.10, 24.10; 1 **Kingfisher**, Castehill, 01.10; 1 **White Wagtail**, Freswick, 01.10; 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, Freswick, 01.10, 09.10; 56 **Ravens**, St John's Loch, 01.10; 315 **Lapwings**, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.10; 2 **Grey Plovers**, Dunnet Bay, 03.10; 1 **Curlew Sandpiper**, Wester River, 04.10; 1 **Redwing**, Skiall Wood, 05.10 (first for the season); 1 **Red-necked Grebe**, St John's Loch, 06.10; 1 **Brambling**, St John's Pool/Loch, 08.10 (first for the season); **Ruff**, Wick Riverside, 09.10; 1 **Siberian Chiffchaff**, Biel of Duncansby, 09.10; 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, John O'Groats, 09.10; 1 **Barred Warbler**, John O'Groats, 09.10; 1 **Lesser Whitethroat** (eastern), Auckengill, 09.10; 1 **Lapland Bunting** flying south, Nybster, 09.10; c.12 **Goldcrest**, John O'Groats Quarry, 09.10; 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, Hilliclay, 10.10; 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, Freswick, 10.10; 1, **Grey Phalarope**, Dunnet Bay, 11.10; 2 **Leach's Petrel**, Dunnet Bay, 11.10; 1 **Willow Warbler**, Auckengill, 11.10; 1 **Northern Wheatear**, Wick, 12.10 (last record of season); 5 **Brent Geese**, Castlehill, 12.10; 101 **Oystercatchers**, Thurso Bay, 13.10; 114 **Turnstones**, Thurso Beach, 13.10; 1 **Pomarine Skua**, Dunnet Bay, 13.10; 1 **Arctic Tern**, Nybster, 14.10 (last record of season); 930 **Greylag Geese**, Caithness roost count, 14.10; 2,203 **Pink-footed Geese**, Caithness roost count, 14.10; 523 **Whooper Swans**, Caithness roost count, 14.10; 1 **Little Auk** flying north, Nybster, 14.10; 1 **Brent Goose**, Dunnet Bay, 15.10; 1 **Fieldfare**, Auckengill, 15.10 (first for the season); 1,085 **Tufted Ducks**, Loch Watten, 15.10; 2 **Smews**, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10; 1 **Little Auk**, Dunnet Bay, 15.10; 1 juvenile **Surf Scoter**, Dunnet Bay, 15.10 to 23.10; 3 **Waxwings**, Loch Watten, 17.10 (prelude to a "Waxwing Year"); 1 **Pomarine Skua**, Nybster, 18.10; 4 flying north, Nybster, 18.10; 1 adult **Sabine's Gull** flying north, Nybster, 18.10; 4 **Little Auks** flying north, Nybster, 18.10; 1 **Pomarine Skua**, Wick, 19.10; 1 **Great Skua**, Nybster, 19.10; 1 **Great Skua**, Wick, 19.10; 2 **Arctic Skuas**, Nybster, 19.10; 60 **Barnacle Geese**, Quoys of Reiss, 20.10; 5 **Little Auks**, Nybster, 20.10; 5 **Storm Petrel**, Nybster, 20.10; 2 **Grey Phalarope** flying north, Nybster, 20.10; notable fall **Blackbirds**, Brough, 20.10; 1 **Barred Warbler**, Reay, 21.10; 1 **Red-backed Shrike**, Wick, 22.10; 1 **Common Redpoll**, Freswick, 22.10; 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, Auckengill, 22.10; c.100 **Blackbirds**, Freswick, 22.10; 38 **Blackbirds**, Newlands of Forse, 22.10; 1 **Black Redstart**, Lochend, 22.10; 1 **Ring Ousel**, Killimster, 22.10; 2 **Ring Ousels**, Freswick, 22.10; 1 **Lesser Whitethroat** (eastern), Freswick, 22.10; 1 (2) **Dusky Warbler**, Freswick, 22.10 to 04.11; large flock of **Blackbirds**, Sandside, 23.10; 1 **Ring Ousel**, Brough, 23.10; 1 **Ring Ousel**, Castlehill, 23.10; 13 **Brambling**, Killimster, 23.10, with 20+ on 29.10; 1 **Smew**, Castlehill, 23.10; 300 **Long-tailed Ducks**, Dunnet Bay, 23.10; 74 **Common Redshanks**, Castlehill, 23.10; 76 **Great Cormorants**, Sandside Bay, 23.10; 19 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, Skiall, 24.10; 1 **Ring-necked Duck**, Loch Scarmclate, 24.10; 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, St John's Pool, 24.10; 1 **Kingfisher**, Thurso Riverside, 24.10 to 27.10; 1 "Northern" **Bullfinch**, Noss Head, 25.10, 27.10; 1 **Hawfinch**, Wick, 25.10; 1 **Common Redpoll**, Noss Head, 27.10; 150 **Waxwings**, Thurso,

27.10; 147 **Golden Plovers**, Greenland, 27.10; 1 **Glaucous Gull** flying south, Nybster, 28.10; 1 **Firecrest**, Killimster, 29.10; 100 **Waxwings**, Thurso (one garden), 30.10, 31.10; 52 **Coots**, Loch Scarmclate, 30.10; 1 **Siberian Chiffchaff**, Auckengill, 31.10, 05.11.

29 **Coal Tits**, Skiall, 01.11; 1,300 **Common Starlings**, Brims, 02.11; 1 **Great Crested Grebe**, St John's Loch, 03.11 to 16.11, 2 on 10.11; 200+ **Redwing**, in off sea, Freswick, 05.11; 200 **Waxwings**, Thurso, 05.11; 1 **American Wigeon**, St John's Loch, 05.11 to 09.12; 400 **Redwing**, Noss Head, 06.11; 2 **Magpies**, Westfield, 06.11; 2,000 **Fieldfares**, Noss Head, 06.11; 1 **Pomarine Skua**, Scarfskerry, 07.11; 1 **Hawfinch**, Killimster, 08.11, 09.11; 1 **Great White Egret**, Forss Water, 08.11 to 14.11; 1 **Chiffchaff**, John O'Groats, 09.11; 1 **Hawfinch**, Skiall Wood, 11.11; 30 **Twite**, Upper Dounreay, 11.11; 2,511 **Greylag Geese**, Caithness roost count, 11.11; 4,321 **Pink-footed Geese**, Caithness roost count, 11.11; 511 **Whooper Swans**, Caithness roost count, 11.11; 88 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, Caithness roost count, 11.11; 126 **Coots**, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11; 1 **Jack Snipe**, Skiall Wood, 12.11; 4 **Woodcock**, Skiall Wood, 12.11; 10 **Slavonian Grebes**, Loch Watten, 12.11, 15+ on 15.11; 113 **Mallard**, Thurso Riverside, 14.11; 1 **Barn Swallow**, Thurso East, 14.11; 560 **Wigeon**, Loch Watten, 15.11; 220 **Teal**, Loch Watten, 15.11; 50 Common Pochard, Loch Scarmclate, 15.11; 1 **Barn Swallow**, Quoybrae, 15.11 (last record of season); 200+ **Fieldfares**, East Murkle, 16.11; 44 **Turnstones**, Sandside Bay, 17.12; 1 **Great White Egret**, Loch of Wester, 19.11, 21.11; 69 **Ringed Plovers**, Dunnet Bay, 19.11; 146 **Dunlins**, Dunnet Bay, 19.11; 1 **Smew**, Loch of Wester, 19.11, 20.11; 1 **Great White Egret**, Loch Watten, 19.11 to 23.11; 1 juvenile **Pomarine Skua** flying north, Keiss Beach, 19.11; 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, Scrabster, 19.11 (last record of season); 24 **Great Northern Divers**, Dunnet Bay, 19.11; 30+ **Reed Buntings**, Loch of Wester, 21.11; 1 **Great White Egret**, Bridge of Westfield, 25.11; 2 **Common Shelduck**, Nybster, 25.11; 230 **Lapwings**, Freswick, 26.11; 30 **Common Snipe**, St John's Pool, 26.11; 2 **Pomarine Skuas** flying north, Nybster, 28.11; 1 **Great White Egret**, Harpsdale, 28.11; 1 **Pomarine Skua**, Nybster, 29.11, 1 on 01.12.

42 **Black Guillemots**, Nybster, 01.12; 11 **Common Snipe**, Freswick, 02.12; 1 **Jay**, Dorrery, 04.12; 170 **Shags**, Thurso Bay, 10.12; 1 **Black Redstart**, Wick Harbour, 11.12 to 28.12; 1 **Magpie**, Killimster, 15.12; 90 **Oystercatchers**, Sandside Bay, 17.12; 110 **Lapwings**, Crosskirk, 17.12; 140 **Teal**, Loch of Wester, 17.12; 1 **American Robin**, St John's, 20.12; 1 **Iceland Gull**, Dounreay, 22.12; c.530 **Greylag Geese**, Newlands of Forse, 25.12; 200 **Greylag Geese**, Sandside Farm, 26.12; 117, **Ringed Plovers**, Sandside Bay, 26.12; 1 **Iceland Gull**, Scrabster, 30.12.

### **List of Contributors**

There were 101 contributors to this report. For sporadic records individuals are named in the report. The following are named by initials: Alex Ash (AA); Donald Booth (DB); William Bruce (WB); Phil Davey (PD); David (Derek) Douglas (DD); Sue Edwards (SE); Graham Garner (GG); David Glass (DG); Tim Hawes (TH); Paul Higson (PH); Rob Hughes (RH); Niall Laybourne (NL); Anson Macauslan (AMc); Angus McBay (AMcB); Sinclair Manson (SAMM); Will Manson (WM); Eric Maughan (EM); Derek May (DM); Pat Message (PM); Peter Miller (PMM); Karen Munro (KM); North Sutherland Wildlife Group (NSWG); Joe O'Hanlon (JO); Nina O'Hanlon (NO); Donald and Alison Omand (DAO); Duncan Orr-Ewing (D O-E); William Qinton (WQ); RAF WeBS (RAF); Norrie Russell (NR); Mark Shields (MS); Julian Smith (JS); Ruth Storm (RS); Hilary Wilson (HW).

## Species List

The species sequence follows that used in the “Birds of the World interactive” of Lynx Publications and Birdlife International. The sequence is based on the latest assessment of how birds are related to one another.

Not all submitted records have been included. Those involving rare breeding birds have been omitted for obvious reasons. In the case of common species, many of which are widespread in the county, the less significant records have also been omitted; these however have been logged elsewhere.

The breeding codes given are the standard BTO ones (shown in brackets):

S Singing male.

B nest building

A Agitated behaviour.

DD Distraction-display or injury feigning.

FF Adult carrying food or faecal sac.

AOT Apparently Occupied Territory.

AON Apparently Occupied Nest.

AOS Apparently Occupied Site.

## Notes on localities

Many records marked as garden in Thurso, Wick and Reay refer to the garden of the contributor.

Thurso and Wick Riversides refer to the lower part of the rivers, in Thurso from the harbour to the cemetery and in Wick from the harbour to the camp site.

## Birdtrack

Many of the contributors now put records directly onto “Birdtrack”. For 2023 this came to 17,441 records for Caithness alone. I have extracted those records I consider important for the county and included them in the species list. With the commoner species I have actually given the totals from “Birdtrack” for Caithness at the beginning of the species account.

### **Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus***

*Scarce visitor. Feral population in southern Britain, increasing.*

5, Longoe, 21.06 (Alexander and Danny McCarthy); 3 SE, John O’Groats, 24.06 (JS).

### **Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens***

*Scarce visitor. Some birds occur as natural migrants from North America, others from the feral population in Britain.*

1, Loch of Wester to Killimster, 26.02 (RH).

## **Greylag Goose *Anser anser***

*Common resident, passage and winter migrant*

197 records on "Birdtrack". 666, Sandside Farm, 04.01 (HW); 200+, Sandside Farm, 07.01 (SAMM); 60, Auckengill, 07.01 (NO); 122, Lyth, 14.01 (DM); 50, Achiebeg, 15.01 (SAMM); c.192, Newlands of Forse, 18.01 (PM); 100+, Netherside, 22.01 (SAMM); 250, Sandside Farm, 25.01 (EM); 103, St John's Loch, 28.01 (RAF); 180, Greenland, 28.01 (RAF); 390, St John's Loch, 29.01 (RAF); 75, Auckengill, 04.02 (NO); 50, Broubster, 05.02 (SAMM); 60+, Lyth, 11.02 (DM); 320, St John's Loch, 18.02 (JS); 100+, Biggins, 19.02 (SAMM); 40, Lyth, 19.02 (SAMM); 350, St John's Loch, 12.03 (JS); 68, Broubster Leans, 11.03 (MS); 43+, Newlands of Forse, 01.04 (PM); 100, Newtonhill, 22.03 (SAMM); 48, Reiss, 25.03 (DM); 2,950, roost count, Caithness, 25.03 (SAMM); 20, Loch Hempriggs, 30.03 (SAMM); 130+, Lyth, 01.04 (DM); 1 pair, Broubster, 10.04 (SAMM); 1 pair, Scrabster Loch, 14.04 (SAMM); 1,744, Sandside Farm, 23.03 (EM); 17 (paired), Loch Stemster, 19.04 (SAMM); 2 pairs, Loch Rangag, 19.04 (SAMM); 2, Loch Rangag, 26.04 (SAMM); 30+, Loch Rangag, 22.04, 15 on 12.05 (PM); 9, Loch Stemster, 12.05 (PM); 14, Blar nam Faileag, 15.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 33, Loch Rangag, 20.05 (PM); 19, Loch Hempriggs, 21.05 (PMM); 1, Scrabster Loch, 22.05 (SAMM); present Braemore, 26.05 (AMc); 26+, Loch Stemster, 03.06 (PM); 27 (at least three broods), Loch Rangag, 11.06 (DAO); 40 (incl 4, 2, 2, 3 yg), Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 1 pair + 3 yg, St John's Loch, 30.06 (JS); 350, moulting flock on sea, Stroma, 16.07 (Dr Ian Francis); 250+, Stroma, 22.07 (SAMM); 1 adult + ½ gr yg, Loch Rangag, 28.07 (SAMM); c.40, Loch Hempriggs, 07.08 (PM); 15 adults + juveniles, Loch Stemster, 13.08 (SAMM); 18 N, Swiney, 13.08 (SAMM); 151, Killimster Loch, 19.08 (PMM); 41 SW, Loch of Mey, 03.09 (SAMM); 60 E, Ushat Head, 08.09 (SAMM); 243, Skinnet, 09.09, 306 on 10.09 (SAMM, KM); 100+, Sandside, 09.09 (KM); 90, Gerston, 10.09 (SAMM); 41, Strathcoul, 12.09 (DAO); 53 (including collared bird LVB), Scrabster Braes, 13.09, 15.09 (KM, SAMM); 335, Loch Hempriggs, 17.09 (PMM); 44 SW/W, Newtonhill, 26.09; 183, Killimster Loch, 14.10 (PMM); 221, Loch Hempriggs, 14.10 (PMM); 150, St John's Loch, 14.10 (JS); 104, Loch of Mey, 14.10 (RH); 930, roost count, Caithness, 14.10 (SAMM); 1,000, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 77, Loch Heilen, 15.10 (RH); 460, Loch of Mey, 16.10 (SE); 300+, Durran Mains, 23.10 (SAMM); 250+, Quoys of Reiss, 23.10 (DM); 50+, Lyth, 28.10 (DM); 230, Stanstill, 29.10 (SAMM); 70, Thurdistoft, 29.10 (SAMM); 450, Broubster Leans, 30.10 (MS); 2,000, Brims, 02.11 (DAO); 1,000+, Winless, 05.11 (SAMM); 530, Broubster Leans, 06.11 (MS); 62, Wick, 10.11 (DM); 2,511, roost count, 11.11 (SAMM); 1,100 to 1,400, Scrabster Loch, 11.11 (KM); 570, Loch Calder, 11.11 (DAO); 2,400, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11 (KM); 1,000+, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); 250+, Quoys of Reiss, 15.11 (DM); 200+, Ackergill, 18.11 (DM); 667, Killimster Loch, 20.11 (PMM); 130+, Quoys of Reiss, 09.12 (DM); 172, Broubster Leans, 15.12 (MS); 110+, Quoys of Reiss, 25.12 (DM); c.530, Newlands of Forse, 25.12 (PM); 200, Sandside Farm, 26.12 (EM); 150, Shebster, 26.12 (EM); c.250, Newlands of Forse, 28.12, 29.12 (PM).

## **European White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons***

*Scarce visitor*

21 (including 10 juveniles), Calder Mains, 03.01 (JS); 8, Geise, 05.01, 5 on 01.02, 4 on 18.03 (JS, RH); 6, Loch Scarmclate, 12.02 (NO); 12, Biggins, 16.02, 3 on 19.02, 5 on 27.02, 8 on 05.03 (PMM, SAMM); 4, Lyth, 09.03, 3 on 12.03 (PMM, NO); 12, St John's Loch, 11.03, 3 on 12.03 (JS); 3, Loch of Wester, 12.03 (RH); 2, Skitten, 14.03, 20.03 (PMM); 15, St John's Loch, 15.03 (JS); 12+, Loch of Wester, 17.03, 4+ on 19.03 (RH); 8, St John's Loch, 21.03, 4 on 22.03, 23.03 (JS); 4, Loch of Wester, 27.03 (PMM).



## **Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris***

### *Regular winter migrant*

42 records on "Birdtrack". 110, Broubster, 06.01 (JS); 130, Loch of Mey, 07.01 (JS); 120, Broubster, 05.02 (SAMM); 76, Loch of Mey, 18.02 (SE); 112, Broubster Leans, 11.03 (MS); 120, Loch of Mey, 12.03 (SE); 218, roost count, Caithness, 25.03 (SAMM); 138, Loch of Mey, 25.03 (JS); 27, Achreamie, 07.04 (DAO); 19 (including 6 juveniles), Skiall, 24.10 (DAO); 42, West Mey, 28.10 (NO); 43 (17+ juveniles), West Mey, 29.10 (SAMM); 52, West Mey, 07.11 (PMM); 88, roost count, Caithness, 11.11 (SAMM); 64, Loch of Mey, 11.11 (JS); 70, W Mey, 12.11 (KM); 54, Forss, 22.11, 74 on 17.12 (RS, DAO); 85, Broubster Leans, 16.12 (MS).

## **Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis***

### *Scarce visitor*

1, with Pinkfeet, Winless Mains, 14.03 (PMM).

## **Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus***

### *Common passage and winter migrant*

97 records on "Birdtrack". 22 W, Wick, 02.01 (DM); 50+, Gersa, 07.01 (SAMM); c.150, Stroupster, 07.01 (NO); 70 E, Holborn Head, 12.01 (KM); 100s (600?) W, East Gills, Scrabster, 13.01 (KM); 76, Wick, 17.01 (DM); 500+, Carsgoe, 18.01 (SAMM); c.160, Newlands of Forse, 21.01 (PM); 230, Netherside, 22.01 (SAMM); 25 E, Thurso, 25.01 (SAMM); 300+, Lyth, 11.02 (DM); 142, Loch Scarmclate, 12.02 (NO); 200+, Skitten, 19.02 (SAMM); 112, Sandside Farm, 19.02 (EM); c.250, Newlands of Forse, 28.02 (PM); <1,000, Mains of Stirkoke, 01.03 (SAMM); 165, Sandside Farm, 01.03 (EM); c.600, Loch Hempriggs, 02.03 (PM); c.500, Newlands of Forse, 04.03, 05.03, 07.03 (PM); 1,000, Biggins, 05.03 (PMM); 66, Lyth, 05.03 (DM); 700, Buckies, 08.03 (DAO); 1,500+, Newtonhill, 08.03 (SAMM); 47, Lyth, 11.03 (DM); 200+, Lynegar, 12.03 (SAMM); 832, Freswick, 12.03 (RH); c.600, Nybster, 15.03 (RH); c. 350, Newlands of Forse, 17.03 (PM); 300, Staxigoe, 19.03 (KM); 130 N, St John's Pool, 19.03 (JS); c.500, Newlands of Forse, 19.03 (PM); 93 E, Thurso Bay, 20.03 (SAMM); calling overhead, Thurso, am/pm, 15.03, 16.03, 21.03, 22.03, 25.03 (SAMM); 200, Newtonhill, 22.03 (SAMM); 290, Sandside Farm, 23.03 (EM); 365, Sandside Bay, 24.03 (HW); 250+, Reiss, 25.03 (DM); 6,944, roost count Caithness, 25.03 (SAMM); 2,300, Loch of Mey, 25.03 (JS); < 1,000, Carsgoe, 26.03 (SAMM); 800, Skitten, 29.03 (SAMM); 1,000, Newtonhill, 29.03 (SAMM); 85 E, Reay, 29.03 (EM); 400 to 500, Upper Thrumster, 30.03 (SAMM); 100, Forse House, 30.03 (SAMM); c.400, Newlands of Forse, 30.03 (PM); 80 E, Thurso, 30.03 (SAMM); 800 to 1,000 E over Thurso, 31.03 (SAMM); 320+, Quoys of Reiss, 01.04 (DM); 500+, Newlands of Forse, 01.04 (PM); 1,000+ E daily over Thurso, 01.04 to 04.04 (SAMM); 850 N, (17 separate groups over 3 hrs), Dounreay, 07.04 (DAO); 100's, W/NW over Thurso, 08.04 (SAMM); 400+, Loch Hempriggs, 11.04 (PM); 1,200, Bardnaclavan, 12.04 (DAO); 34 E, Drumhollistan, 13.04 (SAMM); 2,000, Bardnaclavan, 13.04 (SAMM); 250 to 300 N, Holborn Head, 14.04 (SAMM); c.350, Clar Loch, 14.04 (RH); c.300, Auckengill, 15.04 (NO); 1,000, Killimster Loch, 16.04 (PMM); 100 NW, Weydale, 30.04 (SAMM); 100+, Scrabster Farm, 02.05 (SAMM); 32 E, Winless, 06.05 (SAMM); 1, Newlands of Forse, 15.05, 20.05 (PM); 1, Wick Riverside, 27.05 (RH).

17 S, Slickly, 05.09 (Seân Kerr); 53, Nybster, 07.09 (Seân Kerr); 33 SE, Killimster, 07.09 (PMM); calling overhead, Thurso, 12.09 (SAMM); 1,100, Dounreay, 12.09 (DAO); 30, St John's Pool, 14.09 (JS); 2, Loch Hempriggs, 17.09 (PMM); 19, Loch Heilen, 17.09 (RH); 30 SW, Thurso, 22.09

(SAMM); 5 S, Newtonhill, 22.09 (SAMM); c.1236, Nybster, 22.09 (RH); calling overhead, Newtonhill, 26.09 (SAMM); 75, (two flocks in off sea, flying S), Brims Ness, 29.09 (GG); 200, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.10 (JS); c.260, Wick Riverside, 09.10 (RH); 2,203, roost count, Caithness, 14.10 (SAMM); 2,968, Loch Killimster, 14.10 (PMM); c.300, Hastigrow, 14.10 (RH); 1,016, Broubster, 15.10 (MS); 145, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 300, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 48 S, Dunnet Bay, 19.10 (SAMM); 150+, Lyth, 28.10 (DM); 20, Stanstill, 29.10 (SAMM); c.600, Auckengill, 31.10 (RH); 200+, Winless, 05.11 (SAMM); 4,321, roost count, Caithness, 11.11 (SAMM); 5,000, Loch Scarmclate, 15.11 (JS); 40, Killimster Loch, 20.11 (PMM); 22 S, Wick, 23.11 (DM); 170, Ruther, 17.12 (DAO); 110+, Quoys of Reiss, 25.12 (DM).

### **Grey Goose *Anser* sp.**

120+, Lyth, 05.03 (DM); 137+, Westerloch, 11.03 (DM); 500+, Alterwall, 25.03 (DM); 400+, Killimster, 01.04 (DM); 700+, Lyth, 14.04 (DM); 20+, Lyth, 23.09 (DM); 30+, Stirkoke, 26.09 (SAMM); 1,000+, Lyth, 17.10 (DM); 2,000+, Killimster, 23.10 (DM).

### **Brent Goose *Branta bernicla***

*Scarce but regular migrant*

5, Castlehill, 12.10 (DB); 1, Dunnet Bay, 15.10 (RH, NO).

### **Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***

*Passage migrant and scarce winter migrant*

2, Achalone, 14.01 (JS); 1, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 1, Ham, 03.02 (PM); 1, Harrow Harbour (NSWG); 1, Lyth, 18.02 (RH); 180, Skinnnet, 08.03 (DAO); 15, Newtonhill, 08.03 (SAMM); 4, Staxigoe, 19.03 (KM); 19 (12 SE, 7 W), Brims Ness, 29.09 (GG); 42 S, Nybster, 07.10 (RH, JO); 24 S, Auckengill, 07.10 (JO); 26, Quoys of Reiss, 08.10 (PMM); 10 S, Auckengill, 09.10 (JO); 7, Loch of Mey, 14.10 (RH, NO); 1, Reiss, 14.10 (RH, NO); 14, Mey, 14.10 (KM); 7 flying over, St John's Pool, 19.10 (JS); 16, Nybster, 19.10 (RH); 60, Quoys of Reiss, 20.10 (JS); 23, Loch Scarmclate, 24.10 (RH); 6, Loch Watten, 24.10 (RH); 7, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM).

### **Canada Goose *Branta canadensis***

*Regular migrant from British feral population; small individuals may be genuine migrants from North America.*

76 (including a small individual similar to *s/s parvipes/interior*), Nybster, 06.06 (RH); 2, Frewick, 10.06 (RH); 16, Loch Stemster, 29.06 (PMM); 17 to 18, Loch Stemster, 26.07 (NL); 15, Loch Stemster, 13.08 (SAMM, PM).

### **Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***

*Resident on low-lying lochs; more widespread in winter.*

74 records on "Birdtrack". 9, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 57, Loch Scarmclate, 22.01 (KM); 3, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 10, Loch Heilen, 28.01 (RAF); 2 juveniles, Biggins, 08.02 (SAMM); 1 pair, Ham Pool, 12.02 (SAMM); 29, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02 (SAMM); 15, St John's Pool, 25.02 (JS); 18, Loch Scarmclate, 22.04 (Dean Macaskill); 20, Loch of Wester, 21.05 (PMM); 1 pair + 2 yg, Borgie Mains, 04.06 (DAO); 1 f + 6 yg, Ham Pool, 14.06 (PM); 1 pair + 4 yg, Loch of Wester, 08.09 (PM); 1 pair + 5 yg, Brawlbin Inlet, 10.09 (SAMM); 1 pair + 3 yg, Loch Killimster, 23.09 (Louise Clewley); c.20 (including 3 immatures), Loch of Wester, 12.10 (PM); 8, Loch of Wester,

14.10 (RH, NO); 8, Loch Sarclet, 14.10 (PPM, RH, NO); 38, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 7 (3 juveniles), Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 4, Loch Heilen, 15.10 (RH); 1 pair + 3 juveniles, Ham Pool, 28.10 (SAMM); 47, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11 (KM); 2, Wick Riverside, 12.11 (D O-E); 34, Loch Scarmclate, 17.12 (KM).

### **Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus***

*Common passage and winter migrant*

135 records on "Birdtrack". 7, Brawlbin Inlet, 21.01 (SAMM); 8, Loch Scarmclate, 22.01 (KM); 7, Westfield Marshes, 22.01 (SAMM); 83, St John's Loch, 29.01 (RAF); 16, Scrabster Loch, 29.01 (RAF); 103, Biggins, 08.02 (SAMM); 99, Biggins, 09.02 (PMM); 23, Broubster Leans, 12.02 (DAO); 20, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 2, Ham Pool, 12.02 (SAMM); 11, Loch Watten, 19.02 (SAMM); 8, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02 (SAMM); 100, Skitten, 19.02 (SAMM); 36, Loch of Wester, 02.03 (PM); 50, Killimster, 10.03 (NSWG); 21, Broubster Leans, 11.03 (MS); 13, Loch Heilen, 12.03 (RH); 40, Newlands of Forse, 19.03 (PM); 83, roost count, Caithness, 25.03 (SAMM); 13 N, Dorrery, 28.03 (NL); 14, Brawlbin Inlet, 07.04 (NL); 4, Brawlbin Inlet, 10.04, 2 on 19.04 (SAMM); 1, Broubster Leans, 24.05 (EM); 1 pair, nest, RSPB Broubster Leans, 28.05.

5, Loch Heilen, 17.09 (RH); 28, Stemster Mains, 22.09 (TH, SAMM); 41 adults, 2 juveniles, Killimster, 23.09 (Louise Clewley); 47, Loch of Wester, 23.09 (Mark Breaks); 48, Lochend, Loch Heilen, 05.10 (RH); c.100 (including c.14 juveniles), Quoys of Reiss, 12.10 (PM); 523, roost count, Caithness, 14.10 (SAMM); 167, Killimster Loch, 14.10 (PMM); 65+ (including 6 juvs), Quoys of Reiss, 14.10 (DM); c.80, Hastigrow, 14.10 (RH); 302, Loch of Wester, 15.10 (PPM); 124, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 302, Loch of Wester, 15.10 (PMM); 8, Biggins, 35, Stanstill, 19.10 (SAMM); c.320, Quoys of Reiss, 21.10 (RH); 200+, Durran Mains, 23.10 (SAMM); 90+ (including 7 juveniles), Quoys of Reiss, 23.10 (DM); 50+, Westerseat, 27.10 to 30.10 (DM); 160+, Quoys of Reiss, 28.10 (DM); 60, Sibster, Wick, 29.10 (SAMM); 40, Stanstill, 29.10 (SAMM); 22, Reiss Lodge, 30.10 (DD); 12, Broubster Leans, 31.10 (MS); 297+, Winless, 05.11 (SAMM); 350+, Loch of Wester, 07.11 (PMM); c.64, West Calder, 09.11 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 515, roost count, Caithness, 11.11 (SAMM); 20, Westerseat, 11.11 (DM); 44 (including 10 juveniles), Quoys of Reiss, 11.11 (DM); 25+, Lyth, 15.11 (DM); 38, Loch of Mey, 17.11 (SE); 37 (including 4 juveniles), Quoys of Reiss, 18.11 (DM); 52+, Lyth, 18.11 (DM); 508, Loch of Wester, 19.11 (PPM); 92, Killimster Loch, 20.11 (PMM); 17, Broubster Leans, 27.11 (MS); 42, Westfield Marshes, 10.12 (RH); 21, Broubster Leans, 17.12 (DO).

### **Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca***

*Scarce visitor from feral population in southern Britain.*

2 N, Nybster, 21.06 (RH).

### **Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna***

*Summer migrant, predominantly coastal*

82 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Sandside Bay, 29.01 (HW); 3, Gills Bay, 12.02 (RH); 2, St John's Pool/Loch, 16.02, 18.02 (JS); 2, Keiss, 26.02 (RH, NO); 3, Loch of Wester, 26.02 (RH); 3, Loch of Wester, 01.03 (PMM); 3, Sandside Bay, 10.03 (EM); 4, Sandside Bay, 11.03, 6 on 24.03, 26.03 (HW); 1 pair, Loch of Wester, 20.04 (SAMM); 5, Sandside Bay, 24.04 (HW); 2, Dounreay, 25.04 (DAO); 8, Auckengill, 27.04 (JO); 1, Sandside Bay, 05.05 (EM); 12, Wester River, 11.05 (PMM); 3, Loch of Wester, 21.05 (PMM); 6, Sandside Bay, 20.05 (HW); 11, Freswick, 21.05 (RH); 1 pair

+ 1 yg, St John's Pool, 28.05 (JS); 1 pair + 2 yg, Sandside Bay, 04.06 (HW); 1 pair + 10 yg, Harrow Harbour, 06.06 (DAO); 3 pairs + 1 m, Sandside Bay, 19.06 (HW); 8, Loch of Mey, 20.06 (PPM); 1 pair + 4 yg, Gills, 25.06 (SAMM); m, f, 1 juvenile, Sandside Bay, 20.07 (SAMM); 2, St John's Pool, 25.07 (JS); 2, Loch of Wester, 20.08 (PMM); 2, Nybster, 25.11 (RH).

### **Garganey *Spatula querquedula***

*Scarce summer migrant*

1, Thuster, 07.05 (Peter Stronach); 2, Wick Riverside, 27.05 (RH).

### **Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata***

*Passage and summer migrant*

47 records on "Birdtrack". 4, Loch of Mey, 18.02 (SE); 1, St John's Pool, 25.03 (JS); 2, East Murkle, 29.03 (RS); 1 m, Brawlbin inlet, 10.04 (SAMM); 1 m, Dunnet Bay, 20.04 (PMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 22.04 (RH); 1 pair, 1 m, Loch of Wester, 03.05 (NR); 2 mm, Thuster pool, 06.05 (SAMM); 2 mm, Thuster Pool, 11.05 (PMM); 1, Durran Marshes, 17.05 (RH); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 17.05 (Dean Macaskill); 1 m, St John's Pool, 20.05 (SAMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 20.05 (NO); 3, Loch of Wester, 21.05, 23.05 (PMM); 5, St John's Pool, 16.06, 17.06 (JS); 3, Loch of Wester, 19.06 (RH); 4, Loch of Wester, 09.07 (PMM); 3, Loch of Wester, 17.09 (PMM); 5, Loch of Mey, 17.11 (SE).

### **Gadwall *Mareca strepera***

*Passage and winter migrant, has bred.*

71 records on "Birdtrack". 4, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 4, St John's Pool, 04.02 (JS); 1, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 6, Loch Watten, 19.02 (SAMM); 4, Ham Pool, 28.02 (HW); 4, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 2, Ham Berry, 12.03 (SE); 5, St John's Pool, 19.03, 10 on 05.04, 7 on 20.04 (JS); 1 pair, Ham Pool, 26.03 (NL); 5, Loch of Wester, 27.03 (PMM); 4 pairs, Loch of Wester, 31.03 (PMM); 5 pairs, Loch of Wester, 08.04 (PMM); 9, St John's Pool, 28.04 (JS); 4 pairs, Loch of Wester, 03.05 (NR); 2 mm, 2 ff, St John's Pool, 20.05 (SAMM) 3, Loch of Wester, 21.05 (PMM); 6 mm, Durran Marsh, 22.05 (PMM); 8, Loch of Wester, 20.06 (PMM); 4 ff + broods (1,8,4,5), St John's Pool, 26.06, first brood out on 11.06 (JS); 2, Loch of Wester, 09.07 (PMM); 1 f + 8 yg (new brood), St John's Pool, 18.07; 2, Loch of Wester, 20.08 (PMM); 6, Loch of Wester, 17.09 (PMM); 30, St John's Pool/Loch, 08.10 (JS); 6, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 4, Loch of Wester, 15.10 (PMM); 2, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); 6, Loch of Wester, 17.12 (PMM).

### **Wigeon *Mareca Penelope***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

190 records on "Birdtrack". 160, Thurso East, 20.01 (SAMM); 204, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 118, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); c.50, Loch Watenan, 26.01 (PM); 30, Gills Bay, 28.01 (RAF); 38, Ham Pool, 28.01 (RAF); 24, Brims Ness, 29.01 (RAF); 52, Gills Bay, 05.02 (DAO); 75, Keiss Beach, 05.02 (NO); 60, St John's Pool, 08.02 (JS); 100+, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 35, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 139, Thurso East, 18.02 (SAMM); 191, Loch Heilen, 18.02 (RH); 55, Loch of Mey, 18.02 (SE); 16, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); 78, Loch Watten, 19.02 (SAMM); 178, Thurso East, 11.03 (SAMM); 37, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 26, Ham Berry, 12.03 (SE); 220, Loch of Mey, 12.03 (SE); 120, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 3 to 4 pairs, Brawlbin Inlet, 23.03 (NL);

3 pairs, Loch a'Chiteadh, 25.03 (NL); 10 to 15, Brawlbin Inlet, 07.04 (NL); 2 pairs, Loch of Wester, 20.04 (SAMM); 38 mm (ff on eggs?), Loch of Wester, 19.06 (RH); 19, Loch of Wester, 20.06 (PPM); 41, Nybster, 14.09 (RH); 50, St John's Pool/Loch, 08.10 (JS); 1 f, Thurso East, 13.10 (SAMM); 30, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 28, Broubster Leans, 15.10 (MS); 60, Loch Heilen, 15.10 (RH); 28, Dunnet Sands, 19.10 (SAMM); 80, Loch Calder, 10.11 (D O-E); 80, St John's Loch, 10.11 (D O-E); 150+, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); 174, Thurso East, 14.11 (SAMM); 59, Loch Scarmclate, 15.11 (JS); 560, Loch Watten, 15.11 (JS); 180, St John's Pool/Loch, 16.11 (JS); 16, Ham Berry, 17.11 (SE); 62, Loch of Mey, 17.11 (SE); 40, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH); 69, Loch Calder, 17.12 (DAO).

**American Wigeon *Mareca americana***

*Scarce visitor*

1, St John's Loch, 05.11 to 09.12 (JS, PH, RH).



*American Wigeon*

*Julian Smith*

### **Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

*Common resident, passage and winter migrant*

244 records on "Birdtrack". 73, Thurso Riverside, 19.01, 76 on 20.01 (SAMM); 14, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 38, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 58, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); 51, St John's Pool, 04.02 (JS); 100+, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 20, Ham Pool, 12.02 (SAMM); 43, Thurso Riverside, 18.02 (SAMM); 45, Loch Heilen, 18.02 (RH); 20+, Ham Pool, 02.03 (PM); 20, Thurso Riverside, 11.03 (SAMM); 14, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 60, Loch Heilen, 12.03 (RH); c.6 yg, Ham Pool, 28.04 (PM); 6 yg, Thurso Riverside, 06.05 (SAMM); 1 f + 2 yg, Loch of Wester, 11.05 (PMM); 2 ff+ 3,3 yg, Loch of Wester, 12.05 (PMM); 1 f + 4 yg, Sandside Burn, 14.05 (EM); 6, 7, 2 yg, Thurso Riverside, 15.05 (SAMM); 5 yg, St John's Pool, 20.05 (SAMM); 1 f + 9 yg, Loch Watenan, 30.05 (PM); 1 f + 9 yg, St John's Pool, 09.06 (JS); 1 f + 6 yg, Loch Killimster, 14.06 (PMM); 1 f + 5 yg, Wick Riverside, 01.07 (Dr S. Milligan); 3 yg, Newlands of Forse, 09.07 (PM); c.40, Ham Pool, 14.07 (PM); 273, Loch of Wester, 20.08 (PMM); 41+, Ham Pool, 01.09 (PM); 150, Loch of Wester, 17.09 (PMM); c.40, Wick Riverside, 09.10 (JO); 55, Thurso Riverside, 13.10 (SAMM); 73, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 39, Loch Heilen, 15.10 (RH); 40, St John's Loch, 17.10 (JS); 62, Thurso Riverside, 28.10 (SAMM); 50+, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); 113, Thurso Riverside, 14.11 (SAMM); 32, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH); c.30, Freswick, 28.11 (RH); 8, Westfield Marshes, 17.12 (DAO).

### **Northern Pintail *Anas acuta***

*Local passage and winter migrant*

3, Loch of Mey, 07.01, 12.02 (SAMM); 10, Castletown, 12.01 (AA); 1 m, St John's Pool, 15.01; 15, St John's Loch, 29.01 (RAF); 2 mm, St John's Pool, 03.02, 1 on 04.02 (JS); 6, Loch of Mey, 12.03 (SE); 2, St John's Pool, 08.04 to 28.04 (JS); 2, Loch of Wester, 22.04 (RH); 1, Loch of Wester, 27.05 (RH); present, Loch of Mey, 08.09 (Linda Gibson); 10, St John's Pool/Loch, 21.09 (JS); 1, Lochan Buidhe, 29.09 (DAO); 3, St John's Pool/Loch, 14.10 (JS); 1 juvenile, St John's Pool, 16.10 (JS); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 15.11 (JS); 5, Loch of Mey, 17.11 (SE).

### **Teal *Anas crecca crecca***

*Common summer, passage and winter migrant*

126 records on "Birdtrack". 49, Loch Scarmclate, 22.01 (KM); 60, St John's Pool/Loch, 22.01 (JS); 38, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 14, Ham Pool, 28.01 (RAF); 43, Scrabster Loch, 29.01 (RAF); 20, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 20, Ham Pool, 12.02 (SAMM); 146, Loch Heilen, 18.02 (RH); 35, St John's Loch, 18.02 (JS); 33, Loch of Mey, 18.02 (SE); 25, Loch Watten, 19.02 (SAMM); 10, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02 (SAMM); 40, Camster Loch, 28.02 (PD); 55, St John's Pool/Loch, 03.03 (JS); 66, Loch of Mey, 12.03 (SE); 134, Loch Heilen, 12.03 (RH); 2 mm, 1 f, Torran Water to Loch Shurrery, 16.04 (NL); 1 pair, Loch Meadhoin, 16.04 (NL); 17, Loch of Wester, 20.08 (PMM); c.35, Wick Riverside, 09.10 (JO); 23, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 20, Loch Heilen, 15.10 (RH); 56, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 20, Ham Pool, 29.10 (SAMM); c.75, Ham Pool, 02.11 (PM); 60, St John's Pool, 03.11 (JS); 50, Westfield Marshes, 10.11 (D O-E); 220; Loch Watten, 15.11 (JS); 42, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH); 111, Loch of Wester, 19.11 (PMM); 140, St John's Pool/Loch, 04.12 (JS); 33, Loch Calder, 17.12 (DAO); 80, Loch Scarmclate, 17.12 (KM); 140, Loch of Wester, 17.12 (PMM); 21, Westfield Marshes, 17.12 (DAO).



**Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis***

*Scarce visitor*

1 male, St John's Pool, 04.02 to 11.06 (JS, RH); second male, St John's Pool, 02.06 (JS).



*Green-winged Teal*

*Julian Smith*

**Pochard *Aythya ferina***

*Scarce migrant, has bred.*

2 mm, Latheron, 12.01 (AA); 34, Loch Scarmclate, 12.02 (NO); 5, Loch Scarmclate, 06.03 (JS); 2 mm, St John's Pool, 28.05 (JS); 1, Loch Heilen, 07.06 (RH); 1 m, St John's Pool/Loch, 28.09 (JS); 2 mm, 1 f, St John's Loch, 22.10, 23.10, 05.11 (JS); 3, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 4, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 16, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11 (KM); 50, Loch Scarmclate, 15.11 (JS).

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

*Scarce visitor*

1 m, St John's Pool, 02.06 (JS); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 24.10 (RH).

**Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula***

*Common resident, passage and winter migrant*

148 records on "Birdtrack". 304, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 110, St John's Pool/Loch, 22.01 (JS); 60, St John's Loch, 18.02 (JS); 388, Loch Watten, 19.02 (SAMM); 105, St John's Pool/Loch, 03.03 (JS); 174, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 25, Loch Heilen, 12.03 (RH); 61, Loch Hempriggs, 23.04 (PMM); 10, Loch Killimster, 26.04 (PMM); 60, St John's Pool, 04.05 (JS); 25+, Loch Watten, 17.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 45, Loch Sarclet, 21.05 (PMM); 11, Scrabster Loch, 09.06

(SAMM); 30, St John's Pool, 09.06, 11.06 (JS); 1 f + 8yg, St John's Pool, 19.06 (JS); 1 f + 8 yg, Broubster Leans, 20.06 (MS); 22, Loch Sarclet, 26.06 (PMM); 1 f + 7yg, Loch Watenan, 30.06, 12.07 (PM); 1 f + 11yg, St John's Loch, 05.07 (JS); 1 f + 6yg, St John's Pool, 05.07 (JS); 1 f + 4 yg, Ham Pool, 14.07 (PM); 1 f + 5 yg, St John's Pool, 31.07 (JS); 1 f + 7 yg, Loch a'Chiteadh, 06.08 (NL); 7, Brawlbin Inlet, 10.09 (SAMM); 40, St John's Pool/Loch, 12.09, 98 on 21.09, 125 on 30.09 (JS); 22, Loch Sarclet, 17.09 (PMM); 52, Loch Hempriggs, 14.10 (PMM); 24, Loch Sarclet, 14.10 (PMM); 120, St John's Pool/Loch, 14.10 (JS); 1,085, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 190, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 80, St John's Loch, 17.10 (JS); 200, St John's Loch, 05.11 (JS); 145, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11 (KM); 320, Loch Scarmclate, 15.11 (JS); 50, Loch Sarclet, 19.11 (PMM); 120, St John's Loch, 03.12 (JS); 165, Loch Scarmclate, 17.12 (KM); 10, Loch Killimster, 25.12 (PMM).

### **Greater Scaup *Aythya marila***

#### *Scarce migrant*

4, Loch Stemster, 05.01 (DO); 4, Loch Scarmclate, 07.01; 2, St John's Pool/Loch, 03.02 (JS); 4, Loch Heilen, 12.03 (RH); 2, Loch of Wester, 23.03, 27.03, 31.03 (PMM); 4, Loch Heilen, 12.03 (RH); 1, Loch Sarclet, 18.03 (RH, NO); 2, Loch of Wester, 19.03 (RH); 3 mm, 4 ff, Loch Heilen, 24.03 (AA); 1 f, St John's Pool/Loch, 26.03 (JS); 1 m, St John's Pool/Loch, 05.04 (JS); 1 f, St John's Pool, 29.05 (JS); 1 m, Dunnet Bay, 12.07 (PMM); 1 juvenile, St John's Pool/Loch, 21.09, 22.09, 23.09 (JS); 2 juveniles, St John's Loch, 25.09 (Mark Breaks); 6, St John's Loch, 03.10 (JS); 1, Loch of Wester, 15.10 (PMM); 3, St John's Loch, 12.11 (RH); 2, St John's Loch, 03.12 (JS).

### **Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis***

#### *Scarce visitor*

1 m, St John's Pool, 14.05 to 22.06 (JS); 1, Loch Watten, 07.06, 08.06 (Peter Stronach, PH, RH).  
Subject to acceptance by BBRC.





*Lesser Scaup*

*Julian Smith*

**Common Eider *Somateria mollissima***

*Common resident, coastal*

167 records on "Birdtrack". 13, Nybster, 01.01 (RH); 15, Sandside Bay, 06.01 (HW); 15, John O'Groats, 07.01 (WB); 12, Duncansby, 07.01 (WB); 4 mm, 5 ff, Sinclair's Bay, 07.01 (SAMM); 16, Nybster, 18.01 (RH); 12, Thurso Bay, 20.01 (SAMM); 4, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 52, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); 15, Thurso Bay, 18.02 (SAMM); 13, Scrabster, 03.03 (KM); 4 pairs, Scrabster Harbour, 14.04 (SAMM); 14, Sandside Bay, 24.04 (HW); 9, Sandside Bay, 18.05 (EM); 32, Sandside Bay, 21.05 (HW); 88, east coast Caithness, Ord to Whaligoe, 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 4 ff + yg birds, Sandside Bay, 05.06 (HW); 13, Thurso Bay, 07.06 (SAMM); 5 ff + 4,4,3,1,1 yg, Dunnet Bay, 22.06 (PMM); 1 f + 3 small yg, Thurso Bay, 18.06, 23.06 (SAMM); 1 f + 1 small yg, 1 f + 1 half-grown yg, Gills, 25.06 (SAMM); 1 f + 4 small yg, 1 f + 1 small yg, 1 f + 4 small yg, 1 f + 3 small yg, west side Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 1 f + 1 small yg, 1 f + 3 small yg, harbour Stroma, 25.06; 1 f + 4 small yg, 1 f + 1 small yg, south side Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 1 f + 3 yg, 1 f + 1 yg, Thurso Bay, 27.06 (SAMM); 51 (ff + yg), Dunnet Bay, 07.08 (Peter Binder); 18 (moulting flock), Thurso Bay, 16.07 (SAMM); 1 f + 2 yg, Canisbay, 16.07 (Alistair Clunas); 4 ff + 3,2,1,2 yg, Stroma, 16.07 (Alistair Clunas); 1 f + ½ gr yg, 1 f + 3 yg, Thurso Harbour, 19.07 (SAMM); 70, Dunnet Bay, 26.07 (JS); 25, Castlehill, 01.08 (JS); 27 (moulting flock), Thurso Bay, 07.08 (SAMM); 20 ff, Castlehill, 08.08 (SAMM); 20 ff + 2 yg, Castlehill, 10.08 (SAMM); 40+, Thurso Bay, 23.08 (SAMM); 43, Thurso Bay, 24.08 (SAMM); 29 (moulting flock), Ushat Head, 08.09 (SAMM); 2 yg, Ushat Head, 08.09 (SAMM); 32, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 20, Sandside Bay, 24.09 (HW); 21, Sandside Bay, 10.10 (HW); 27, Thurso Bay, 13.10 (SAMM).

**Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata***

*Scarce visitor*

1 x 1<sup>st</sup> summer male, Thurso Bay, 23.06, 24.06 (KM, SAMM, RH, JS, David Bremner); 1 juvenile, Dunnet Bay, 15.10, 22.10, 23.10 (Andrew Stevenson, JS, SAMM).



*Surf Scoter, Thurso Bay*

*Karen Munro*

### **Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca***

*Local passage and winter migrant*

2, Keiss Beach, 28.01 (WM); 6, Auckengill, 28.01 (RH); 9, Sinclair's Bay, 22.03 (PMM); 1 m, 2 ff N, Nybster, 30.03 (RH); 5, Dunnet Bay, 04.09 (PMM); 1, Nybster, 19.10 (RH); 2, Sinclair's Bay, 06.11 (D O-E); 1, Dunnet Bay, 11.11 (JS).

### **Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

*Local summer migrant; passage and winter migrant*

1 f, Thurso Bay, 20.01 (SAMM, RH); 2 ff, Thurso Bay, 18.02 (SAMM); 2, Scrabster Harbour, 04.03 (NO); 1, Dunnet Bay, 07.03 (JS); 2, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 6, Sandside Bay, 15.03 (DO); present in Sinclair's Bay, 15.03 (Fiona Reid); 3, Nybster, 12.04 (RH); 23, Wick Bay, 14.04 (DB); present, Keiss, 20.04 (Don Ainsworth); 2/1 hr, Nybster, 23.04 (RH); 7/1 hr, Auckengill, 26.04 (JO); 25, Dunnet Bay, 12.05, 24 on 19.05 (JS, PMM); c.30, Dunnet Bay, 01.09 (PM); 14, Dunnet Bay, 04.09 (PMM); 6/1.5 hr, Nybster, 24.09 (RH); 7, Nybster, 07.10 (RH, NO); 1, Sandside Bay, 09.10 (HW); 2 f, Thurso Bay, 13.10 (SAMM); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 1 f, Castlehill, 23.10 (SAMM); 4, Skirza, 05.11 (SAMM); 15/1.5 hr, Nybster, 17.11 (RH); 8, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO); 1, Loch of Wester, 19.11, 21.11 (RH).

### **Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis***

*Passage and winter migrant*

7, Thurso Bay, 20.01 (SAMM); 44, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 2, Murkle Bay, 29.01 (RAF); 11, west coast of Stroma, 05.02 (DAO); 10, Thurso Bay, 18.02 (SAMM); 21, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); 2, Sandside Bay, 11.03 (HW); 2, Thurso Bay, 11.03 (SAMM); 16, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 7, Thurso Bay, 20.03 (SAMM); 2, Thurso Bay, 03.04, 8 on 05.04, 2 on 06.04, 1 on 07.04 (SAMM); 100+, Thurso Bay, 14.04 (SAMM); 132, Dunnet Bay, 20.04 (PMM); 40, Castlehill, 12.05 (JS); 1 juvenile, St John's Pool, 09.06, 22.06 (JS, RH).

1 f, Thurso Bay, 25.09 (SAMM); 20, Dunnet Bay, 09.10, 15.10 (JS, Andrew Stevenson); 270, Dunnet Bay, 18.10, 300 on 23.10 (JS); 6 N, Nybster, 18.10; 2, Loch Scarmclate, 24.10 (RH); 60, Dunnet Bay, 31.10 (NSWG); 24, Crosskirk, 05.11 (DO); 40, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 1, Loch of Mey, 17.11 (SE); 4, Sandside Bay, 18.11 (HW); 70, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO); 1, Loch of

Wester, 19.11 (RH); 3, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH); 1, Loch Hempriggs, 19.11 (PMM); 3, Loch of Wester, 19.11 (PMM); 1, Killimster Loch, 20.11 (PMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 21.11 (RH); 1, Murkle Bay, 29.11 (RS); 4, Loch of Wester, 17.12 (PMM).

### **Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula***

#### *Passage and winter migrant*

82 records on "Birdtrack". 4 mm, Wick Riverside, 06.01, 14.01, 27.01 (DM); 2 mm, 2 ff, Wick Riverside, 20.01 (DM); 200+, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 55, St John's Pool/Loch, 22.01 (JS); 39, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 63, St John's Loch, 28.01 (RAF); 47, Loch Heilen, 28.01 (RAF); 20, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 50, St John's Loch, 18.02 (JS); 51, Loch Heilen, 18.02 (RH); 147, Loch Watten, 19.02 (SAMM); 11, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02 (SAMM); 40, St John's Pool/Loch, 11.03 (JS); 234, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 53, Loch Heilen, 12.03 (RH); 1 m, 1 f, Wick Riverside, 07.04 (last seasonal record for Wick Riverside) (DM); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 29.04 (JS); c.10, Loch Watten, 17.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 3, Loch of Mey, 19.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1, Loch Hempriggs, 09.07 (PMM).

1, St John's Pool/Loch, 10.09, 4 on 12.09 (JS); 2, Loch of Wester, 17.09 (PMM); 60, Loch of Wester, 15.10 (PMM); 1, Sandside, 23.10 (HW); 20, St John's Loch, 10.11 rising to 37 on 26.11 (D O-E, JS); 100, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); 35, Loch Scarmclate, 15.11 (JS); 87, Loch of Wester, 19.11 (PMM); 5, Loch Hempriggs, 19.11 (PMM); 55, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH); 129, Loch of Wester, 21.11 (PMM); 40, St John's Loch, 03.12, 35 on 17.12 (JS); 3 mm, Wick Riverside, 07.12, 25.12, 14 on 23.12, 4 on 29.12 (DM, SAMM); 114, Loch of Wester, 17.12 (PMM); 7, Wick Riverside, 19.12 (DD); 5, Loch Killimster, 25.12 (PMM).

### **Smew *Mergellus albellus***

#### *Scarce winter migrant*

1 f, Loch Watten, 07.01, 22.01 (SAMM); 1 f, Loch of Wester, 19.04, 20.04 (PMM, RH, NO, SAMM); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 1 juvenile, Castlehill, 23.10 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 19.11, 20.11 (PMM).

### **Goosander *Mergus merganser***

#### *Local summer migrant; passage and winter migrant*

1 m, Thurso Riverside, 03.01 (SAMM); 1 pair, Loch Watten, 03.01 (PH); 3, Loch Watten, 07.01, 22.01 (JS, SAMM); 2, Thurso Riverside, 20.01 (RH); 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 18.02 (SAMM); 2, Loch of Mey, 12.03 (SE); 1, Loch of Wester, 12.03 (RH); 1 m, Wick Riverside, 29.03, 31.03 (David Bremner, DM); 1, Thurso East, 04.04 (DAO); 1 pair, Thurso Riverside, 25.04 (EM); 1m, Thurso Riverside, 25.04 (SAMM); 1 m, 2 ff, Thurso Riverside, 30.04 (SAMM); 1 m, Thurso Riverside, 02.05 (SAMM); 11, Thurso Riverside, 03.05 (NSWG); 1 m, 2 ff, Thurso Riverside, 09.05 (SAMM); 1 pair, Thurso Riverside, 10.05, 12.05 (SAMM); 18, Wick Riverside, 10.05 (DB); 4 juvs/ff, Thurso Riverside, 12.05 (SAMM); 8, Loch of Wester, 23.05 (PMM); 1, Sibster, Wick, 23.05 (Samantha Donovan); 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 25.05 (SAMM); 2, Braemore, 26.05 (AMc); 3 mm, 1 f, Wick Riverside, 28.05, 29.05 (Mary Galloway, DB); 6 juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 17.06 (SAMM); 3 juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 12.08 (SAMM); 2 juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 15.08, 16.08 (SAMM); 3 ff/ juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 22.08 (SAMM); 6 ff/juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 24.08, 25.08 (SAMM); 2 ff/ juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 19.08 (SAMM); 1 f/juvenile, Thurso Riverside, 10.09 (SAMM); 4, Thurso Riverside, 19.09, 3 on 20.09, 21.09, 23.09 (SAMM);

2, Wick Harbour, 28.09 (DD); 1, Wick Harbour, 03.10 (DB); 2, Wick Riverside, 09.10 (JO); 2, Thurso Riverside, 13.10 (SAMM); 4, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 1 m, Thurso Riverside, 27.10 (SAMM).

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

*Passage and winter migrant; formerly common summer migrant, now very scarce.*

76 records on "Birdtrack". 1 pair, Sandside, 04.01, 07.01 (HW, SAMM); 4, Loch Watten, 07.01 (JS); 4, Dunnet Bay, 21.01 (NO); 1 m, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 3, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 1, Murkle Bay, 29.01 (RAF); 4, Sandside Bay, 30.01 (RAF); 3, St John's Loch, 18.02 (JS); 1, Loch Heilen, 18.02 (RH); 5, Sandside Bay, 10.03 (HW); 3, Sandside Bay, 23.03 (EM); 5, St John's Loch, 11.04 (JS); 2, Sandside Bay, 24.04 (HW); 2, Thurso Bay, 08.05 (SAMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 14.05 (NO); 6, Dunnet Bay, 17.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1, Loch of Wester, 21.05 (PMM); 1, Skinnet, 26.05 (DAO); 1 m, 1 f, Thurso Bay, 06.06 (SAMM); 4, Keiss Beach, 06.06 (NO); 2, Loch Killimster, 14.06 (PMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 20.06 (PMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 09.07 (PMM); 1 f, Dunnet Bay, 08.08 (SAMM); 4, Nybster, 13.09 (RH); 1, Loch Hempriggs, 17.09 (PMM); 3, Sandside Bay, 09.10 (HW); 2, Wick Riverside, 09.10 (DD); 1, Loch Sarclet, 14.10 (PMM); 4, St John's Loch, 10.11 (D O-E); 7, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Mey, 17.11 (SE); 2, Sandside Bay, 18.11 (HW); 1, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH).

#### **Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scotica***

*Resident on heather moors; declining.*

2, Duncansby Ness, 07.01 (WB); present Cnoc na Maranaich, 18.02 (David Bremner); 1, between Loch Stemster and Rumster, 19.04 (SAMM); 1, Auckengill, 22.04 (RH); present, Blar nam Faioleag, 15.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 6, Smerral Hill, 13.08 (PD); 5, John O'Groats' Quarry, 09.10 (NO); 2, Moss of Mey, 22.10 (JS); 1, Biel of Duncansby, 23.10 (RH); present, Lyth, 16.11 (Andrew Matthews); 1, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH); 1, between Canisbay and Freswick, 02.12 (RH).

#### **Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta***

*Local resident*

1, Scarabens, 27.05 (RH).

#### **Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus***

*Common resident; population boosted by released birds.*

116 records on "Birdtrack". 1 f + 7 chicks, Reay, 06.07 (EM).

#### **Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix***

*Scarce summer migrant*

1, Freswick, 25.05, 05.06 (RH); 1, Broubster, 08.06 (PH); 1, Freswick, 08.06 (RH); 1 calling, Keiss, 11.06 (Iain Martin); 1, Reay, 22.06 to 24.06 (Evan Sutherland); 1, St John's Pool, 23.06, 25.06 (John Bell, JS); 1, Upper Dounreay, 05.08 (DAO); 1 calling in fog 0345 hrs, Thurso (g), 14.08 (SAMM).

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

*Introduced*

1, Wick Riverside, 29.05 (WM).

### **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

*Local resident or summer migrant; more widespread out of the breeding season*

87 records on "Birdtrack". 4, Loch Scarmclate, 07.01 (SAMM); 1, Ham Pool, 28.01 (RAF); 9, Loch Scarmclate, 12.02 (NO); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Mey, 12.03 (SE); 4, Loch Watenan, 04.04, 5 on 17.04, 6 on 19.07, 25.07, 14.08, 29.08 (PM); 5, Loch Watenan, 21.05 (PMM); 1, Loch Watenan, 20.06 (PMM); 2, Loch Watenan, 17.09 (PMM); 9, Loch Watenan, 20.08 (PMM); 8 (including 1 juvenile), Loch Watenan, 09.09 (SAMM); 4, Loch Watenan, 17.09 (PMM); 2, Loch Watenan, 14.10 (PMM); 8, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 4, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 1, Wick Riverside, 24.10 (WM); 1 juvenile, Ham Pool, 29.10 (SAMM); 17, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11 (KM); 6, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Mey, 17.11 (SE); 1, Loch Calder, 15.12 (DO); 1, Loch of Wester, 17.12 (PMM).

### **Slavonian or Horned Grebe *Podiceps auratus***

*Passage and winter migrant; has bred.*

2, Loch Watten, 07.01 (SAMM); 1, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 1, St John's Loch, 21.09 to 09.10 (JS, Mark Breaks); 1, Loch of Wester, 08.10 (PMM); 4, Sandside Bay, 09.10 (HW); 2, St John's Loch, 14.10 (JS); 3, Dunnet Bay, 15.10 (Andrew Stevenson); 1, Freswick, 15.10 (RH); 1, St John's Loch, 17.10 (JS); 2, Loch Watten, 20.10 (PMM); 3, Loch of Wester, 20.10 (PMM); 6, Loch Watten, 30.10 (PMM); 3, Loch Watten, 02.11 (TH); 2, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11 (KM); 10, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); 7, Loch Calder, 13.11 (DAO); 15+, Loch Watten, 15.11 (JS); 2, Loch Calder, 15.12 (DAO); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 17.12 (KM).

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

*Scarce migrant*

1, St John's Loch, 06.10 (Ian Phillips).

### **Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

*Scarce migrant*

1, Scrabster, 14.04 (KM); 1, Brawlbin Inlet, 18.04 (NS); 1, St John's Loch, 03.11 to 16.11 (JS, PH); 2, St John's Loch, 10.11 (D O-E).



*Great Crested Grebe, Scrabster*

*Karen Munro*

**Rock Pigeon *Columba livia***

*Common coastal resident*

74 records on "Birdtrack". 36, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); c.30, Loch of Mey, 14.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 25, Canisbay, 15.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 48, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 40, The Gloup, Stroma, 16.07 (Dr Ian Francis); 220 (80% feral), St John's Pool/Loch, 09.10 (JS).

**Feral Pigeon *Columba livia***

*Widespread resident; most populations of Rock Pigeon now contain some feral birds.*

391 records on "Birdtrack". c. 87, Newlands of Forse, 07.01 (PM); c.50, Newlands of Forse, 05.02 (PM); 100+, Loch of Wester/Wester, 02.03 (PM); c.50, Auckengill, 27.04 (JO); 196, Caithness east coast, 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); c.240, Auckengill, 11.10 (JO); 28, Newlands of Forse, 04.11 (PM); c.70, Auckengill, 08.12 (NO).

**Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus***

*Resident*

170 records on "Birdtrack". 100+, Forss, 07.01 (SAMM); 186, Sandside Farm, 29.01 (HW); 227, Sandside Farm, 08.02 (EM); c.84, Newlands of Forse, 18.02 (PM); 15, Harpsdale, 25.03 (SAMM); 40, St John's Pool, 09.05 (JS); c.50, Newlands of Forse, 14.10 (PM); 15, Mall, Thurso Riverside, 20.10 (SAMM); 51, Forss, 02.11 (DO); 1 fledged, Reay, 03.12 (EM).

**European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

*Scarce migrant*

1, Thurso, early June (Richard Doakes); 1, Gills, 25.06 (SAMM).

**Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

*Resident*

55 records on "Birdtrack". 11, Castletown, 15.01 (DAO); 24, Lyth, 01.01, 07.01, 22 on 28.01 (DM); 24, Lyth, 11.02 (DM); 6, Spittal, 13.07 (DAO); 20+, Lyth, 16.09 (DM).



### **Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

#### *Summer migrant*

61 records on "Birdtrack". 1 (S), Skiall Wood, 22.04 (DAO); 1 (S), Harpsdale, 22.04 (Eileen Laybourne); 1, Freswick, 30.04 (RH); 1 (S), Lyth, 02.05 to at least 12.05 (DM); 1, Nybster, 02.05 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 02.05 (JO); 1, Newlands of Forse, 02.05 (PM); 1, West Calder, 02.05 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 1, Lyth, 09.05 (PMM); 1, St John's Pool, 09.05 (JS); 1 (S), Brawlbin, 14.05 (SAMM); 1, Killimster, 14.05, 2 on 19.05, 25.05, 28.05, 13.06 (PMM); 2 (S), Newtonhill, 19.05 (SAMM); 1 (S), Bowertower, 20.05, 28.05, 09.06 (DD); 1 (S), Brough, 01.06 (DD); 1 m, Thurdistoft, 15.06 (DD); 1, Berriedale, 17.06 (David Bremner); 1 fledged yg (still fed by Meadow Pipit), Forss, 18.06 (RS); 1, Newlands of Forse, 20.06 (PM); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 22.06 (JS); 1, Druim Chrachairnie, Dorrery, 20.07 (NL).

### **Common Swift *Apus apus***

#### *Summer and passage migrant*

1, Thurso, 10.05 (SAMM); 1, Thurso, 14.05, 16.05, 17.05, 2 on 18.05 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Mey, 14.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 6, Wick, 19.05 (DM); 5, Thurso Riverside, 20.05, 25.05 (SAMM); 4, Halkirk, 20.05 (DAO); 2, Sibster, Halkirk, 24.05 (RH); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 27.05 (RH); 3, Wick Riverside, 29.05 (DB); 4, Thurso, 07.06 (SAMM); 2, Old Mill, Thurso, 14.06, 3 on 17.06 (SAMM); 3, Thurso, 14.06, 5 on 18.06 (SAMM); 1 S, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 9, Thurso, 27.06, 30.06, 02.07 (SAMM); first fledged, Wick, 29.06 (DM); 2, Wick (one seen entering hole in roof of building), 01.07 (Dr S Milligan); a nest, East Church St, Thurso, 06.07 (SAMM); 20, Thurso, 10.07 (SAMM); 3, Newtonhill, 19.07 (SAMM); 15, Thurso, 22.07 (SAMM); 2, Thurso, 25.07 (SAMM); 1, Puldagon, 27.07 (SAMM); 38, Thurso, 31.07 (SAMM); 2, St John's Pool/Loch, 31.07, 1 on 11.08 (JS); 14, Thurso, 07.08 (SAMM); 2, Thurso, 10.08 (SAMM); 23, Thurso, 11.08 (SAMM); 4, Thurso, 12.08 (SAMM); 22, Thurso, 13.08 (SAMM); 3, Thurso Riverside, 15.08 (SAMM); present Broubster, 15.08 (MS); 10, Thurso, 17.08 (SAMM); 2, Thurso Riverside, 18.08 (SAMM); 5, Thurso, 20.08 (SAMM); 6, Thurso, 21.08 (SAMM); 7, Thurso, 22.08 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 27.08, 1 on 28.08 (RH); 1 S, East Gills, Scrabster, 02.09 (SAMM); 1, Thurso, 27.09 (DAO).

### **Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus***

#### *Local resident; more widespread in winter*

1, Ham Pool, 27.05 (RH); 1 flushed from suitable habitat, Broubster Leans, 20.06 (MS).

### **Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana***

#### *Scarce migrant*

1 (S), St John's Pool, 21.06 to 05.07 (JS).

### **Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

#### *Local resident; more widespread in winter*

2, St John's, 04.01 (JS); 3, Ham Pool, 28.01 (RAF); 2, St John's Loch, 18.02, 25.02 (JS); 2, Ham Pool, 28.02 (HW); 1, Sandside Farm Pond, 01.03 (EM); 7, Westfield Marshes, 16.04 (JS); 2, St John's Pool, 20.05 (SAMM); 1, Newlands of Forse, 01.06 (PM); 1 pair + 3 yg, St John's Pool, 06.07 (JS); 4, St John's Pool/Loch, 14.10 (JS); 1 juvenile, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 1, Loch

Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 1 adult, Ham Pool, 29.10 (SAMM); 2, Loch Watten, 12.11 (SAMM); present, Gerston, 21.12 (DAO).

### **Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra***

*Local resident; passage and winter migrant, has declined.*

10, Loch Scarmclate, 10.02 (JS); 1, Ham Pool, 12.02 (SAMM); 1, St John's Loch, 18.02 (JS); 30, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02 (SAMM); 12, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 1, Brawlbin Inlet, 23.03 (NL); 1 pair, St John's Pool, 17.05 (JS); 1 pair + 5 yg, St John's Pool, 12.06 (JS); 1 pair + 2 yg, St John's Pool, 06.07 (JS); 1 pair + 2 yg, Ham Pool, 14.07 (PM); 16, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 52, Loch Scarmclate, 30.10 (PMM); 126, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11 (KM); 34, Loch Scarmclate, 17.12 (KM).

### **Common Crane *Grus grus***

*Scarce migrant*

2, Killimster, 06.05 (Ali Miller per PMM); 1 S, Tannoch, 06.05 (Lance Nicholson); 1 possible, Lyth, 04.11 (DM).

### **Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus***

*Scarce visitor*

Young male, Thuster pool, 06.05 to 10.05 (WM, SAMM, PMM). Accepted by SBRC.

### **Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus***

*Resident, passage and winter migrant*

389 records on "Birdtrack". 65, Sandside Bay, 13.01 (HW); 87, Thurso Bay, 20.01 (SAMM); 36, Ham Berry, 28.01 (RAF); 128, Sandside Bay, 14.02 (HW); 99, Thurso Bay, 18.02 (SAMM); 41, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); 149, Sandside Bay, 20.02 (HW); 60, Sandside Bay, 01.03 (EM); 71, Thurso Bay, 11.03 (SAMM); 108, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 62, Westerloch, 22.03 (PMM); 2, Brawlbin Inlet, 23.03 (NL); 106, St John's Pool/Loch, 20.03; 1 pair, Corriechoich, Braemore, 07.04 (AMc); 62, Sandside Bay, 24.04 (HW); 1, Gobernuisgeach, 26.05 (AMc); 1 pair + 2 yg, St John's Pool, 30.05 (JS); 1 pair + 2 yg, St John's Pool, 15.06 (JS); 8 pairs, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 36, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 80+, Sandside Bay, 20.07 (SAMM); 50, Castlehill, 01.08, 40+ on 10.08 (JS, SAMM); 65, Wick Riverside, 05.08 (DB); 40, Sandside Bay, 08.08 (HW); 120+m Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 20, Crosskirk, 08.09 (SAMM); 80+, Castlehill, 09.09 (SAMM); 47, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 14, Thurso Beach, 24.09 (SAMM); 101, Thurso Bay, 13.10 (SAMM); 45, Thurso Bay, 14.11 (SAMM); c.36, Murkle, 16.11 (RS); 90, Sandside Bay, 17.12 (HW).





*Black-winged Stilt*

*Will Manson*

**Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

*Scarce migrant*

1, Loch of Wester, 12.04 (PMM); 3, Sandside Bay, 07.05, 1 on 08.05 (HW, EM); 2 NE, Hilliclay, 20.08 (PH); 2, Dunnet Sands, 03.10 (Ian Phillips).

**European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

51 records on "Birdtrack". c.50, Loch Stemster, 27.02 (PM); c.68, Loch Watten, 27.02 (RH); 10, Sandside Bay, 10.03 (EM); 541, Achies, 18.03 (RH); c.350, Loch Watten, 05.04 (RH); 60+, Loch Scarmclate, 07.04 (WM); c.80, Noss Head, 10.04 (RH); c.200, Watten Mains, 13.04 (RH); c.230, Loch Scarmclate, 13.04 (RH); c.110, Dale, 17.04 (NL); 260, Brawlbin, 17.04 (JS); 300, East Murkle, 17.04 (RS); 2,000, Hilliclay, 18.04 (PH); 93, Loch Stemster, 19.04 (SAMM); c.70, West Calder, 19.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 160, Loch Scarmclate, 22.04 (Dean Macaskill); c.70, Auckengill, 22.04, c.80 on 27.04 (RH, JO); calling, Loch Caluim, 29.04 (NL); 1, Holborn Head, 02.05 (SAMM); 150+, Murkle, 02.05 (SAMM); calling, Cnocglas sheilings, north of Loch Caluim, 04.06 (NL); 1, near Cnocglas Water, 04.06 (NL); 2, Crosskirk, 08.09 (SAMM); 10, Ben Dorrery, 26.09 (NL); 7, Ben Dorrery, 07.10 (NL); 30, Ben Dorrery, 17.10 (NL); 147, Greenland, 27.10 (RH); 16, Ben Dorrery, 12.11 (NL).



*Grey Plover, Sandside*

*Eric Maughan*

**Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

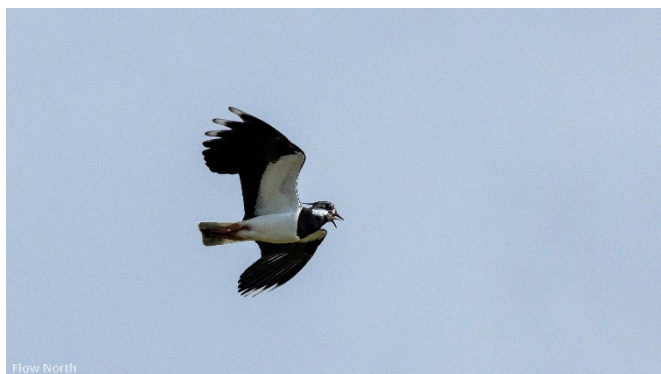
*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

260 records on "Birdtrack". 50, Sandside Bay, 04.01 (HW); 15, Duncansby Ness, 07.01 (WB); 33, Thurso Beach, 09.01, 30 on 19.01, 20.01 (SAMM); 30, Ackergill, 20.01 (WB); 28, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 98, Sandside Bay, 29.01 (HW); 47, Thurso Beach, 31.01 (SAMM); 50+, Thurso Beach, 06.02, 40+ on 07.02 (SAMM); 25, Thurso Beach, 13.02 (SAMM); 66, Sandside Bay, 14.02 (HW); 11, Thurso Beach, 17.02, 18.02 (SAMM); 34, Sandside Bay, 26.02 (EM); 17, Thurso Beach, 08.03 (SAMM); 17, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 17, Thurso Beach, 13.03, 8 on 14.03 (SAMM); 40, Sandside Bay, 17.03 (HW); 50, Dunnet Sands (east), 13.04 (JS); 124, Sandside Bay, 06.05 (HW); 46, Noss Head, 13.05 (NO); 14, Thurso Beach, 14.05 (SAMM); 1 pair + 3 yg, Freswick, 15.05 (RH); 100, Castlehill, 19.05 (PMM); 40+, Thurso Beach, 20.05 (SAMM); 28, Thurso Beach, 25.05 (SAMM); 2 fledged yg, Nybster, 04.06 (RH); 40+, Thurso Beach, 06.06, 07.06 (SAMM); 2 pairs (A), Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 2 pairs (A), Stroma, 16.07 (Dr Ian Francis); 18, Thurso Beach, 20.07 (SAMM); 30+, Sandside Bay, 20.07 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Berriedale, 20.07 (Caroline Vawdrey); 42, Sandside Bay, 08.08 (HW); 30, Thurso Beach, 09.08 (SAMM); 40+, Thurso Beach, 23.08 (SAMM); 96, Thurso Beach, 24.08 (SAMM); 50, Thurso Beach, 25.08 (SAMM); 40+, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); c.40, Keiss Beach, 03.09 (RH); 85, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 78, Sandside Bay, 17.09 (HW); 109, Sandside Bay, 19.09, 80+ on 25.09 (EM); 52, Thurso Beach, 24.09, 25.09 (SAMM); 28, Thurso, 27.09, 11.10 (SAMM); 97, Sandside Bay, 07.10, 76 on 09.10 (HW); 38, Thurso Beach, 13.10 (SAMM); 34, Thurso Beach, 24.10 (SAMM); 42, Thurso Beach, 28.10 (SAMM); 85, Sandside Bay, 12.11 (HW); 69, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO); 72, Sandside Bay, 11.12, 117 on 26.12 (HW).

## Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

241 records on "Birdtrack". c.100, Watten, 02.01 (PM); 119, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01 (JS); c.130, Nybster, 05.01 (RH); c.105, Auckengill, 07.01 (NO); 600+, Loch Watten, 07.01 (SAMM); 100, Milton, Wick, 11.01 (WB); 60, Bardnaheigh, Shebster, 15.01 (SAMM); c.170, Auckergill, 15.01 (NO); 101, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 270, Loch Scarmclate, 22.01 (KM); 50, Westfield Marshes, 22.01 (SAMM); c.140, Newlands of Forse, 22.01 (PM); 40, St John's Loch, 28.01 (RAF); 257, Greenland, 28.01 (RAF); 170, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); 100+, Watten, 03.02 (PM); 160, Canisbay, 05.02 (DAO); c.180, Loch of Wester, 05.02 (NO); 500, Loch Scarmclate, 10.02 (JS); 230, Brawlbin, 12.02 (DAO); 65, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 230, Loch Heilen, 18.02 (RH); 35, Loch of Mey, 18.02 (SE); 250, Loch Watten, 19.02 (SAMM); 73, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02 (SAMM); 36, Sandside Bay, 26.02 (EM); 42, Westfield Marshes, 11.03 (DAO); 3, Thurso East, 11.03 (SAMM); 5, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 21, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 20, Loch of Mey, 12.03 (SE); 1 (D), Achalone, 19.03 (SAMM); c.20, Brawlbin Schoolhouse, 20.03 (NL); c.10 (D), Tornameal, 21.03 (NL); 15 to 20, Brawlbin, 22.03 (NL); 11 pairs (D), Harpsdale, 25.03 (SAMM); 20 (D), Broubster, 17.04 (JS); 12, Brawlbin Inlet, 23.04 (DAO); 17+, Loch of Mey, 14.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 12 + 2 chicks, Brawlbin, 24.05 (EM); 30 (A), Harpsdale Mains, 24.05 (R Watson); at least 3 yg, Latheronwheel Strath, 03.06 (PM); 5 chicks in one field, Freswick, 05.06 (RH); 8 (A), Holborn Head, 09.06 (SAMM); 120+, Loch of Wester, 14.07 (PM); 124, Westerloch, 06.08 (PMM); c.48, Nybster, 19.08 (NO); c.300, between Calder and Halkirk, 25.08 (MS); c. 75, Freswick, 02.09, 104 on 03.09 (RH); 100+, Eastside, Dunnet, 03.09 (SAMM); 15+, Loch of Mey, 03.09 (SAMM); 27, West Clyth, 04.09 (DD); 110, Hallam, 12.09 (DAO); 98, St John's Pool/Loch, 12.09, 150 on 23.09 (JS); 7, Stemster Mains, 17.09 (DD); 300+, Stirkoke, 19.09 (SAMM); 130, St John's Pool/Loch, 01.10, 315 on 02.10, 220 on 03.10, 182 on 09.10 (JS); 50, Bullachach, 14.10 (SAMM); 84, Auckengill, 23.10 (RH); 72, Broubster Leans, 23.10, 63 on 30.10 (MS); 101, Nybster, 04.11 (RH); c.60, Newlands of Forse, 09.11 (PM); 110, Loch Scarmclate, 12.11, 17.12 (KM); 3, Loch of Mey, 17.11 (SE); c.230, Freswick, 26.11 (NR); 27, Hastigrow, 16.12 (DD); 48, Westfield Marshes, 17.12 (DAO); 110, Crosskirk, 17.12 (DAO).



*Lapwing*

*Niall Laybourne*

## Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

*Passage migrant*

12, Greenvale, 18.04 (JS); 1, Nybster, 20.04 (RH); 14, Murkle Bay, 25.04 (Penny Insole); 2, Castlehill, 26.04 (David Bremner); c.100, Murkle Bay, 28.04 (RS); 2, Sandside Bay, 28.04 (HW); 1 N, Reay, 28.04 (EM); 1 N, Reay, 30.04 (EM); 20+ NE, Thurso, 01.05 (SAMM); 6, Sandside

Farm, 01.05, 10 on 02.05, 1 on 04.05 (EM); 2, Coghill Loch, 02.05 (SAMM); 88, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.05 (JS); 2 N, Brough, 04.05 (DG); 1 N, Reay, 04.05 (EM); 23, Keiss Beach, 04.05 (PMM); 3 N, Reay, 10.05 (EM); 12, Loch of Mey, 12.05 (JS); 1 S, Noss Head, 17.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1, Dunnet Bay, 29.07 (JS); 1, Dunnet Bay, 03.09 (RH).

### **Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

384 records on "Birdtrack". 56, Sandside Farm, 04.01, 07.01 (HW, SAMM); 50, John O'Groats, 07.01 (WB); 22, Auckengill, 15.01 (NO); 84, Thurso East, 20.01 (SAMM); 65, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 56, Duncansby Ness, 28.01 (RAF); 76, Greenland, 28.01 (RAF); 71, Keiss Beach, 05.02 (NO); 65, Harrow Harbour, 15.02 (NSWG); 72, Reiss, 17.02 (DM); 105, Thurso Bay, 18.02 (SAMM); 26, Loch Heilen, 18.02 (RH); 63, Sandside Farm, 26.02 (EM); c.40, Watten, 02.03 (PM); 100+, Halkirk, 07.03 (JS); 78, Thurso East, 11.03 (SAMM); 1 (D), Newtonhill, 15.03 (SAMM); 60, Sandside Farm, 15.03 (EM); 1 pair, Brawlbin Schoolhouse, 22.03 (NL); 4, Brawlbin Inlet, 23.03 (NL); 1 pair, Corriechoich, Braemore, 07.04 (AMc); 3 (D), Holborn Head, 14.04, 2 (D) on 02.05 (SAMM); 1 (S), Reay, 18.04, 19.04, 30.04 (EM); 58, Auckengill, 01.05 (JO); 4 (T), St John's Pool, 09.05 (JS); nest with 3 eggs, Upper Dounreay, 23.05 (DO); 1 (A), 1 (D), Holborn Head, 09.06 (SAMM); 10, Duncansby Ness, 28.06 (WB); 3 x ¾ gr yg, Nybster, 15.07 (NO); 25, Pennyland, Thurso, 09.08 (SAMM); c.55, Keiss Beach, 27.08 (NO); 42, Sandside Farm, 02.09 (HW); 71, Thurso East, 13.10 (SAMM); 38, Sandside Farm, 23.10 (HW); c.29, Quoys of Reiss, 26.10 (PM); 37, Newlands of Forse, 10.11, 46 on 15.11 (PM); 72, Thurso East, 14.11 (SAMM); 60+, Thurso East, 16.12 (SAMM); 57, John O'Groats, 29.12 (NR); 25, Killimster, 29.12 (NR).

### **Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

*Passage and winter migrant*

1, Sandside Bay, 04.01 to 07.04 (HW, RAF); 1, East Murkle, 07.01 (JS); 4, Sandside Bay, 11.03 (HW); 1, Sandside Bay, 15.03 (EM); 1, Loch of Wester, 03.04 (PMM); 4, Dunnet Bay, 15.04 (RH); 5, Castlehill, 20.04 (PMM); 1, Sandside Bay, 23.04 (NSWG); present Dunnet Bay, 26.04 (Mark Breaks); 1, Sandside Bay, 07.05 (HW); 14, Keiss Beach, 22.08 (NO); 1, Quoys of Reiss, 22.08 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 1, Freswick, 01.09, 02.09 (RH); 6, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 4 on 23.09 (NO, RH); 2, Keiss, 24.09 (Mark Breaks); 1, Freswick, 24.09 (RH, Mark Breaks); 5, Castlehill, 29.09 (JS); 5, Castlehill, 12.10 (DB); 1, Noss Head, 06.11 (D O-E).

### **Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

*Passage migrant*

22, Loch of Wester, 10.04 (PMM); 1 to 4, St John's Pool, 10.04 to 28.05 (JS); 36, St John's Pool, 23.04 (JS); 3, Coghill Loch, 02.05 (SAMM); 1, Castlehill, 03.05 (PM); 16, St John's Pool, 22.06 to 24.06 (JS); 3, Loch of Wester, 20.06 (PMM); 1, Murkle Beach, 20.06 (RS); 5, Wester River, 23.06 (PMM); 30, St John's Loch, 29.06, 77 on 30.06 (JS); 20, St John's Pool, 05.07 (JS); 2, Stroma, 16.07 (Dr Ian Francis); 1, St John's Pool, 29.07 (JS).





*Bar-tailed Godwit, Sandside*

*Eric Maughan*



*Black-tailed Godwit*

*Julian Smith*

### **Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus***

*Scarce winter migrant*

2, Baillie Hill, 06.01 (DAO); 1, Newtonhill, 17.01 (WB); 1, Dunnet Bay, 21.01 (NO); 1, Yellow Moss, Shebster, 02.02 (DAO); 3, Reay, 08.03 (EM); 1, Backlass, Watten, 18.09 (DAO); 1, Skiall Wood, 12.11 (DAO).

### **Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola***

*Local resident; passage and winter migrant.*

1, Latheronwheel, 03.01 (PD); 1, St John's, 04.01 (JS); 2, Shebster, 04.01; 1, Limekiln, Reay, 05.01 (HW); 1, Westerdale, 27.01 (DB); 1, Shebster, 30.01 (DAO); 3, Shebster, 02.02 (DAO); 1, St John's, 20.02 (JS); 1, Skiall Wood, 03.03 (DAO); 1, Achreamie, 08.03 (DAO); 1, St John's Pool, 09.03 (JS); 1, Hastigrow, 10.03 (DAO); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 11.03 (JS); 1, Newlands of Forse, 13.03 (PM); 1, Ravenshill, 13.03 (DAO); 1, Skiall, 13.03 (DAO); 2, Dorrery, 30.03 (NL); 1, South Shebster, 25.04 (DAO); 1, Buchollie, 22.10 (WM); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 28.10 (RH); several, Dale, 28.10 (Greg Latham); 2, Achlipster, 29.10 (DAO); 1, Auckengill, 05.11 (RH, NO); 3, Skiall, 07.11 (DO); 4, Skiall Wood, 12.11 (DAO); 1, Banniskirk, 15.11 (SAMM); present, Lyth, 16.11 (Andrew Matthews); 1, Dunnet Forest, 19.11 (AMcB); 1, Freswick, 02.12 (RH); 1, St John's, 08.12, 10.12, 12.12 (JS); 1, Shebster, 16.12 (DAO); 2, Newlands of Forse, 17.12 (PM); 2, Skiall Wood, 27.12 (DAO); 1, Forsie, 28.12 (DAO).

### **Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago***

*Resident; passage and winter migrant*

123 records on "Birdtrack". 13, St John's Pool, 15.01, 15 on 24.02 (JS); 6, St John's Loch, 18.02 (JS); 3, Achow, 01.03, 8 on 04.03 (PD); 18, Westfield Marshes, 11.03 (DAO); 2, Loch Caluim Track, 25.03 (NL); 1 (D), Dorrery, 30.03 (NL); 4 chipping, Holborn Head, 14.04 (SAMM); 3, Loch Scarmclate, 22.04 (Dean Macaskill); 3 (D), Holborn Head, 02.05 (SAMM); present, Broubster Leans, 24.05 (EM); 5 (D), Holborn Head, 09.06 (SAMM); 4, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 1, Strathmore, 05.09 (SAMM); 11, Broubster Leans, 21.09 (MS); 6, St John's Pool/Loch, 23.09 (JS); 10, St John's Pool, 24.10 (JS); 16, Noss Head, 24.10 (DB); 12, St John's Pool, 01.11 (JS); 5, Achow, 07.11 (PD); 20, St John's Pool, 10.11, rising to 25 on 16.11 (JS); 8, Ham Berry, 17.11 (SE); 7, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH); 30, St John's Pool, 26.11 (JS); 11, Feswick, 02.12 (RH).

### **Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor***

*Scarce visitor*

1, Dunnet Sands, 03.09 and 04.09 (Jack Morris, RH). Subject to acceptance by BBRC.



*Wilson's Phalarope*

Jack Morris

**Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius***

*Scarce passage migrant*

1, Dunnet Bay, 11.10 (PMM); 2 N, Nybster, 20.10 (RH).

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

*Summer and passage migrant*

1, Westerdale, 17.04 (JS); 1, Sordale, 28.04 (RH); 1 ?, Wick Riverside, 28.04 (WM); 2, Loch More, 04.05 (NL); 1, Thurso Riverside, 13.05 (SAMM); 1, Loch Watenan, 21.05 (PMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 21.05 (PMM); 1, Forss Water (Broubster), 24.05 (EM); 3, Stroma, 22.07 (RH, SAMM); 1, Nybster, 24.07 (RH); 1, St John's Pool, 25.07 (JS).

**Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***

*Scarce passage migrant*

1 juvenile, St John's Pool, 24.08 (JS); 1, St John's Pool, 11.09 to 16.09 (JS); 1, John O'Groats, 01.10 (RH).

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

*Scarce summer and passage migrant*

1, Durran Marsh, 22.05 (PMM); 1, Wick Riverside, 27.05 (RH); 1, Halsary Windfarm, 28.06 (Glenn Norris).

### **Common Redshank *Tringa totanus***

*Resident, passage and winter migrant*

242 records on "Birdtrack". 36, Sandside Bay, 06.01 (HW); 20, Thurso Beach, 09.01 (SAMM); 80, Thurso Bay, 20.01 (SAMM); 67, Dunnet Bay, 21.01 (NO); c.35, Nybster, 22.01 (RH); 37, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 15, Sandside Bay, 26.01, 26.02 (EM); 23, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); c.30, Keiss Beach, 28.01 (NO); c.60, Castlehill, 03.02 (PM); 24, Thurso Bay, 18.02 (SAMM); 31, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); 37, Sandside Bay, 20.02 (HW); 56, Thurso Bay, 11.03 (SAMM); 50, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 20, Dunnet Bay (east), 22.04 (JS); 36, Sandside Bay, 01.05 (HW); 2 (D), Holborn Head, 02.05 (SAMM); 1 pair (D), St John's Pool, 17.05 (JS); 3 pairs (A), Holborn Head, 09.06 (SAMM); 1 pair (A), Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 16, St John's Pool, 04.07 (JS); 1 (A), Stroma, 16.07 (Alistair Clunas); 40, Sandside Bay, 02.08 (HW); 40+ roost, Burnside, Thurso, 24.08 (SAMM); 100+. Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 41, Sandside Bay, 03.09 (EM); 15, Thurso Beach, 12.09 (SAMM); 24, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 25, Sandside Bay, 19.09 (EM); 30, Thurso Beach, 25.09 (SAMM); 47, Sandside Bay, 01.10 (HW); 93, Thurso Bay, 13.10 (SAMM); 26, Harrow Harbour, 16.10 (SE); 74, Castlehill, 23.10 (SAMM); 72, Thurso Bay, 14.11 (SAMM, KM); 62, Sandside Bay, 28.12 (HW).

### **Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus***

*Scarce migrant*

1 W, Hilliclay, 05.08 (PH).

### **Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularus***

*Summer and passage migrant; has wintered.*

1, Loch Toftingal, 07.04 (WM); 1, Clâr Loch, 14.04 (RH); 2, Loch of Wester, 10.04, 26.04, 1 on 02.05 (PMM); 1, Sandside, 15.04 (HW); 2, Westfield, 16.04 (JS); 1 N, St John's Pool, 19.04 (JS); 1, Keiss Beach, 04.05 (PMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 21.05 (PMM); 2, Lochs Thormaid/Saorach, 05.06 (DAO); 1, Loch Meadhoin/Chracairnie, 04.06 (DO); 1, Wester River, 06.08, 12.08, 14.08, 17.08 (PMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 20.08 (PMM); 1, Freswick, 02.09, 03.09 (RH); 1, Loch of Mey, 03.09 (SAMM); 1, Duncansby Head, 07.09 (Linda Gibson); 1, St John's Pool, 17.09 (JS); 1, Thurso Beach, 20.09 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 17.09 (PMM).

### **Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

*Passage and winter migrant*

221 records on "Birdtrack". 20, John O'Groats, 07.01 (WB); 20+, Sandside, 07.01 (SAMM); 46, Thurso Beach, 09.01 (SAMM); 25, Reay, 13.01, 27.01 (Peter Binder); 20, Thurso Beach, 19.01 (SAMM); 33, Thurso Bay, 20.01 (SAMM); c.35, Dunnet Bay, 21.01 (NO); c.25, Freswick, 22.01 (RH); 68, Thurso Beach, 24.01 (SAMM); 55, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 60, Sandside Bay, 26.01 (EM); 41, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); 18, Ness of Huna, 28.01 (RAF); 23, Gills Bay, 28.01 (RAF); c.20, Keiss Beach, 28.01 (NO); 35, Sandside Bay, 29.01 (HW); 27, Loch Heilen, 29.01 (RAF); 29, South Head, Wick, 29.01 (PMM); 22, Harrow Harbour, 01.02 (PMM); 100, Thurso Beach, 09.02 (SAMM); 45, Thurso East, 18.02 (SAMM); 10, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); 20+, Thurso Beach, 05.03 (SAMM); 23, Freswick, 05.03 (RH); 11, Thurso Beach, 08.03 (SAMM); 6, Sandside Bay, 11.03 (HW); 2, Thurso East, 11.03 (SAMM); 10, Thurso Beach, 11.03 (SAMM); 32, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 9, Thurso Beach, 20.03 (SAMM); 16, Thurso Beach, 21.03 (SAMM); 16, Thurso Beach, 23.03 (SAMM); c.35, Harrow Harbour, 26.03 (NL); 28, Sandside Bay, 24.03 (HW); 48,



Sandside Bay, 24.04 (HW); 2, Thurso Beach, 01.05, 06.05 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 18.05 (NO); 4, Sandside Bay, 21.05 (HW); 6, Thurso, 03.06 (Dr Robert Conden).

2, Dunnet Bay, 26.07, 1 on 27.07 (JS); 1, Thurso Beach, 01.08 (SAMM); 1, Sandside Bay, 02.08 (HW); 5+, Castlehill, 10.08 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 14.08, 4 on 16.08 (RH); 2, Thurso Beach, 17.08 (SAMM); 6, Thurso Beach, 23.08 (SAMM); 80+, roost, Burnside, Thurso, 24.08 (SAMM); 2, Thurso Beach, 29.08; 12, Wick, 29.08 (Angus Jennings); 24, South Head, Wick, 30.08 (PMM); 15, Freswick, 01.09 (RH); 16, Sandside Bay, 02.09 (HW); 46, Freswick, 03.09 (RH); 15, Castlehill, 09.09; 6, Thurso Beach, 11.09, 2 on 12.09 (SAMM); 16, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 54, Sandside Bay, 17.09 (HW); 64, Sandside Bay, 19.09 (EM); 20, Thurso Beach, 24.09, 6 on 25.09, 8 on 27.09 (SAMM); 22, Dounreay, 27.09 (DAO); 30, Sandside Bay, 09.10 (HW); <20, Thurso Beach, 11.10 (SAMM); 114, Thurso Bay, 13.10 (SAMM); 36, Harrow Harbour, 16.10 (SE); 40, Castlehill, 23.10 (SAMM); 40, Thurso Beach, 28.10 (SAMM); 25, Sinclair' Bay, 06.11 (D O-E); 50, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E); 40, Harrow Harbour, 17.11 (SE); 44, Sandside Bay, 17.12 (HW).

### **Red Knot *Calidris canutus***

#### *Passage migrant*

1, Dunnet Bay, 03.02 (JS); 3, Dunnet Bay, 29.07 (JS); 1, Dunnet Bay, 01.08, 08.08 (JS, SAMM); 3, Castlehill, 11.08 (PMM); 5, Wester River, 12.08, 7 on 14.08 (PMM); 2, Keiss Beach, 22.08 (NO, RH); 1, Wick, 28.08 (DB); 4, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 9, Freswick, 01.09, 34 on 02.09, 42 on 03.09 (RH); 9, Nybster, 02.09 (RH); 1, Sandside Bay, 03.09 (EM); 27, Ushat Head, 08.09 (SAMM); 10, Castlehill, 09.09 (SAMM); 1, Freswick, 09.09 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 1, Nybster, 17.09 (RH); 4, Dunnet Sands, 22.09 (HW); 1, East Murkle, 25.09 (JS); present Thurso Riverside, 24.10 (Gary Aitken).

### **Ruff *Calidris pugnax***

#### *Scarce passage and winter migrant*

9, St John's Loch, 29.01 (RAF); 1 f, St John's Pool, 20.06, 21.06 (JS); 2, Nybster, 18.08, 1 on 19.08 (RH, NO); 2, Wick Riverside, 05.10 (Ian Phillips); 12, Wick Riverside, 09.10 (JO); 10, Wick Riverside, 10.10 (WM); 3, Loch Heilen, 12.11 (RH).

### **Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***

#### *Scarce migrant*

1, Dunnet Bay, 08.06 (TH); 1 juvenile, Dunnet Bay, 09.09 (SAMM); 1, Wester River, 04.10 (Ian Phillips).

### **Sanderling *Calidris alba***

#### *Passage and winter migrant*

54 records on "Birdtrack". 5, Thurso Beach, 09.01, 7 on 11.01, 15 on 12.01, 12 on 19.01, 20.01 (SAMM); 8, Dunnet Bay, 21.01 (NO); 3, Murkle Bay, 29.01 (RAF); 1, Thurso Beach, 07.02 (SAMM); 5, Thurso Beach, 17.02, 18.02 (SAMM); 14, Thurso Beach, 20.02 (SAMM); 20, Thurso Beach, 05.03 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Beach, 08.03, 14.03 (SAMM); 10, Dunnet Bay, 13.04 (JS); 10, Thurso Beach, 24.04 (SAMM); 15, Keiss Beach, 04.05 (PMM); 34, Sandside Bay, 21.05 (HW); 2, Thurso Beach, 25.05 (SAMM); 21, Freswick, 02.06 (NO); 11, Freswick, 05.06 (RH); 9, Sandside Bay, 19.06 (HW); 7, Sandside Bay, 15.07 (HW); 1, Thurso Beach, 01.08 (SAMM); 15, Sandside Bay, 02.08 (HW); 4, Thurso Beach, 03.08 (SAMM); 3, Thurso Beach, 09.08 (SAMM); 1,

Castlehill, 10.08 (SAMM); 5, Thurso Beach, 23.08 (SAMM); 150+, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 41, Thurso Beach, 01.09 (SAMM); 46, Sandside Bay, 03.09 (EM); 44, Freswick, 03.09 (RH); 18, Thurso Beach, 11.09, 25 on 12.09, 14.09 (SAMM); 11, Sandside Bay, 17.09 (HW); 48, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 20+, Thurso Beach, 22.09, 24.09, 25.09, 18 on 27.09 (SAMM); 27, Thurso Beach, 13.10 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Beach, 24.10, 6 on 27.10, 12 on 28.10 (SAMM); 15, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 19, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO); 1, Freswick, 02.12 (RH).

### **Dunlin *Calidris alpine***

#### *Summer, passage and winter migrant*

84 records on "Birdtrack". 20+. Sandside, 07.01 (SAMM); 6, Thurso Beach, 19.01, 20.01 (SAMM); 150, Dunnet Bay, 24.01 (JS); 4, Murkle Bay, 29.01 (RAF); 32, Sandside Bay, 29.01 (HW); 46, Sandside Bay, 26.02 (EM); 12, Sandside Bay, 11.03 (HW); 6, Sandside Bay, 24.04 (HW); 1 (D), Holborn Head, 02.05 (SAMM); 95, Sandside Bay, 06.05 (HW); 15, Nybster, 16.05 (RH); 26, Sandside Bay, 21.05 (HW); 1, near Cnocglas Water, 04.06 (NL); 32, Sandside Bay, 05.06 (HW); 1 pair (A), 4 (D), Holborn Head, 09.06 (SAMM); 1 pair (D), Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 14, Sandside Bay, 15.07 (HW); 3 pairs, Stroma, 16.07 (Dr Ian Francis); 1 (S), 1 (A), Canisbay, 16.07 (Alistair Clunas); 30+, Sandside Bay, 20.07 (SAMM); 3, Thurso Beach, 01.08 (SAMM); 9, Thurso Beach, 03.08, 09.08 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Loch a'Chiteadh, 06.08 (NL); 65, Wester River, 14.08 (PMM); 3, Thurso Beach, 23.08 (SAMM); 30+, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 28, Freswick, 03.09 (RH); 8, Castlehill, 09.09 (SAMM); 11, Sandside Bay, 19.09 (EM); 25, Sandside Bay, 17.09 (HW); 18, Dunnet Bay, 23.09 (Louise Clewley); 44, Dunnet Bay, 15.10 (NO); 20, Sandside Bay, 08.11 (D O-E); 80, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 146, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO).

### **Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima***

#### *Passage and winter migrant*

47 records on "Birdtrack". 10, Nybster, 05.01 (RH); 21, Auckengill, 07.01 (NO); 15, Scrabster Harbour, 07.01, 29 on 20.01 (SAMM); 25, John O'Groats, 07.01 (WB); 11, Sandside Bay, 19.01 (DO); 10, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 3, Freswick, 27.01 (RH); c.15, Keiss Beach, 28.01 (NO); 27, Auckengill, 28.01 (RH); 25, Scrabster Harbour (roost), 18.02 (SAMM); 2, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); 17, Sandside Bay, 26.02 (EM); 17, South Head, Wick, 01.03 (PMM); 5, Freswick, 05.03, 6 on 19.03 (RH); 37, Scrabster Harbour (roost), 11.03 (SAMM); 13, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 12, South Head, Wick, 11.03 (NSWG); 17, Nybster, 16.04 (RH); 29, Sandside Bay, 24.04 (HW); 1, Dounreay, 25.04 (DO); 8, Auckengill, 30.04, 7 on 02.05 (JO).

12, Sandside Bay, 08.11 (D O-E); 10, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E); 6, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 8, Nybster, 11.11 (NO); 12, Scrabster (roost), 14.11 (KM); 1, Freswick, 02.12 (RH); 22, Scrabster (roost), 15.12 (SAMM); 10, Sandside Bay, 17.12 (HW); 12, Crosskirk, 17.12 (DAO).

### **Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

1, Freswick, 02.09, 03.09 (RH).



*Little Stint*

*Rob Hughes*

**Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicauda***

*Scarce migrant, pelagic*

1, Nybster, 24.09 (RH, Mark Breaks).

**Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus***

*Summer migrant (declining); passage migrant*

71 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Keiss, 22.04 (RH); 1, Nybster, 23.04 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 26.04 (JO); 1/1.4 hr, Nybster, 27.04 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 30.04 (JO); 8, Dunnet Head, 23.05 (JS); 1, Murkle Bay, 28.05 (RS); 4, Dunnet Head, 04.06 (NO); 2, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 1 dark morph, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 1 dark morph, Thurso, 18.07 (SAMM); 1 N/0.75 hr, Nybster, 27.07 (RH); 1 dark morph, Thurso Bay, 01.08 (SAMM); 1 dark, 1 pale, Dunnet Bay (harassing terns), 08.08 (SAMM); 2 dark, Dunnet Bay, 10.08 (SAMM); 9 N, Nybster, 18.08 (RH); 4 N/2.0 hrs, Nybster, 06.09 (RH); 5, Dunnet Bay, 06.10 (JS); 8 N, Nybster, 18.10 (RH); 2/1 hr, Nybster, 19.10 (RH).

Records of one or two individuals from many coastal localities throughout the summer.

**Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus***

*Scarce migrant, pelagic*

1, Nybster, 22.04 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 13.10 (PMM); 1 N, Nybster, 18.10 (RH); 1 N, South Head, Wick, 19.10 (SAMM); 1 juvenile N, Keiss, 19.11 (RH).

**Great Skua *Stercorarius skua***

*Summer and passage migrant*

87 records on "Birdtrack". Bred Stroma and Dunnet Head. 1 N, Nybster, 30.03 (RH); 1, Nybster, 09.04 (RH); 2, Red Point, Sandside, 13.04 (HW); 1, Murkle Bay, 28.04 (RS); 1, Thurso Bay, 19.05 (SAMM); 12, Nybster, 07.06 (RH); c.20, Stroma, 13.06 (NO); 8 pairs (T, A), Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 10 pairs, Stroma, 16.07 (Dr Ian Francis); 1 suspect AIV, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 7, Stroma, 17.07 (DD); 3 N/0.75 hr, Nybster, 27.07 (RH); 10/hr N, South Head, Wick, 04.08 (SAMM); 1, Dunnet Bay (killed Herring Gull), 08.08 (SAMM); 5 N/1 hr, Nybster, 16.08 (RH); 6 N/0.5 hr, Nybster, 17.08 (RH); 23 N, Nybster, 18.08 (RH); 1 N, 2 S, Lybster, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 4 N/2.0hrs, Nybster, 06.09 (RH); 1 N, Nybster, 19.09 (RH); 1 Nybster, 25.09 (Mark

Breaks); 1, Brims Ness, 29.09 (GG); 1, Dunnet Bay, 06.10 (JS); 1, Nybster, 19.10 (RH); 1 N, South Head, Wick, 19.10 (SAMM).



*Arctic Skua harassing terns*

*Ruth Storm*

**Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica***

*Summer migrant, pelagic*

50 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Nybster, 24.02 (RH); 5, Nybster, 08.04, 6 on 20.04 (RH); 10+, Caithness east coast (Berriedale to Portormin), 20.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 1 suspect AIV, Stroma, 15.06 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 103+, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 60/15 mins, Nybster, 15.07 (RH); 33, Stroma, 17.07 (DD); 1 juvenile, Lybster, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 1, Nybster, 17.09 (RH); 2, Nybster, 20.10 (RH); 1, Nybster, 06.11 (RH).

### **Black Guillemot *Cephus grille***

#### *Coastal resident*

170 records on "Birdtrack". 3, Scrabster, 06.01 (SAMM); 6, Auckengill, 15.01 (NO); 18, Nybster, 27.01 (RH); 8, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); 3, Duncansby Ness, 28.01 (RAF); 32, Nybster, 16.02 (RH); 24, Nybster, 26.02 (NO); 26, Nybster, 02.03, 25 on 07.03, 27 on 30.03 (RH, NO); 9, Buchollie, 07.04 (RH); 21, Auckengill, 28.04 (JO); 3, Dunnet Head, 30.04 (NL); 27, Auckengill, 01.05 (JO); 1, Brims, 06.05 (NL); 40+, Latheronwheel, 17.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 20+, Skerry Mór, Clyth, 20.05 (WQ); 14, Ousbacky, Clyth, 20.05 (WQ); 15,676, Caithness east coast (Ord to Sarclet), 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 15, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); c.20, Nybster, 18.07 (NO); 6, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 10, Staxigoe, 10.10 (Tony Davies); 90, Scarfskerry, 23.10 (JS); 30, Nybster, 09.11 (D O-E); 42, Nybster, 01.12 (RH).

### **Razorbill *Alca torda***

#### *Summer migrant, pelagic*

169 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunnet Bay, 28.01 (RAF); present Auckengill, 04.02 (NO); 4, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); present Duncansby Head, 28.02 (HW); 10, Thurso Bay, 11.03 (SAMM); 18, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 30+, Thurso Bay, 14.04 (SAMM); c.40/1 hr, Auckengill, 26.04 (JO); c.170/1 hr, Auckengill, 28.04 (JO); 14,618, Caithness east coast (Ord to Sarclet), 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 50+, Dunnet Head, 09.06 (Audrey Turner); 370, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 30+, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 223, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); c.200, Dunnet Bay, 06.10 (JS); 16/1.5 hr, Auckengill, 08.10, 09.10 (JO); 16/1.5 hr, Auckengill, 10.10 (NO); 6, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 7/15 mins, Nybster, 28.11 (RH); 2, Sandside Bay, 11.12 (HW).

### **Little Auk *Alle alle***

#### *Winter irruptive migrant*

2 N, Nybster, 15.01 (RH); 1, Nybster, 04.02 (RH); 1, Dunnet Links (killed on road), 09.02 (JS); 2, Freswick, 18.03 (RH); 1 possible, Sandside, 15.04 (HW); 1 N, Nybster, 14.10 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 15.10 (NO, RH); 4 N, Nybster, 18.10 (RH); 5, Nybster, 20.10 (RH); 1, Scarfskerry, 07.11 (Sarah Dickinson); 2 N, Nybster, 28.11, 1 on 29.11, 1 on 01.12 (RH).

### **Common Guillemot *Uria aalge***

#### *Summer migrant, pelagic*

170 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Nybster, 05.01 (NO); 5, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 1, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); 2, Thurso Bay, 11.03 (SAMM); 1 suspect AIV, Keiss, 08.04 (RH); c.65/1 hr, Auckengill, 28.04 (JO); 15,670, Caithness east coast, 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 50+. Dunnet Head, 09.06 (Audrey Turner); 3,500, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 4 suspect AIV, Dunnet Bay, 23.07 (Tyler Mason); 1 suspect AIV, Buchollie, 02.09 (RH); 20+, 1 suspect AIV, Dunnet Bay, 16.09 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 15, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E); 1, Sinclair's Bay, 12/11 (Alice Martin); 4, Scrabster, 19.11 (Steve Palmer); 1, Nybster, 28.11 (RH).

### **Little Gull *Hydrocoleus minutus***

#### *Scarce migrant*

1, Scrabster Harbour, 20.01 (SAMM); 1x 1<sup>st</sup> yr, St John's Pool, 13.05 (JS); 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> yr, St John's Pool, 11.06 (JS); 1 N, Nybster, 18.08 (RH); 1 juvenile, Dunnet Bay, 23.09 (RH, Mark Breaks).

### **Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla***

*Passage and summer migrant*

144 records on "Birdtrack". 29, Nybster, 02.03 (NO); 1,500 over Dunnet Forest, 02.04 (JS); 1,000s E, into Dunnet Bay, 02.04 (KM); 98, St John's Pool/Loch, 05.04 (JS); 88, Sandside Bay, 07.05 (HW); 20, Holborn Head, 19.05 (Samantha Donovan); 6,140, Caithness east coast (Ord to Sarclet), 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 3,000, Dunnet Head, 24.05 (JS); 100 AON, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 2 suspect AIV, Berriedale, 20.07 (Caroline Vawdrey); 3 suspect AIV, Dunnet Head, 23.07 (NO); 50/hr N (mostly adults), South Head, Wick, 04.08 (SAMM); 50+ juveniles, Dunnet Bay, 09.08 (JS); c.525/1 hr, Nybster, 19.10 (RH); 2/35 mins, Nybster, 18.11 (RH); 13/15mins, Nybster, 28.11 (RH).

### **Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini***

*Scarce migrant, pelagic*

1 juvenile E, Brims Ness, 29.09 (GG); 1 adult N, Nybster, 18.10 (RH).

### **Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus***

*Resident, summer migrant*

189 records on "Birdtrack". First seen at St John's Pool on 18.02 (JS) when 25 birds present; minimum 350 pairs bred, young present by 20.05 (JS); a minimum 250 chicks fledged, 27.06 (JS); first juvenile at Thurso on 16.07 (SAMM); 1 suspected AIV, Noss, 24.07 (NO).

### **Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus***

*Scarce migrant*

1 x 1<sup>st</sup> s, St John's Pool, 04.05, 07.05, 09.05 (JS); 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> yr, St John's Pool, 26.05 (JS).

### **Common Gull *Larus canus***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

363 records on "Birdtrack". 250+, Reiss, 01.01 (DM); c.220, Newlands of Forse, 11.01 (PM); 100+, Thurso Bay, 20.01 (SAMM); 500, St John's Pool/Loch, 22.01 (JS); 132, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); c.350, Newlands of Forse, 06.02 (PM); 120+, Westerloch, 11.02 (DM); c.450, Newlands of Forse, 14.02 (PM); 200, Thurso East, 18.02 (SAMM); 300, St John's Pool/Loch, 18.02 (JS); 139, Nybster, 24.02 (RH); 130+, Ackergill, 25.03 (DM); 100+ pairs, sub-station, Stainland, 26.03, 29.03 (SAMM); 18 pairs, steading rooftop, Georgemas Farm, 26.03 (SAMM); 120+, Reiss, 01.04 (DM); 7 pairs, Loch Hollistan, 13.04 (SAMM); 70, Dounreay, 25.04 (DO); 11, waste ground, Thurso Station, 3 yg recently fledged, 25.06 (Steve Palmer); 73 pairs, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 25 pairs, steading rooftop, Georgemas Farm, 28.06 (SAMM); 45, Nybster, 13.07 (NO); 100+, Newlands of Forse, 28.07 (PM); 40+, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 338, Sandside Bay, 17.09 (HW); 400+, Reiss, 01.10, 500+ on 07.10 (DM); c.470, Sinclair's Bay (Reiss end), 09.10 (JO); 113, Sandside Bay, 10.10 (HW); 100, Thurso East, 13.10 (SAMM); 43, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); c.100, Newlands of Forse, 27.10 (PM); 250+, Reiss, 28.10, 100+ on 04.11 (DM); 100, Loch Calder, 10.11 (D O-E); 250, Knockglass, 11.11 (DAO); 150+, Reiss, 15.11 (DM); 300+, Quoys of Reiss, 15.11 (DM); 300+, Quoys of Reiss, 02.12 (PM); 170, Loch Calder, 17.12 (DAO); c.251, Sandside Bay, 17.12 (HW).

### **Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

#### *Resident*

597 records on "Birdtrack". 50+, Lyth, 01.01 (DM); 40, John O'Groats, 07.01; 87, Dunnet Bay, 21.01 (NO); 100, St John's Pool/Loch, 22.01 (JS); 218, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 350+, Wick, 27.01 (DM); 47, Greenland, 29.01 (RAF); 161, Thurso Bay, 29.01 (RAF); c.40, Badbea, 14.02 (Alastair Forsyth); 48, Castlehill, 17.02 (Peter Binder); 120, Dunbeath, 24.02 (DAO); 58, Loch Heilen, 12.03 (RH); 140, Clett Rock, Holborn Head, 14.04 (SAMM); c.120, Wick, 29.04 (JO); c.70, Dunbeath, 12.05 (Tony Laidlaw); 960, Caithness east coast (Ord to Sarclet), 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); c.90, many roof nesting with chicks seen, Wick (South), 01.07 (Dr S Milligan); c.180, Newlands of Forse, 13.07 (PM); rooftop nests on Olrig St, Brabster St (juveniles exercising wings), Thurso, 16.07, 17.07 (SAMM); 1 suspect AIV, Stroma, 18.07 (Carole Davis); 67+, Latheronwheel, 20.07 (PM); 20 pairs (A), Stroma, 22.07 (SAMM); 3 suspect AIV, Stroma, 28.07 (Alister Jennings); 40+, Wick, 29.08 (Angus Jennings); 80+, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 61, Freswick, 03.09 (RH); 100, St John's Pool/Loch, 12.09 (JS); c.65, Thurso, 07.10 (JO); c.65, Sinclair's Bay, 09.10 (JO); c.180, Wick, 09.10 (JO); 87, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO); 100+, St John's Pool/Loch, 17.12 (JS).

### **Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***

#### *Resident, declining.*

329 records on "Birdtrack". 16, Auckengill, 07.01 (NO); c.23, Nybster, 18.01 (NO); 25, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 15, Thurso, 29.01 (RAF); 6+, Scrabster Harbour, 11.03 (SAMM); 2 pairs, (big decrease in numbers), Clett Rock, Holborn Head, 14.04 (SAMM); 9, Loch of Mey, 14.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 155, Caithness east coast (Ord to Sarclet), 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 61 pairs, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 27, Scrabster, 29.07 (DAO); 12, Crosskirk, 08.09 (SAMM); 11, St John's Pool/Loch, 12.09 (JS); 72, Loch Hempriggs, 17.09 (PPM); 16, Sandside Bay, 07.10 (HW).

### **Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus***

#### *Scarce passage and winter migrant*

1, Nybster, 15.01, 18.01 (RH, NO); 1, Skinnet, 24.02 (B/G); 1 juvenile N, Nybster, 24.02 (RH); 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> w, Broubster, 24.02 (PH); present, Loch of Wester, 06.03 (B/G); 1, Freswick, 19.03 (RH); 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> w, Sandside Bay, 23.03 (John Bell); 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> yr, Thurso Beach, 16.05 (SAMM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 23.09 (RH); 1 S, Nybster, 28.10 (RH).

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

#### *Local summer migrant; passage migrant.*

1, Achscrabster, 28.02 (DAO); 1, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 2, Nybster, 17.03 (RH); 1, Thurso, 18.03 (RH); 1, Nybster, 23.03, 1 on 30.03; 1, Whitefield, Reiss, 25.03 (PMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 27.03 (PMM); 2, Killimster, 31.03 (PMM); 3, Loch of Wester, 20.04 (SAMM); 1, Thurso, 24.04 (SAMM); 3, Killimster, 09.05, 2 on 10.05, 1 on 14.05 (PMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 14.05 (SAMM); 2, Achinabust, 11.06 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 14.06, 17.07 (SAMM); 4, Nybster, 16.07 (RH); 1, Thurso, 19.07 (SAMM); 2 (A), Stroma, 22.07 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 19.08 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 22.08 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 24.08 (RH); present Staxigoe, 09.10 (Tony Davies); 1, Scrabster, 19.11 (Steve Palmer).



### **Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides***

#### *Passage and winter migrant*

1 x 1<sup>st</sup> winter, 1 adult, Scrabster Harbour, 06.01, 07.01 (SAMM); 1 adult, Thurso River, 16.01, 18.01 (PH, PS); 1 juvenile, Nybster, 16.01 (RH); 4 (juvenile, 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> w, 1x 3<sup>rd</sup> w, adult), Thurso Bay (Scrabster), 20.01 (SAMM, KM); 1, Gills Bay, 20.01 (DAO); 1 adult, Thurso Beach, 24.01 (SAMM); 1 x adult, 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> winter, Thurso Riverside, 31.01 (SAMM); 2 adults, Thurso Riverside, 02.02 (PH); 1x 1<sup>st</sup> w, Thurso, 06.02 (EM); 1x 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Thurso, 18.02 (SAMM); 1 adult, Thurso Beach, 20.02 (SAMM); 3, Scrabster, 21.02 (B/G); 1, Brough, 21.02 (JS); 1 adult, Thurso Riverside, 27.02 (SAMM); 2 subadults, Scrabster, 28.02 (GG); 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> w, Watten, 28.02 (GG); 1 adult, 1 x 3<sup>rd</sup> w, 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup> w, Scrabster, 02.03 (KM); 1, Scrabster, 03.03 (KM); 1 to 4, Scrabster, 08.03, 09.03, 19.04 (GG, NO, HW); 2, Nybster, 11.03 (B/G); 1, Shebster, 10.03 (B/G); 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> w, Scrabster Harbour, 11.03 (SAMM); 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> w, Thurso Riverside, 19.03 (SAMM); 1 adult, Castlehill, 23.03 (AA, PMM); 1 sub-adult, Scrabster, 19.04 (John Bell); 1, Thurso Riverside, 07.05 (NSWG); 1, Noss Head, 13.05 (NO); 1, Dounreay, 22.12 (DAO); 1 adult, Scrabster, 30.12 (KM).



*Iceland Gull, Scrabster*

*George Gay*

### **Little Tern *Sternula albifrons***

#### *Local summer migrant*

1, Castlehill, 12.05 (JS); 6, Reiss, 22.05 (DAO); 1 N, Nybster, 17.08 (RH).

### **Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***

#### *Scarce migrant*

1 juvenile, Dunnet Bay, 03.09, 04.09 (Jack Morris, Seân Kerr).



### **Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea***

#### *Summer migrant*

74 records on "Birdtrack". 1, St John's Pool, 25.04 (JS); 4, Sinclair's Bay, 30.04 (JO); 3, Keiss Beach, 30.04 (RH); 1, St John's Pool, 01.05 (JS); present, Sandside Bay, 07.05, 08.05 (HW); 6 (D), Victoria Walk, Thurso, 08.05 (SAMM); 24, Thurso Bay, 09.05 (SAMM); 45 pairs, St John's Pool, 23.05, up to 60 to 70 pairs on 06.06 (JS); 10 nests (chicks on ground), waste ground, Premier Inn, Thurso, 27.06 (SAMM); 18 pairs with well-gr yg, Premier Inn, Thurso, 08.07 (SAMM); 3, Sandside Bay, 15.07 (HW); 100+ (A), Stroma, 22.07 (SAMM); 150, Dunnet Bay, 26.07 (JS); 25 (including 7 juveniles), Dunnet Bay, 29.07 (JS); 3, Thurso Bay, 01.08 (SAMM); c.20 (including 1<sup>st</sup> summer bird), Castlehill, 08.08 (SAMM); 4, Thurso Bay, 23.08 (SAMM); 11, Thurso Bay, 03.09 (SAMM); 2, Dunnet Bay, 23.09 (Mark Breaks); 1, Freswick, 01.10 (RH); 1, Nybster, 14.10 (RH).



*Sandwich Tern*

*Julian Smith*

### **Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***

#### *Summer migrant*

61 records on "Birdtrack". 2, Loch of Wester, 20.04 (NO, Steven Williams); 2, Nybster, 26.04 (RH); 4, Auckengill, 26.04 (JO); calling over Thurso, 01.05 (SAMM); 1, St John's Pool, 01.05 (JS); 2 flying inland, Thurso, 02.05 (SAMM); 2, Thurso Riverside, 08.05, 09.05, 13.06 (SAMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 21.05, 20.06 (PPM); 9 pairs, St John's Pool (JS); 3 pairs, steading rooftop, Georgemas Farm, 28.06 (SAMM); a chick noted, St John's Pool, 20.07 (JS); 50+, Stroma, 22.07 (SAMM); 2 pairs + 4 juveniles, Castlehill, 08.08 (SAMM); 4 adults + 6 juveniles, Burnside,

Thurso, 24.08 (SAMM); 11, Thurso Bay, 04.09 (SAMM); 2, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 4, Dunnet Bay, 23.09 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 29.09 (JS); 1 "comic", Sandside Bay, 29.09 (HW).

### **Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis***

#### *Summer migrant*

64 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunnet Bay, 28.03 (SE); 3, St John's Pool, 04.04, 7 on 11.04 (JS); 2, Sandside Bay, 15.04 (HW); 3, Dunnet Bay, 15.04 (RH); 6 pairs on eggs, St John's Pool, 07.05 (JS); 1, Thurso Bay, 08.05, 09.05, 2 on 10.05 (SAMM); first yg hatched, St John's Pool, 23.05 (JS); 14 to 15 pairs bred, St John's Pool, 10.06 (JS); 10, St John's Pool, 26.07 (JS); 2, Thurso Bay, 01.08 (SAMM); 7, Sandside Bay, 02.08 (HW); 3, Thurso Bay, 17.08 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Bay, 19.08 (SAMM); 2, Keiss Beach, 27.08 (NO); 6, Castlehill, 01.09 (PM); 1, Keiss Beach, 03.09 (RH).

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

#### *Local summer migrant; passage and winter migrant*

3, Thurso Bay, 07.01 (SAMM); 1, Wick River Basin, 27.01 (DM); 1, Gills Bay, 28.01 (RAF); 1, Thurso Bay, 18.02 (SAMM); 8, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO); 3, Thurso Bay, 11.03 (SAMM); 1, Harrow Harbour, 12.03 (SE); 1, Loch Burifa, 02.04 (DG); 1, Sandside Bay, 15.04 (HW); 15, Dunnet Bay, 12.05 (JS); 6, Dunnet Head, 04.06 (RH); 2, Thurso Bay, 07.06, 18.06 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Bay, 27.06 (SAMM); 1, Lybster, 28.08 (Angus Jennings); 2, Duncansby Head, 07.09 (Linda Gibson); 1, Dunnet Bay, 09.09 (SAMM); 7, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 1, Thurso Bay, 25.09 (SAMM); 3 E, Brims Ness, 29.09 (GG); 1 N, Nybster, 18.10 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 19.10 (SAMM); 4, Sinclair's Bay, 06.11 (D O-E); 4, Thurso Bay, 08.11 (D O-E); 4, Sandside Bay, 08.11 (D O-E); 4, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 6, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO). Other records from John O'Groats, Loch Heilen, St John's Loch, Nybster, Keiss and Freswick.

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

#### *Local summer migrant; passage and winter migrant*

1, Thurso Bay, 07.01 (SAMM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 07.01 (SAMM); 1, Wick Riverside, 26.01 (NSWG); 1, Ackergill, 28.01 (RH); 4, Nybster, 02.02 (RH); 11, Keiss Beach, 21.02 (B/G); 1, Thurso Bay, 18.02 (SAMM); 1, Ackergill, 28.03 (Fiona Reid); 2, Loch Stemster, 17.04 (George Harper); 2, Sandside Bay, 24.04 (DAO); 1, Murkle Bay, 25.04 (Penny Insole); 1, Sandside Bay, 08.05 (HW); 1, Nybster, 11.05 (NO); 1, Dunnet Bay, 19.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 5, Loch Stemster, 20.05 (PM); 5, Loch Watten, 27.05 (RH); 1, Wick Bay, 28.05 (DB); 1, Murkle Bay, 28.05 (RS); present Thurso Bay, 08.06 (David Bremner); 3, Lochan Dubh Cùl an Loin, 10.06 (NL); present, Loch Rangag, 13.06 (Dr Roger Christopher); 1, Loch of Wester, 20.06 (PPM); present Dunnet Bay, 23.06 (Seân Kerr); 2, Keiss, 03.09 (RH); 1, Loch Meadie, 05.09 (SAMM); 1 N, Nybster, 06.09 (RH); 6, Keiss, 23.09 (RH, Mark Breaks); 1, Keiss, 04.10 (Ian Phillips); 3, Sinclair's Bay, 09.10 (JO); 1, Auckengill, 09.10 (JO); 1, Nybster, 10.10 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 11.10 (JO); 1 N, Nybster, 18.10 (RH); 13, Nybster, 06.11 (RH); 2, Sinclair's Bay, 06.11 (D O-E).

### **Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

#### *Passage and winter migrant*

117 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Scrabster, 06.01 (SAMM); 3, Thurso Bay, 07.01 (SAMM); 5, Dunnet Bay, 07.01 (SAMM); 17, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 1, Thurso Bay, 27.01 (SAMM); 3, Gills Bay, 28.01 (RAF); 3, Murkle Bay, 29.01 (RAF); 8, Sandside Bay, 30.01 (RAF); 2, Thurso Bay,

18.02 (SAMM); 5, Dunnet Bay, 18.02 (NO, RH); 3, Scrabster, 03.03 (KM); 1, Sandside Bay, 11.03 (HW); 2, Thurso Bay, 11.03 (SAMM); 7, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 10, Sinclair's Bay, 22.03 (PMM); 10, Dunnet Bay, 23.03 (PMM); 1, Thurso Harbour, 27.03 (NL); 2, Thurso Harbour, 28.03 (Alison MacParlane); 1, Thurso Bay, 03.04, 04.04 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Harbour, 04.04 (SAMM); 3, Thurso Bay, 05.04 (SAMM); 10, Dunnet Bay, 13.04, 15 on 22.04 (JS); 1, Sandside Bay, 15.04 (HW); 1, Thurso Bay, 17.04 (SAMM, NL); 2, Sandside Bay, 24.04 (HW); 5, Dunnet Bay, 30.04 (NL); 1, Thurso Bay, 08.05, 4 on 10.05, 12.05 (SAMM); 20, Dunnet Bay, 12.05 (JS); 2, Thurso Bay, 13.05, 1 on 14.05 (SAMM); 9, Dunnet Bay, 09.08 (JS); 1, Thurso Bay, 21.08 (SAMM); 11, Dunnet Bay, 15.10 (Michael Thornton); 24, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO); 1, Scrabster Harbour, 16.12 (SAMM); 1, Sandside Bay, 17.12 (HW).

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

*Scarce visitor*

1 juvenile, Dunnet Bay, 10.06 to 24.06 (JS, PMM, RH, Seân Kerr).

### **European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

*Local summer migrant; passage migrant, pelagic*

24 (caught for ringing), Nybster, 16.07 (RH); present Stroma, 22.07 (RH); 1 S, Broadhaven, Wick, 19.08 (RH); 1, Nybster, 14.09 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 06.10 (JS); 5, Nybster, 20.10 (RH).

### **Leach's Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous***

*Passage migrant*

2, Dunnet Bay, 11.10 (PMM).

### **Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis***

*Resident*

194 records on "Birdtrack". 2 on cliff, Victoria Walk, Thurso, 27.01 (SAMM); 97, Sandside Head, 13.01 (HW); 82, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 175, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); 49, Ham Berry, 28.01 (RAF); 393, Dunnet Bay, 28.01 (RAF); 4,599/1 hr, Nybster, 24.02 (RH); 20+, Holborn Head, 18.02 (SAMM); 1,290 AOS, Caithness east coast (Ord to Portormin), 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 500+, Dunnet Head, 09.06 (Audrey Turner); 270 AOS, south and west side, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 200, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 80/hr S, South Head, Wick, 04.08 (SAMM); 184/0.5 hr, Nybster, 25.08 (RH); 80+, Duncansby Head, 30.08 (Angus Jennings); 26, Lybster, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 200, Duncansby Head, 06.11 (D O-E).

1 "Blue morph", Nybster, 17.09 (RH).

### **Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea***

*Scarce visitor, pelagic*

1 N, Nybster, 18.08 (RH, NO). Accepted by SBRC.

### **Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea***

*Passage migrant, pelagic*

1 N/0.75 hr, Nybster, 27.07 (RH); 2, Thurso Bay, 03.08 (SAMM); 3/1 hr, Nybster, 16.08 (RH); 3/0.5 hr, Nybster, 17.08 (RH); 14 N, Nybster, 18.08 (RH); 3/0.5 hr, Nybster, 19.08 (RH); 3 N, South Head, Wick, 19.08 (PMM); 8/1.25 hr N, Wick, 19.08; 1/0.5 hr, Nybster, 25.08 (RH); 1, Nybster, 31.08 (RH); 3 N, Lybster, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 1 W, Holborn Head, 05.09 (KM); 2, Duncansby Head, 05.09 (Seân Kerr); 12 N/0.75 hr, Nybster, 05.09 (RH); 5 N/2 hrs, Nybster, 06.09 (RH).

### **Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus***

*Passage migrant, pelagic*

1 N, Nybster, 12.04, 1 on 23.04 (RH); 2, Nybster, 16.05 (RH); 2, Dunnet Bay, 27.05 (RH); 15 W, Crosskirk, 06.06 (KM); 16/1 hr, Nybster, 07.06 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 12.07 (JS); 18/0.5 hr, Nybster, afternoon, 14.07 (RH); 30/1 hr, Nybster, evening, 14.07 (RH); 16 N/0.75 hr, Nybster, 27.07 (RH); 64/1 hr, Wick, 10.08; 16/1 hr, Nybster, 16.08 (RH); 15/0.75 hr, Nybster, 17.08 (RH); 144/7.40 hrs N, Nybster, 18.08 (RH); 11/1 hr, Wick, 19.08; 5/0.75 hr N, Lybster, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 11/6 hrs, Nybster, 31.08 (RH); 5 N, Nybster, 06.09 (RH); 1 N, South Head, Wick, 17.09, 1 on 18.09, 5 N on 19.09 (PMM); 8 W, Brims Ness, 29.09 (GG); 1, Auckengill, 07.10 (JO); 4, Nybster, 07.10 (RH); 4 N, Nybster, 18.10 (RH).

### **Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus***

*Passage migrant, pelagic*

164 records on "Birdtrack". Recorded all months but few records in winter (January to March, November, December). 2, Brims Ness, 29.01 (RAF); 51/1.5 hr, Nybster, 23.04 (RH); 45/20 mins, Nybster, 15.07 (RH); 133/0.75 hr, Nybster, 17.08 (RH); 50, Dunnet Bay, 06.10 (JS); c.80/0.75 hr, Freswick, 06.10 (JO); c.145/1.5 hr, Auckengill, 08.10 (JO); c.130, Sinclair's Bay, 09.10 (JO); c.120/1.5 hr, Auckengill, 10.10 (JO); 130/hr N, South Head, Wick, 19.10 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 01.12 (RH).

### **Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

*Local summer migrant; passage and winter migrant*

171 records on "Birdtrack". 23, Loch Watten, 07.01 (SAMM); 14, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 10, Little Clett, 12.03 (SE); 5, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 1, Sandside Burn, 22.03 (EM); 1, Torran Water, 25.03 (NL); 30+, Ord Point, 19.05 (WQ); 12, Freswick, 09.09 (RH); 7, Dunnet Bay, 17.09 (NO); 3, Thurso Harbour, 13.10 (SAMM); 2, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 76, Sandside Bay, 23.10 (HW); 10, Dunnet Head, 05.11 (D O-E); 10, Duncansby Head, 06.11 (D O-E); 15, Loch Watten, 15.11 (JS); 54, Sandside Bay, 11.12 (HW).

### **Shag *Gulosus aristotelis***

*Resident, coastal*

249 records on "Birdtrack". 25, John O'Groats, 07.01 (WB); 36, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 38, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); c.30, Auckengill, 29.04 (JO); c.220, Noss Head, 13.05 (NO); 1,230, Caithness east coast (Ord to Portormin), 19.05 to 21.05 (WQ); 50, feeding on sand-eels, Thurso Bay, 22.05 (SAMM); 50+, Thurso Bay, 07.06 (SAMM); 130, Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 100, Brough, 27.07 (JS); 60, Gills Bay, 03.08 (DO); 57, Auckengill, 11.10 (JO); 24, Thurso Bay, 13.10 (SAMM); 200+, Thurso Bay, 22.10, 25.10 (SAMM); 50, Duncansby Head, 06.11 (D O-E); 160, Thurso Bay, 14.11 (SAMM); 15, Dunnet Bay, 19.11 (NO); 170, Thurso Bay, 10.12 (SAMM).



**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

*Scarce visitor*

1, Ham Pool, 22.05, 23.05 (Tony Adlard, JS, RH, David Bremner).



*Little Egret*

*Julian Smith*

**Great White Egret *Ardea alba***

*Scarce visitor, but with increased sightings. Records probably involved at least three separate birds.*

1, Loch Scarmclate, 17.05 (Dean Macaskill, RH); 1, Loch Watten, 19.05 (PMM, RH); 1, Forss Water, 08.11 to 14.11 (Evan Sutherland, RH); 1, Loch of Wester, 19.11, 21.11 (PMM, RH, DB); 1, Loch Watten, 19.11, 20.11, 23.11 (KM, PMM); 1, Bridge of Westfield, 25.11 (NR); 1, Harpsdale, 28.11 (Greg Latham).



*Great White Egret, Forss Water Karen Munro*

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

*Local summer migrant; passage and winter migrant*

111 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Wick, 01.01 (DM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 20.01 (SAMM); 1, Loch Watten, 22.01 (SAMM); 4, Larel, 04.02 (DAO); 1, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 17.02, 18.02 (SAMM); 1, Loch Watten, 19.02 (SAMM); 2, Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 3, Loch of Mey, 12.03 (SE); 1, Wick, 08.04 (DM); 6, Auckengill, 28.04 (JO); 1, Broubster, 14.05 (SAMM); 1, Sandside Farm, 17.05 (EM); 1, Broubster Leans, 24.05 (EM); 1, Braemore, 26.05 (AMc); 4, Loch of Wester, 19.06, 20.06 (RH, PPM); 3, Loch of Wester, 09.07 (PPM); 1, Stroma, 22.07 (SAMM); 2, Loch Stemster, 13.08 (SAMM); 1, Lybster, 13.08 (SAMM); 6, Loch of Mey, 03.09 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Strathmore, 05.09 (SAMM); 4, Loch of Mey, 08.09 (Linda Gibson); 3, Loch Stemster, 09.09 (SAMM); 6, Forss, 13.09 (DAO); 1, Thurso East, 1, Thurso Riverside, 13.10 (SAMM); 2, Loch Watten, 15.10 (SAMM); 1 adult, 1 juvenile, Thurso Riverside, 27.10 (SAMM).

### **Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

#### *Summer migrant*

1 m, Dorrery, 23.03 (NL); 1 m, 1 f, Dorrery nest, 02.04 (NL); 3, Dorrery, 03.04, 2 flew north towards Broubster/Calder (NL); 1 m, Torran Water, 04.04 (NL); 1 m, Dorrery nest, 07.04 (NL); 3 (2 on nest), Dorrery, 10.04 (NL); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 14.04 (RH); 1 m, 1 f, Brawlbin nest, 10.04 (SAMM); 1, Broubster, 17.04 (JS); female on nest, Brawlbin, 19.04, 14.05, 02.07 (SAMM); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 22.04 (Dean Macaskill); 1, Loch of Wester, 26.04 (PMM); 1, Lochside, Calder, 28.04, 28.06 (NL); 1, Loch Caluim, 29.04, 04.06, 16.07, 29.07, 06.08 (NL); 1, Brawlbin, 29.04 (JS); 1, Loch Watten, 02.05 (RH); 1 m, 1 f, Brawlbin nest, 08.05 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 1, Cnocglas and 2, Lochside, Calder, 06.05 (NL); 1, St John's Loch, 09.05 (JS); 1, Loch Calder (hunting), 16.05, 2 hunting on 19.05, 22.05 (NL); 5, Loch Scarmclate, 17.05 (Dean Macaskill); 1 N, Freswick, 17.05 (RH); 2, Wester River, 18.05 (PMM); 1 flying NW, St John's Pool, 20.05 (JS); 4, Loch of Wester, 20.05, 3 on 21.05 (NO, PMM); 1 m, Brawlbin, 23.05 (NL); 1, Loch Caise, 24.05 (RH); 1, Wick Riverside, 27.05, 28.05 (WM, RH); 1, Langwell Strath, 31.05 (AMc); 1, St John's Pool, 06.06 (JS); 1, Thurso Riverside, 07.06 (NSWG); 1, Forss, 11.06 (DO); present Loch Rangag, 13.06 (Dr Roger Christopher); 1, Loch of Wester, 23.06 (RH); 1, hunting, Strathmore/Loch More, 24.06, 28.06 (NL); 1 f on nest, Brawlbin, 02.07 (SAMM); 1 m, 1 f, nest, Stemster Mains, 05.07 (SAMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 09.07 (PPM); 1, Dorrery, 15.07 (NL); 2, Loch Caluim, 16.07 (NL); 2, plantation between Loch Calder and Loch Olginey, 19.07 (NL); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 20.07, 21.07 (JS); 3, Loch Shurrery, 21.07, 02.09 (NL); 1, nest, Brawlbin, 29.07 (NL); 1, Torran Water, 14.08 (NL); 1 flying NW, St John's Loch, 15.08 (JS); 1, Long Loch, Dunnet Head, 16.08 (DG); 1, Brawlbin, 17.08 (NL); 2, Milton, 17.08 (PD); 1, Rumster, 23.08 (PD); present Loch Calder, 25.08 (MS).





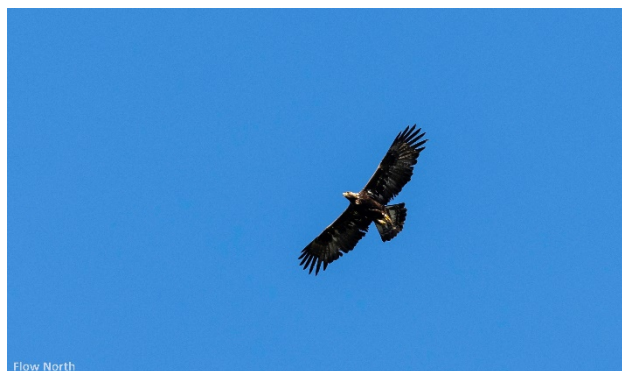
*Osprey*

*Niall Laybourne*

**Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos***

*Local resident*

Adult chasing geese, Loch Shurrery, 14.03 (NL); 1, Loch More to Loch Meadie, 15.03 (NL); 1 sub-adult, Ben Dorrery, 15.04 (NL); 1 sub-adult, Torran Water, 17.04 (NL); 1 sub-adult, Dorrery, 12.05 (NL); 1, Governuisgeach, 26.05 (AMc); present Scarabens, 27.05 (RH); 1, Loch Caluim track, 04.06 (NL); 1, Achavanich, 13.08 (DO); 1, Ousdale, 27.08 (DD); 1, Munsary, 30.08 (Alistair Whyte); 1, Braemore, 24.09 (DO); 1, Beinn Freiceadean, 07.10 (NL).



*Golden Eagle*

*Niall Laybourne*

**Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

*Passage migrant*

1 m, S, Loch Heilen, 19.02 (per JS); 1, Drumhollistan, 09.04 (DAO); 1, Loch Olginey, 16.07 (DAO); juvenile f, Loch Watten/Gillock, 20.09 (NL, SAMM).



*Hen Harrier male sky-dancing Niall Laybourne*

### **Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus***

*Resident; passage and winter migrant*

91 records on "Birdtrack". Slight peak in records in spring (April, May), obvious peak in autumn and early winter (September to December). Minimum of 5 to 6 breeding pairs, and probably double that. Widespread in winter, more localized in the breeding season. 1 m, Camster, 04.01 (PD); 1 f, Puldagon, 18.01 (SAMM); 1, Broubster, 21.01 (SAMM); 1 young male, Broubster, 05.02 (SAMM); 2 ff, East Murkle, 07.03 (RS); 1 f, Loch Caluim, 25.03 (NL); 1 m, Strathmore, 02.04 (NL); 1 f, Loch Caluim track, 07.04 (NL); 1 m, Shurrery, 10.04 (NL); 2 mm, Strathmore, 18.04 (NL); 2, Broubster, 23.04 (DO); 1 m, Lochside, Loch Calder, 29.04 (NL); 1 m, Loch Meadhoin, 01.05 (NL); 1 pair between Ben Dorrery and Torran, 01.05 (NL); 2 mm, Dirlot to Westerdale, 08.05 (NL); 1, Blar nam Faileag, 15.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1, RSPB Broubster, 15.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1 m, Dirlot to Westerdale, 20.05, 27.05 (NL); 1 m, Berriedale Braes (south), 26.05 (AMc); 1, Loch Killimster, 14.06 (PPM); 1 f, Broubster, 28.06 (NL); 1 f, Dorrery road, 29.06 (NL); 1 m, between Loch Shurrery and Ben Dorrery, 13.07 (NL); 3 ringtails, Dirlot, 15.07 (NL); 1 f, Loch More, 15.07 (NL); 1 f, Dorrery, 15.07 (NL); 1 m, Loch Caluim, 16.07 (NL); 1 f, Dirlot, 20.07 (NL); 1 m, 1 f, Torran, Dorrery, 21.07 (NL); 1 m, Brawlbin, 24.07 (NL); 1 f, south of Dirlot, 25.07 (NL); 2 mm, Dirlot/Strathmore, 25.07 (NL); 1 f, Dorrery, 14.08 (NL); 1, Broubster Leans, 16.08, 23.10, 27.11 (MS); 1, Loch Watenan, 20.08 (PPM); 1 m, Blood Moss, Achow, 24.08, 02.09 (PD); 1 f, Shebster, 25.08 (NL); 1 f, Lochside, Calder, 25.08 (NL); 1 m, Westerdale, 01.09 (NL); 1 f, Calder, 04.09 (NL); 1, Thurso Bay, 08.09 (KM); 1 m, St John's Loch, 09.09 (SAMM); 1 ringtail, Blood Moss, Achow, 08.09 (PD); 1 f, Loch Scarmclate, 09.09 (DD); 1, Ben Dorrery, 10.09 (NL); 1 f, East Calder, 13.09 (NL); 1 f, Ben Dorrery, 13.09 (NL); 1 f, Brawlbin, 14.09 (NL); 1, Loch of Wester, 07.09 (PPM); 1 m, south of Glengolly, 21.09 (NL); 1 ringtail, Sandside Farm, 25.09 (EM); 1 f, Lochside, Calder, 26.09 (NL); 1 f, Ben Dorrery, 26.09, 17.10 (NL); 1 juvenile m, 1 juvenile f, Ben Dorrery, 26.09 (NL); 1 f, Achlachan, 30.09 (NL); 1 m, Scrabster Braes, 05.10 (EM); 1 m, Lochside, Calder, 08.10 (NL); 1 f, Mid-Calder, 13.10 (NL); 1, Loch Sarclet, 14.10 (PPM); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 1, Broubster Leans, 15.10 (MS); 2, Broubster Leans, 25.10, 26.10, 30.10, 27.11 (MS); 1 f, Broubster Leans, 26.10 (NL); 1 f, Tornameal, 28.10 (NL); 1 f, north of Dorrery, 31.10 (NL); 1 f, Ben Dorrery/Freiceadain, 04.11 (NL); 1 f, Lochside, Calder, 08.11 (NL); 1 ringtail, Baillie, 11.11 (EM); 1 m, Loch Calder, 14.11 (NL); 1 f, between Halkirk and Calder, 15.11 (NL); 1, Broubster Leans, 16.11 (NL); 1, Loch Heilen, 19.11 (RH); 1 f, East Mey, 19.11 (NL); 1 m, North Lybster, 21.11, 22.11 (PD); 1 f,

Achlachan Moss, 23.11 (NL); 1 f, Brawlbin, 25.11 (NL); 1 m, Thrumster, 29.11 (PD); 1 f, Broubster Leans, 27.11 (NL); 1 f, Loch Calder, 11.12 (NL); 1 m, Lyth, 16.12 (DM); 1, Westfield Marshes, 17.12 (DO); 1, Loch Sarclet, 24.12 (PPM); 2 ff, Dirlot, 30.12 (NL).

[Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* 1, possible, brief views only as it crossed the road, Lochend, 22.10 (PH)].

### **Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

*Resident; passage and winter migrant*

106 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread, especially outside the breeding season. Records from Altnabreac, Helshetter, Sandside, Reay, Broubster, Dorrery, Brawlbin, Shurrery, Westfield, Lythmore, Skiall, Calder, Scotscalder, Braal, Halkirk, Gerston, Dirlot, Loch Scarmclate, Scrabster, Thurso, Claredon, Olig, Loch Heilen, Brough, St John's Pool/Loch, Ham, Loch of Mey, Slickly, Lyth, Duncansby, Freswick, Nybster, Auckengill, Keiss, Noss Head, Wick, Haster, Watten, Newlands of Forse, Ulbster, Rumster, Latheron and Watten. Peak in sightings in late summer and autumn with dispersal of young birds and birds on passage (July to November). Breeding in old Crow's nest, Skiall Wood, three large yg, 17.07 (DAO); nest with 2 yg, Dorrery, 25.07 (NL).

### **Red Kite *Milvus milvus***

*Regular visitor, may breed in the future.*

1, Claredon Head, 03.04 (JS); 1, Langwell, 04.04, 09.04 (AMc); 1, Loch Calder (Brawlbin), 16.04 (JS); 1, Skiall Wood, 04.05 (DAO); 1 juvenile S, Killimster, 11.08 (PMM).

### **Black Kite *Milvus migrans***

*Scarce visitor*

1, Nybster, 07.05 (Katie Jones, RH). Accepted by SBRC



*Black Kite*

*Rob Hughes*

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

*Regular visitor; local breeder.*

1, Berriedale, 05.01; 1, Broubster, 06.01, 09.02 (JS); 1 sub-adult, Sandside Farm, 30.01 (EM); adult, Broubster, 09.02 (JS); 1, Blood Moss, Achow, 11.02 (PD); 1, Loch Watten, 18.02 (RH); 1 adult, Loch More, flying towards Glutt, 22.02 (NL); 2, Ousdale, 24.02 (DAO); 1, Harpsdale, 06.03 (JS); 1, Killimster, 10.03 (PMM); 2 adults, east of Ben Dorrery, 25.03 (NL); 2 adults, Cnocglas Water (coming from direction of Loch Scye), 25.03 (NL); 1 juvenile S, Westfield, 03.04 (PH); 1 adult between Dorrery and Loch Caluim, 03.04 (NL); 1, Dorrery, 03.04 (NL); 3, Loch Scye, 03.04 (NL); 1 adult, Langwell Strath, 09.04 (AMc); 2 juveniles (sitting beside dead ewe with crops full), Broubster, 10.04 (SAMM); 1 E, Lynegar, 16.04 (WM); 2, Broubster, 19.04 (JS); 1, Loch Caluim, 29.04 (NL); 1 juvenile, Loch Meadhoim, 01.05 (NL); 1 juvenile, flying SW, St John's Pool, 02.05 (JS); 1 adult, Ben Dorrery, 07.05 (NL); 1 flying E, St John's Pool, 08.05 (JS); 1, St John's Pool, 09.05 (JS); 1, Westerloch, 18.05 (PMM); 1 adult, Langwell Strath, 31.05 (AMc); 1 adult, Loch Killimster, 14.06 (PMM); 1 adult, Berriedale, 05.07 (SAMM); 1, Torran Water, 05.07 (RH); 1, Badbea, 08.07 (DD); 1, Loch Meadie, 13.07 (DAO); 1 adult, Lambsdale Leans, 19.07 (NL); 1 adult, Chracairnie, Dorrery, 20.07 (NL); 2 adults, Cnocglas Water, 29.07 (NL); 1 NE, Lochan Dubh Cul na Beinne, 09.08 (David Bremner); 1, Brawlbin Inlet, 10.09 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Chracairnie, 17.09 (NL); 1 immature, Scrabster Brae, 20.09 (EM); 1, Westerdale, 25.09 (DO); 1, Loch of Wester, 28.09 (PMM); 1, Nybster, 15.10 (RH); 1, Dounreay, 15.10 (per KM); 1, Broubster Leans, 23.10 (MS); 1 juvenile, Broubster Leans, 26.10 (NL); 1 N, Nybster, 06.11 (RH); 1 adult, Loch Heilen, 12.11 (RH); 1, Auckengill (roosting in forestry), 14.11 (Andrew Matthews); 1, Loch Calder, 17.12 (DAO); 1 adult, Scotland's Haven, 31.12 (KM).



*White-tailed Eagle, Gills*

*Karen Munro*

Bred successfully in Caithness, first time in the last hundred years.



## **Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

### *Resident*

179 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread; some recovery following decimation by AIV. Regularly seen Reay throughout the year (EM); 1, Shebster, 21.01 (SAMM); 1, Dunbeath, 11.02 (SAMM); 2, Loch of Mey, 12.02 (SAMM); 2, Dorrery, 23.03 (NL); 1, Thuster, Wick, 11.04 (SAMM); 1, Dunbeath, 11.04 (SAMM); 1, Torran Leans to Dorrery, 15.04 (NL); 1, Dorrery, 12.05 (NL); 1, Lyth, 03.06 (DM); 1, Rangag, 29.06 (SAMM); 1, Framside, 13.08 (SAMM); 1, Bardnaheigh, Halkirk, 13.08 (SAMM); 2, Dale, 05.09 (SAMM); 1, north end of Loch Calder, 09.09 (NL); 1, Broubster, 10.09 (SAMM); 5, St John's Pool, 20.09 (JS); 1, Ben Dorrery, 26.09, 27.09, 07.10, 12.10 (NL); 2, Brawlbin, 27.09 (NL); 2, Achlachan, 30.09 (NL); 3, Broubster Leans, 05.10 (NL); 1, Lieurary, 05.10 (NL); 3, Dale Farm, 05.10 (NL); 4, Knockinnan, Latheron, 05.10 (NL); 1, Brawlbin, 06.10 (NL); 1, Dirlot, 13.10 (NL); 1, Lyth, 14.10 (DM); 2, Dorrery, 18.10 (NL); 1, Westerseat, 23.10 (DM); 1, Reiss, 15.11 (DM); 1, Broubster, 27.11 (NL); 1, Lyth, 16.12, 25.12 (DM).

1pair + nest (2 yg), Brough. 08.07, 20.07 (JS).

## **Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

### *Resident*

59 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Skinnet, 04.01; 1, Achreamie, 04.01 (DAO); 1, Yellow Moss, Shebster, 30.01 (DAO); 2, St John's Pool/Loch, 01.02 (JS); 1, St John's Pool, 05.02 (JS); 1, Hastigrow, 08.02 (RH); 1, Nybster, 18.02 (RH); 2, Harpsdale, 26.02 (DAO); 1, Achalone, 26.02 (DAO); 1, Puldagon, 04.03 (SAMM); 1, Brims, 08.03 (DAO); 1, Ravenshill, 08.03 (DAO); 2, Hallam, 09.03 (DAO); 1, Dunnet Forest, 12.03 (JS); 1, Harpsdale, 25.03 (NL); 1, Nybster, 30.03 (RH); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 05.04 (JS); 1, St John's Pool, 12.04 (JS); 1, Dorrery, 18.05 (NL); present Charity, 24.05 (David Bremner); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 26.05 (RH); 1, Ham, 27.05 (RH); 2, Brawlbin, 30.05 (DO); 1, St John's Pool, 01.06 (JS); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.06 (NO); 2, Isauld, 18.06 (DAO); 2, Upper Dounreay, 20.06 (DAO); 2, Achreamie, 20.06 (DAO); 1, Freswick, 23.06 (RH); 1, Buldoo, 25.06 (EM); 1, St John's, 10.07, 18.07 (carrying vole into old croft house), 27.08 (JS); 1 dead, Stainland s/s, 14.07 (NL); 1, St John's Pool, 18.07 (NL); 1, Nybster, 24.07 (RH); 1, Broubster Leans, 11.08 (MS); 1, Harpsdale, 22.08 (NL); 1, Hill of Dunn, 06.09 (DD); 1, Skitten, 15.09 (DD); 1, Spittal, 23.09 (DAO); 1, Faulds, 06.10 (DD); 1, Auckengill, 09.10, 12.10 (JO); 1, Loch Killimster, 14.10 (PPM); 1, Drumhollistan, 25.10 (Evan Sutherland); 1, Middleton, 25.10 (EM); 1, Balmore, 25.10 (EM); 1, Skiall Wood, 27.10 (DAO); 1, Skiall, 28.10 (DAO); 1, Newlands of Forse, 29.10 (PM); 1, Halcro, 30.10 (DD); 1, Bardnaheigh, Shebster, 01.11 (DAO); 1, Janetstown, 07.11 (KM); 1, Shebster, 08.11 (KM); 1, Thurso, 08.11 (KM); 1, Bridge of Westfield, 12.11 (KM); 2, Halkirk, 12.11 (KM); 1, Weydale, 12.11 (KM); 1, Auckengill, 14.11 (Andrew Matthews); 1, Moss of Halkirk, 17.11 (NL); 1, Weydale, 17.11 (KM); 1, Halkirk, 17.11 (KM); 1, Westfield, 17.11 (KM); 1, Shebster, 17.11 (KM); 1, Loch Killimster, 20.11 (PPM); 1, Stanstill, 20.11 (DD); 1, St John's Pool, 02.12 (JS); 1, Wick, 03.12 (Penny Insole); 1, Knockglass, 09.12 (EM); 1, Janetstown, 09.12 (KM); 2, Skiall, 09.12 (KM); 1, Halkirk, 09.12 (KM); 1, Gillfield, 10.12, 12.12 (DD); 1, Hastigrow, 10.12 (DD); 1, St John's, 10.12 (JS); 1, Killimster Moss, 12.12 (DD); 1, Halcro, 13.12 (DD); 1, Skitten, 14.12 (DD); 1, Hallam, 17.12 (DAO); 1, Forss, 18.12 (EM); 2, Thurso, KW14 7XW, 26.12 (KM); 2, Brims Road, Thurso, 26.12 (KM); 1, Stanstill, 28.12 (DD).

Nesting in old shepherd's cottage, Tister (ND 2062) (SAMM).



*Barn Owl*

*Niall Laybourne*

**Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***

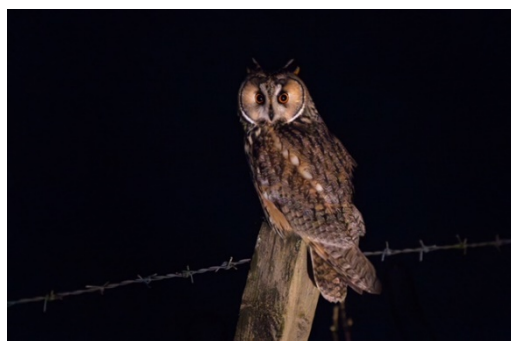
*Resident*

1, Lynegar, 06.01 (JS); 1, Skiall, 21.02 (DAO); 2 mm, 1f, Skiall Wood, 22.02 (DAO); 2, Achalone, 04.03 (SAMM); 1, Forss, 09.03 (DAO); 3, Lyth, 23.03 (RH); 1 heard, Dorrery, 23.03 to 29.04 (NL); 1 pair, Thurso, 18.04 (SAMM); 1, Ruther, 20.04 (DAO); 3, Braal, 23.04 (DAO); 1, Auckengill, 23.04 (JO); 1 m calling, Reay, 03.05 (EM); 1, Noss Head, 14.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1 pair calling, Dorrery, 18.05 (NL); 1, Lyth, 27.05 (RH); 1, Killimster, 09.06 (PMM); 1, Brabster, 23.06 (DAO); 2 yg calling, Banniskirk, 17.07 (DAO); 1 m calling, Dorrery, 22.07 (NL); 1, Skiall Wood, 13.09 (DAO); 1 f calling, Dorrery, 15.09, 01.10, 31.10 (NL); 1 f calling, Reay, 25.10 (EM); 1, Achlipster, 29.10 (DO); 1, Skiall Wood, 05.11, 3 on 12.11 (DAO); 1, Shebster, 08.11 (KM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 1, Shebster, 17.11 (KM); 1, Shalmstry, 16.12 (DAO); 1 calling, Dorrery, 18.12 (NL); 1 m calling, Thurso, 27.12 (EM).

**Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

*Resident; passage and winter migrant*

1 possible, Reay, 15.04 (EM); 1, Wick, 16.04 (per KM); 1, Killimster, 27.05 (RH); 1, Loch Watenan, 27.05 (RH); 3 yg calling, Achanarras, 20.07 (DAO); 1, near Durran, 09.11 (KM); 1, Halkirk, 09.12 (KM); 1, Thurso, 26.12 (KM); 1, Skiall wood, 27.12 (DAO).



*Long-eared Owl*

*Karen Munro*



### **Short-eared Owl *Asio flammmea***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

1, St John's Pool/Loch, 21.02 (JS); 1, Weydale, 03.04 (DAO); 1, Houstry, 14.04 (NL); 1 m (D), Dirlot, 17.04 (NL); 1, Tongside, 28.04 (RH); 1, Dorrery, 30.04 (NL); 1, Dixonfield, 02.05; 1, Weydale, 04.05 (DAO); 1, West Calder, 12.05 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 1, Holborn Head, 22.05 (SAMM); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 23.05 (RH); 1, Newport, 28.05 (RH); 1, Freswick, 24.06 (RH); 1, Dunbeath, 17.07 (Tyler Mason); 1, Murkle, 20.08 (RS); 2, Borrowston, Forss, 20.08 (DAO); 1, Dounreay, 20.08 (DAO); 1, Strathcoul, 20.08 (DAO); present, Brims, 12.09 (DAO); 1, Auckengill, 07.10 (JO); 1 (in off sea), Nybster, 07.10 (RH); 3, Broubster Leans, 29.10, 1 on 31.10 (DAO, MS); 6, Hill of Forss, 02.11 (DAO); 4+, Forss, 05.11 (RS); 1, Noss Head, 06.11 (D O-E); 6+, Greenland Mains, 12.11 (RS); 1, Janetstown, 12.11 (KM); 1, Brims, 17.11 (KM); 1, Halkirk, 25.11 (KM); 1, Forss, 04.12 (KM); 2, Lambsdale, 24.12 (DAO).



*Short-eared Owl*

*Niall Laybourne*

### **Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

*Scarce visitor*

1, Waas, 27.01 (Bridget Holt); 1, South Head, Wick, 30.03 (Jackie Osborne); 1, Castlehill Harbour, 01.10 (Ian Phillips); 1, Thurso Riverside, 24.10 (RS); 1 m, Thurso Riverside, 27.10 (SAMM, RH).

### **Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla***

*Scarce migrant*

1, John O'Groats Quarry, 05.05 (Peter Stronach).

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major***

*Resident; irruptive passage and winter migrant*

1, Dorrery (g), 03.02 (NL); 1, Newlands of Forse, 26.02 (PM); 1, Banniskirk, 10.03 (DAO); 1, Newlands of Forse, 12.03, 20.03, 14.04 (PM); 1 m, Dorrery (g), 08.04 (NL); 1, Dunnet Forest, 10.04 (JS); 2, Langwell, 27.05 (RH); 1, Brough, 12.07 (DG); 1 juvenile, Langwell, 30.07 (S AMM); 1, St John's Pool, 01.09 (JS); 1, Brough, 03.09 (DG); 1, St John's, 09.10 (JS); 1, Auckengill, 22.10 (RH); 1 (2), Dunnet Forest, 23.10 (JS); present Noss Head, 25.10 (Jack Morris); 1, Thurso, 07.11

(RH); 1, Lybster, 16.11, 17.11, 25.11, 31.12 (PD); 1, Newlands of Forse, 19.11 (PM); 1, Brabstermire, 02.12 (RH).



*Wryneck*

*Peter Stronach*



*Great Spotted Woodpecker*    *Niall Laybourne*

### **Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

*Declining resident; passage and winter migrant*

142 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread, has declined as a breeding bird; numbers peak in autumn and early winter (September to early December). 1, Broubster, 07.01 (SAMM); 1, Gersa, 07.01 (SAMM); 1, Newtonhill, 16.02 (SAMM); 1, Newtonhill, 01.03 (SAMM); 1, Brawlbin, 22.03 (NL); 1, Dorrery, 25.03 (NL); 1 pair, Harpsdale, 05.04 and female in nestbox (ejected Jackdaws), 06.04 (NL); 1, Dunnet Head, 30.04 (NL); breeding in nestbox (6 yg present, 4 fledged), Harpsdale, 25.05 (SAMM, NL); 1, Lyth, 03.06 (DM); 1, Loch Killimster, 14.06 (PPM); 1, Newport, 05.07 (SAMM); 2 between Loch Shurrery and Ben Dorrery, 13.07 (NL); 1, Dorrery, 28.07 (NL); 1, Puldagon, 02.08 (SAMM); 2, Brawlbin Farm, 02.08 (NL); 1, Loch Hempriggs, 20.08 (PPM); 1, Cnocglas, 20.08 (NL); 1 m, Loch of Mey, 03.09 (SAMM); 1, Strathmore, 05.09 (SAMM); 4 juveniles, Harpsdale, 05.09 (SAMM); 1, Dale, 05.09 (SAMM); 1, Reiss, 09.09 (SAMM); 1, Loch Watten, 24.09 (NL); 1, Achlachan, 30.09 (NL); 1, Broubster Leans, 05.10 (NL); 1, East Calder, 05.10 (NL); 1, Shurrery to Brawlbin, 06.10 (NL); 1, West Calder, 06.10 (NL); 1, Framside, 06.10 (NL); 1 roosting on Beinn Freiceadain, 12.10 (NL); 1, Achlipster, 13.10 (NL); 1, Westerdale, 13.10 (NL); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 15.10 (KM); 1, Dunnet Head, 23.10 (MS); 1, Lochside, Castletown, 29.10 (SAMM); 1, Lyth, 04.11 (DM); 1, Sandside Bay, 18.11 (HW); 1, Broubster Leans, 27.11 (NL); 1, Loch Calder, 17.12 (DAO); 1, Thurso business park, 27.12 (EM).

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

*Scarce visitor*

1, Dunnet Head, 14.04, photographed (Ian Bremner). Subject to acceptance by SBRC.



*Red-footed Falcon*

*Ian Bremner*

**Merlin *Falco columbarius***

*Summer and winter migrant*

1, Nybster, 13.01, 15.01 (RH); 1, Banniskirk, 27.01 (DAO); 1, Forss, 29.01 (RAF); 1, Claredon, 12.03 (NSWG); 1, Nybster, 14.03 (RH); 1, Freswick, 19.03 (RH); present Ackergill, 28.03 (Fiona Reid); 1, Ord, 11.04 (SAMM); 1, between Dorrery and Torran, 19.04, 20.04 (NL); 1 m, Brawlbin, 29.04 (JS); 1, Puldagon, 10.05 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Mey, 14.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 2 juveniles, Dorrery, 15.07 (NL); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 20.07, 21.07 (JS); 1, Chracairnie, Dorrery, 20.07, 01.08, 2 on 01.10 (NL); 1, Lochend, 04.09 (RH)); 1, Strathmore, 05.09 (SAMM); present, Freswick, 09.09 (RH); 1, Keiss, 25.09 (Sean Ashton); 1, Freswick, 30.09 (RH); 1, Nybster, 04.10 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 12.10 (JO); 1, Auckengill, 15.10 (RH).



Flow North

*Merlin*

*Niall Laybourne*

### **Hobby *Falco Subbuteo***

*Scarce migrant*

Adult S, Thurso, 06.06 (SAMM).

[Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*]

1 possible, Drumhollistan, 13.04 (per RH); 1 possible, Sandside Farm, 17.04 (EM). Eric wrote, "17<sup>th</sup> April. Very large greyish falcon flew SW over Sandside farm and wood, being harried by a Carrion crow. Could have been a Peregrine but size compared with the crow was obviously larger and suggestive of possible Gyr falcon..."

The same bird apparently recorded at Broubster two days before Drumhollistan.

### **Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

*Declining resident; passage and winter migrant*

1, Aimster, 07.01 (SAMM); 1, Sinclair's Bay, 25.01 (RAF); 1, Nybster, 14.02 (RH); 2, St John's Pool, 28.03 (JS); 1, St John's Pool, 12.04; 1, Dunnet Head, 30.04 (NL); 1, Dunbeath, 21.05 (WQ); 1, Holborn Head, 27.05 (RH); 1, Langwell Strath, 31.05 (AMc); 1+, Dunnet Head, 04.06 (RH); 1+, Auckengill, 10/06 (RH); 1, St John's Pool, 04.07 (JS); 1, Nybster, 04.07 (RH); 1, Dunbeath, 13.07 (Russell Wood); 1, Castlehill, 01.08 (JS); 1, Nybster, 30.08 (RH); 1, Freswick, 02.09 (RH); 1, Dunbeath Harbour, 03.09 (David Parmee); 1, Nybster, 24.09 (RH, Mark Breaks); 1, Auckengill, 06.10 (JO); 2, Staxigoe, 10.10 (Tony Davies); 1, Nybster, 13.10 (RH); 1 m in off the sea, Nybster, 13.10 (RH); 1, Loch of Wester, 14.10 (RH); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 18.10 (NO); 1, Nybster, 01.11 (RH); 1, Ushat Head, 03.11 (DAO); 1, Loch Watten, 14.11 (RH).

### **Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio***

*Scarce migrant*

1, Wick, 22.10 (Jack Morris).

### **Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor***

*Scarce winter migrant*

1, Reay, 10.01 (AA).

### **Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

*Local resident*

1, Loch More (north), 26.05 (RH); 2, Olgrinmore, 14.07 (DAO); 2, Chracairnie, Dorrery, 19.07, 20.07 (NL); 1, Ousdale, 05.09 (WM); 1, Chracairnie, Dorrery, 01.10 (NL); 1, Dorrery, 24.10 (NL); 1, Dorrery, 04.12 (RH).

### **Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica***

*Local resident; scarce visitor*

1, Dunbeath, 05.01, 10.01, 20.01 (DAO, PD); 1, Wick, 16.01 (DB); 2, Dunbeath, 11.02 (SAMM, RH); present Dunbeath, 19.03 (David Bremner); 2, Dunbeath, 01.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 1, Thurso, 10.04 (per RH); 1, Dunbeath, 11.04, 16.04, 26.04 (SAMM, DAO); 1, Berriedale, 26.05 (Tim Wootton); 1, Newport, 28.05 (RH); 1 W, St John's, 02.06 (JS); 1, Reay, 23.06 (EM); 1, Reay



(g), 01.07 to 05.07, 27.08 to 28.08 (EM); 1, Reay, 06.07 (Alice Martin-Walker); 2, Borgue, 10.07 (EM); 1, Dunbeath, 23.07 (Russell Wood); 1, Latheronwheel Strath, 12.08 (PM); 2, Borgue, 13.08 (DAO); 2, Westfield, 06.11 (PH); 1, New Borgue, 06.11 (DB); 1, Killimster, mobbed by Kestrel, 15.12 (PMM).



*Magpie, Reay*

*Eric Maughan*

**Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula***

*Resident; winter migrant*

543 records on "Birdtrack". 52, Newlands of Forse, 02.01 (PM); c.70, Auckengill, 06.01 (NO); 80, Weydale, 06.01 (DO); c.80, Newlands of Forse, 18.01 (PM); 100+, Thurso Castle, 20.01 (SAMM); 60, John O'Groats, 28.01 (RAF); c.140, Newlands of Forse, 03.02 (PM); 80+, Loch Stemster, 07.02 (PM); 220, Achreamie, 27.02 (DO); 110, Thurso Castle, 11.03 (SAMM); c.90, Auckengill, 03.04 (NO); 1 "Nordic", Thurso, 03.04 (SAMM); 2 hybrids, Thurso, 03.04 (SAMM); 1 "Nordic", paired with typical *s/s spermologus*, Thurso, 13.04 (SAMM); 2 newly fledged yg, Shebster, 14.05 (DAO); 10 newly fledged yg, Wick, 23.05 (DM); 60+, Latheronwheel Strath, 20.07 (PM); 330, Dounreay, 25.07 (DAO); 70, Achalone, 13.08 (DAO); 130, Skinnet, 13.08 (DAO); 55, Sandside Bay, 17.09 (HW); 250-300, Sandside Farm, 25.09 (EM); c.160, Thurso, 07.10 (JO); c.130, Auckengill, 07.10, c.180 on 11.10 (JO); c.120, Sinclair's Bay, 09.10 (JO); c.140, Wick, 09.10 (JO); 60, Sandside Bay, 09.10 (HW); c.30, Noss Head, 09.10 (JO); c.109, Newlands of Forse, 26.10 (PM); 80, Dounreay, 09.11 (DAO); 1,800, roost, Assery Wood, 11.11 (DAO); c.385, Newlands of Forse, 18.11, c.200 on 02.12 (PM); 150, Sandside Bay, 18.11 (HW); c.200, Quoys of Reiss, 02.12 (PM).

**Rook *Corvus frugilegus***

*Resident*

152 records on "Birdtrack". Anecdotal evidence suggested a decline in the rook population in Caithness. Therefore, a complete rookery survey was conducted by the Caithness Bird Club in

late April /early May which gave a total of 3,293 AON; previous censuses in 1975 and 2007 gave a stable population of 6,530 AON.

The first fledged young were seen at Braal on 16.05 (DAO). The winter roost in Assery Wood gave a count of 800 birds on 11.11 (DAO).

**Carrion Crow *Corvus corone***

*Resident*

204 records on "Birdtrack". 8, Reay, 13.01 (Peter Binder); 8, Auckengill, 28.04 (JO); 9, Achastle, 21.05 (WQ); 8, Auckengill, 07.10, 11.10, c.20 on 09.10, 11 on 10.10 (JO); 8, Sandside, 07.10 (HW); 14, Reiss, 09.10 (JO); 6, Brims, 02.11 (DAO).



*Carrion Crow*

*Eric Maughan*

**Hybrid Crow (Carrion x Hooded)**

*Resident*

20, Newlands of Forse, 05.03 (PM).

**Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix***

*Resident; passage and winter migrant*

608 records on "Birdtrack". 12, Newlands of Forse, 02.01, 23 on 17.01 (PM); c.10, Auckengill, 07.01 (NO); 26, Newlands of Forse, 14.02, 30 on 15.02, 25 on 17.03, 18 on 01.04, 23 on 05.04, 12 on 06.06 (PM); 28, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 13, Sandside Bay, 07.10 (HW); 16, Newlands of Forse, 04.11, 22 on 25.11, 18 on 26.12 (PM).



### **Common Raven *Corvus corax***

#### *Resident*

111 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread, records of 1 or 2 birds reported widely over the county.

20 to 30, Beinn Freiceadean, 07.04 (NL); 40, Dorrery to Beinn Freiceadean, mobbed by Osprey, 10.04 (NL); 6, Broubster (feeding on dead ewe), 10.04 (SAMM); 2 pairs (A), Holborn Head, 14.04 (SAMM); 4, Dunnet Head RSPB, 04.06 (NO); 5, Ord, 22.06 (SAMM); 3, Berriedale, 22.06 (SAMM); 1, chasing Osprey, Ben Dorrery, 28.07 (NL); c.25, Dorrery, 10.09 (NL); 11, St John's Pool/Loch, 10.09 (JS); 15, Tongside, 13.09 (DO); 56, St John's Loch, 01.10 (JS); 8, mobbing WTE, Broubster Leans, 26.10 (NL); 12, Broubster Leans, 10.11 (D O-E).

### **Coal Tit *Periparus ater***

#### *Resident; passage and winter migrant*

41 records on "Birdtrack". 1 (S), Dunnet Forest, 24.01 (SAMM); 10, Dunnet Forest, 02.04 (JS); 5 chicks in nestbox, predated by Pine Martin, Reay (g), 07.06 (EM); 16, Skiall Wood, 04.10, 28 on 05.11 (DAO); 29, Skiall (g), 01.11 (DAO); 5, St John's Pool/Loch, 16.11 (JS); 4, Newlands of Forse, 17.12 (PM); 3, St John's Pool/Loch, 30.12 (JS).

### **Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus***

#### *Resident*

91 records on "Birdtrack". 32+, Lyth, 29.03 (DM).

### **Great Tit *Parus major***

#### *Resident*

104 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread, 1 to 2 birds recorded from many localities in the county. Two nestboxes, Reay (g), 3 eggs and 1 egg on 06.05 (EM); 5, Skiall Wood, 12.05 (DAO); 1 yg, Newlands of Forse, 08.06 (PM); 10, Skiall Wood, 30.10 (DAO).

### **Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris***

#### *Scarce visitor*

1, Dunnet Bay, 09.04 (RH).

### **Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis***

#### *Resident*

183 records on "Birdtrack". 11 W (coastal movement with snow), Victoria Walk, Thurso, 16.01 (SAMM); 500 W/hr, Thurso, 17.01 (SAMM); 28, Buldoo, 17.01 (DAO); 2 (S), Phillip Mains, 12.02 (SAMM); 2 (S), Achremie, 12.02 (DAO); 30, Westerloch, 19.02 (SAMM); 26, Auckengill, 25.02 (NO); 450+, Harpsdale, 06.03 (JS); 40, Dounreay, 07.03 (DAO); 960/ hr, flying east along coast in thick snow/frost, Thurso, 07.03 (SAMM); 400+, Brims, 08.03 (DAO); 49, Hill of Wester, 09.03 (PMM); 100+, Thurso East, 11.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Winless, 15.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Achalone, 19.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Burnside, Calder, 20.03 (NL); 1 (S), Brawlbin Schoolhouse, 20.03 (NL); 50 NW, weather movement, St John's Pool/Loch, 26.03 (JS); 4 (S), West Calder, 04.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); c.50, Auckengill, 15.04 (NO); 1 (S), Auckengill, 29.04 (JO); 15 (S), Holborn Head, 02.05

(SAMM); 14, Auckengill, 0.05 (JO); 9 (S), Holborn Head, 09.06 (SAMM); 7 (S), west side of Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 9, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 3 (S), east side of Stroma, 22.07 (SAMM); 40, Brims, 28.09 (DAO); 54, Auckengill, 23.10 (RH).

### **Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

#### *Summer migrant*

63 records on "Birdtrack". 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.05, 07.05, 2 on 09.05 (JS); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 08.05 (SAMM); 1 (S), Castlehill, 08.05 (SAMM); 2, Auckengill, 09.05 (NO); present Wick Riverside, 10.05 (DB); 1, Newlands of Forse, 12.05 (PM); 3, Shebster, 12.05 (DO); 3 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05 (SAMM); 5, Freswick, 16.05 (RH); 5 (S), Newtonhill, 19.05 (SAMM); 3, Braemore, 29.05 (DO); 2, St John's Pool, 14.08 (JS); 1, Thurso Riverside, 15.08 (SAMM); 1, Newtonhill, 18.08, 31.08 (SAMM); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 27.08 (NO); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 02.09, 09.09 (RH, SAMM).

### **Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris***

#### *Scarce visitor*

1 (S), Freswick, 08.06 (RH); 1 (S), John O'Groats, 10.06 (RH); 1?, Thurso Riverside, 12.06 (SAMM).

### **Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia***

#### *Summer migrant*

2, Loch of Mey, 02.05 (JS); 1, Loch of Mey, 19.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1, Freswick, 23.05 (RH); 1, Scarfiskerry, 26.05 (JS); 1 (S), Broubster Leans, 20.06 (MS); 1, Freswick, 11.06, 23.06 (RH); 1, Newtonhill, 10.08 (SAMM).

### **Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

#### *Summer migrant*

65 records on "Birdtrack". 1, St John's Pool, 25.03 (JS); 1, Scrabster, 02.04 (KM); 4, quarry, Loch Caluim, 07.04 (NL); 2, Loch Watten, 08.04 (DB); 3, Loch of Wester, 10.04 (PMM); 2, Noss Head, 10.04 (RH); 4, Sandside Bay, 14.04 (HW); 2, Reay, 15.04 (EM); 150, Dunnet Sands (east), 22.04 (JS); mixed flock of 8 to 10 with Barn Swallows, Loch Meadhoim, 01.05 (NL); 90, St John's Pool, 06.05 (JS); 50, St John's Pool/Loch, 07.05 (JS); 40, St John's Pool, 09.05 (JS); 10 AON, East Gills, Scrabster, 14.06 (Rod Talboys); 30+, East Gills, 16.06 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 170, ST John's Loch, 01.07 (JS); 6, Thurso Riverside, 02.07 (SAMM); 11, Sandside Bay, 15.07 (HW); 12+ AON, Forss, 16.07 (DAO); 2, Thurso Riverside, 17.07 (SAMM); 50, Dunnet Sands (east), 29.07 (JS); c.60, Newlands of Forse, 17.08 (PM); 4, Nybster, 04.09 (RH); 5, St John's Pool, 27.08 (JS).

### **Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

#### *Summer migrant*

349 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunnet Bay, 01.04 (Stephanie Griffiths); 1, Auckengill, 07.04 (RH, NO); 2, Loch of Wester, 10.04 (PMM); 1, Dorrery, 10.04, 11.04, 18.04 (NL); 2, Victoria Walk, Thurso, 11.04 (SAMM); 2, Netherside, 12.04 (SAMM); 1 N/NE, Buckies, 12.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 4, Reay, 16.04 (HW); 2, Dorrery, 21.04 (NL); 3, Geiselittle, 23.04 (DO); 1, Westfield, 25.04 (EM); 9, Lyth, 03.05 (DM); c.40, Auckengill, 09.05 (NO); 10, Newlands of Forse, 14.05

(PM); 3, prospecting nest site, Reay, 17.05 (EM); 4 yg, Newlands of Forse, 04.06 (PM); 2 newly-fledged, Dorrery, 25.06 (NL); 5 yg, Newlands of Forse, 02.07 (PM); 2<sup>nd</sup> brood?, Dorrery, 06.07 (NL); 6, Stroma, 22.07 (SAMM); 98, Newlands of Forse, 20.07 (PM); 40, Ruther, 28.07 (DO); 6 S, South Head, Wick, 04.08 (SAMM); 30, Upper Dounreay, 05.08 (DAO); 40, Hallam, 07.08 (DAO); 30, St John's Pool, 11.08 (JS); c.45, Newlands of Forse, 13.08 (PM); c.40, Loch Watenan, 14.08 (PM); 4 or 5, mobbing Sparrowhawk, Haster, 18.08 (SAMM); 3 newly-fledged, second brood, Dorrery, 21.08, 4 on 25.08 (NL); c.110, Newlands of Forse, 03.09 (PM); 120, Brough, 12.09 (JS); 26, Lyth, 16.09 (DM); 5+, Newtonhill, 22.09 (SAMM); 1, Thurso, 21.10 (Stephanie Griffiths); 3, Thurso Bay, 22.10 (JS); 12, Castlehill, 22.10 (KM); 1, Sandside, 23.10 (HW); 2, Reay, 25.10 (HW); 1, Thurso, 30.10 (Elizabeth Masden); 2, Broubster, 31.10 (MS); 2, Halkirk, 02.11 (DAO); 4, Claredon, 06.11 (NSWG); 2, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E); 1, Thurso East, 14.11 (SAMM); 1, Quoybrae, 15.11 (PMM).



*Barn Swallows*

*Niall Laybourne*

### **House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

#### *Summer migrant*

74 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Freswick, 11.04 (per RH); 6, Murkle Beach, 15.04 (RS); present, Shebster, 17.04 (Joe Mann); 1, Nybster, 21.04 (RH); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 22.04 (Dean Macaskill); 5, Loch of Wester, 22.04 (RH); 2, Weydale, 30.04 (SAMM); 4, Wick, 09.05 (DM); 5 AON, Scrabster, 22.05 (SAMM); 1 AON, on building, Ellen Bridge, Thurso, 23.05 (SAMM); breeding, Westfield, 17.06 (Ann Thomson); 41 AON, Gerston, Halkirk, 20.06 (DAO); 2 AON, Wick, 21.06 (DM); 4 AON, Bank's Cottage, Weydale, 03.07 (SAMM); 3, Dorrery, 04.07 (NL); 23 AON, on one house, Freswick, 09.07 (RH); 2 S, South Head, Wick, 04.08 (SAMM); 100, St John's Pool, 11.08 (JS); 10+, Ellen, 23.08 (SAMM); 6+, Thurso Riverside, 24.08 (SAMM); 30, Lybster, 28.08 (Angus Jennings); 10, Thurso Riverside, 29.08 (SAMM); 2+, Dunbeath, 03.09 (David Parmee); 20+ AON, on one house, Newtonhill, 07.09 (SAMM); 2, Thurso Riverside, 10.09 (SAMM); 2, Newlands of Forse, 12.09 (PM); 2, St John's Pool, 20.09 (JS); 1, Wick, 25.09 (SAMM).

### **Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropsis daurica***

#### *Scarce visitor*

1, Nybster, 09.05 (NO). Accepted by SBRC.

**Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus***

*Scarce migrant*

2, Biel of Duncansby, 30.09 (RH); 1, Freswick, 01.10, 09.10 (RH); 1, John O'Groats, 09.10 (PH); 1, Hilliclay, 10.10 (PH); 1, Freswick, 10.10 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 22.10 (RH); 1, St John's Pool, 24.10 (JS).



*Yellow-browed Warbler*

*Rob Hughes*

**Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus***

*Scarce visitor*

1, Freswick, 22.10 to 04.11 (RH, NO, PMM). Accepted by SBRC.

**Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***

*Summer migrant*

87 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunnet Forest, 10.04 (JS); 1, Dunnet Bay, 15.04 (RH); 1 (S), Blingery, 16.04 (SAMM); 4, Helshetter, Reay, 16.04 (HW); 1 (S), Reay, 17.04 (EM); 1, Buckies, 17.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 2, Nybster, 20.04 (RH); 1 (S), Newtonhill, 20.04 (SAMM); 1 (S), Achvarasdal, 30.04 (SAMM); 3 (S), Castletown Wood, 08.05 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05 (SAMM); 2 (S), Newtonhill, 19.05 (SAMM); 3 to 4 (S), St John's Pool, 21.05 (JS); 3 newly-fledged, Dorrery, 22.07 (NL); 1, Dorrery, 24.07 (NL); 5, Newlands of Forse, 26.07, 30.07 (PM);

3 juveniles, Newtonhill, 27.07 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Thurso (g), 01.08 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Thurso Riverside, 13.08 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Thurso, 15.08 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Newtonhill, 16.08, 18.08, 31.08 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Thurso Riverside, 22.08, 23.08, 27.08 (SAMM); 4, Nybster, 23.08 (NO); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 27.08 (NO); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 30.09 (RH); 2, Biel of Duncansby, 30.09 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 09.10, 11.10 (JO).

### **Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

56 records on "Birdtrack". 1, St John's Pool, 28.03 (JS); 1, Dunnet Forest, 02.04 (JS); 1 (S), St John's, 05.04 (JS); 2, Skiall Wood, 08.04 (DO); 1 (S), Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 10.04 (SAMM); 1, Auckengill, 15.04 (NO); 2, Helshetter, 16.04 (HW); 1, Nybster, 19.04, 22.04 (RH, NO); 1, Skiall Wood, 29.04 (DO); 1 (S), Achvarasdalen, 30.04 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05 (SAMM); 1, St John's Pool, 16.09; 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 19.09 (NO); 2, Sandside Quarry, 25.09 (HW); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 28.09 (JS); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 30.09 (RH); 1, Rumster, 02.10 (JS); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 07.10 (JO); 1, Biel of Duncansby, 09.10 (RH); 4, Freswick, 22.10 (RH); 1, St John's, 23.10, 31.10 (JS); 1, Killimster, 26.10, 01.11 (PMM); 2, Brough, 31.10 (JS); 1, Auckengill, 31.10 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 01.11 (RH); 1, Ackergill, 03.11 (Joanne Gatfield); 1, Freswick, 04.11 (RH); 3, Auckengill, 05.11 (RH, NO); 1, St John's, 05.11 (JS); 1, Noss Head, 06.11 (D O-E); 1, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E).

### **Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis***

*Scarce migrant*

1, Biel of Duncansby, 09.10 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 31.10, 05.11 (RH).

### **Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides***

*Scarce visitor*

1, Nybster, 20.08 (RH, NO, Don Pointon). Accepted by SBRC.

### **Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***

*Local resident*

10, Lybster, 02.01 (PD); 3+, Achvarasdalen, 07.01 (SAMM); 10, Latheronwheel, 30.01 (PD); 1, Lybster, 10.03 (PD); 2, South Shebster, 18.03 (DAO); 2, Reay, 17.04 (EM); 2, Skiall Wood, 22.05 (DAO); 2, Forss, 25.05 (RS); 2+, Skiall roadend, 25.05 (RH); 6+, Langwell, 27.05 (RH); 5, St John's Pool/Loch, 12.09 (JS); 6, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 28.09 (DB); 14, Freswick, 30.09 (RH); 10, Rumster, 02.10 (JS); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 16.10 (JS); 2, Freswick, 22.10 (RH); 18, Skiall Wood, 28.10 (DAO); 4, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 2, Killimster, 07.11 (PMM); 2, St John's Pool/Loch, 11.11, 6 on 16.11, 11 on 26.11, 4 on 28.11 (JS); 7, Lybster, 19.11 (PD); 4, Lyth, 14.12 (DM); 7, Lybster, 31.12 (PD).

### **Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

1 m, Thurso (g), 27.01, 29.01, 30.01, 07.02 (SAMM); 2, Skiall Wood, 13.02 (DAO); 1 m, 1 f, Janet St, Thurso, 27.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Castletown, 16.04 (JS); 1 (S), Achvarasdalen, 30.04 (SAMM); 1 (S), Reay, 30.04 (EM); 1 (S), St John's Pool, 01.05 (JS); 1, Nybster, 02.05 (RH); 1,

Newlands of Forse, 06.05 (PM); 3 (S), Castletown Wood, 08.05 (SAMM); 1 (S), Castlehill, 08.05 (SAMM); 1, Noss Head, 14.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 2 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05, 3 (S) on 14.06 (SAMM); 1, Duncansby, 18.05 (RH); 1, Thurso (g), 27.09 (SAMM); 1, Freswick, 01.10 (RH); 1, Dunnet, 09.10 (JS); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 10.10 (RH); 1 f, Hill of Forss, 22.10 (Alison Reiss); 1 m, Wick (g), 21.10, 22.10 (DM); 3, Freswick, 22.10 (RH); 1, Newlands of Forse, 23.10 (PM); 1 m, Hillside, Killimster, 29.10 (SAMM); 1 m, Castlehill, 29.10 (David Bremner); 1, St John's, 30.10, 31.10 (JS); 1, Brough, 31.10 (JS); 3, St John's Pool, 01.11 (JS); 1, Auckengill, 01.11 (RH); 4, St John's, 02.11 (JS); 2 ff, Ackergill, 03.11 (Joanne Gatfield); 1 m, Wick (g), 03.11 to 11.11, 1 m, 1 f on 12.11 (DM); 1, Auckengill, 05.11 (NO); 1, Wick, 05.11 (DB); single birds present at Killimster, 08.11 to 13.12 (PMM); 3, St John's, 11.11 (JS); 1, Newlands of Forse, 19.11 (PM); 1 m, Lybster, 19.11 (PD); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 23.11 (JS).

### **Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin***

*Summer and passage migrant*

1 (S), Achvarasdal, 30.04 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 02.05 (RH); 2, Duncansby, 19.08 (RH); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 27.08 (NO).

### **Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria***

*Scarce migrant*

1, John O'Groats, 09.10 (PH); 1, Reay, 21.10 (per RH).

### **Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca***

*Scarce migrant*

1, John O'Groats Quarry, 19.08 (RH); 1, Nybster, 20.08 (RH); 1, eastern type, Auckengill, 09.10 (JO, RH); 1, eastern type (DNA sample collected), Freswick, 22.10 (RH).

### **Greater Whitethroat *Curruca communis***

*Local summer migrant; passage migrant.*

Present Wick Riverside, 11.05 (DB); 1, Sibster, Wick, 23.05 (Samantha Donovan); 1, Loch Olginey, 28.05 (DO); present, Dunbeath, 03.06 (David Bremner); 1, Freswick, 05.06 (RH); 1, Dunbeath, 20.07 (RH); 1, Duncansby, 19.09, 23.09 (RH); present, Duncansby Head, 24.09 (Louise Clewley).

### **Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***

*Resident; passage and winter migrant*

91 records on "Birdtrack". 6, Stroupster, 07.01 (NO); 4, Skiall Wood, 25.05 (DAO); 1 pair + 4 yg, Dorrery, 02.07 (NL); up to 10, Dorrery (g), 05.08 (NL); 5, Freswick, 01.10 (RH); 6, Auckengill, 09.10 (JO); c.12, John O'Groats Quarry, 09.10 (NO); 5, Freswick, 09.10 (RH); 12, Nybster, 13.10 (RH); c.12, Freswick, 22.10 (RH).





Goldcrest with chicks

Niall Laybourne

**Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla***

1, Biel of Duncansby, 30.09 (RH); 1, Hillside, Killimster, 29.10 (PMM, SAMM).

**Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

*Resident; migrant*

1, Dorrery (g), 30.01, 06.02, 25.07, 04.09, 07.09 (NL); 4, Skiall Wood, 02.03 (DAO); 2, Newlands of Forse, 14.04, 1 on 26.04 (PM); present Shebster, 17.04 (Joe Mann); 1, Achvarasdal, 30.04, 18.06 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 10.09 (SAMM); 2, Achvarasdal, 22.09 (SAMM); 1, Myrelandhorn (per PMM); 2, Dunnet Forest, 30.10 (JS); 1, Brough, 31.10 (JS); 1, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); 1, Newlands of Forse, 10.11 (PM); 1, Wick Riverside, 12.12 (DB).



*Treecreeper*

Niall Laybourne

### **Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

*Resident*

293 records on "Birdtrack". Nest with 5 yg, Dorrery, 07.07 (NL); 7, Auckengill, 15.10 (RH); 7, Scrabster, 19.11 (Steve Palmer).

### **White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus***

*Resident; local migrant*

1, Latheronwheel, 06.01, 01.02 (PD); 1, Sandside Burn, 31.01 (HW); 1, Latheronwheel, 09.02, 19.02 (PD); 1, Braal, 23.04 (DO); 1, Latheronwheel, 21.05 (Samantha Donovan); 1, Westerdale, 28.05 (RH); 1, Latheronwheel, 30.05 (DAO); present Berriedale, 17.06 (David Bremner); present Isauld Burn mouth, 24.09 (HW); 1, Gerston, 27.09 (DO); 1, Wick Riverside, 12.10 (WM); 1, Latheronwheel, 20.11 (PD).

### **European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

*Resident*

503 records on "Birdtrack". 350+, Reiss, 01.01 (DM); 700+, Lyth, 01.01 (DM); 400, Weydale, 06.01 (DO); 700, Killimster, 03.02 (PMM); 1,500, Puldagon, 16.02 (SAMM); 300 (roost), Skinnet, 04.03 (SAMM); newly fledged yg, Wick, 26.05 (DM); c.243, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 350+, Lybster, 28.08 (Angus Jennings); 300+, Slickly, 05.09 (Seân Kerr); c.320, Auckengill, 09.10 (JO); 1,300, Brims, 02.11 (DAO); 500, Noss Head, 06.11 (D O-E); 500, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E).

### **Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus***

*Resident; migrant*

1, Nybster, 03.01 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 07.01 (NO); present Helshetter, 13.01 (David Bremner); 3, Achins, 22.01 (HW); 4, Mey, 26.01 (DAO); 1, Keiss, 28.01 (NO); 2 (S), Reay, 01.03 (EM); 1 (S), Reay, 03.02 (EM); 2, Rumster, 04.03 (NO); 3, Helshetter, 08.03 (HW); 2, Reay, 09.03 (HW); 2, Dunnet Forest, 02.04 (JS); 1, Skiall Wood, 10.04 (DAO); present Shebster, 17.04 (Joe Mason); 1 (S), Rumster, 19.04 (SAMM); 1, Blar nam Faoileag, 15.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 2, Dunbeath, 17.05 (Peter Binder); 3, Skiall Wood, 21.05, 28.05 (DAO); present, Shebster, 08.06 (Joe Mason); 1, Castlehill, 10.06 (Audrey Turner); 1, John O'Groats, 30.09 (RH); 1, Skiall Wood, 26.10 (DAO); 1, Auckengill, 31.10 (RH); 3, Auckengill, 01.11 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 05.11 (NO); 1, Wick Riverside, 07.11 (RH); present, Auckengill, 14.11 (Andrew Matthews); 1, Scrabster, 19.11 (Steve Palmer).

### **Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

*Resident; migrant*

147 records on "Birdtrack". 1 m (S), Broubster, 07.01 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 06.02 (SAMM); 1 (S), Davidson's Lane, Thurso, 17.02, 02.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso East, 18.02 (SAMM); 1 (S), Olrig St, Thurso, 18.02 (SAMM); 4, Rumster, 04.03 (NO); 1 (S), Puldagon, 04.03 (SAMM); 8, Reay, 08.03 (EM); 1 (S), Loch Watten, 12.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Miller's Lane, Thurso, 24.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso (g), 25.03 to 01.05 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 16.04 (SAMM); 2 (S), Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 26.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 16.04, 13.06, 14.06, 17.06 (SAMM); 1 (S), top Duncan Street, Thurso, 07.05 (SAMM); 1 (S), Castlehill, 08.05

(SAMM); 1 (FF), Calder, 17.06 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 1 (S), Castle St, Thurso, 18.06, 23.06 (SAMM); 3, Newlands of Forse, 07.07 (PM); 4, Nybster, 28.09 (NO); 12, Freswick, 22.10 (RH); 4, Auckengill, 05.11 (NO).

### **Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

#### *Passage and winter migrant*

165 records on "Birdtrack". 210, St John's, 02.01 (JS); 63, Helshetter, 07.01 (HW); 45, Nybster, 15.01 (RH); 47, Thurso (g), 16.01 (SAMM); 50, Killimster, 22.01, 23.01 (PMM); 25, Wick Riverside, 25.01 (DB); 28, Westerdale, 12.02 (DAO); 30, Thurso Riverside, 06.03 (SAMM); 15, Victoria Walk, Thurso (in thick snow), 07.03 (SAMM); 2, Sandside Bay, in deep snow, 08.03 (EM); 30, Brims, 08.03 (DO); 40, Skiall, 10.03 (DAO); 24, Reay, 25.03, 35 on 28.03, 44 on 31.03 (EM); c.20, Newlands of Forse, 03.04 (PM); 1, Auckengill, 26.04 (JO); 1, Nybster, 01.05 (RH).

7, Skiall Wood, 05.10 (DAO); 10, St John's Pool, 05.10 (JS); 1, Auckengill, 07.10 (JO); present St John's Pool/Loch, 08.10 (JS); 19, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.10 (RH); 10, St John's, 09.10 (JS); 17, Auckengill, 09.10, c.45 on 10.10 (JO); 1, Killimster, 13.10 (PMM); 1, Oldhall, 15.10 (SAMM); 30, Larel, 19.10 (SAMM); few, Brough, 20.10 (DG); c.200, Freswick, 22.10 (RH); several hundred, Castlehill, 22.10 (KM); 74, Auckengill, 23.10 (RH); < 100, Sibster, Wick, 29.10 (SAMM); 150, St John's Pool/Loch, 01.11, 05.11 (JS); c.70, Newlands of Forse, 01.11 (PM); 200+ in off sea, Skirza, 05.11 (SAMM); c.60, Nybster, 05.11 (RH); 400, Noss Head, 06.11 (D O-E); 200+, East Murkle, 16.11 (RS); c.60, Nybster, 01.12 (RH); c.45, Newlands of Forse, 03.12 (PM); 100, St John's Pool, 26.12 (JS).

### **Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula***

#### *Resident; passage and winter migrant*

426 records on "Birdtrack". 10, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01 (JS); 10, Auckengill, 15.01 (NO); 16, Sandside, 24.01 (HW); 10, Newlands of Forse, 28.01 (PM); 7, Mall, Thurso, 17.02 (SAMM); 7, Reay, 10.03 (EM); 10, Nybster, 15.03 (RH); 2 ff (N), Wick (g), 30.03 (DM); newly-fledged yg, Thurso (g), 21.05 (SAMM); newly-fledged yg, Wick, 02.06 (DM); 3 yg, Newlands of Forse, 22.07 (PM); 3<sup>rd</sup> brood, St John's Pool, 23.07 (JS); 10, Newlands of Forse, 11.08 (PM); notable fall, Brough, 20.10 (DG); 23, Nybster, 22.10 (NO); c.100, Freswick, 22.10 (RH); 38, Newlands of Forse, 22.10 (PM); 24, Auckengill, 23.10 (RH); large flock, Sandside, 23.10 (HW); c.20, Nybster, 05.11 (RH); 15, Auckengill, 05.11 (NO); 12, Newlands of Forse, 17.12 (PM).

### **American Robin *Turdus migratorius***

#### *Scarce visitor*

1, St John's, 20.12 (JS). Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

### **Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris***

#### *Passage and winter migrant*

57 records on "Birdtrack". c.50, Reay, 01.01 (EM); c.10, Dorrery (g), throughout winter 2022/23, 02.01 (NL); 10, Reay, 02.01 (EM); 20+, Broubster, 07.01 (SAMM); c.63, Auckengill, 07.01, 53 on 15.01 (NO); 21, Broubster, 05.02 (SAMM); 4, Sandside Bay, in deep snow, 08.03 (EM); 16, Newlands of Forse, 27.03 (PM); 40 to 50, Brawlbin Schoolhouse, 20.03 (NL); 21, West Calder, 04.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 70+. Loch Calder, 05.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 11, Achreamie, 29.04 (DAO); 2, Auckengill, 09.05 (NO); 1, Auckengill, 15.10 (RH); 1, John O'Groats Quarry,

18.10 (NO); 3, Nybster, 22.10 (NO); 7, Freswick, 22.10 (RH); 400, Watten, 28.10 (DAO); 180, Ruther, 28.10 (DAO); < 100, Sibster, Wick, 29.10 (SAMM); 58, Killimster, 31.10 (PMM); c.70, Newlands of Forse, 01.11 (PM); 43, Broubster Leans, 04.11, 92 on 06.11, 67 on 27.11 (MS); 2,000, Noss Head, 06.11 (D O-E); 46, Nybster, 16.11 (RH); 200+, East Murkle, 16.11 (RS); c.50, Nybster, 01.12 (RH); 20, St John's Pool/Loch, 30.12 (JS).



*Fieldfare*

*Niall Laybourne*

**Ring Ousel *Turdus torquatus***

*Local summer migrant; passage migrant.*

1 m, Ord, 05.06 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Killimster, 22.10 (PMM); 2, Freswick, 22.10 (RH); 1, Brough, 23.10 (JS); 1, Castlehill, 23.10 (TH).

**Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

*Local summer migrant; passage migrant*

1, Castletown, 28.04 (PM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 25.05 (SAMM); 3, Langwell, 27.05 (RH); 1, Castletown, 27.05 (RH); 1, Bilbster, 29.05 (DAO); 1, Dorrery, 01.06, 04.07 (NL); 2, Nybster, 04.06 (RH); present Shebster, 08.06 (Joe Mann); 1, Freswick, 10.06 (RH); 1, Nybster, 12.06 (NO); 1 (S), Castlehill, 15.06 (JS); 1, Achvarasdal, 18.06, 24.06 (SAMM); 1 pair + 3 yg, Dorrery, 10.07, 11.07 (NL); 1, Rumster, 15.07 (PD); 1, Nybster, 18.07 (RH, NO); 3, Chracairnie, Dorrery, 22.07 (NL); 1, Latheronwheel, 23.07 (PD); 3, Newlands of Forse, 06.08, 1 on 11.08, 13.08 (PM); 2, Nybster, 14.08 (RH); 3, Smerral, 16.08 (DAO); 3, Nybster, 16.08, 2 on 19.08, 1 on 23.08 (NO); 2, Dorrery, 31.08 (NL); 1, Reay, 15.09 (EM).





*Spotted Flycatcher*

*Niall Laybourne*

**European Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

*Resident; passage and winter migrant.*

305 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread, peak counts in September, October and November. 7, Newlands of Forse, 02.03 (PM); newly-fledged yg, Thurso (garden), 10.06 (SAMM); 1, Tacher, 11.06 (DAO); newly-fledged yg, Achvarasdal, 24.06 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 13.08, 15.08, 23.08, 2 (S) on 27.08, 10.09 (SAMM); 2 (S), Thurso, 29.08; 1 (S), Thurso (g), 10.09, 13.09 (SAMM); 6, Nybster, 28.09 (NO); c.14, Freswick, 01.10, 22.10 (RH); 11, Auckengill, 23.10 (RH); 8, Auckengill, 05.11 (NO); 8, Lyth, 17.11 (DM); 11, Dounreay, 09.11 (DAO); 10, Dunnet Bay, 09.11 (D O-E); c.10, Auckengill, 03.12 (NO).

**European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca***

*Passage migrant*

1, Noss Head, 19.08 (RH); 3, Freswick, 19.08 (RH); 1, John O'Groats, 19.08 (RH); 1, Nybster, 20.08 (RH); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 18.09 (RH, NO).

**Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

*Local summer migrant; passage migrant.*

1 (S), Skiall Wood, 17.05 (DAO); 1, Nybster, 18.09 (RH); 2, Nybster, 22.09 (RH).

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

*Passage and winter migrant*

1, Loch Calder (Cathel Shieling), 23.04 (DAO); 1, Lochend, 22.10 (PH); 1, Wick Harbour, 11.12 to 28.12 (DAO, RH).

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

*Local summer migrant; passage migrant*

1, Westerdale, 28.05 (RH); 1, Achaeter, Forsie, 05.08 (DAO); 1, Auckengill, 27.08 (RH).

## **European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola***

### *Resident*

110 records on "Birdtrack". 2, Nybster, 04.01, 05.01 (NO); 1, Auckergill, 07.01 (NO); 4, Stroupster, 07.01 (NO); 2, Wick Riverside, 11.01 (DB); 1 m, Sandside, 21.01 (SAMM); 2, Dunnet Bay, 21.01 (NO); 2, Freswick, 22.01 (RH); 2, Keiss Beach, 28.01 (NO); 1, Loch of Wester, 05.02 (NO); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 12.02 (NO); 1, Nybster, 16.02 (RH); 1, Auckengill, 05.03 (NO); 1, Shebster, 11.03 (DAO); present, Wick Riverside, 12.03 (David Bremner); 1 m, Cnocglas, 25.03 (NL); nest-building, Calder, 26.03 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 1 m, Dunnet Links, 06.04 (SAMM); present, Noss Head, 10.04 (RH); 1 m, Smerlie, 19.04 (SAMM); 1 m (S), Newtonhill, 20.04 (SAMM); 7+, Loch of Mey, 19.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1 pair + 3 fl yg, Shebster, 03.06 (DAO); 5, RSPB Dunnet Head, 04.06 (NO); 6, Freswick, 05.06 (RH); 2 juveniles, Newlands of Forse, 10.07 (PM); 1 m (A), Newtonhill, 19.07 (SAMM); 2 juveniles, East Kirk, 26.07, 6 juveniles seen on 30.07 (PMM); 1 m, Puldagon, 02.08 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Torran Water, 20.08 (NL); 7, John O'Groats Quarry, 27.08 (NO); 1 juvenile, Dorrery, 30.08 (NL); 2 m, 1 f, 1 juvenile, John O'Groats Quarry, 09.09 (SAMM); 1 m, Dorrery, 10.09 (NL); 1 m, Newtonhill, 26.09 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Mey, 16.10 (SE); 2, Broubster Leans, 10.11 (D O-E); 1, Wick Riverside, 12.12 (DB); 3, Broubster, 17.12 (DAO).

## **Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe Oenanthe***

### *Summer and passage migrant*

89 records on "Birdtrack". 1 m, Cairnfield, 20.03 (NL); 1, John O'Groats, 23.03 (JS); 1, Loch Stemster, 01.04 (PM); 1, Latheron Cemetery, 02.04 (David Bremner); 2, Ulbster, 04.04 (PM); 1, Auckengill, 07.04 (NO); 1, Nybster, 07.04 (RH); 1, West Calder, 08.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 1, Lochside, Calder, 10.04 (NL); 1, Wick, 10.04 (DB); 1 m, Thurso, 11.04 (SAMM); present Weydale, 13.04 (AMcB); 1 pair, Holborn Head, 14.04 (SAMM); 1 m, track, Holborn Head, 14.04 (SAMM); 1 pair, Loch Stemster, 19.04 (SAMM); 6, Dounreay, 25.04 (DAO); 1 m, Cnocglas Water, 29.04 (NL); 4 to 5 pairs, Dunnet Head, 30.04 (NL); 1, Freswick, 30.04 (RH); 1 m, Ben Dorrery, 01.05 (NL); 9 to 10, Crosskirk to Brims Ness, 06.05 (NL); 4, Holborn Head, 07.05 (NL); 1, Sandside Bay, 08.05 (EM); 5, Dunbeath, 12.05 (Tony Laidler); 1, Scarabens, 27.05 (RH); 2 Murkle Beach, 28.05 (RS); 6, RSPB Dunnet Head, 04.06 (NO); 8, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); c.6 (including juveniles), Loch Stemster, 30.07 (NL); 1 f, Hilliclay, 17.09 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 22.09 (RH); 1, Brawlbin Farm, 29.09 (NL); 2, Nybster, 29.09 (RH); 1, Durran, 02.10 (NL); 2, Sandside Bay, 09.10 (HW); 1, Lochside, Calder, 11.10 (NL); 1, Wick, 12.10 (JO).





*Northern Wheatear, Sandside*

*Eric Maughan*



*Northern Wheatear*

*Niall Laybourne*

**Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus***

*Irruptive migrant*

67 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Lybster, 03.02 (PD); 3, Loch Watten, 17.10 (PH); 1, Freswick, 18.10 (RH); 60, roost, Castlehill, 22.10, 24.10 (JS, RH); 20, Thurso, 22.10 (JS); 30, Castlehill, 22.10 (KM); 4, Wick, 22.10, 6 on 24.10 (Jack Morris); 20, Thurso (g), 23.10 (SAMM); 40, Thurso (g), 24.10 (SAMM); up to 40, Thurso (Sweyn Road, etc.), 24.10 (KM); 37, Wick Riverside, 24.10 (RH); 1, Scarfskerry, 25.10 (Neil Roberts); 13, Reay, 26.10, 2 on 27.10 (HW, Rhodri Evetts); 150, Thurso, 27.10 (KM); 97, Wick, 27.10 (Jack Morris); 60+, Thurso, 27.10 (John Bell); 12+, Watten, 28.10 (NO); 12, Castlehill, 28.10 (RH); 26, Halkirk, 28.10 (DO); 40, Thurso Riverside, 29.10 (KM); c.15, Harpsdale, 29.10 (Greg Latham); 100, Thurso, 30.10, 31.10 (PH, Elizabeth Masden); 6, Reay, 30.10 (HW); 20, St John's, 31.10 (JS); 50+, Thurso (g), 04.11 (SAMM); 200, Thurso, 05.11 (KM); 100+, Thurso (g), 05.11 (SAMM); 7, Thurso (g), 06.11 (SAMM); 1, Dorrery (g), 07.11 (NL); 5, Thurso (g), 08.11 (SAMM); 12, Castletown, 16.11 (PMM); 1, Latheronwheel, 29.11 (B/G); 4, Thurso, 05.12 (B/G).



*Waxwing*

*Karen Munro*

**Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

*Resident*

182 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread. 1 (S), Thurso, 12.02, 13.02 (SAMM); 4 (S), Thurso, 06.04 (SAMM); 2 newly-fledged yg, Wick, 06.06 (DM); 1, Dorrery, 02.09 (NL).

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

*Resident*

284 records on "Birdtrack". 33, Killimster, 04.01, 38 on 10.01 (PMM); 3 eggs in nestbox, Reay (g), 06.05 (EM); newly-fledged yg, Lyth, 11.05 (DM); newly-fledged yg, Thurso (garden), 20.05 (SAMM); 80+, Thurso (g), 20.07 (SAMM); c.40, Nybster, 04.07 (RH); 34, Watten, 14.07 (DAO); 41, Upper Dounreay, 05.08 (DO).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

*Resident; migrant*

2, Lyth, 01.01, 1 on 28.01, 11.02 (DM); 1, St John's, 07.01 (JS); 2, Lyth, 25.02 (DM); 3+, Castletown, 15.04 (RH); 2, Lyth, 06.05, 27.05 (DM); 1 pair at nestbox, Lybster, 09.05, 11.05 (PD); present, Duncansby, 18.05 (RH); 2, Castletown, 27.05 (RH); 1, Nybster, 01.06, 02.06, 03.06, 2 on 04.06 (NO, RH); 3 newly-fledged yg, Lyth, 03.06 (DM); 1, Watten, 04.06 (NSWG); 1 ad + 3 juveniles, Lyth, 18.06 (DM); 1, Lyth, 16.09 (DM); 2, Lyth, 07.10 (DM); 1, Lyth, 11.11 (DM); 1, Killimster, 30.11 (PMM); 2, Lyth, 25.12 (DM).

### **Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

*Resident; migrant*

1, Aimster, 13.01 (JS); 1, Killimster, 20.01, 11.02 (PMM); 1, Burnside, Thurso, 26.02 (SAMM); 1, Latheronwheel, 13.03, 02.05 (PD); 1, Lybster, 02.05 (PD); 1, Westfield, 05.04 (DAO); 2, Calder, 09.04 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); present Achairn Burn, 15.04 (David Bremner); 2, Westerdale, 17.04 (JS); present, Latheronwheel, 17.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1 pair, Forss Water (Broubster), 24.05 (EM); 2, Tacher, 11.06 (DAO); 1, Thurso Riverside, 14.06 (SAMM); present, St John's Pool, 14.06 (JS); 1 flying NE, St John's Pool, 15.06 (JS); 2, Newlands of Forse, 09.07, 1 on 14.07, 20.07, 22.07, 01.08, 2 on 04.08 (PM); 2, Castletown Harbour, 18.07 (Peter Binder); present, Wick Riverside, 05.08 (DB); 1, Newlands of Forse, 11.08, 20.08, 02.09 (PM); 1 juvenile, Killimster, 22.08 (PMM); 12 S, Lybster, 28.08 (Angus Jennings); 1, Nybster, 03.09, 18.09, 22.09 (RH); 1, Newlands of Forse, 12.09, 15.09, 24.09 (PM); 1, Halkirk, 27.09 (MS); 3, Thurso, 07.10 (JO); 1, Nybster, 13.10, 15.10, 17.10, 23.10 (RH); present Thurso Riverside, 24.10 (Gary Aitken); 1, Auckengill, 01.11, 05.11 (RH, NO); 1, Thurso, 07.11 (RH).

### **Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

172 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread, peaks in April, May and September. Very few winter records. 20+, Thurso Beach, 06.02, 40+ on 07.02, 09.02 (SAMM); 10, Thurso Beach, 03.08 (SAMM); 14, Thurso Beach, 29.08 (SAMM); 20, Thurso Beach, 31.08 to 01.09 (SAMM); 300 – 400 (roost), Scrabster Pier, 29.08 (KM); 21+, Dunnet Bay, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); c.72 (roost), Nybster, 28.09 (RH).

99 records on "Birdtrack" of Pied/White Wagtails.

### **White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba***

*Passage migrant; has bred.*

1, Thurso Beach, 06.04, 11.04 (SAMM); 2, Castle of Mey, 20.04 (JS); 1, Keiss, 22.04 (RH); 4, Thurso Beach, 24.04, 25.04 (SAMM); singles, Wester River, 26.04, 27.04, 02.05 (PMM); 2, Auckengill, 26.04, 27.04, 28.04 (JO); 2, Nybster, 26.04 (RH); 2, Lyth, 29.04, 03.05, 06.05, breeding (DM); 2, Thurso Beach, 30.04 (SAMM); 1, Freswick, 30.04 (RH); 2, Keiss, 30.04 (RH); 6, Thurso Beach, 01.05 (SAMM); 1, Reay, 05.05 (EM); 1, Thurso Beach, 07.05, 08.05, 10.05, 2 on 06.05 (SAMM); 2, Freswick, 21.05 (RH); 1, Broubster Leans, 24.05 (EM); 1, Freswick, 11.06 (RH); 2, Freswick, 23.08 (RH); present Keiss Beach, 27.08 (NO); present Ackergill, 31.08 (DB); present Freswick, 02.09 (RH); 1, St John's Pool, 14.09 (JS); 1, Reay, 27.09 (EM); present, Freswick, 01.10 (RH).

### **Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

*Summer and passage migrant*

277 records on "Birdtrack". 10, Duncansby Head, 28.02 (HW); 1 (S), St John's, 25.03 (JS); c.30, Nybster, 13.04 (NO); 27, Auckengill, 28.04 (JO); 12, Baillie Hill, 26.05 (DAO); 22, Loch Rangag, 11.06 (DAO); 1 yg, Newlands of Forse, 13.06 (PM); 60, Hallam, 07.08 (DAO); 22, Newlands of Forse, 22.08 (PM); 20+, Ushat Head, 08.09 (SAMM); 30, Olgrinmore, 12.09 (DO); 10, Noss Head, 06.11 (D O-E).



**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

*Local summer migrant; passage migrant*

1, Blar nam Faoileag, 15.05 (Gordon Hamlett); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 18.09 (RH).

**Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

*Resident; winter migrant*

193 records on "Birdtrack". 16, Auckengill, 07.01 (NO); 10, John O'Groats, 07.01 (WB); 19, Nybster, 18.01 (RH); c.30, Freswick, 22.01 (RH); 50, (attracted to large hatching of flies), Brough, 21.02 (JS); 1 (D), Thurso Harbour, 24.03 (SAMM); 3 nominate s/s, Freswick, 26.03 (RH); 1 (D), Victoria Walk, Thurso, 18.05 (SAMM); 7 (A), Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 12+, Thurso Beach, 14.09 (SAMM); 13, Nybster, 23.09 (RH); 10, Dunnet Head, 05.11 (D O-E); 10, Duncansby Head, 05.11 (D O-E); 12, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E); 11, Scrabster, 19.11 (Steve Palmer); 25, Harrow, 19.11 (JS).



*Rock Pipit, Sandside*

*Eric Maughan*

**Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

*Resident*

264 records on "Birdtrack". 57, Killimster, 03.01, 63 on 31.01, 70 on 09.02 (PMM); 120, Isauld, 05.01 (HW); c.28, Auckengill, 07.01 (NO); c.60, Reay at feeder (g), 16.01, 07.03, 08.03 (EM); 13, Skiall Wood, 13.02 (DO); 1 pair, Lybster, 02.03 (PD); 27, Skiall Wood, 02.03 (DAO); 2 pairs, Lybster, 08.03 (PD); 13, Newlands of Forse, 18.07, 17 on 08.08 (PM); 14, Achreamie, 19.08 (DAO); 50, Harpsdale, 14.10 (SAMM); 80, Upper Harpsdale, 14.10 (SAMM); 16, Nybster, 17.10

(RH); c.70, Auckengill, 01.11 (RH); c.130, Auckengill, 05.11 (NO); 24, Skiall Wood, 05.11 (DO); 40, Upper Dounreay, 11.11 (DAO); 70, Killimster, 09.12 (PMM); 30, Weydale, 23.12 (PH).

### **Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

#### *Passage and winter migrant*

Present at Killimster, 01.01 to 16.01 (maximum 3 birds) (PMM); 10+, Oldhall, 07.01 (SAMM); 1 m, Wick (g), 17.01 (DM); 2 mm, Reay (g), 31.01 (EM); 1 f, Reay (g), 01.02 (EM); 1 m, 1 f, Reay (g), 07.03 (EM); 1 m, 2 ff, Reay (g), 08.03 (EM); 4, Reay (g), 10.03 (EM); 2, Reay (g), 15.03 (EM); 1 (S), St John's Pool/Loch, 07.05 (JS); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 08.10 (JS); 2, Auckengill, 09.10 (JO); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 09.10 (NO); 1 f, Killimster, 10.10 (PMM); 5, Hilliclay, 19.10 (PH); 1, Brough, 20.10 (DG); 1, Thurso (g), 22.10 (Joy Fussell); 13, Killimster, 23.10 (PMM); 11, Biel of Duncansby, 23.10 (RH); 1, Castlehill, 29.10 (David Bremner); 20+, Hillside, Killimster, 29.10 (SAMM, PMM).

### **Hawfinch *Coccothraustes Coccothraustes***

#### *Scarce migrant*

1, Thrumster, 24.04 (per RH); 1 f, Reay, 24.04 (HW); 1 f, Shebster, 26.04 (DAO); 1, Wick, 25.10 (Jack Morris); 1, Killimster, 08.11, 09.11 (PMM); 1, Skiall Wood, 11.11 (DAO).



*Hawfinch*

*Hilary Wilson*

### **Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

#### *Resident; passage and winter migrant.*

2, Shebster, 04.02 (DAO); 1, Achvarasdal, 14.02 (SAMM); 5, Rumster, 04.03 (NO); 2, Helshetter, 08.03 (HW); 1, Newlands of Forse, 05.04 (PM); 1, Langwell, 27.05 (RH); 1 pair, Dorrery, 11.06, 28.06 (NL); 2, Newlands of Forse, 22.06 (PM); 1 pair + 1 yg, Newlands of Forse,

03.07 (PM); 1 m, Dorrery, 05.07 (NL); 1 f, Dorrery, 07.07, 21.07 (NL); 1, Forse House, 13.08 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Reay, 29.08 (SAMM); 2, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 02.09 (G Dodds); 1, Reay, 04.09 (SAMM); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 24.10 (JS); 1, nominate s/s, Noss Head, 25.10, 27.10 (Jack Morris); 1, nominate s/s?, St John's, 31.10 (JS); 1 f, Dorrery, 28.11 (NL); 12, Rumster, 03.12 (PD).

### **European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris***

#### *Resident*

108 records on "Birdtrack". Some recovery in numbers since the outbreak of Trichomoniasis. 4, Reay (g), 01.02, 04.03 (EM); 23, Skiall Wood, 02.03 (DAO); 10, Auckengill, 12.03 (NO); 4 (S), St John's. 25.03 (JS); 10, St John's Pool, 20.04 (JS); c.12, Nybster, 19.08 (NO); 18, Nybster, 17.10 (RH); 10, St John's Pool/Loch, 16.11 (JS).

### **Twite *Linaria flavirostris***

#### *Resident; winter migrant*

47 records on "Birdtrack". 10+, Oldhall, 07.01 (SAMM); 42, Auckengill, 04.02 (NO); 14, Nybster, 05.03 (RH); 50, Dunnet, 08.03 (Ruth Briggs); 18, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 9, Burnside, Calder, 20.03 (NL); 60, Harpsdale Mains, 25.03 (SAMM); 1 (S), Nell's Cottage, Holborn Head, 14.04 (SAMM); 33, Auckengill, 29.04 (RH); 26, Upper Dounreay, 05.08 (DO); 14, Dunnet Head, 06.08 (MS); c.25, Wick, 29.08 (Angus Jennings); 46+, Nybster, 06.09 (Seân Kerr); 5, 3, family groups, Ushat Head, 08.09 (SAMM); 60, Hallam, 17.09 (DAO); 20+, Killimster, 22.09 (SAMM); 30, Shebster, 24.09 (DAO); 2, Dunnet Sands, 03.10 (Ian Phillips); c.30, Dunnet Bay, 15.10 (NO); 20, Tister, 23.10 (SAMM); 30, Upper Dounreay, 11.11 (DAO); 30, John O'Groats, 10.12 (RH).

### **Eurasian Linnet *Linaria cannabina***

#### *Resident*

173 records on "Birdtrack". 200, East Murkle, 07.01 (JS); 35, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 2,000, Dunn, 13.03 (JS); 31, Sandside Bay, 24.03 (HW); c.45, Auckengill, 29.04 (JO); 4, Thurso Harbour, 08.05 (SAMM); 2, Wick, 14.05 (DM); 18, Hallam, 22.05 (DAO); c.35, Nybster, 15.07 (RH); 50, St John's Pool, 31.08 (JS); 84, Slickly, 05.09 (Seân Kerr); 20, John O'Groat's Quarry, 09.09 (SAMM); 150, Scarfskerry, 12.09 (JS); 70, St John's Pool, 16.09 (JS); c.300, Nybster, 29.09 (RH); c.310, Auckengill, 07.10, C.80 on 09.10, c.90 on 11.10 (JO); 12, Killimster, 08.11 (PMM); 40, John O'Groats, 09.11 (D O-E); 83, Killimster, 15.11, 16.11 (PMM); 150, Killimster, 01.12 (PMM).

### **Common Redpoll *Acanthus flammea***

#### *Lesser: common resident and summer migrant; Common: scarce migrant*

1 (lesser), St John's, 04.01 (JS); 2, Stroupster, 07.01 (NO); 1 (lesser)(S), Newtonhill, 16.02 (SAMM); 3 (lesser) (S), Achvarasdall, 14.02 (SAMM); present Rumster, 04.03 (NO); 2 (lesser) (S, D), Newtonhill, 19.05 (SAMM); 1 (common), Freswick, 08.06, 10.06 (RH); 1 (lesser), Dorrery, 11.06, 13.06, 09.07 (NL); 6+ (lesser), Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 26.06 (Penny Insole); 2 (common), Cnoc Beul na Faire, 05.07 (RH); family party (lesser), 4, Newtonhill, 07.07 (SAMM); 13 (lesser), Freswick, 09.07 (RH); 4 (lesser), Dunnet Head, 19.07 (Clive Dinsey); 1, Sandside Bay, 29.09 (HW); 1 (common), Freswick, 22.10 (RH); 1 (common), Noss Head, 27.10 (Jack Morris).



### **Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostris***

*Resident; migrant*

8, Rumster, 05.01 (PD); 1, Broubster, 07.01 (SAMM); 16, Stroupster, 07.01 (NO); 1, Achvarasdal, 07.01 (SAMM); 2, Dunnet Forest, 24.01 (SAMM); 1, Dorrery, 28.03 (NL); 4, Loch Meadhoin, 16.04 (NL); 2 juveniles, Rumster, 19.04 (SAMM); 8, Rumster, 02.10 (JS); 9, St John's Pool, 09.10 (JS); 9, Biel of Duncansby, 09.10 (RH); 25, Freswick, 30.10 (RH); 22 ESE, St John's, 31.10 (JS); c.20, Nybster, 06.11 (RH); 21, Achow, 08.11 (PD); 1 m, Dorrery (g), 09.11 (NL); 40, Rumster, 10.11 (PD); 4 m, 1 f, Dorrery, 28.12 (NL).

### **European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

*Resident; migrant*

297 records on "Birdtrack". 19, Killimster, 03.01 (PMM); 6, Reay (g), 01.02, 07.03, 08.03, 30.04 (EM); 22, Braal, 23.04 (DO); 15, Lynegar, 02.05 (DD); 2 newly-fledged yg, Wick, 17.07 (DM); 3 yg being fed, Newlands of Forse, 23.08 (PM); 40+, Ulbster, 01.09, 50+ on 06.09 (PM); 30, Newtonhill, 07.09 (SAMM); 50, Puldagon, 07.09 (SAMM); c.40, Bulreanrob, Osclay, 13.09 (PM); 100, Dunnet Forest, 22.09 (JS); c.80, Auckengill, 30.09 (RH); c.45, Freswick, 06.10 (JO); 30+, Lyth, 07.10 (DM); c.110, Reiss, 09.10 (JO); 34, Lyth, 28.10 (DM); 31, Killimster, 29.10 (PMM); c.40, Freswick, 02.12 (RH); 54, Weydale, 23.12 (PH).

### **Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus***

*Summer, passage and winter migrant*

60 records on "Birdtrack". 1 to 3 birds reported widely. 6, Lyth, 01.01 (DM); 7, Reay (g), 01.01 (EM); 18, Killimster, 03.01 (PMM); 2, Thurso (g at nyger feeder), 07.01, 09.01 (SAMM); c.70, Nybster, 15.02 (RH); 25, St John's Pool, 21.02 (JS); 1 m, Lybster, 27.02 (PD); 20+, Dunnet Forest, 04.03 (JS); 5, Reay (g), 08.03 (EM); 1, fledged yg, Shebster, 10.04 (DO); 20+ (S), (D), Rumster, 19.04 (SAMM); 4 pairs (1 pair with 3 newly fledged yg), Lyth, 06.05 (DM); juveniles, Dorrery, 10.07 (NL); 6, Newtonhill, 19.07 (SAMM); 22, Freswick, 27.08 (RH); 20, Auckengill, 27.08 (RH); 50, Freswick, 02.09 (RH); 3, Thurso (g), 22.10 (Joy Fussell).

### **Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus***

*Scarce migrant*

1 S, Nybster, 09.10 (RH).

### **Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis***

*Passage and winter migrant*

30, Dunnet Sands, 07.01 (DG); c.20, Dunnet Bay, 15.01 (NL); 30, Dunnet Sands (east), 24.01 (JS); 5, Dunnet Bay, 11.03 (NO); 1, Murkle Beach, 15.03 (RS); 1, Sandside Bay, 24.03 (HW); 1, Strathmore, 25.03 (SAMM); 4, Keiss Beach, 25.03 (RH); 1, Buchollie, 07.04 (RH); 1, Sandside Head, 13.04 (HW); 8, Thurso Beach, 22.09 (SAMM); 1, Freswick, 24.09 (RH); 1, Keiss, 10.10 (B/G); 1, Nybster, 23.10 (RH); 1 S, Auckengill, 05.11 (RH); 2 S, Loch of Wester, 21.11 (RH).

Also records from Sandside, Murkle Bay and Duncansby Ness.



*Snow Bunting*

*Hilary Wilson*

**Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella***

*Resident*

28 records on "Birdtrack". 12, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01 (JS); 14, Limekiln, Reay, 05.01 (HW); 1 m, Lybster, 19.02 (PD); 5, St John's Pool, 09.04 (JS); 2 pairs, Helshetter, 16.04 (HW); 2, Murkle Bay, 25.04 (Penny Insole); 2, Ruther, 26.04 (DAO); 1, Watten, 27.04 (NSWG); 1 f, Calder, 11.05 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); present Borlum, Reay, 20.05 (HW); present St John's Pool/Loch, 20.07 (JS); 4, Ruther, 28.07 (DO); 1, Dunnet Head, 27.09 (JS); 1, St John's, 31.10 (JS); 15, Mey, 19.11 (JS); 27, St John's, 10.12 (JS); 15, Killimster (Phil Tomlinson).

**Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus***

*Resident*

91 records on "Birdtrack". 1 to 3 birds reported widely. 10, Gersa, 07.01 (SAMM); 10, Auckengill, 25.02, 13 on 12.03 (NO); 1, north of Loch Caluim track, 25.03 (NL); 1 m, Torran track, 04.06 (NL); 1, Loch More, 30.09 (NL); 1 x 1<sup>st</sup> w, Ben Dorrery, 07.10 (NL); 30+, Loch of Wester, 21.11 (RH); 10, Blood Moss Burn, Achow, 25.11 (PD); 4, Hallam, 17.12 (DAO).

2021 Records

Spoonbill

3, Loch of Mey, 24.05 (Ian Phillips)

Marsh Harrier

1 immature male, Loch of Mey, 24.05 and probably the same bird at Lyth on 25.05 (Ian Phillips)

## GAZETTEER

Localities mentioned in the text are listed here with their National Grid reference down to 1 kilometre square.

Achalone ND 1556	3555
Achanarras ND 1555	Aimster ND 1163
Achastle ND 2233	Alterwall ND 2864
Achavanich ND 1742	Altnabreac ND 0045
Achiebeg ND 0263	Assery ND 0562
Achins NC 9564	Auckengill ND 3664
Achlachan ND 1453	Backlass ND 0842
Achlipster ND 2652	Badbea ND 0921
Achow ND 3622	Baillie ND 0465
Achreamie ND 0166	Banniskirk ND 1557
Achscrabster ND 0863	Bardnaclavan ND 0764
Achvarasdal NC 9864	Bardnaheigh, Shebster ND 0364
Ackergill ND <b>Great Skua <i>Stercorarius skua</i></b> <i>Summer and passage migrant</i>	Beinn Freiceadain ND 0655
87 records on "Birdtrack". Bred Stroma and Dunnet Head. 1 N, Nybster, 30.03 (RH); 1, Nybster, 09.04 (RH); 2, Red Point, Sandside, 13.04 (HW); 1, Murkle Bay, 28.04 (RS); 1, Thurso Bay, 19.05 (SAMM); 12, Nybster, 07.06 (RH); c.20, Stroma, 13.06 (NO); 8 pairs (T, A), Stroma, 25.06 (SAMM); 10 pairs, Stroma, 16.07 (Dr Ian Francis); 1 suspect AIV, Stroma, 16.07 (Carole Davis); 7, Stroma, 17.07 (DD); 3 N/0.75 hr, Nybster, 27.07 (RH); 10/hr N, South Head, Wick, 04.08 (SAMM); 1, Dunnet Bay (killed Herring Gull), 08.08 (SAMM); 5 N/1 hr, Nybster, 16.08 (RH); 6 N/0.5 hr, Nybster, 17.08 (RH); 23 N, Nybster, 18.08 (RH); 1 N, 2 S, Lybster, 31.08 (Angus Jennings); 4 N/2.0hrs, Nybster, 06.09 (RH); 1 N, Nybster, 19.09 (RH); 1 Nybster, 25.09 (Mark Breaks); 1, Brims Ness, 29.09 (GG); 1, Dunnet Bay, 06.10 (JS); 1, Nybster, 19.10 (RH); 1 N, South Head, Wick, 19.10 (SAMM).	Ben Dorrery ND 0655
	Berriedale ND1223
	Biel of Duncansby ND 3870
	Biggins ND 3255
	Blar nam Faoileag ND 1345
	Blood Moss ND 2287
	Borgue ND 1325
	Borrowston, Forss ND 0168
	Bower ND 2363
	Bowertower ND 2262
	Braal ND1461
	Braemore ND 0830
	Brawlbin ND 0757
	Brims ND 0470
	Brims Ness ND 0471

Broubster ND 0460  
Brough ND 2273  
Buchollie ND 3865  
Buldoo ND 0067  
Bullechach ND 1254  
Cairnfield, Weydale ND 1464  
Calder ND 0960  
Camster ND 2641  
Canisbay ND 3472  
Carsgoe ND 1363  
Castlehill ND 1969  
Castletown ND 1968  
Claredon ND 1369  
Clar Loch NC 9544  
Clyth ND 2937  
Cnocglas Water ND 0452  
Cnoc na Maranaich ND 1333  
Coghill Loch ND 0970  
Corriechoich ND 0329  
Crosskirk ND 0270  
Dale ND 1353  
Dirlot ND 1349  
Dixonfield ND 1366  
Dorrery ND 0755  
Dounreay NC 9967  
Drumhollistan NC 9264  
Dunbeath ND 1630  
Duncansby/Head/Ness ND 4074  
Dunnet /Bay/Links ND 2270  
Dunnet Forest ND 2270  
Dunnet Head ND 2076  
Durran ND 1963  
East Gills, Scrabster ND 1069  
East Mey ND 3074  
East Murkle ND 1768  
Faulds ND 2159  
Forse House ND 2135  
Forsie (Achaeter) ND 0661  
Forss ND 0369  
Forss Water (Broubster) ND 0361  
Forss Water (Forss) ND 0368  
Framside ND 0861  
Freswick ND 3768  
Geise ND 1064  
Georgemas ND 1559  
Gersa ND 2758  
Gerston, Halkirk ND 1259  
Gillfield ND 3453  
Gills/Bay ND 3374  
Gobernuisgeach NC 9831  
Greenland ND 2467  
Greenvale ND 2472  
Halcro ND 2360  
Halkirk ND 1360  
Hallam ND 0367  
Halsary ND 1849  
Ham/Pool ND 2373  
Harpsdale ND 1355  
Harrow ND 2874  
Haster ND 3251  
Hastigrow ND 2661  
Helshetter NC 9662

Hilliclay ND 1664  
Hill of Dunn ND 1855  
Holborn Head ND 1172  
Houstry, Latheron ND 1535  
Huna ND 3674  
Isauld NC 9765  
John O' Groats ND 3872  
Keiss ND 3462  
Killimster ND 3156  
Killimster Loch ND 3055  
Knockglass ND 0563  
Lambsdale Leans ND 0454  
Langwell ND 1023  
Larel ND 1858  
Latheron ND 1933  
Latheronwheel ND 1833  
Lieurary ND 0762  
Lochan Buidhe ND 0369  
Lochan Dubh Cul an Loin ND 0552  
Lochan Dubh Cul na Beinne NC 9854  
Loch Achbuligan NC 9865  
Loch a Chiteadh ND 0450  
Loch Calder ND 0762  
Loch Caluim ND 0251  
Lochend ND 2668  
Loch Heilen ND 2568  
Loch Hempriggs ND 3447  
Loch Meadhoin ND 0651  
Loch Meadie ND 0948  
Loch More ND 0745  
Loch of Mey ND 2775  
Loch of Wester ND 3259  
Loch Olginey ND 0958  
Loch Rangag ND 1842  
Loch Saorach ND 0160  
Loch Sarclet ND 3442  
Loch Scarmclate ND 1860  
Lochside, Castletown ND 2165  
Loch Stemster ND 1942  
Loch Shurrery ND 0455  
Loch Thormaid ND 0060  
Loch Toftingal ND 1952  
Loch Watenan ND 3242  
Loch Watten ND 2357  
Loch Winless ND 2954  
Longoe ND 2974  
Lybster ND 2536  
Lynegar ND 2457  
Lyth ND 2863  
Lythmore ND 0567  
Mains of Stirkoke ND 5031  
Mey ND 2874  
Middleton ND 0569  
Milton, Gillock ND 2059  
Munsary ND 2145  
Murkle ND 1569  
Netherside ND 2058  
Newport ND 1224  
Newtonhill ND 3449  
Newlands of Forse ND 2236  
North Head, Wick ND 3850  
Noss Head/Farm ND 3955

Nybster ND 3662	Skiall ND 0367
Oldhall ND 2056	Skinnet ND 1261
Olgrinmore ND 0955	Skirza ND 3868
Ord ND 0617	Skitten ND 3256
Osclay ND 2238	Slickly ND 2966
Ousdale ND 0720	Smerral, Latheron ND 1733
Pentland Firth ND 1274	Sordale ND 1562
Philips Mains ND 2971	South Head, Wick ND 3749
Portormin, Dunbeath ND 1629	Spittal ND 1654
Puldagon ND 3248	Stainland ND 1266
Quoybrae ND 2758	Stanstill ND 2760
Quoys of Reiss ND 3357	Staxigoe ND 3852
Ravenshill ND 0769	Stemster, Halkirk ND 1860
Reay NC 9665	Stirkoke ND 3353
Red Point NC 9365	Strathcoul ND 1155
Reiss ND 3354	Strathmore ND 1047
Rumster ND 2138	Stroma ND 3577
Ruther ND 2457	Swiney ND 2335
St John's Loch/Pool ND 2373	Tacher ND 1746
Sandside/Bay/Head/Farm NC 9566	Taldale ND 0669
Scaraben ND 0626	Tannoch ND 3247
Scarfskerry ND 2674	Thrumster ND 3345
Scotland's Haven ND 3174	Thurdistoft ND 2268
Scrabster ND 0971	Thurso/Bay ND 1269
Scrabster Loch ND 0870	Thurso East ND 1268
Shalmstry ND 1364	Thuster ND 3051
Shebster ND 0265	Tongside ND 1057
Shurrery ND 0455	Tornameal ND 0757
Sibster Walk, Halkirk ND 1559	Torran Water ND 0553
Sibster, Wick ND 3253	Ulminster ND 3240
Sinclair's Bay ND 3557	Upper Dounreay ND 0065



Upper Thrumster ND 3445

Ushat Head ND 0371

Waas ND 0866

Watten ND 2455

West Calder ND 0651

West Clyth ND 2636

Westerdale ND 1353

Westerloch/Wester River ND 3258/3359

Wester Orlig ND 2065

Westfield ND 0665

West Mey ND 2873

Weydale ND 1465

Whaligoe ND 3240

Wick ND 3650

Winless ND 3053



