



NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 3  
February 2021

## MORAY BIRD CLUB

### Welcome

Spring is on the way! Despite the recent wintry blast, blackbirds have started singing, snowdrops are blooming and the days are getting longer and longer. In around a month the first Chiffchaffs, Sand Martins and Wheatears will be returning from Africa and around the Mediterranean – Martin Cook’s article in this newsletter tells us more about these early migrants. Spring is also a season of departure for many of the waders from our coastal sites like Findhorn Bay, you can find out from Richard Somers Cocks’ article where they will be going and Al Young’s piece will help you sort out the Dunlin from the Knot. Dan Puplett’s article records Moray and Nairn’s first ever overwintering Hawfinch. Hopefully it won’t be too long before lockdown restrictions start to be lifted and we can get out more. The Moray and Nairn British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) newsletter included in this mailing gives details of a number of bird surveys where volunteers are needed – these are a great way of contributing vital information about our bird populations as well as potentially venturing to new places you haven’t explored before. Our local BTO representative, Melvin Morrison would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to help with these surveys. Enjoy the spring when it comes.

David Law

Chair



### In This Issue

Welcome .....	1
Encounters with a Hawfinch .....	2
Waders - Spring Departure .....	4
Early Migrants.....	6
Knot or Dunlin? .....	8
BTO Newsletter .....	Supplement

### Forthcoming Events

On Thursday, March 11 we are holding another virtual Bird Club meeting when Mark Johnston, Dorenell Ranger will give a talk on *The Birds and Wildlife of Cabrach and Glenfiddich*.

We will provide more details nearer the time.

## ENCOUNTERS WITH A HAWFINCH

Dan Puplett

It was like an early Christmas present; I had been wanting to see this bird for a long time. But seeing it in Moray (extremely unusual) right below my feeding station in Rafford . . . what were the chances of that?

I see a variety of birds on and around the feeder, and the finch list includes Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Brambling and Siskin. But on Christmas Eve I did a double-take. There, right below the feeder was no regular, nor even slightly unusual, finch.



Bufs, greys and rust browns with a white tail tip. Bulky head and neck with smart Goth eyeliner stretching down to a neat black beard. The grey wing patch of the female and legs and bill tinged with rose. It was the bill itself that really caught my eye. Those chunky, wedge shaped, cherry-stone-cracking mandibles were making short work of the black sunflower seeds below the tube feeder. I knew what I was seeing even though my brain was struggling to register it. Hawfinch!

I couldn't believe my luck. I took some photos and watched for a few minutes longer. She was very flighty and got spooked by a Woodpigeon walking in her direction. I reported the sighting to Martin Cook and he told me it was only the fifteenth record in Moray and Nairn, and just the third midwinter record.

Hawfinches are striking birds. As the name suggests Hawthorn stone kernels form part of the diet. They are also known for being partial to the kernels of cherry stones. The scientific name *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* comes from Greek and means 'seed-breaker' (or I suppose 'seed-breaker seed-breaker', leaving us in no doubt about the fact that it breaks seeds). I read that the bill can exert over

50 kg of crushing force. I've lost count of how many times I quoted that fact to anyone who will listen. I just find it impressively cool.

A friend told me that he once rescued a Hawfinch from a cat and got a hefty bite (from the bird not the cat) that bled generously. I gather that ringers treat these finches with great respect if they find them in their nets.

The handful of previous records in the area had only been brief visits. I had no idea that she would become a fairly regular visitor, sometimes turning up several days in a row. I started paying closer attention to the time she arrived which tended to be at similar times, usually in the morning.

Whenever she was there the other finches and the House and Tree Sparrows - which usually bustle and feed shoulder to shoulder among themselves - almost always gave her a wide berth. I wondered if they were a bit intimidated (perhaps suspecting her of using bill steroids).

But my biggest question was: what was keeping her in the area? It couldn't just be my feeder. I put the question to Roy Dennis who told me that they do eat cherry stones from the ground in winter. I hadn't thought of that, just assuming they would focus on extracting them from the fruits themselves. It made sense. There are quite a few Geans (Wild Cherries) and a lot of cultivated ones nearby and we've had some really good crops in the last couple of years. There are also a lot of Hawthorn hedges here so I wonder if she is making use of any remaining haws as well.

Not long afterwards I was walking below a Gean not far from my house and another 'first' caught my eye. Cherry stones freshly split clean in half. Rodents such as Wood Mice and Bank Voles get to the kernels in a different way, gnawing a hole in the side. I eagerly gathered up some of these split stones for my track and sign collection. This was clear evidence that cherry stones were forming at least a part of her diet when she was not at my feeder.



Left: Cherry stones split by a Hawfinch

Right: Stones gnawed open by a Bank Vole

I even saw her briefly today while writing this (10th February), over six weeks after the first encounter. I've no



idea how long she'll stick around for, but wherever she goes next I hope she finds a good stash of stones!



**dan puplett**  
nature awareness  
[danpuplett.co.uk](http://danpuplett.co.uk)

## AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD:

*Where to Watch Birds in Scotland*, SOC's free mobile app.

Where to Watch Birds in Scotland, the Club's free mobile app for Apple and Android devices, now has over 560 sites. The app launched in April 2019 and just a year later has been downloaded by more than 10,000 users. It won 'Product of the Year' in Birdwatch and BirdGuides' 2019 Birders' Choice Awards.



## LATEST NEWS

Scottish  
Birdwatchers'  
Conference  
2021



## SCOTTISH BIRDWATCHERS' CONFERENCE

Some details have been released of the 2021 virtual conference to be held on Saturday, 27th March and Saturday, 3rd April, both 3-5pm. Information on speakers and details of how to book can currently be found on the BTO website and will shortly appear on the SOC website.

Type the following shortened URL into your address bar to go straight to the page:

[bit.ly/3b0GLkl](http://bit.ly/3b0GLkl)

As well as a variety of speakers on the two Saturdays there are plans for a midweek quiz.

We are still hopeful that the 2022 Scottish Birdwatchers' Conference will eventually be held in Elgin on 19 March 2022. and we will keep you updated on any developments as regards this event.

## ROY DENNIS IN CONVERSATION WITH MARK COCKER

Another online event that may be of interest to you is Roy Dennis discussing his book *Cottongrass Summer* with author and naturalist, Mark Cocker. *Cottongrass Summer* (2020, Saraband), a collection of 52 vibrant essays to inform, stimulate and inspire every nature lover, is longlisted for the 2020 Highland Book Prize. You will find more details of the event here:

[bit.ly/3qhYn1L](http://bit.ly/3qhYn1L)



# WADERS - SPRING DEPARTURE

## Richard Somers Cocks

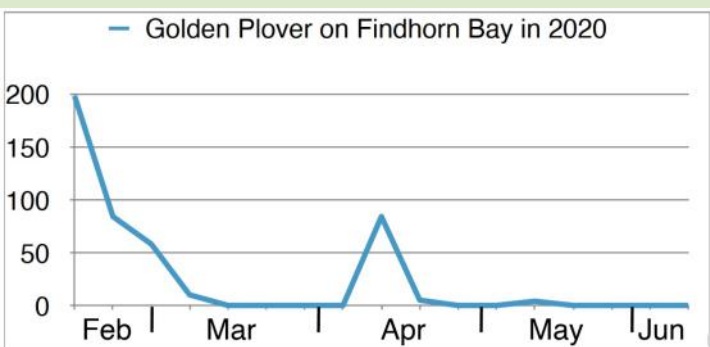
As we approach spring it is a time of great changeover in the bird world. Our summer visitors start to arrive and to establish their breeding territories, and many of the birds that have been with us over the winter depart. Nowhere is this more apparent than on our coast at places like Findhorn Bay where we have seen thousands of waders over the winter months. Their departure though is staggered over quite a time period. So why do some depart in the next few weeks while others hang on for some time to come? To a great extent the answer lies in where their summer breeding grounds are and how quickly they can get back there.



Golden Plover & Pacific Golden Plover (front)

### GOLDEN PLOVER.

Golden Plover are one of the earliest waders to leave the Bay. They depart quite suddenly in early March back to the hills and moors inland to establish their breeding territories. It will be interesting to see whether the Pacific Golden Plover also goes at the same time. We then regularly see another group pass through the bay for a short while in late March to early April. These are usually in summer plumage by this time and it is apparent that these are mostly northern race birds. They are likely to be on their way back to breeding grounds in Iceland or

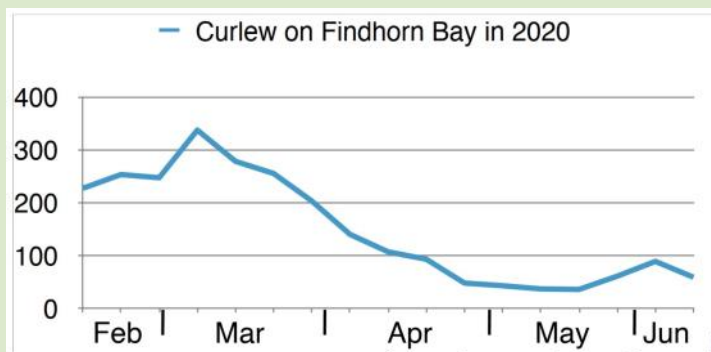


possibly northern Scandinavia. In these areas the snows will linger much longer and so the birds breed somewhat later than their counterparts in the south.



### CURLEW.

Curlew also breed on the moors inland in places like Lochindorb. They start departing in early March but they don't all leave at once and we tend to see a gradual fall in numbers through to the end of April. Nationally, there have been significant declines in Curlew numbers and its conservation status is now red listed, although at Findhorn numbers seem to be holding up reasonably well in recent years.

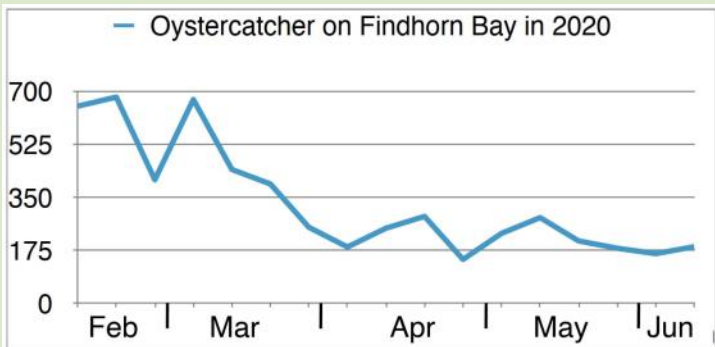


### OYSTERCATCHER.

Oystercatchers start moving inland in the next few weeks and will be found breeding in a number of habitats from



upland meadows to the coast. Some are also winter visitors and will return to Iceland and Norway.



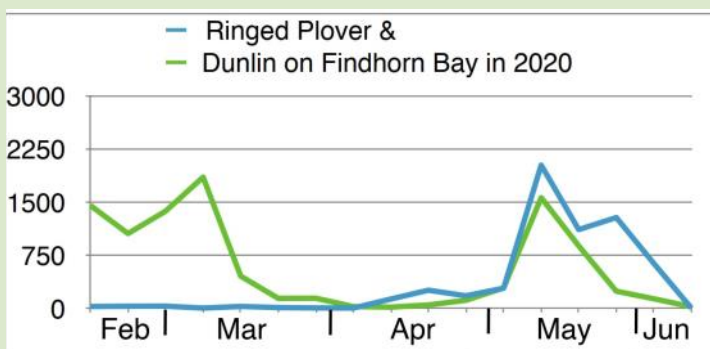
A few can be seen nesting on the shingle banks around Findhorn and these together with other local birds will continue feeding on the bay over the summer where we will typically see around 100 birds.



Curlew Sandpiper, Dunlin & Ringed Plover

**DUNLIN & RINGED PLOVER.**

Dunlin numbers are consistently 1500-2000 on Findhorn Bay over the winter and most will depart around mid-March. Numbers of Ringed Plovers are much lower over the winter - usually up to 20 and these are likely to be birds that remain here to breed locally on coastal shingle banks. For a while in March and April we see very few of these species, but in late April we regularly see a big influx of Ringed Plovers and Dunlin for a few weeks usually as a mixed flock. Both these species are widespread breeders around the coastal and tundra regions of the northern

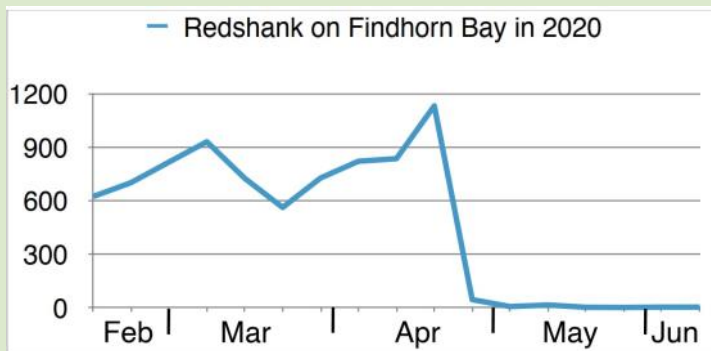


hemisphere. They overwinter in Europe and as far south as Africa, and it is likely that these birds we see in May are passing through on their way back to breeding grounds much further north. It is also worth having a good look through them as other waders like Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint can often be picked up.



**REDSHANK.**

Redshank are another species that depart quite abruptly but much later than birds like the Golden Plover. Peak numbers often occur in mid April as birds migrating north stop off in the bay. Within a week or so in late April nearly all depart heading back to their breeding grounds in Iceland, Scandinavia as well as coastal sites in northern Britain. A few pairs remain on Findhorn Bay and breed on some of the more remote and less disturbed areas around the southern side.



While Findhorn Bay has by far the largest number of waders in Moray over the winter months, it can be a daunting place to go birding due to its sheer size (not to mention Covid restrictions). Other coastal sites such as Lossie and Spey estuaries as well as Nairn and the sands to the east also have good numbers of waders and the movement of birds from these sites will mirror what we see on Findhorn Bay. So keep an eye on our coastline over the next few months.



## EARLY MIGRANTS

### Martin Cook

As I write this, the snow is falling thickly outside and there's talk of a second 'beast from the east'. A few snowdrops have pushed up in the garden, only to be buried by snow. Blackbirds are gathering to feed on the apples – when the local Fieldfare isn't looking. It's the depth of winter.

And yet, next month the first of our summer migrants will be arriving. For some species there is no apparent downside to an early return; Osprey and Sandwich Tern should still be able to catch fish. But for others it seems like a huge risk, especially for the insect feeders such as Chiffchaff, Wheatear and Sand Martin, all of which can be expected before the end of March.



The earliest to return is usually Chiffchaff which has appeared in March in nine of the last ten years, with a mean date for the first bird of 22 March. This is earlier than the mean date for the 1990s (1 April) and 2000s (25 March).

Chiffchaff is a tiny greenish-brown warbler but what it lacks visually, it makes up for in sound. Especially when newly arrived, it sings incessantly while flitting about in the still-leafless twigs of trees. The song is a jolting series of notes, irregularly put together - 'silt, salt, salt, silt, silt, salt .....'. The derivation of the bird's name is obvious. Good places to listen for an early Chiffchaff are Loch na Bo, Loch Spynie and the woodlands along the lower River Findhorn

Most Scottish Chiffchaffs spend the winter around the Mediterranean and in north Africa. Males arrive back in our woodlands earlier than the females and sing to establish a territory from which other males are excluded. Once

females arrive they are attracted to the singing males and a brief pair bond is established. The male then plays only a minor role in the breeding process, while maintaining a vigorous defence of the small nesting territory. Much of the food for the young is collected from much larger home ranges, which are undefended and overlap between neighbouring pairs. The female alone builds the nest and incubates the eggs, and in many cases feeds the young almost single-handedly. There may be little contact between the pair members after egg laying.



The mean date for the first Sand Martin to come back from south of the Sahara in recent years has been 27 March, with the earliest records being at Loch Flemington on 12 March 2014 and Loch Spynie on 14 March 2015. Although their breeding colonies are in steep sand banks, the first sightings are usually of birds hawking for insects low over the water surface of larger lochs such as Loch na Bo or Loch Spynie. In the event of severe cold in April, birds may remain in burrows in the breeding colony in a torpid state and, if weather does not improve, die there.

Neither Chiffchaff nor Sand Martin have an attractive plumage, but that certainly cannot be said of the third of our early migrants - the Wheatear. Wheatears typically inhabit open country with rocky outcrops. They commonly perch on walls and fence posts, flitting along from one perch to another ahead of human approach. As they fly, they reveal a very striking black and white tail pattern, which gives rise to their name, derived from two Old English words - 'hwit' meaning white, and 'aers' meaning backside.

Mean date for the first Wheatear over the last ten years has been 26 March. Our Wheatears breed in the uplands and some appear to return there directly. Others can be



seen in open country along the coast in late March and April. They formerly bred commonly along the coastal dunes, nesting in rabbit holes. But suitable habitat is now much reduced by afforestation and there has been no confirmed coastal breeding since two pairs on the Nairn and Culbin Bars in 1987 (and one pair in 1988) and single pairs at Strathlene in 1990 and 1991.



Most of our local breeders have arrived by late April. Wheatears along the coast in early May are often larger and brighter than the earlier birds and this indicates that they belong to a different subspecies, known as Greenland Wheatear. As the name suggests, these birds are passing through Scotland on their way to more northerly breeding grounds in Iceland and Greenland. Their later migration reflects the fact that they cannot occupy such far-north areas until the weather has warmed sufficiently for insect populations to have emerged.



## NEXT NEWSLETTER



Hopefully you have enjoyed this newsletter. We would like to encourage our members to contribute to the newsletter.

We would also welcome any suggestions for future newsletters and we will try to accommodate them.

If you would like to contribute an article that may be of interest to our members or have any suggestions please contact:

*Alison Ritchie*

[moraysecretary@the-soc.org.uk](mailto:moraysecretary@the-soc.org.uk)



Birdsinmorayandnairn.org is a one-stop-shop for everything to do with birds and birding in the region. View latest sightings, forthcoming survey work, bird club news and more.



Join the SOC Scotland's Bird Club

## KNOT OR DUNLIN?

Alastair Young

We are lucky on the Moray Firth to have an abundance of waders wintering on our shores. That is great but sometimes it is tricky to know what they are and this time we are going to look at two waders that come here in large numbers in the winter. So how do you tell Dunlin and Knot apart? Well both species often gather into large flocks and places like Findhorn Bay and Culbin Sands can have flocks of several thousand, however there are smaller groups spread up and down the coast so it is not unlikely you will see them elsewhere, even on some rocky areas.

During the summer it is not too difficult, with Dunlin gaining a brownish spangled rich coloured back and head with white underneath and a distinctive black belly.



Dunlin

This picture shows a bird in late summer moulting into winter plumage, but you can still see the remnant rich colour on the back and the **characteristic dark belly**. It is the only small wader that has this black belly. With birds breeding in Scotland, you should see this in autumn.

Knot by comparison turns a **rich chestnut red in the head, chest and belly** in summer making it look quite different. They can sometimes show this before they head off for the summer and as they arrive in autumn. In this picture you can see birds showing that summer plumage to different extents.



Knot

But what about winter? Well, that is a different issue as they both moult into a winter plumage where the adults especially become an overall grey colour making it much more difficult. There are however a few things which will let you tell them apart. The first thing is size. The **Knot is bigger at 24-27cm** and **Dunlin only 14-16cm**. That is like a Blackbird and a Chaffinch. This is obvious when you see them together and so the identification is much easier. They are however not always seen together and especially Dunlin which can be seen in small groups over a wider range of shoreline habitats. So, what else can we use?



Dunlin

Let us look at the Dunlin first. In winter plumage the overall colour is grey although there can be some pale brownish colour. They have some pale streaking around the neck and throat and a pale white belly. Juvenile birds however, like this individual can have some spotting on the sides. So, the overall impression is grey above and white below. They have darkish legs when seen clearly but this can often be masked by mud. In comparison to a Knot, they are more



slender and well-proportioned looking birds, with a longer looking bill for the size which is slightly curved.



Knot

In comparison the Knot is quite heavily built with an overall shorter looking bill for its size. It also has a more distinctive whitish stripe over the eye which you can see clearly in this picture. The legs look shorter in proportion and are a pale/greenish colour when seen clearly.

It is also worth looking at the back if you see them fly. While they both have dark wings with a white wing bar, Dunlin have a dark band down the rump and onto the tail while Knot have an all-grey rump and tail. Hopefully, this will help you tell them apart when you see them, and they are relatively common along the Moray coast.

If, however you need a little more help there are a couple of things on the internet that can help. The BTO have a particularly useful video on Dunlin and Knot on their website which talks you through the differences. Type in the following shortened url in your address bar and it will take you to the page: [bit.ly/3jMqsvq](https://bit.ly/3jMqsvq)

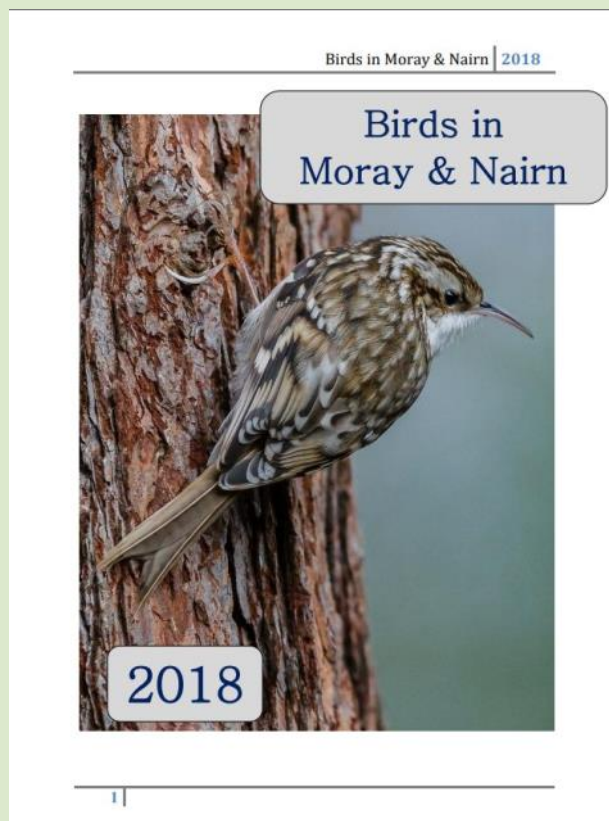
There is also a useful web site where you can get help with ID by searching by species: [www.birdfieldguide.co.uk](http://www.birdfieldguide.co.uk).

Both species are on our coasts at the moment so if you live near the coast get out and have a look.



**BIRDS IN MORAY & NAIRN 2018** is now published and can be found under 'Bird Reports' – '2011 onwards', in: [birdsinmorayandnairn.org/](http://birdsinmorayandnairn.org/)

The report is only available on that website, from which it may be printed if desired.



## Picture Credits

Page 1 Robert Ince,  
 Page 2/3 Dan Puplett  
 Page 4/5 Richard Somers Cocks  
 Page 6/7 Alison Ritchie  
 Page 7 Gordon Biggs  
 Page 8/9 David Main

# Moray & Nairn News



## The newsletter for BTO members and volunteers in Moray and Nairn

January 2021

### Introduction

The main aim of this newsletter is to keep everybody informed about BTO activities in Moray and Nairn, especially the various surveys. The Moray Bird Club (a branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club) is very much a partner in BTO work and a newsletter from the club will be coming soon. If you are not on the bird club's mailing list but would like to be, then just let me know.

### Covid-19

The major influence on all birdwatching in the past year, including survey work, has been the Covid-19 pandemic caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Restrictions on moving about varied but were strict during the early part of the breeding season in 2020 so almost no early visits were made for BBS nor WBBS surveys. Restrictions were relaxed in time for some late surveys to be done – more details below.

At the time of writing we are again instructed not to travel unnecessarily so surveys are on hold. Hopefully the regulations will have relaxed by the spring – I shall e-mail everybody when the rules change and details can also be found on the BTO website (<https://www.bto.org/community/news/202101-bto-and-covid-19>)

### 2020 weather

March was breezy, but SW winds kept the region dry, with average temperatures and only half the average rainfall.

April started cold, but then high pressure kept the month sunny, dry and warm - one of the sunniest on record. Despite a few cold interludes, temperatures were 1–2 C above average with rainfall only 30% of average.

May was slightly warmer and sunnier than normal although cold in mid month with some snow showers. Rainfall was normal inland but drier than average on the low ground.

June began colder than normal and overall more unsettled with temperatures just above average and both rainfall and sunshine near average. Over higher ground, it was wetter and cloudier than normal.

### Surveys

The Breeding Birds Survey (BBS) is the best known 'citizen science' survey. It is based on randomly selected 1km squares. I have no influence over the selection of these squares although if some turn out to be too difficult to access, they can be classed as 'uncoverable'. We have 43 squares in Moray and Nairn and I have to say that some are easier than others. The BBS involves making two spring visits (between April and the end of June) - one month apart - to the allotted square, preferably in the early morning, and walking along two transects recording all adult birds seen or heard in each 200 metre section.



In 2020 only two squares had both early and late visits done, both by professionals who were permitted to be out and about. A further four had a late visit. Many thanks are due to the volunteers who did these surveys.



The species with the greatest number of individuals counted in 2020 was Common Gull at 138, due to a colony being in one of the squares which was covered. Skylark, Woodpigeon and Wren were found in 83% of squares but the sample size is so small that these figures are not representative of most years. I hope that we will be able to return to normal coverage this year but time will tell.

At the moment 25 of our squares are allocated to a volunteer – I will be in touch with everybody to check that you will still be willing and able to do the surveys in 2021, Covid and other factors allowing. **If anybody else is thinking about helping out then please get in touch with me.** You need to be able to identify all common birds by sight and sound, especially sound for the heavily wooded squares.

I am particularly keen to get the following squares covered: Click the links to see Ordnance Survey maps of each square:

<a href="#">NJ0059</a>	Near Forres
<a href="#">NJ1164</a>	Farmland near Burghead
<a href="#">NJ1965</a>	Farmland near Elgin
<a href="#">NJ3161</a>	Woodland near Mostodlach
<a href="#">NJ3441</a>	Woodland near Dufftown
<a href="#">NJ3556</a>	Woodland near Fochabers
<a href="#">NJ4263</a>	Farmland near Arradoul

### **BBS Upland Rovers squares**

Some squares are remote and these are typically harder to get people to cover. The data from such squares are particularly valuable, however, as they help the BTO to produce representative trends for otherwise under-sampled species and habitats. To try and increase coverage of rarely-visited upland squares, the BTO introduced the ‘BBS Upland Rovers’ scheme in 2017, whereby a carefully-selected group of squares could be covered via single one-off visits by roving observers. It’s a good way to explore new places, blow away the cobwebs, and collect really valuable information. These squares have proved popular with people who enjoy a good walk in the uplands, and with folk holidaying in the area and who are therefore able to do one visit but not necessarily a second. You can learn more about Upland Rovers here: <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/breeding-bird-survey/taking-part/upland-rovers>

### **Waterways Breeding Birds Survey**

This survey is similar to the BBS but involves walking along a designated stretch of river, again twice. We have eight sites, six of which are allocated but only one late visit was possible in 2020. The two looking for volunteers are a bit of the Lossie near Kellas and a moorland burn near Lochindorb. Please contact me if you are interested.

## The Heronries Census

This has been running as long as the BTO has existed. We now have five known sites which are all allocated to colunteer counters – Aberlour, Findhorn Bay, Auldearn, Loch Spynie and Nether Dallachy. In my last few newsletters I said that we felt that we were missing at least one heronry and Martin Cook came up trumps by finding the Nether Dallachy one. It is not far from a previously known site but they can be remarkably difficult to find! If you find another heronry please let me know. Coverage was understandably patchy in 2020.



## Woodcock Survey

No Woodcock surveys were done in 2020. There is one site still uncovered - NH9246 (Newlands of Fleenas Wood). The survey involves hanging around a designated spot for 15 minutes before sunset and an hour after and counting all Woodcock seen. Three visits are requested. It is a very pleasant way to spend a warm summer's evening, apart from the midgies of course but I am lucky in that they tend not to bother me much.

## Wetland Bird Survey

Both coastal and inland wetlands are counted on a regular basis but I think all such wetlands in M&N are meantime covered. However, please let me know if you are interested in any such counts.

## BTO Website

A list of useful links is given below but I would particularly recommend the online training courses and the bird ID videos.

## Scottish Birdwatchers' Conference

This meeting (*Northern Seas and Coasts*) was arranged for March 2020 in Elgin Town Hall but was cancelled because of the Covid pandemic and again postponed for 2021. It has been re-arranged, with fingers crossed, for 19th March 2022.

## Moray Bird Club

The club is a branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC). It has not been able to hold any indoor meetings nor outings in 2020 but has produced some excellent newsletters to keep everybody in touch and has also had some 'virtual' Zoom meetings. Martin Cook, the local bird recorder, runs an excellent website which has lots of information including recent sightings and news about the club. It is well worth a look <http://www.birdsinmorayandnairn.org/>

## Contact

Please contact me for further details of any of these surveys: [melvinmorrison@btinternet.com](mailto:melvinmorrison@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01542 882940.

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to Norman Elkins for the weather information and to Ben Darvill of the BTO Scottish office for help with this production.



## Useful online resources

There are some fantastic resources on the BTO website that are worth a look.

**BirdTrack:** Enter your records into BirdTrack and explore maps and reports. It's very easy [www.birdtrack.net](http://www.birdtrack.net) Your data feeds through to Eurobirdportal too. (<https://www.eurobirdportal.org/>)

**BirdTrends:** A one-stop shop for information on population and demographic trends for our common breeding birds. Includes results from BBS, WBBS, Constant Effort Sites, nest recording [www.bto.org/birdtrends](http://www.bto.org/birdtrends)

**Online ringing and nest recording report:** Summary information by species and county <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports>

**Wetland Bird Survey Report Online:** Summary information by site and species for all species monitored through WeBS <https://app.bto.org/webs-reporting/>

**Breeding Bird Survey:** English region trends and country trends for common breeding species <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/bbs/latest-results>

**Bird Atlas Mapstore:** All the maps from *Bird Atlas 2007–11*, and previous breeding and winter atlases. [www.bto.org/mapstore](http://www.bto.org/mapstore)

**BTO Garden BirdWatch:** Explore the Garden BirdWatch results and look at the long-term pattern of garden use by species. Some fascinating trends! <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw/results>

### Contact details:

**Regional Representative:** Melvin Morrison Email: [melvinmorrison@btinternet.com](mailto:melvinmorrison@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01542 882940

**WeBS Local Organiser:** Bob Swann Email: [bobswann14@talktalk.net](mailto:bobswann14@talktalk.net)

**Photographs:** Edmund Fellowes, Maurizio Pol.

**BTO Website:** [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

We'd love to receive short contributions from you for future issues. Please contact Ben Darvill at BTO Scotland (email: [ben.darvill@bto.org](mailto:ben.darvill@bto.org))