



Plate 73. Glossy Ibis, first-calendar-year, Blacklands, Kilwinning, Ayrshire, 21–29 October 2015. © Angus Hogg

# Scottish Birds Records Committee report on rare birds in Scotland, 2015

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on behalf of the Scottish Birds Records Committee

This is the eighth annual report of the Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC), covering 2015. Previous reports have covered the periods 2005–08, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2010a, 2010b, 2011, 2012, McGowan *et al.* 2013, 2014, McGowan & McInerny 2015, 2016).

Four species returned to the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) list from 1 January 2015 (Anon 2015) and no longer appear in SBRC reports. These are Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*, Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* and Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*. However, new to the report are three species no longer assessed by BBRC, Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* and Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*. White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* remains on the SBRC list, but with local assessment in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides; and Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* remains on the SBRC list, but with local assessment in Shetland, Fair Isle and Orkney. Additionally, from 1 January 2017, following changes by BBRC, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsier cyanurus* will be considered by SBRC and, instead, Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* assessed by BBRC. Furthermore, Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* and Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* are removed from the SBRC list, and Blyth's Reed Warbler remains on the SBRC list, but with local assessment in Shetland and Fair Isle. A summary of these changes is given in Appendix 2.

In 2015, the most striking occurrence was the continued increase in observations of two species, Blyth's Reed Warbler and Olive-backed Pipit. Just a few years ago these were very rare vagrants to Scotland, but are now observed every year, with 10–20 records annually. These changes likely reflect population increases and expansions of the breeding ranges on the continent. In the case of Blyth's Reed Warbler it now breeds in large numbers in northern Europe, which now contains 20% of the world population, and it is undergoing a westward range expansion to Finland and Sweden (BirdLife International 2016).

### Format of the report

The species accounts in the report follow a standard format, which is modelled on the annual BBRC reports published in *British Birds*. Nomenclature and taxonomic sequence follow the *Scottish List* (Forrester 2016).

On the header line, after the species or subspecies name, are three numbers:

- Total number of birds in Scotland to the end of 2004, based on Forrester *et al.* (2007), with adjustments in some cases, and also including records added in this report. In some cases, older records, 'At sea' records, or records pertaining to the breeding population are explicitly excluded from the totals, following the example of Forrester *et al.* (2007). In the case of Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* and Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, numbers seen in the past were so great that totals have not been estimated.
- Total number of birds in Scotland during the period since 2004, but excluding the current year. Where appropriate, acceptances by BBRC and by local committees are included. Returning birds or repeat sightings of the same individual, insofar as these can be judged, are not counted.
- Total number in the current year (2015).

Immediately below the header line is a table of accepted Scottish records for 2015, with details. For those species assessed locally in the Northern Isles, full details of accepted Northern Isles records are not given. Instead, they are summarised as a separate table or in the text.

For all taxa, information is also provided about pre-2015 records that were not included in previous reports. These are presented in reverse chronological order. Records assessed by SBRC are listed in full, otherwise only summary information is provided.

It should be noted that records of individual birds reappearing at the same location in subsequent years can be accepted by local recorders without formal submission to SBRC; full details of these returning birds are nonetheless provided. Revised details are also provided for some pre-2015 records published previously.

For each record listed in full, the following information is provided. For additional details, see ap Rheinallt *et al.* (2010a).

- Year
- Recording area ([www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/local-recorders-network](http://www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/local-recorders-network)).
- Location(s). In the case of some recording areas, individual islands or component administrative areas are also named.
- Number of birds if more than one, with age and/or sex if known.
- 'Returning' if applicable.
- Date(s). Note that the use of a date range does not necessarily imply that a bird was confirmed to be present throughout; in some cases it may have been observed only on the first and last dates given.
- 'Found dead' or 'died' if applicable.
- 'Trapped' if applicable.
- Existence of a photograph, if this formed part of the assessment process.

- Names of observers, in alphabetical order. Every effort has been made to name only those people who played a part in finding and/or identifying the bird. However, if no submission was made by these observers, the submitter of the record is also credited. All other observers are covered by the use of 'et al.'
- Details and location of specimen if preserved in a museum, with specimen number if available.
- Additional sightings of the same bird, or a cross-reference to additional sightings in a different recording area or year. Where a bird is said to be the same, this is usually a presumption based on the judgment of the observer, local recorder and/or others.

The table of records is followed by the main text of the species account. At the end of each account, a brief summary of global breeding and wintering distribution, with mention of relevant subspecies, is given in parentheses.

### Species coverage

Species coverage is unchanged from the last report. Rare subspecies of several species on the SBRC list are still assessed by BBRC, the most important being Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* and Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*. For these, the accounts in the SBRC report summarise accepted BBRC records in order to give as complete a picture as possible of the species' occurrence in Scotland.

A list of records assessed by SBRC and considered to be 'not proven' can be found in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 summarises the involvement of different committees in the assessment of the taxa on the SBRC list. Appendix 3 lists minor corrections to previous SBRC reports.

### SBRC

SBRC was set up in 1984 as a subcommittee of the SOC Council. Its role is to assess records of species that are rare in Scotland but not rare enough in Britain to be assessed by BBRC. Current members are Mark Wilkinson (Chairman), John Bowler, John Nadin, David Parnaby, Dave Pullan, Martin Scott and John Sweeney, with Chris McInerny as non-voting Secretary and Bob McGowan as non-voting Museum Consultant.

The *Scottish List* subcommittee consists of David Clugston, Ron Forrester, Angus Hogg, Bob McGowan, Chris McInerny and Roger Riddington. For more information about SBRC, see ap Rheinallt *et al.* (2010a) and [www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/records-committee/](http://www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/records-committee/).

### Acknowledgements

First and foremost, we are grateful to all observers who submitted records of Scottish rarities during the period. Without their efforts, this report could not exist. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to those who gave permission for their excellent photographs to be reproduced here.

Next, we thank the following current and former recorders and report compilers for their assistance in compiling, checking and correcting records for this report: Jon Cook, Martin Cook, Jim Dickson, Iain English, Rob Fray, Pete Gordon, Nick Littlewood, Sinclair Manson, Ray Murray, David Parnaby, Ian Ricketts, Malcolm Ware, Stephen Welch, Jim Williams, and Val Wilson. We are particularly grateful for the co-operation of the Northern Isles recorders in helping to compile summaries for species assessed locally within their areas. We acknowledge the enormous contribution to bird recording in Borders by Ray Murray over many years. Ray was a first-rate collaborator and we already miss working with him.

We appreciate Keith Naylor's scrutiny of past SBRC reports and thank him for his continuing valuable contribution. We thank Ian Andrews for making available the database of records of scarce and rare species used during the preparation of Forrester *et al.* (2007).

## Systematic list of accepted records

### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

0: 11: 2

**Table 1.** Accepted records of Egyptian Goose in Scotland, 2015.

**2015: Angus & Dundee** River North Esk, 26 May, photo (D. Short *et al.*).

**Argyll** Strath Farm, Campbeltown, Kintyre, adult, 22 May, photo (E. Maguire).

Egyptian Goose was added to Category C of the *Scottish List* in 2010 (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2012). This species appears to be a very rare, but annual visitor, with observations throughout the country.

Both birds recorded in 2015 were the first for their respective recording areas.

From 1 January 2017 this species will no longer be considered by SBRC (Appendix 2).

(Breeds throughout Africa south of 20°N latitude, extending farther north into southern Egypt, the only part of its natural range to fall within the Western Palearctic. Substantial naturalised populations are concentrated in England, the Netherlands and Denmark, with smaller numbers breeding in Belgium, France and Germany.)

### Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

19 (of 23 birds): 42: 3

**Table 2.** Accepted records of Lesser Scaup in Scotland, 2015.

**2015: Argyll** Loch a' Phuill, Tiree, adult, female, 16 November (J. Bowler).

**Ayrshire** Trabboch Loch, Martnaham Loch & Broadwood Flash, second-calendar-year, male, from 2014 (Hudson *et al.* 2015) to 30 April, photo (R. Whytock).

**Outer Hebrides** Loch Àird a' Mhuile (Loch Ardvule), South Uist, second-calendar-year, female, 11–17 April, photo (J.B. Kemp *et al.*).

**Shetland** Lochs of Houlland and Benston, Mainland, first-calendar-year, male, 12 November to 2016, photo (P.V. Harvey *et al.*).

Lesser Scaup is a rare visitor to Scotland, though increasing and with observations throughout the country. Most records have described single birds, although multiples, including a group of three, have been observed. A number of individuals have remained for extended periods, sometimes moving between sites, and have returned in following years.

This species was previously assessed by BBRC, and only judged by SBRC since 1 January 2015 (Appendix 2).

(Breeds from Alaska to Ontario and south to California, Colorado and Minnesota. Most migrate to winter from USA south to Central America, the Caribbean and Hawaiian Islands, but smaller numbers regularly move eastwards to winter in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.)

**Plates 74 a–b.** Lesser Scaup, second-calendar-year, female, Loch Àird a' Mhuile, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, 11–17 April 2015. © John Kemp







**Plate 75.** White-billed Diver, second-calendar-year, Rubha Àird a' Mhuile, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, 13 March 2015.  
© John Kemp

### White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

197: 248: 10

**Table 3.** Accepted records of White-billed Diver in Scotland, 2015, with an additional record, 2014.

- 2015:** **Ayrshire** off Troon, adult, 9 June, photo (P. Shand *per* Local Recorder).  
**Borders/Lothian** Dunglass, 18–19 April at least (D.K. Graham *et al.*).  
**Highland** Loch Ewe, Ross & Cromarty, 11 February (A. Ash).  
**Highland** Gruinard Bay, Ross & Cromarty, 15 April (K. Evans).  
**Moray & Nairn** Cullen, adult, 8 May (M.J.H. Cook).  
**Orkney** Water Sound, South Ronaldsay, adult (returning), 2 January to 6 May; and 31 December to 2016, photo (P. Higson *et al.*).  
**Outer Hebrides** Rubha Àird a' Mhuile, South Uist, second-calendar-year, 13 March, photo (J.B. Kemp).  
**Shetland** Brough, Fetlar/Bluemull Sound, adult (returning), from 2014 (McGowan & McInerny 2016) to 19 March (M.G. Pennington *et al.*).  
**Shetland** Kirkabister, Mainland, adult (returning), from 2014 (McGowan & McInerny 2016) to 30 March (J. Dunn).  
**Shetland** Quendale Bay, Mainland, second-calendar-year, 2 May, photo (P.V. Harvey *et al.*).  
**Shetland** Wester Quarff, Mainland, second-calendar-year, 4 June, photo (R.A. Haywood).  
**Shetland** Hamnavoe, Esha Ness, Mainland, adult, 5–16 June, photo (H.R. Harrop *et al.*).  
**Shetland** Lamba Ness, Unst, adult, 28 October photo (M.A. Maher, B.H. Thomason).  
**Shetland** Bluemull Sound, adult (returning), 6 November (T. Thomason).  
**2014:** **Caithness** Sandside Bay, second-calendar-year, 7–9 February, photo, dead 11 February, specimen at National Museums Scotland (accession number NMS.Z 2016.133) (E. Maughan, K. Monro, L. Rolling *et al.* *per* Local Recorder).

White-billed Diver is a scarce though regular visitor to Scotland, with up to 30 being reported each year. Most occur at a number of preferred localities used in spring as stop-over sites between wintering and summering areas in the Outer Hebrides, north-west Highland, Moray & Nairn and North-east Scotland. In Shetland and Orkney, a small number of wintering individuals return to the same sites in successive years, and summering birds have become almost annual. There may be some overlap among these records given the birds' mobility. It also seems likely that a proportion of the spring birds return to use the same stop-over sites each year; as it is impossible to distinguish these and they are registered as new birds, SBRC totals are probably inflated to a slight degree.

The two birds seen in Ayrshire and Borders/Lothian outside the regular sites were the fourth and second/eleventh for the respective recording areas. The former was photographed from a yacht in the Firth of Clyde.

Birds were seen in spring 2015 off both the Outer Hebrides and North-east Scotland, but the records were not assessed in time to be included in this report.

(Breeds in parts of Arctic Russia, Alaska and Arctic Canada; winters on the Pacific coasts of Russia and Canada, and along the Atlantic coast of Norway.)

**Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis***

c. 522 (1950–2004): 9,222: 1 (excluding ‘at sea’ records)

**Table 4.** Accepted record of Great Shearwater in Scotland, 2015, with an additional record, 2014.

2015: **Orkney** Dennis Head, North Ronaldsay, 4 September (M. Warren).

2014: **Borders** St Abb’s Head, 21 September (D.K. Graham).

Great Shearwater was rarely observed in Scotland until many were seen during 2005–07. Since then, however, no more than six have been recorded in any one year, if ‘at sea’ records are discounted. This underlines the exceptional nature of the influxes witnessed during that period.

The species is almost entirely a late summer and autumn visitor, with most sightings from the Outer Hebrides and North Ronaldsay, Orkney, with a few along the east coast. The only 2015 record fits this pattern, and followed the typical North Ronaldsay observation of birds flying west past Dennis Head at the north end of the island. These are thought to be birds

returning to the North Atlantic, having previously entered the North Sea, probably after westerly storms.

(Breeds on South Atlantic islands and carries out a clockwise loop migration in the North Atlantic outside the breeding season. In the north-east Atlantic occurs most regularly off the west coast of Ireland in late summer and autumn.)

**Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

3: 8: 1

**Table 5.** Accepted record of Cattle Egret in Scotland, 2015.

2015: **Shetland** South Collafirth, Mainland, 16–25 October, photo (G.M. Scanlon, G.A. Tyler *et al.*); same **Shetland** Hillwell, Mainland, 1 November (C. & H. Smith).

Cattle Egret is very rare in Scotland, with no pattern or trend.

The South Collafirth/Hillwell bird was the second seen in Shetland, though the first to be found on land. The first appeared on the deck



**Plate 76.** Cattle Egret, South Collafirth, Mainland, Shetland, 16–25 October 2015. © Rob Fray

of the inter-island ferry *M.V. Hendra* when it was sailing between Mainland and Whalsay on 27 January 1999 (Forrester *et al.* 2007).

(Occurs commonly in sub-tropical and temperate areas throughout the world, the European population being centred on the Mediterranean, extending north to central and western France, with increasing numbers of records farther north. Generally a short-distance migrant.)

### Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

c. 65: 36: 9

**Table 6.** Accepted records of Glossy Ibis in Scotland, 2015, with additional records, 2014 and 2013.

- 2015:** **Ayrshire** Blacklands, Kilwinning, first-calendar-year, 21–29 October, photo (J. Johnstone *et al.*). **Fair Isle** various locations, five, 2–4 October, four, 5 October, three to 15 October, photo, one dead 14 October (M. Rimmell *et al.*). **Orkney** Mull Head, Papa Westray, 23 October (J. Branscombe, M. Schott). **Outer Hebrides** Caisteal Ormaideit (Ormidale Castle), South Uist, adult, 31 December to **2016**, photo (S.E. Duffield, M. Ferguson *et al.*). **Shetland** Buddabrake, Unst, first-calendar-year, 19 December to **2016**, photo (B.H. Thomason *et al.*).
- 2014:** **Caithness** Faulds, 2–3 January, photo (S. Manson *et al.*).
- 2013:** **Caithness** Wick River, 8 November, photo (C. Griffin *et al.* per Local Recorder).

Glossy Ibis is a rare, though increasingly frequent, visitor to Scotland. In the early 20th century a few flocks were observed, including a group of 19–20 in Orkney in September 1907, but the species subsequently became much rarer (Forrester *et al.* 2007). In the early 21st century, larger numbers and flocks were seen again in the UK. This change coincided with more being observed in Scotland, with groups in Orkney and the Outer Hebrides.

This trend continued in 2015 with more seen in Scotland, including a flock of five on Fair Isle.

From 1 January 2017 this species will no longer be considered by SBRC (Appendix 2).

(Nominate *falcinellus* breeds from Spain and France, through the Balkans to central Asia, in

sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian subcontinent, south-east Asia, the east coast of the USA and the Caribbean. Most European birds migrate to Africa with others short distance migrants or resident. Another subspecies in the Far East and Australia).

### Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

19: 24: 1

**Table 7.** Accepted record of Black Kite in Scotland, 2015.

- 2015:** **Shetland** Sumburgh & Tingwall Airports, Mainland, 26–27 April, photo (P.A. Harris *et al.*).

Black Kite is a very rare visitor to Scotland from continental Europe. Most have been seen in spring, from April to June, with far fewer sightings in summer and autumn. There have also been instances of summering, and a single case of hybridisation with Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2010a).

(Nominate *migrans* breeds throughout most of Europe except the far north; winters in sub-Saharan Africa. Other subspecies elsewhere in the Old World.)

### Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

45: 4: 0 (excluding young from known Scottish nests)

**Table 8.** Accepted record of Montagu's Harrier in Scotland, 2014.

- 2014:** **Lothian** Priestlaw Hill & Duddy Bank, Lammernmuir Hills, female, dark morph, 3–4 May, photo (G. Morgan *et al.*).

Montagu's Harrier is a very rare migrant to Scotland, with the few records mostly in spring along the east side of the country from Borders to Shetland. A few breeding attempts have been successful, though none since 1955, and the total of 49 birds to the end of 2015 excludes fledged young from these breeding attempts.

The 2014 bird was dark phase, the first record of this colour morph in Scotland, which is also very rare in the rest of the UK, with just a handful of observations. This was the first Montagu's Harrier seen in Scotland since 2011,

a) b)



**Plates 77 a–b.** Montagu's Harrier, female, dark morph, Priestlaw Hill & Duddy Bank, Lammermuir Hills, Lothian, 3–4 May 2014 © Geoff Morgan

and the third seen in Lothian where the last occurrence was a pair in 1947.

(Breeds from North Africa, Iberia, England and Sweden across continental Europe and central Asia to Yenisei River; winters in African savannas and on the Indian subcontinent.)

**Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus***  
15: 4: 2

**Table 9.** Accepted records of Kentish Plover in Scotland, 2015.

- 2015: **Fife** Balcomie, adult, female, 30–31 May, photo (L. Hatton *et al.*).  
**Highland** Dornoch Point, Sutherland, adult, male, 7–10 May, photo (D. MacAskill *et al.*).

Kentish Plover is a very rare migrant to Scotland. Almost all records have been in spring from the east coast of the mainland on sandy beaches, with just one winter observation.



**Plate 78.** Kentish Plover (right bird) with Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, adult, male, Dornoch Point, Sutherland, Highland, 7–10 May 2015. © Dean MacAskill

The two records in 2015 followed this pattern, and were the second for Sutherland (third for Highland) and the third for Fife.

(A cosmopolitan species with several subspecies, including nominate *alexandrinus*, which breeds patchily in Europe, North Africa and Asia. European birds are migratory and normally spend the winter in sub-Saharan Africa.)

**White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis***  
69: 76: 4

**Table 10.** Accepted records of White-rumped Sandpiper in Scotland, 2015.

- 2015: **Lothian** Musselburgh, first-calendar-year, 12–14 November, photo (D. Allan *et al.*).  
**Orkney** Loch of the Taing, Papa Westray, adult, 25–28 April, photo (J. Branscombe, A. Forsyth); same **Orkney** Bewan Loch, North Ronaldsay, 1–3 May, photo (G. Gay *et al.*).  
**Orkney** Sandshean & Bewan Loch, North Ronaldsay, adult, 20–24 July, photo (G. Woodbridge *et al.*).  
**Outer Hebrides** Baile Sear (Baileshare), North Uist, adult, 14–15 August, photo (S.E. Duffield).

White-rumped Sandpiper is a scarce but annual visitor to Scotland from North America, with most observations in late summer and autumn on the Outer Hebrides.

The spring bird on Orkney was striking, being found on two islands; plumage features allowed confirmation that it was the same individual.

(Breeds in North America at high latitudes, migrating to winter in Brazil, Argentina and Chile.)



**Plate 79.** White-rumped Sandpiper, Bewan Loch, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 1–3 May 2015. © George Gay





**Plate 80.** White-rumped Sandpiper (front bird) with Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, first-calendar-year, Musselburgh, Lothian, 12–14 November 2015. © D. Allan

### **Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis***

12: 18: 3

**Table 11.** Accepted records of Yellow-legged Gull in Scotland, 2015.

- 
- 2015: **Clyde** Balgray Reservoir, sub-adult, 10–16 January, photo (J.J. Sweeney).  
**Clyde** Balgray Reservoir, adult, 7–21 February, photo (J.J. Sweeney).  
**Clyde** Strathclyde Country Park, second-calendar-year, 24–25 October to **2016**, photo (K. Hoey *et al.*).

Yellow-legged Gull is very rare in Scotland, found throughout the country, usually in groups of other large white-headed gulls, often Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus graellsii*. Birds have been found at all times of the year, sometimes remaining for extended periods, with a number of individuals returning to the same locations in consecutive years.

The three Clyde birds double the number recorded in the recording area. The previous three were seen returning for a number of winters in flocks of roosting Lesser Black-backed Gulls.



**Plate 81.** Yellow-legged Gull (centre bird) with Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus*, second-calendar-year, Strathclyde Country Park, Clyde, 24–25 October 2015. © Keith Hoey

(Nominate *michahellis* breeds mainly from south-west Europe east to the Black Sea, with immatures dispersing widely in winter as far north as Britain and the Baltic; *atlantis* breeds on the Azores, Madeira and Canaries, wandering south to north-west Africa.)

### Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

0: 7: 0

**Table 12.** Accepted record of Caspian Gull in Scotland, 2015.

2015: **Shetland** at sea, second-calendar-year, 6 February, photo (M. Lewis).

Caspian Gull is extremely rare in Scotland. All occurrences have been in late autumn or winter.

It is now known that a regular movement of this species takes place each year through England, with most observations in the south and east. The majority are immatures in summer and autumn. It remains very rare elsewhere in the UK. However, under-recording of this difficult-to-identify species is likely.

The Shetland record, the first for the recording area, was found during a seabird survey from the *G.O. Sars*, a Norwegian fisheries research vessel, about 80 km east of Out Skerries. As it was found 'at sea' it is excluded from SBRC totals.

(Breeds at inland lakes in eastern Europe and the Middle East, wintering mostly in the eastern Mediterranean, but with smaller numbers reaching western maritime Europe.)

### Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

83: 14: 4

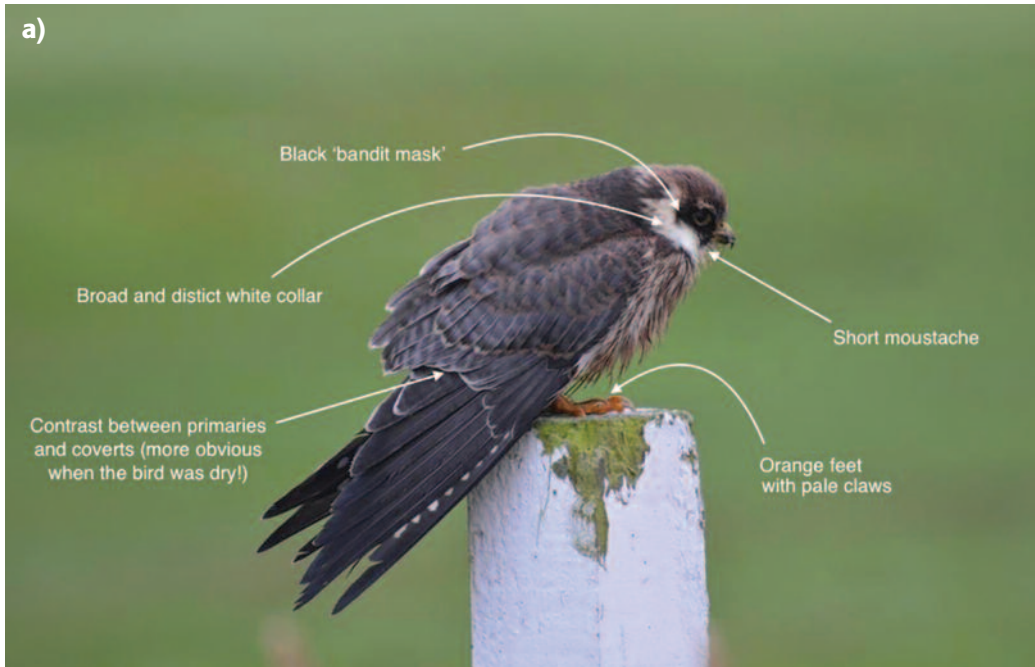
**Table 13.** Accepted record of Red-footed Falcon in Scotland, 2015.

2015: **Fife** Kingsbarns, first-calendar-year, 24 August (D. Clugston).

**Isle of May** first-calendar-year, 14–19 September, photo (D. Kinchin-Smith, D. Steel *et al.*) (SB 34: 369–373).

**North-east Scotland** Newtonhill, second-calendar-year, male, 25 August (J.M. & P.S. Collinson).

**North-east Scotland** Girdle Ness, first-calendar-year, 31 August to 13 September, photo (M. Lewis *et al.*) (SB 34: 369–373).



Plates 82 a–c (above and opposite). Red-footed Falcon, first-calendar-year, Girdle Ness, North-east Scotland, 31 August to 13 September, 2015. © Mark Lewis



Red-footed Falcon is a rare late spring migrant to Scotland, with most sightings coming from Shetland, Orkney and North-east Scotland, with others mainly along the east coast.

The Isle of May individual was the third for the island, with the bird at Girdle Ness the twelfth for North-east Scotland; both remained for a period, and being very confiding were enjoyed by many observers (Lewis & Steel 2015).

(Breeds from Hungary and the Czech Republic east to China, wintering in southern Africa.)

**Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator***

**86: 17: 2**

**Table 14.** Accepted records of Woodchat Shrike in Scotland, 2015.

- 2015: **Highland** Strathy, Sutherland, second-calendar-year, male, 18 May, photo (P.R. French *et al.*).
- Orkney** Ancum, North Ronaldsay, 19 May (G. Gay).

Woodchat Shrike is a rare, almost annual, passage migrant to Scotland, with most in the Northern Isles. Adults and sub-adults are seen in spring as overshoots from their European continental breeding areas, along with dispersing juveniles recorded in autumn.

(Nominate *senator* breeds from north-west Africa, Iberia, France and Belgium south to Turkey; *badius* on Mediterranean islands; and *niloticus* from Turkey to Iran. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa.)

**Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla***  
**286: 81: 2**

Short-toed Lark is found annually in Scotland in very small numbers, mostly in spring and autumn, with the majority of observations in the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally. It is very rare elsewhere, particularly on the mainland.

There were just two occurrences in Scotland in 2015. Both were on Fair Isle, one during 8–17 May and the other during 16–22 May. This contrasts with the highest annual total of 19 birds in 2014. The annual mean over the ten years since 2005 is eight birds.

(Eight or nine subspecies. Breeds widely in dry, sandy areas from southern and eastern Europe to the Middle East and western China, with populations migrating to winter in India, the Middle East and Africa.)

**Woodlark *Lullula arborea***

**68 (1950–2004): 22: 2**

**Table 15.** Accepted records of Woodlark in Scotland, 2015.

- 2015: **Orkney** Kirbest, North Ronaldsay, 12 October (T. Drew *et al.*).
- Shetland** Skelberry, Dunrossness, Mainland, 29–30 October, photo (M. Heubeck *et al.*).

Woodlark is rare in Scotland, found mostly in late autumn and early winter in the Northern Isles. There has been one instance of attempted breeding, in Angus & Dundee in 1993 (Forrester *et al.* 2007).



Since 1950 the vast majority of occurrences have been on the Northern Isles; 69% were on Fair Isle and Shetland, but only 9% were on Orkney, making the North Ronaldsay bird notable.

There has been just one mainland occurrence since 2000, in Lothian in 2008.

(Two subspecies breed from the Middle East across to Morocco, extending north as far as Finland, Norway and England north to Yorkshire, where the population is increasing. Most populations move south to wintering areas, with more northerly populations moving the farthest.)

**Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica***  
40: 41: 2

**Table 16.** Accepted records of Red-rumped Swallow in Scotland, 2015.

2015: **Orkney** Marwick Head, Mainland, 8 June (R. Matson).  
**Shetland** Lerwick, Mainland, 2–14 July, photo (P.A. Harris, R.J. Nason *et al.*).

Red-rumped Swallow is observed in Scotland annually in small, but increasing, numbers from April through to November, mainly along the east coast and on islands. This recent increase is thought to reflect a northward expansion of the European continental breeding range. One individual of an eastern subspecies, either *daurica* or *japonica*, has been observed on Orkney and then Skye (Highland) in June 2011 (McGowan *et al.* 2013).

The two occurrences represented a relatively low annual total; in the last ten years this number was only matched in 2007 and 2008. The arrival dates are slightly outside the main peak, but are within the normal range. Shetland has 32.5% of the total Scottish records since 1950.

(Eleven or 12 subspecies. Breeds widely from southern and eastern Europe eastwards across the Palearctic region, and in sub-Saharan Africa. Northern populations are migratory, wintering in Africa and southern Asia. In recent years its range has expanded into more northern and western areas.)

**Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides***  
157: 65: 18

**Table 17.** Accepted records of Greenish Warbler in Scotland, 2015. Northern Isles records are summarised separately in Table 18.

2015: **Fife** Boarhills, 23 August (D. Douglas, S. Pinder, T. Sykes).  
**North-east Scotland** Forvie, 24–25 August (C. Reid, D. Short).

Greenish Warbler is a rare but annual migrant to Scotland, increasingly regular over the past few decades. It is mostly seen in late August and early September, with more than 80% of sightings in the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally.

Excluding the single June bird in 1949, it is noteworthy that 2015 is the first year that spring occurrences have outnumbered those in late summer and early autumn. A total of ten was present in June, compared with eight in August and September.

A singing male on Sanday in June was the third spring record for Orkney, and the second for the island: the previous was on 28 May 1992.

**Table 18.** Accepted records of Greenish Warbler in the Northern Isles, 2015.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	2	1	3–5 Jun	19–20 Aug
Orkney	1	4	2–3 Jun	19 Aug–16 Sep
Shetland	7	1	2–8 Jun	19–25 Aug

(*P. t. viridanus* breeds from the Baltic east through Russia to the Yenisei and south to Afghanistan, and winters in the Indian subcontinent and south-east Asia. There are four records in England of Two-barred Greenish Warbler *P. t. plumbeitarsus* from eastern Siberia.)

**Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi***  
46: 20: 1

**Table 19.** Accepted record of Radde's Warbler in Scotland, 2015.

2015: **Fair Isle** Chalet, Barkland, School & Field, first-calendar-year, 14–19 October, photo (L.V. Gregory *et al.*).





**Plate 83.** Radde's Warbler, first-calendar-year, Chalet, Barkland, School & Field, Fair Isle, 14–19 October 2015. © Lee Gregory

Radde's Warbler is a rare late autumn visitor to Scotland, with the majority of occurrences in the Northern Isles, principally Shetland, and the remainder along the east coast.

The single occurrence in 2015 was typical with respect to location and the peak period.

(Breeds from southern Siberia east to Sakhalin and North Korea; migrates to winter in southern China and south-east Asia.)

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
60: 30: 7

Dusky Warbler is a rare but more or less annual visitor to Scotland, with the autumn migration period accounting for all records but one. Like Radde's Warbler, it occurs mainly in the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally. Nearly all other sightings have been on the east coast.

The seven sightings in 2015 were in the Northern Isles. One was on Fair Isle and six on Shetland, all seen between 5 October and 6 November. A bird at Sandwick, Mainland, Shetland lingered for eight days, on 11–19 October.

**Table 20.** Accepted records of Dusky Warbler in the Northern Isles, 2015.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	-	1	-	11 Oct
Orkney	-	-	-	-
Shetland	-	6	-	5 Oct–6 Nov

(Breeds from western Siberia to China, wintering from the Himalayas to south China; two subspecies, with European vagrants belonging to nominate *fuscatus*.)

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*  
193: 78: 4

Subalpine Warbler occurs annually in Scotland as a rare migrant, mainly in spring. The overwhelming majority are seen in the Northern Isles.

All records to subspecies level are currently assessed by BBRC (Appendix 2). Subalpine Warbler *sensu lato* is assessed locally in Northern Isles. No records were assessed by SBRC in 2015.

**Table 21.** Accepted records of Subalpine Warbler in Scotland, 2015, with one additional determination to subspecies for 2014 (BOURC 2016) and one for 2009 (per Hudson *et al.* 2016, and local committees).

- 2015:** **Fair Isle** Plantation & Observatory, second-calendar-year, male, 30 June to 3 July, trapped, photo, DNA (D. Parnaby *et al.*), *iberiae/inornata*.  
**Shetland** Baltasound, Unst, female, 25–28 May, photo (A. McConlin *et al.*), *S. cantillans* only.  
**Orkney** Gravity, North Ronaldsay, second-calendar-year, male, 20–21 June, trapped, photo, DNA (M. Warren *et al.*), *iberiae/inornata*.  
**Outer Hebrides** Eoropaidh (Eoropie), Lewis, second-calendar-year at least, female, 4–5 September, photo (B.A.E. Marr, A. Williams *et al.*), *cantillans/albistriata*.
- 2014:** **Fair Isle** Gully, first-summer male, 8 May, trapped (DNA), photo; listed in 2014 SBRC report (McGowan & McInerny 2016), now identified as *S. c. cantillans* (BOURC 2016).
- 2009:** **Shetland** Scousburgh, Mainland, first-summer male, 19 May, trapped, photo, DNA, *albistriata* (Hudson *et al.* 2016); listed in 2014 SBRC report as *S. cantillans* (McGowan & McInerny 2016).

The three Northern Isles occurrences were typical; the sighting in Outer Hebrides was the first in autumn, and also the first for the Isle of Lewis.

The 2014 Fair Isle record and the 2009 Shetland record, as *S. cantillans*, already appears in the SBRC totals (McGowan & McInerny 2016). In last year's report, an additional *albistriata* (2012, Fair Isle) was added to the totals; as this had already appeared (to species) in the 2012 report, the total in the header above has been adjusted.

The taxonomy of this species group has been undergoing revision, which has had implications for the *Scottish List* (McGowan & McInerny 2016). 'Eastern Subalpine Warbler' *S. c. cantillans* has recently been admitted to the *British List*, based on the bird on Fair Isle on 8 May 2014 (BOURC 2016).

(Nominate *cantillans* breeds in south Italy and Sicily, *albistriata* from south-east Europe through Greece, Aegean Islands to Turkey, *iberiae* in Iberian Peninsula, south France and North-west Italy, *inornata* from Morocco to Libya. Migrates to winter in the sub-Saharan Sahel, though *inornata* probably north-west Africa.)

## Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

53: 12: 1

**Table 22.** Accepted record of Melodious Warbler in Scotland, 2015.

- 2015:** **Shetland** Vallyie, Norwick, Unst, 25–27 August, photo (R.J. Brookes, B.H. Thomason).

Melodious Warbler is a very rare spring and autumn migrant to Scotland, recorded in most years but not all: for example, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2009 were blank years. About three-quarters of occurrences have been in the Northern Isles, with almost identical totals for the three recording areas.

The sighting for 2015 was only the thirteenth since 2004, though it was the third on Unst, with other occurrences in 2007 and 2010.

(Breeds in north Africa, Iberia, France, Belgium, and south-west Germany to the north-west Balkans; migrates to winter in sub-Saharan West Africa.)

## Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

46: 85: 12

**Table 23.** Accepted records of Blyth's Reed Warbler in Scotland, 2015.

- 2015:** **Fair Isle** Gully Trap, Observatory, second-calendar-year or adult, 8 June, trapped, photo (L.V. Gregory, C. Hatsell *et al.*).  
**Fair Isle** Upper Stoneybrek & Lower Leogh, first-calendar-year, 20–25 September, trapped, photo (L.V. Gregory, J. Walsh *et al.*).  
**North-east Scotland** Port Elphinstone, Inverurie, male, singing, 15–27 June, photo (P. Crockett, E. Meek, A. Stalker *et al.*).  
**Orkney** Senness, North Ronaldsay, first-calendar-year, 22 September, trapped, photo (M. Warren *et al.*).  
**Shetland** Easting, Unst, 23–24 September, photo (B.H. Thomason *et al.*).  
**Shetland** North Town, Virkie, Mainland, 25 September (P.-A. Crochet, P.V. Harvey *et al.*).  
**Shetland** Hestingott, Mainland, 26–30 September, photo (R.M. Fray, C.C. Roger *et al.*).  
**Shetland** Exnaboe, Mainland, 27 September, photo (R.M. Fray).  
**Shetland** Symbister, Whalsay, 27–28 September, photo (A. Seth, P. Stronach *et al.*).  
**Shetland** Toab, Mainland, 30 September to 4 October, photo (Y. Perlman *et al.*).

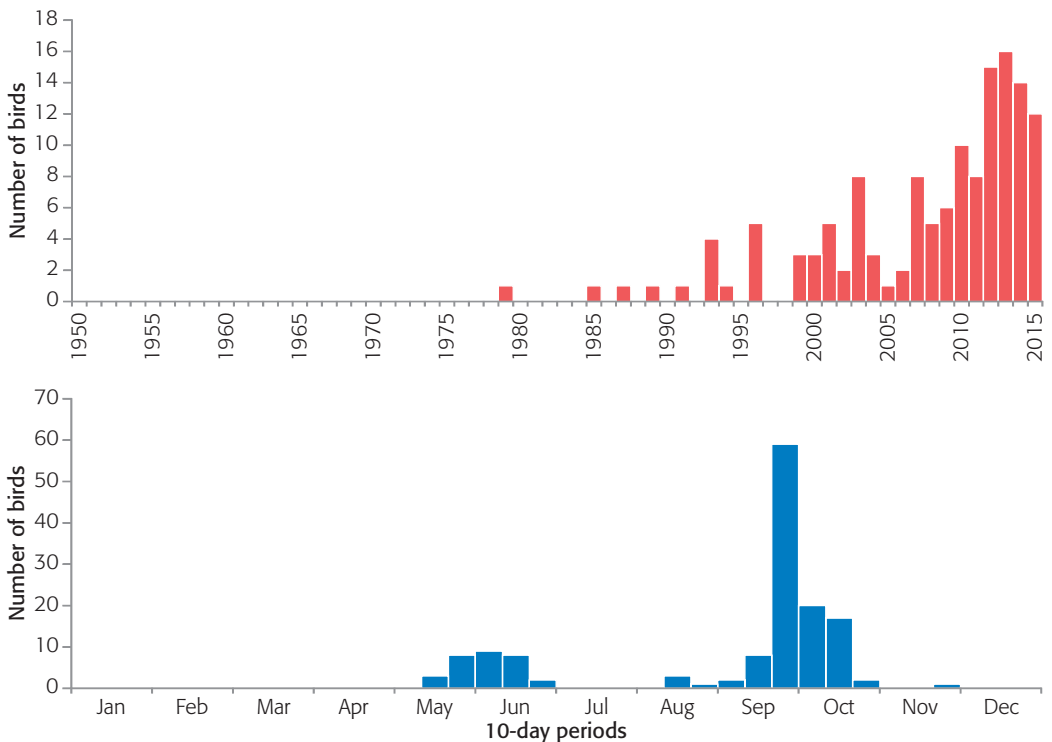
**Shetland** Housay, Out Skerries, 5 October, photo (P. Forrest, M. McKee, L. Pyke, C. Turner).  
**Shetland** Exnaboe, Mainland, 12 October, photo (C. Fentiman, R.M. Fray, R. Riddington, T. Wilson).



**Plate 84.** Blyth's Reed Warbler, first-calendar-year, Upper Stoneybrek & Lower Leogh, Fair Isle, 20–25 September 2015. © Lee Gregory

Assessment of Blyth's Reed Warbler was undertaken by BBRC until 1 January 2015. A recent significant increase in numbers in Britain means that the species no longer meets criteria for consideration by BBRC, and is instead considered by SBRC. However, from 1 January 2017 the species will be assessed by local committees on Shetland and Fair Isle (Appendix 2).

Blyth's Reed Warbler is a rare but annual spring and autumn migrant to Scotland, increasingly seen since 2000 (Figure 1). Although the first Scottish record dates from 1910, 88% of occurrences have been in the last two decades. The overwhelming majority of sightings (a similar 88%) have been in the Northern Isles. The sighting at Port Elphinstone (North-east Scotland) was the second for the recording area and notable for its inland location. While most occurrences are in September and October, there have been an increasing number of singing males in spring over the last several years.



**Figure 1.** Annual and seasonal occurrence of Blyth's Reed Warbler in Scotland by 10-day periods, 1950–2015.

The increasing frequency of the species in Scotland follows a westward spread from European Russia through southern Finland, Estonia and Latvia, with breeding also recorded in Sweden and Poland (BirdLife International 2016).

(Breeds from Sweden, Finland and Baltic countries, through Russia to Lake Baikal and Mongolia, and south to Iran and north Pakistan; migrates to winter in Indian subcontinent and Myanmar.)

**Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris***  
**many: c. 318: 24**

**Table 24.** Accepted record of Marsh Warbler in Scotland, 2015. Northern Isles records are summarised separately in Table 25.

**2015: Highland** Tongue, Sutherland, male, singing, 26 June (L.J. Degan *et al.*).

Marsh Warbler is a scarce annual migrant to Scotland with most occurrences involving singing males in late spring; very rarely, birds remain to breed. The Northern Isles account for the overwhelming majority of records, and these are assessed locally.

The sighting in Highland was the fourth for the recording area since 2004, but the first in Sutherland.

**Table 25.** Accepted records of Marsh Warbler in the Northern Isles, 2015.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	7	1	1–30 Jun	15 Jul
Orkney	2	1	20–27 Jun	5–19 Aug
Shetland	12	0	2–23 Jun	-

The 24 Marsh Warblers recorded in Scotland in 2015 was lower than the annual mean of 31.8 between 2005 and 2014. The fluctuating annual abundance of this species is related, for spring birds at least, to variation in the prevalence of easterly winds in late May and early June, which are presumed to cause them to overshoot their breeding grounds in Fennoscandia during northerly spring migration (Forrester *et al.* 2007). As is usual, most birds in 2015 only stayed for a few days.

Breeding has been recorded at Norwick, Unst, Shetland in 2005, 2008 and 2014 (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2010, McGowan & McInerny 2016).

The breeding pair in 2014 was omitted from the 2014 total, and this has now been adjusted.

(Breeds in Britain, France, Denmark and Fennoscandia east through Europe to Russia; winters in sub-Equatorial Africa.)

**Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***  
**139: 17: 4**

**Table 26.** Accepted record of Nightingale in Scotland, 2015.

**2015: Isle of May** 13 June, trapped, photo (M. Newell *et al.*).

Nightingale is a rare, but almost annual, passage migrant to Scotland; spring records predominate. In the Northern Isles, claims are assessed locally, and Fair Isle and Shetland account for the vast majority of sightings.

The Isle of May sighting was only the third for the island since 1996. Others were on Fair Isle on 30 June, on Noss, Shetland from 9–31 May; while another at Ollaberry, Mainland on 27 September was the fourth-latest date for Shetland.

There has been a total of eight sightings in the last two years, equalling the total number seen in Scotland from 2008 to 2013.

(Nominate *megarhynchos* breeds from Morocco and western Europe through North Africa and



**Plate 85.** Nightingale, Isle of May, 13 June 2015. © Rich Howells



southern and central Europe to the Ukraine and Turkey; *L. m. africana* from the Caucasus area and eastern Turkey to Iran; *L. m. golzii* from the Aral Sea to Mongolia. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa.)

**Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola***

105: 80: 6

**Table 27.** Accepted records of Citrine Wagtail in Scotland, 2015.

**2015:** **Fair Isle** Gilsetter, Auld Haa & Skerryholm, first-calendar-year, 1–8 September, photo (L.V. Gregory, T. Viles *et al.*).

**Fair Isle** Guidicum, first-calendar-year, 12 September, photo (L.V. Gregory *et al.*).

**Orkney** Hooking Loch, North Ronaldsay, first-calendar-year, 30 August, photo (J. Scragg, M. Warren).

**Orkney** Bride's Ness & Hooking, North Ronaldsay, first-calendar-year, 6–9 September, photo (M. Warren *et al.*).

**Shetland** Quendale, Mainland, first-calendar-year, 25–27 August, photo (R. Riddington *et al.*).

**Shetland** Norwick, Unst, first-calendar-year, 17–19 September, photo (A.M. Conlin *et al.*).

**Plate 86.** Citrine Wagtail, first-calendar-year, Quendale, Mainland, Shetland, 25–27 September 2015. © Roger Riddington

Assessment of Citrine Wagtail was undertaken by BBRC until 1 January 2015. A recent significant increase in numbers in Britain means that the species no longer meets criteria for consideration by BBRC, and is assessed by SBRC (Appendix 2).

Citrine Wagtail is a rare but annual spring and autumn migrant to Scotland, increasingly regular since the 1990s, and found mostly on islands (Figure 2). The first two records were in 1954, but 73% of sightings have taken place in the last two decades. The overwhelming majority (86%) have been in the Northern Isles, with a further 6% in Outer Hebrides. Occurrence is generally in autumn, with few records in spring. Despite the recent increase in numbers, Citrine Wagtail remains an extreme rarity in other parts of the country. On the Scottish mainland it has been recorded six times in Lothian and twice in North-east Scotland. But elsewhere it has been sighted only once in Inverness and Sutherland (both Highland) and Dumfries & Galloway, and is unrecorded in another ten recording areas.

The six occurrences in 2015 are typical: late August and September arrival dates in the Northern Isles.



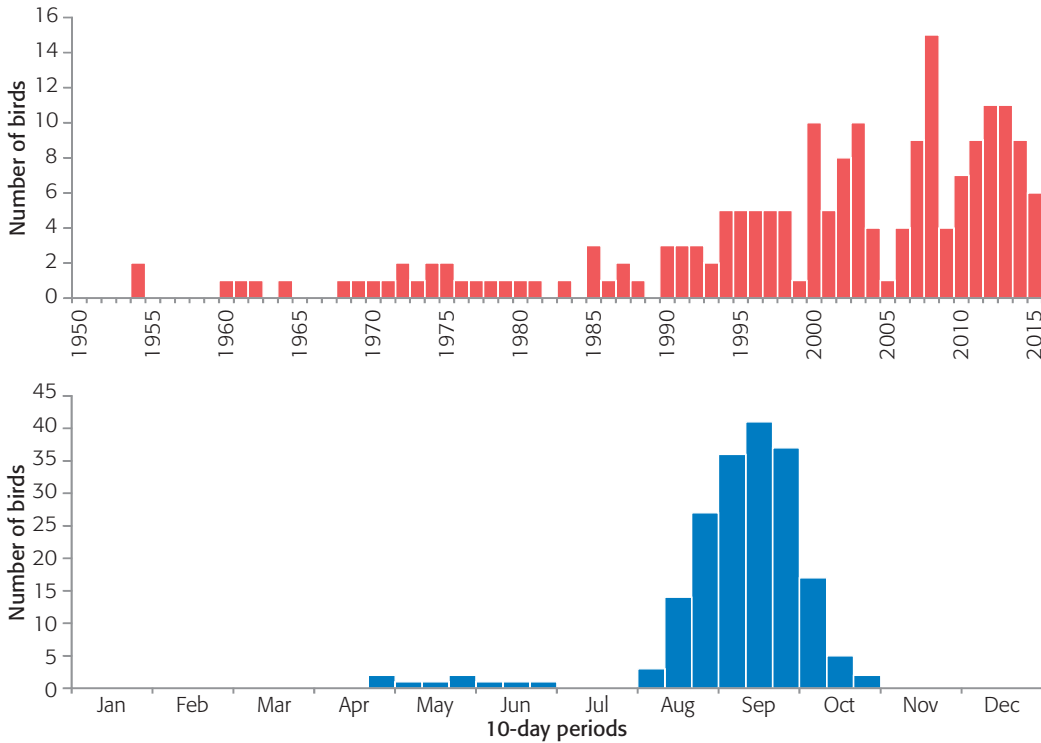


Figure 2. Annual and seasonal occurrence of Citrine Wagtail in Scotland by 10-day periods, 1950–2015.

(Nominate *citreola* breeds in Russia from Kola Peninsula to River Khatanga, south to Himalayas; *calcarata* south of Tien Shan Mountains. Migrates to winter in China, Indochina, north of the Indian subcontinent and shores of Arabian Gulf.)

**Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni***

151: 149: 20

Table 28. Accepted records of Olive-backed Pipit in Scotland, 2015. Northern Isles records are summarised separately in Table 29.

2015: Isle of May 11 October, two birds on 12 October, photo (B. Outram, D. Steel *et al.*). Outer Hebrides Brèbhig (Brevig), Barra, 18 October (K. Gillon, C. Scott).

Olive-backed Pipit is a rare but regular autumn migrant in Scotland. There was a marked increase in occurrences in Britain and Europe since the 1980s. Hence the species was dropped from BBRC review in 2013, when it was considered by SBRC, but since 2015 was assessed locally in the Northern Isles (Appendix 2).

The vast majority of sightings in Scotland are in the Northern Isles, with only 17 birds (5%) seen in other areas. There have been only seven mainland records, the last at Blackdog, North-east Scotland in October 2006.

Table 29. Accepted records of Olive-backed Pipit in the Northern Isles, 2015.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	-	7	-	28 Sep–8 Nov
Orkney	1	1	5 Jun	12 Oct
Shetland	-	8	-	2–13 Oct

The 20 occurrences in 2015 was the fourth highest annual total. Two birds on the Isle of May increased the island’s total to six, and the sighting on Barra (Outer Hebrides) raised that recording area’s total to four. The Orkney spring record was found on North Ronaldsay on 5 June and was only the seventh in spring for Scotland.

(*A. h. yunnanensis* breeds from Urals east to Kamchatka, Manchuria and Japan; one other subspecies. Winters in south-east Asia.)

**Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana***  
**many: 42: 4**

**Table 30.** Accepted records of Ortolan Bunting in Scotland, 2015.

2015: **Borders** St Abb's Head, 24 August (A. Ash).  
**Highland** Morar, Lochaber, 23–26 June, photo  
 (S. MacDonald *et al.*).

Ortolan Bunting is a rare and declining, but still annual, passage migrant to Scotland. In recent years the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally, have accounted for more than 90% of occurrences.

The sighting at St Abb's Head (Borders) was the fifth since 1950, and the first since 1997. The occurrence at Morar (Highland) was the sixth for the recording area, though the first for Lochaber; the late spring date is also notable. It was found in the observers' garden, coming to bird feeders.

There were two sightings in the Northern Isles. On Fair Isle, a bird seen first on 16 October lingered for a further 21 days, and in Shetland one was observed on Out Skerries on 2 October. The recent general trend of declining numbers appears to be continuing.

(Breeds patchily from Algeria and Iberia north to Norway and east through Europe to Asia; winters in sub-Saharan Africa.)

**Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla***  
**593: 240: 30**

Little Bunting is a scarce but increasingly regular passage migrant to Scotland, mostly in the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally. The great majority are found in autumn, but there have also been a few in winter and spring. There were no occurrences outwith the Northern Isles in 2015.

There were 30 sightings in the Northern Isles, all of them in autumn.

**Table 31.** Accepted records of Little Bunting in the Northern Isles, 2015.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	-	8	-	27 Sep–26 Oct
Orkney	-	2	-	5–8 Oct
Shetland	-	20	-	14 Sep–7 Nov

(Breeds from northern Fennoscandia to eastern Siberia; winters from north-east India and Nepal to south-east Asia.)

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## Appendix 1.

List of records regarded as not proven by SBRC.

- 2015:** White-billed Diver Loch Slapin, Skye, Skye & Lochalsh, Highland, 9 May; Glossy Ibis St Cyrus, North-east Scotland, 28 August; Yellow-legged Gull adult, Shewalton, Ayrshire, 14 February; Caspian Gull second-calendar-year female, Loch Gilp, Lochgilphead, Argyll, 17 January to 21 August; Marsh Warbler male, Uig, Skye, Skye & Lochalsh, Highland, 25–26 July; Arctic Redpoll Kirtlebridge, Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway, January to March.
- 1897:** Scottish Crossbill male, Newport, Fife, 7 January (museum specimen).

## Appendix 2.

Summary of assessment of records by the Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) and other committees, 2013–17. All species and subspecies assessed by SBRC are included, with two exceptions. First, any species or subspecies not on the *Scottish List* is automatically assessed by SBRC if it is not assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Second, some species assessed by SBRC have additional rare subspecies assessed by BBRC but not shown here.

13	14	15	16	17	
■	■	■	■		Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Black Brant <i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Lesser Scaup <i>Aythya affinis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	White-billed Diver <i>Gavia adamsii</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Great Shearwater <i>Puffinus gravis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Wilson's Petrel <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Night-heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedicanus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Continental Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Caspian Gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>
■	■	■	■	■	White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>



13	14	15	16	17	
■	■	■	■	■	Franz Josef Land Little Auk <i>Alle alle polaris</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dryobates minor</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Red-footed Falcon <i>Falco vespertinus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator</i> (except <i>L. s. badius</i> )
■	■	■	■	■	Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i> (except <i>C. d. daurica</i> or <i>japonica</i> )
■	■	■	■	■	Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Red-flanked Bluetail <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Serim <i>Serinus serinus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Arctic Redpoll <i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Scottish Crossbill <i>Loxia scotica</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Parrot Crossbill <i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Rustic Bunting <i>Emberiza rustica</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>

■ = SBRC ■ = BBRC ■ = SBRC except Northern Isles (Fair Isle, Orkney and Shetland) ■ = SBRC except Shetland and Outer Hebrides ■ = SBRC except Fair Isle and Shetland ■ = SBRC except Outer Hebrides ■ = SBRC outside core range (see [www.the-soc.org.uk/identification-of-scottish-and-parrot-crossbills](http://www.the-soc.org.uk/identification-of-scottish-and-parrot-crossbills))

### Appendix 3.

Corrections to previous SBRC reports:

#### Report year 2014

Glossy Ibis: The totals were missing the 2013 Argyll record, and so should be c. 65: **29**: 5.

Red-footed Falcon: The 2012 report had 13 records for 2005–2012. Although there were no new records for 2005–2013, this was increased to 14 in the 2013 report with this error perpetuated in the 2014 report. The totals for the 2014 report should be: 83: **13**: 1.

Radde's Warbler: The 2010 Toab, Mainland, Shetland record was duplicated from the 2013 report, so the totals should be: 46: **17**: 3.

Subalpine Warbler: The 2012 Fair Isle *albristriata* record was duplicated from the 2012 report, so the totals should be: 193: **64**: 14.

Marsh Warbler: Following format from earlier reports, a breeding pair (Norwick, Unst, Shetland) was not included in the summary table. However, it was also omitted from the totals, which should be: many: c. 284: **34**.

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