

Scottish Birds Records Committee report on rare birds in Scotland, 2021

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on behalf of the Scottish Birds Records Committee

This is the 14th annual report of the Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) describing rare birds recorded in Scotland during 2021. Previous annual reports that cover the period 2005 to 2020 can be found in previous issues of *Scottish Birds* or downloaded at www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/sbrc-species-analysis, some of which are cited in this report.

A summary of the rare bird species considered by SBRC, the SBRC List, and other committees is given in Appendix 2, and is shown at www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/sbrc-list-past-lists

Recent changes to the SBRC List include, from March 2022, Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica* removed from the List (Lewis & McNerny 2022a, 2022b; www.the-soc.org.uk/content/bird-recording/sbrc/identification-of-scottish-and-parrot-crossbills). Furthermore, from January 2023, SBRC will consider records of Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*, Little Owl *Athene noctua*, European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* and Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*, with local dispensation for recording areas Dumfries & Galloway and Borders for Little Owl, and Borders for Marsh Tit (Lewis *et al.* 2023). For a summary of these changes see Appendix 2 and www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/sbrc-list-past-lists

The distribution and number of most rare birds reported in Scotland during 2021 was similar to other years. However, a Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* was observed for the first time since 2012, this being only the third Scottish record. Two Cetti's Warblers *Cettia cetti* were seen, the fourth and fifth national records, and an exceptional six Melodious Warblers *Hippolais polyglotta* were observed, including an amazing run of five on Fair Isle. Continuing increases in records were noted for several species including Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Arctic Warbler *P. borealis*, Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*, and Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*.

In contrast, a number of SBRC species were not seen in Scotland during 2021 including Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* and Red-footed Flacon *Falco vespertinus*. Strikingly, no Ortolan Buntings *Emberiza hortulana* were recorded during 2021, the first blank year since the formation of SBRC. This species in the past was observed as a scarce passage migrant, with 10–20 records a year, though 105 were reported in the spring of 1969 and over 40 in 1995 and 1996 (Forrester *et al.* 2007). This decline in Scottish records reflects the collapse of the west European population, following illegal and unsustainable hunting of the species for gastronomic reasons (Jiguet *et al.* 2019).

Format of the report

The species accounts in the report follow a standard format. Nomenclature and taxonomic sequence follow the latest version of the *Scottish List*, which follows the 10th Edition of the British List and subsequent changes adopted by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU 2022, 2023; www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/the-scottish-list).

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 a few 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 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 and so are not added to totals.
- Total number in the current year (2021).

Occasionally, adjustments to totals have been made to take account of late retrospective acceptances by SBRC and local committees, or when corrections are detected from Excel spreadsheet totals, which are displayed here www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/sbrc-species-analysis

Immediately below the header line is a table of accepted Scottish records for 2021, with details. For those species assessed locally in the Northern Isles (Shetland, Fair Isle and Orkney), 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-2021 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 submission to SBRC; full details of these returning birds are nonetheless provided in this report for completeness. Revised and/or corrected details are also provided for some pre-2019 records, published previously.

For each record listed in full the following information is provided:

- Year.
- Recording area 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 gender 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 at the location or observed throughout; in some cases, it may have been observed only on the first and last dates and may even have moved elsewhere.
- 'Found dead' or 'died' if applicable.
- 'Trapped' if applicable.
- Use of DNA analysis to aid identification.
- Existence of a photograph, video or audio recording, 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: if the submitter was the Local Recorder this is shown as '*per* Local Recorder'. All other observers are covered by the use of '*et al.*'
- Details and location of specimen if preserved in a museum, with specimen accession number if available.
- Additional sightings of the same bird at a different location, 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 SBRC.

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 to Scotland, is given in parentheses.

Species coverage

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 each year for the period 2017–21. Appendix 3 lists older records assessed and accepted by SBRC for which species totals are not available.

SBRC

SBRC was set up in 1984 as a subcommittee of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (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 Lewis (Chairman), Jim Dickson, Rob Fray, Graham Sparshott (from November 2021), Dave Pullan (up to November 2021), Chris Rodger, David Steel and Mark Warren. Chris McNerny is non-voting Secretary and Bob McGowan is non-voting Museum Consultant. For more information about SBRC see www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/about-sbrc

Records accepted by SBRC are announced on the SOC website as soon as they are processed at www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/recent-decisions, and thereafter formally published in annual reports, such as this, in the June issue of *Scottish Birds*.

On publication the accepted record details are also added to Excel spreadsheets which list all records for SBRC species. These Excel spreadsheets display the data chronologically by recording areas, and graphically both by year from 1950 to 2021 and seasonally by 10-day periods. Examples of the graphs have been used in SBRC Reports published in *Scottish Birds*, with one in this report. The SBRC species Excel spreadsheets have been placed on the SOC website at www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/sbrc-species-analysis, where they can be downloaded; they are updated annually following publication of the SBRC Report. The SBRC and SOC encourage interested parties to use these SBRC species Excel files which are a convenient way to analyse and interrogate SBRC data, but we ask that SBRC Reports published in *Scottish Birds*, such as this, are cited as a way to acknowledge SBRC as the source of the data.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost we are grateful to all observers who submitted records of Scottish rarities to Local Recorders and SBRC during the period. Without their efforts to find and record these birds the report would not exist. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to those who gave permission for their excellent photographs to be reproduced here.

We thank the following Local Recorders for their assistance in compiling, checking and correcting records for this report: Yvonne Benting, Ian Broadbent, Paul Collin, Jon Cook, Martin Cook, Jim Dickson, Iain English, Rob Fray, Sinclair Manson, Russell Neave, Scott Patterson, Chris Pendlebury, John Poyner, Graham Sparshott, Stephen Welch, and Val Wilson. We are particularly grateful for the co-operation of the Northern Isles recorders Rob Fray (Shetland, Fair Isle) and Russell Neave (Orkney) in helping to compile summaries for locally assessed species and also Yvonne Benting (Outer Hebrides) for Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* records. We very much appreciate the help of Stephen Hunter in managing the SBRC pages on the SOC website, uploading accepted SBRC records on the recent decisions page www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/recent-decisions and the SBRC species Excel spreadsheets www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/sbrc-species-analysis. We thank Keith Naylor and Mark Wilkinson for comments on the manuscript; and thank Keith Naylor for corrections to SBRC species Excel spreadsheets.

Systematic list of accepted records

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

1: 2: 1

Table 1. Accepted record of Black Brant in Scotland, 2021.

2021: **Highland** Broadford River mouth & Glas Eilean, Skye, Skye & Lochalsh, adult, 27–29 April, photo (N. Bennet *et al.*) (*Scottish Birds* 41: 360–362).

Black Brant is extremely rare in Scotland, with just three previous records, and the last two both in 2012 (McGowan *et al.* 2014).

The 2021 individual was found at Broadford River mouth on the Isle of Skye, Highland with it moving to nearby Glas Eilean (Bennett & McMillan 2021). A careful examination of the bird established that it was the North American subspecies of Brent Goose, which is possibly over-looked and under-recorded in Scotland.

(Breeds in north western Canada, Alaska and eastern Siberia, and wintering mostly on the west coast of North America from southern Alaska to California, but also some in east Asia, mainly Japan.)

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

34: 11: 1

Table 2. Accepted record of Alpine Swift in Scotland, 2021.

2021: **Fife** Fife Ness, 25 March, photo (R. & J. Cargill).

Alpine Swift is a very rare visitor to Scotland, seen usually between mid-April and late July. Spring occurrences involve overshoots from mountain breeding grounds on the European continent, while those in summer relate to wandering non-breeders. There are very few autumn records.

The Fife Ness record was the first for the Fife recording area, with this species also not yet noted on the nearby Isle of May. Previously, just two have been seen during March in Scotland (Outer Hebrides 2012 and Clyde 2017). Alpine Swift is an early spring migrant to its mountainous European breeding areas, with



Plate 83. Alpine Swift, Fife Ness, Fife, 25 March. © Rob Cargill

this individual likely an overshoot. The bird remained for just 30 minutes, and was only seen by the two lucky finders. Many Fife 'listers' are hoping that the next for the recording area lingers long enough to allow them see it.

(Nominate *melba* breeds in north Africa and southern Europe from Iberia to the Middle East, moving to southern Africa in winter. Nine other subspecies in the Indian subcontinent and Africa.)

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

29: 13: 1

Table 3. Accepted record of Stone-curlew in Scotland, 2021.

2021: **Fair Isle** Udi Geo & various locations, second-calendar-year or older, 11 July, photo (M. Hellicar *et al.*).

Stone-curlew is a very rare visitor to Scotland; there were just 42 observations to the end of 2020 with almost half of these in the Northern Isles, and the remainder scattered across the country mostly along the east coast. There is a peak in occurrence in late May and early June, although birds have been seen at all times of the year (McInerney & McGowan 2022).

The sole 2021 record is a typical island location for this species in Scotland, though the mid-summer date is more unusual being the first Scottish July record, and suggests a wandering non-breeder.



Plate 84. Stone-curlew, Udi Geo & various locations, Fair Isle, second-calendar-year or older, 11 July 2021. © Max Hellicar

(Nominate *B. o. oedincnemus* breeds in open habitats in southern Europe east to the Caucasus, extending as far north as England and Poland; migrates south to winter in Spain and North Africa. Five other subspecies.)

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
69: 144: 2

Table 4. Accepted records of White-rumped Sandpiper in Scotland, 2021.

- 2021: **Lothian** Aberlady, second-calendar-year or older, 26 August (K. Gillon).
Shetland Virkie, Mainland, second-calendar-year or older, 22–24 July, photo (R. Riddington *et al.*).



Plate 85. White-rumped Sandpiper, Virkie, Mainland, second-calendar-year or older, 22–24 July 2021. © Roger Riddington

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.

Both 2021 records were second-calendar-year or older in July and August with, unusually, no first-calendar-year birds seen later in the year.

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

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
34: 47: 7

Table 5. Accepted records of Lesser Yellowlegs in Scotland, 2021.

- 2021: **North-East Scotland** Loch of Strathbeg, first-calendar-year, 30 September to 13 October, photo (M. Sullivan *et al.*).
Outer Hebrides Loch Stiapabhat, Isle of Lewis, first-calendar-year, 29 September to 5 October, photo (*per* Local Recorder).
Orkney Loch Bewan, North Ronaldsay, first-calendar-year, 7–10 September, photo (A. Whitehouse *et al.*).
Orkney Sandsheeh & Holland House, North Ronaldsay, first-calendar-year, 13–15 October, photo (T. Gale *et al.*).
Orkney North Loch, Sanday, 19–21 December, photo (R. Neave *et al.*).
Shetland Grutness, Mainland, second-calendar-year or older, 6–7 June, photo (P. Moss *et al. per* Local Recorder).
Shetland West Voe, Papa Stour, first-calendar-year, 29 September to 6 October, photo (R. Riddington, R. Tallack *et al.*); same Loch of Melby, Mainland, first-calendar-year, same as Papa Stour, 1 October, photo (K. Wilson).

Lesser Yellowlegs is a rare visitor to Scotland from North America. The majority of birds are found in late summer and autumn, with smaller numbers in spring; and there are observations in about half of the recording areas, though with almost 24% of records in the Outer Hebrides.

This species continues to be seen regularly in Scotland in very small numbers, mostly on the Outer Hebrides and Northern Isles, although 2021 revealed the tenth record for North-East Scotland and the fourth for Loch of Strathbeg.

(Breeds in North America at higher latitudes. Migrates to winter in southern USA, south through the Caribbean, Central and South America to Tierra del Fuego.)

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*
0: 12: 2

Table 6. Accepted records of Caspian Gull in Scotland, 2021, and an additional record for 2013.

- 2021:** **Fife** Guardbridge, second-calendar-year, 29 October, photo, ringed (Yellow P:PT4) as a pullus/nestling 9 May 2020 at Wyspa Na Rz.Wisła, Kępa Nadbrzeska, Otwock, Mazowieckie, Poland (F. Todd).
Lothian undisclosed site, Midlothian, second-calendar-year, 25 March to 8 April, photo (N. Milligan).
2013: **Dumfries & Galloway** Newbie, Annan, second-calendar-year, 23 September, photo (J. Wright).

Caspian Gull is extremely rare in Scotland. Occurrences have been from late autumn to spring. Most observations have been in coastal East Lothian, amongst flocks of gulls.

It is now known that a regular movement of the species takes place each year through England, with most recorded in the south and east. The majority are immatures present in summer and autumn having moved west from their Eastern European breeding areas.

However, Caspian Gull remains very rare elsewhere in the UK. Under-recording of this difficult-to-identify species is also likely, especially immatures (McInerny 2010).

This species was last seen in Scotland during 2018. Two were noted in 2021, with the one in Fife being

a ringed bird. It was marked as a pullus/nestling in Poland at a breeding colony at Kępa Nadbrzeska on 9 May 2020 near Otwock, Mazowieckie (Gull Research 2023), and subsequently seen in France at Sonzay rubbish dump, Centre-Val le Loire, on 22–24 December 2021.

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

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*
12: 33: 2

Table 7. Accepted records of Yellow-legged Gull in Scotland, 2021.

- 2021:** **Angus & Dundee** Invergowrie Bay, sub-adult, 12–15 March; same **Perth & Kinross** Invergowrie Bay, 12–15 March, photo (M. Wilkinson) (*Scottish Birds* 42: 272–274).
Clyde Balgray Reservoir, third-calendar-year/fourth-calendar-year, from 2020 to 20 February, photo (J.J. Sweeney *et al.*).
Fife Leven, second-calendar-year, 10 May, photo (M. Wilkinson *et al.*) (*Scottish Birds* 42: 272–274).

Yellow-legged Gull is very rare in Scotland, although found throughout the country usually in groups of other large white-headed gulls, often Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus*. 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. However, the species is probably under-recorded being challenging to identify, particularly immatures.

It seems likely that most if not all records of Yellow-legged Gulls in Scotland refer to the nominate subspecies *L. m. michahellis*, which has a Mediterranean and south-west European distribution including England (McInerny 2009). However, observers should be aware that one record in Scotland of Yellow-legged Gull of the subspecies *L. m. atlantis* from the Atlantic islands has been accepted by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) and BBRC as the first for Britain (Stoddart & McInerny 2017). All potential records of this subspecific taxon, which breeds

on the Azores, Madeira and possibly the Canaries, should be sent to BBRC (Appendix 2).

This species remains very rare in Scotland with surprisingly few along the east coast, although the two found during 2021, in Fife and on the Angus & Dundee/Perth & Kinross border, suggest that the species may be overlooked (Wilkinson 2022a).

(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. *L. m. atlantis* breeds on the Azores, Madeira and possibly the Canaries, wandering south to north-west Africa.)

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
59: 28: 1

Table 8. Accepted record of White-winged Black Tern in Scotland, 2021, and an additional record for 2016.

- 2021: **Moray & Nairn** Loch Spynie, adult, 2–6 June, photo (K. Lynch *et al.* per Local Recorder).
2016: **Outer Hebrides** Loch a' Chinn Uacraich ('Coot Loch'), Benbecula, adult, 13–14 May, photo (per Local Recorder).

White-winged Black Tern is a rare visitor to Scotland, mostly observed along the east side of the country and on islands between late spring and late autumn.

(Breeds in central and Eastern Palearctic areas, migrating south to winter in Africa, Australasia and the Indian subcontinent.)

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
2: 2: 0

Table 9. Accepted records of Wilson's Petrel in Scotland, 2021.

- 2021: **At Sea** [Outer Hebrides] 58.43809, -8.501641, 68 km N of St Kilda and 88 km WNW of Aird Uig, Isle of Lewis, 15 July, photo (N.T. Keogh *et al.*).
At Sea [Shetland] second-calendar-year, 10 August, photo (P. Harris, W.T.S. Miles, R. Riddington, R. Tallack *et al.*).

Wilson's Petrel is an extremely rare visitor to Scotland with just four records prior to 2020 (McInerny & McGowan 2022).

The success of finding this species in Scottish waters during 2020 by chartering a boat to visit pelagic waters in the North Atlantic off Shetland (McInerny & McGowan 2022), was repeated in 2021. Another was seen from a boat far out to sea west of St Kilda, Outer Hebrides. As both records were 'At Sea' they are not included in SBRC totals.

(Oceanic. Three subspecies, nominate *O. o. oceanicus*, *O. o. exasperates* and *O. o. chilensis*, all widespread across the southern oceans where it is the world's most numerous seabird. Breeds on the Antarctic continent and offshore islands of South America. Trans-equatorial migrants occur in all oceans. The two subspecies *O. o. oceanicus* and *O. o. exasperates* are thought to migrate into the North Atlantic; although either could occur in Western Palearctic waters, Irish and Icelandic specimens have been identified as *O. o. exasperates*.)

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*
c. 228: 41: 2

Table 10. Accepted records of Cory's Shearwater in Scotland, 2021, and an additional record for 2020.

- 2021: **Outer Hebrides** Brèibhig (Brevig), Barra, 5 August (B.A. Taylor).
Orkney Dennis Head, North Ronaldsay, 4 September (A.F. McNee).
2020: **Lothian** Skateraw, 16 August (J.D. Wilson).

Cory's Shearwater is a rare visitor to Scottish waters, recorded near-annually, with most seen off North Ronaldsay, Orkney and the Outer Hebrides during the late summer and early autumn. A few enter the North Sea where they are observed moving along the east coast. Although an increase in sightings from the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s occurred, numbers since have decreased, with about two or less seen annually, and none were seen in 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2019.

The observation in Scotland, for the first time, of the closely related and very similar Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* during August 2020 (McInerny & McGowan 2022), raised the issue of whether more of this species were present and being mis-identified as Cory's Shearwaters. However, Scopoli's Shearwater,

based on its range and numbers, is likely to be much rarer in Scottish waters than Cory's. Therefore, SBRC has decided to take a pragmatic approach and accept records as Cory's Shearwater as the default species, as birds seen in Scotland are most likely to be *C. borealis*.

(Breeds on the Azores, Canary Islands and other nearby Atlantic islands, with the closely related Scopoli's Shearwater *C. diomedea* breeding in the Mediterranean. Both species occur in North Atlantic waters in autumn and are on the British List, but most are assumed to be Cory's, with Scopoli's recorded in Scottish waters just once.)

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

c. 522 (1950–2004): 9,242: 4 (excluding 'At Sea' records)

Table 11. Accepted records of Great Shearwater in Scotland, 2021, and an additional record for 2020.

- 2021:** **Fife** Fife Ness, 21–22 August (K.D. Shaw, J. Wilson).
Highland Strathy Point, Sutherland, 18 August (P. Stronach).
Outer Hebrides Rubha Àird a' Mhuile (Rubha Ardvule), South Uist, 7 September (J. Kemp).
Outer Hebrides Lochboisdale–Mallaig ferry, 20 September (S. Pinder).
2020: **Shetland** Off Muckle Flugga, Unst, 16 August, photo (A. Irvine *et al.* per Local Recorder).

Great Shearwater was rarely seen in Scotland until many were observed during 2005–07, with a highest annual count a staggering 8,935 recorded in 2007. Since then, however, no more than six have been recorded in any one year, if



Plate 86. Great Shearwater, off Muckle Flugga, Unst, Shetland, 16 August 2020. © A. Irvine

'At Sea' records are discounted; none were seen in 2010, 2012, 2016 and 2019. This underlines the exceptional nature of the influxes witnessed during 2005–07.

The species is a late summer and autumn visitor, with most sightings from North Ronaldsay, Orkney, and a few from the Outer Hebrides and along the east coast of mainland Scotland; the 2021 observations followed this pattern.

(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 south-west coast of Ireland in late summer and autumn.)

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

3: 27: 6

Table 12. Accepted records of Cattle Egret in Scotland, 2021, and an additional record for 2011.

- 2021:** **Angus & Dundee** Frickheim & Keptie Pond, Arbroath, 9–21 November, photo (M. Caunt *et al.* per Local Recorder).
Dumfries & Galloway Martingirth Farm, New Abbey, 24 January, photo (B.D. Henderson).
Highland Kingussie, Badenoch, Strathspey & Lochaber, 5–16 November, photo (M. Coleman *et al.*).
Shetland Gremista, Lerwick, Mainland, three on 31 October, one to 1 November, photo (D. Stove *et al.* per Local Recorder); **same** Shetland, Voeseide & Hoversta, Bressay, one, 1–3 November.
2011: **Clyde Islands** Clauchlands, Arran, second-calendar-year or older, 8 August, photo (M. Christie *per* Local Recorder).

Cattle Egret is very rare in Scotland although since 2007 increasingly more are being found, with birds seen every year since 2013. This follows the large increase in numbers present in England, where over 200 appeared in 2007, with the species first breeding in 2008; a second influx occurred in 2016 resulting in further breeding and flocks of 51 and 87 observed in Devon and Somerset during 2018 (McInerny & McGowan 2019).

Observations of this species continue to increase in Scotland, with five seen during 2021, including the second records for both



Plate 87. Cattle Egret, Frickheim & Keptie Pond, Arbroath, Angus & Dundee, 9–21 November 2021. © Mark Caunt

the Highland and Angus & Dundee recording areas. The 2011 record, only recently submitted to SBRC, was the first for the Clyde Islands recording area.

(Occurs widely 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. Largely a short-distance migrant.)

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
19: 37: 4

Table 13. Accepted records of Black Kite in Scotland, 2021.

2021: **North-East Scotland** Collieston & Cotehill to Meikle Loch, Ythan Estuary & Forvie, fifth-calendar-year or older, 4–7 May, photo (J. Burn, P. Crockett *et al.*); same **Fair Isle** Pund & various locations, 16–17 May, photo (M. Hellicar *et al.*).

Orkney Holland, Papa Westray, Westray & Rousay, third-calendar-year or older, 17 April, photo (D. Roche *et al.*).

Orkney Heddle, Firth, Mainland, 25 April, photo (A. Upton, E. Stubbings).

Orkney Colt, North Ronaldsay, 17 May, photo (D. Shepherd *et al.*).

Black Kite is a very rare, though increasing, visitor to Scotland from continental Europe. Most have been seen in spring, from April to June, with far fewer sightings in summer and autumn (Figure 1). There have also been instances of summering, and a single case of hybridization with Red Kite *Milvus milvus*. Occurrences have increased in recent years; there were 41 during 2007–21 (annual mean 2.7) following just nine in the period 1997–2006 (annual mean 0.9).



Plate 88. Black Kite, Pund & various locations, Fair Isle, 16–17 May 2021. © Alex Penn

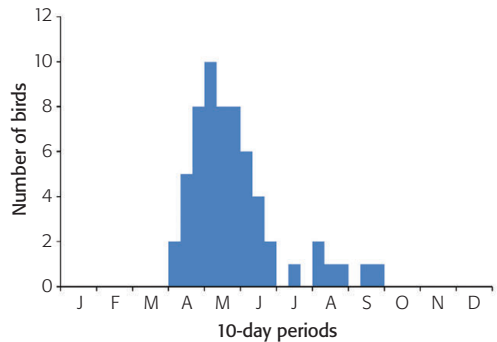
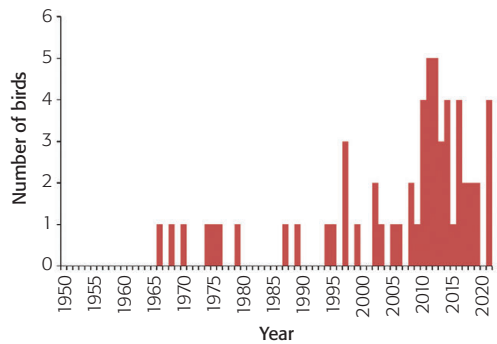


Figure 1. Annual and seasonal occurrence of Black Kite in Scotland by 10-day periods, 1950–2021.

The 2021 records are typical for this species, being on the east coast and Northern Isles, although it is fascinating that the bird first seen in North-East Scotland was subsequently re-found as it moved through Fair Isle 10 days later; this was established on plumage similarities revealed by photographic images.

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

Woodchat Shrike is a rare, but annual since 2011, 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, with dispersing juveniles recorded in autumn.

This species is being observed in increasing numbers in Scotland, with the seven records during 2021 consistent with this pattern. Most are along the east coast or in the Northern Isles, so the bird in Clyde was more unusual: it was just the third for the recording area, with the last in May 1996 (Cameron & McInerney 2021).

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

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

68 (1950–2004): 31: 0

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 during 1993 (Forrester *et al.* 2007). Since 1950 the majority of observations have been on the Northern Isles, with 70% on Fair Isle and Shetland. The last mainland records were at Peffer Sands, Scoughall (Lothian) during 15–24 February 2008, and at Ferry Hills, North Queensferry (Fife) on 10 November 2018.

The only sighting in 2021 was the individual that overwintered around Twingness, North Ronaldsay (Orkney) (McInerney & McGowan 2022), which remained until 16 February. As such, this observation is not counted towards the species total.

(Two subspecies. *L. a. arborea* breeds in north and central European areas from western Russia through Finland and Norway to England, where present north to Yorkshire. The other subspecies breeds from Iran and the Middle East through southern Europe to north-west Africa. Most populations move south to wintering areas, with more northerly populations moving the farthest.)



Plate 89. Woodchat Shrike, Aith, Mainland, Shetland, first-calendar-year, 30 September to 12 October 2021. © John Forbes

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

86: 42: 7

Table 14. Accepted records of Woodchat Shrike in Scotland, 2021.

2021: Clyde Ardmore Farm, female, 12 June, photo (D. Cameron *et al.*) (*Scottish Birds* 42: 73–74).

Fair Isle Auld Haa, second-calendar-year or older, male, 9 September to 3 October, photo (D. Gornall *et al.*).

Highland Corrimony, Inverness-shire, 9–11 June, photo (C. McKay, C. Miller *et al.*).

Isle of May 3 June (M. Quintin *et al.*).

Orkney Well Park, Papa Westray, 5–6 June, photo (D. Roche *et al.*).

Shetland Everland, Fetlar, second-calendar-year, male, 4–8 June, photo (D. Bywater *et al.*).

Shetland Aith, Mainland, first-calendar-year, 30 September to 12 October, photo (H.J. Murphy, H.E. Ramm, J. Shergold *et al.* per Local recorder).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
285: 111: 4

Table 15. Accepted record of Short-toed Lark in Scotland, 2021, and an additional record for 2013. Northern Isles records are summarised separately in Table 16.

- 2021:** **Outer Hebrides** Mullach Sgar, Ruabhal & Baile, Hiort (Hirta), St Kilda, 29 September to 13 October, photo (W.T.S. Miles, C. Nisbit).
2013: **Outer Hebrides** Rubha Àird a' Mhuile (Rubha Ardvule), South Uist, 12 October, photo (*per* Local Recorder).

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.

Table 16. Accepted records of Short-toed Lark in the Northern Isles, 2021.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	-	1	-	1–4 Oct
Orkney	-	-	-	-
Shetland	1	1	22–29 Jun	10 Oct

The sighting on St Kilda was the fifth for the archipelago and only the second in autumn. The bird lingered for 14 days, the second longest-staying individual of only ten occurrences in the Outer Hebrides. The Northern Isles records followed the expected pattern.

(Eight subspecies, with the subspecies seen in Scotland and the UK undetermined. Breeds

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

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
40: 56: 4

Table 17. Accepted records of Red-rumped Swallow in Scotland, 2021.

- 2021:** **Orkney** Twingness, North Ronaldsay, second-calendar-year or older, 31 May to 1 June, photo (G. Gay, M. Warren *et al.*).
Outer Hebrides Groigearraidh (Grogarry) Lodge, South Uist, 13 May, photo (S.E. Duffield *et al.*).
Shetland Vidlin, Mainland, two, 9–10 June, photo (D.C. Wege *et al. per* Local Recorder); **same** Brae, Mainland, two, 11 June, photo (A.H.J. Harrop *et al.*).

Red-rumped Swallow is observed in Scotland annually in very small numbers from April through to November, mainly along the east coast and on islands. An increase in frequency over the last 20 years is thought to reflect a northward expansion of the European continental breeding range. Around 66% of sightings in Scotland have occurred within this period, and the last blank year was 1996.

Two individuals of an eastern subspecies, either *C. d. daurica* or *C. d. japonica*, have been observed in Scotland: one on Orkney and then Skye, Skye & Lochalsh, Highland, in June 2011, and the other 'At Sea' c. 50 km east of Lybster, Caithness in May 2018 (McInerney & McGowan 2020).



Plate 90. Red-rumped Swallow, Twingness, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, first-calendar-year or older, 31 May to 1 June 2021. © Mark Warren

The four occurrences in 2021 were typical of timing and location for Scotland. The sighting in South Uist was the eighth for Outer Hebrides.

(Eight subspecies. Breeds widely from southern Europe eastwards across the Palearctic region, and in sub-Saharan Africa. *C. d. rufula* breeds in Europe and the Middle East, with nominate *daurica* and *japonica* in Asia. Northern populations are migratory wintering in Africa and southern Asia. In recent years its range has expanded into more northern and western European areas.)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

1: 2: 2

Table 18. Accepted records of Cetti's Warbler in Scotland, 2021.

2021: **Fife** Kilconquhar Loch, 10–11 December, audio (M. Wilkinson) (*Scottish Birds* 42: 281–283).
Upper Forth Kinneil, first-calendar-year, female, 13 November, photo, trapped (I. Livingston *et al.*) (*Scottish Birds* 42: 281–283).

Cetti's Warbler is an extremely rare vagrant to Scotland, with just three previous records, one dead and two alive, from Lothian in October 1993, the Outer Hebrides in October 2014 and an undisclosed site in 2016 (McGowan & McNerny 2018). These birds could have derived from either the European continent, or from the English and Welsh population that has expanded rapidly to reach c. 1,800 singing males/ territories in recent years following a peak of c. 2,000 ten years ago (Holling *et al.* 2016).

The two occurrences in 2021 were first records for the recording areas; late autumn dates are suggestive of juvenile dispersal. The Upper Forth bird was trapped, allowing a straightforward identification; in contrast, determination of the Fife individual relied almost entirely on sound recordings (Wilkinson 2022b).

(Nominate *cetti* breeds in southern Britain, and eastwards from Morocco through to Bulgaria; mainly sedentary. Two other subspecies in central and eastern Asia Minor and from Kazakhstan to western China.)

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

46: 42: 5

Table 19. Accepted records of Radde's Warbler in Scotland, 2021, and an additional record for 2020.

2021: **Isle of May** 7–8 October, photo (A.W. Lauder, K.M. Morton, K.D. Shaw *et al.*).
Shetland Kergord, Mainland, 5 October, photo (D. Bradnum *et al.*).
Shetland Sullom, Mainland, 5 October, photo (H.J. Murphy, H.E. Ramm, J. Shergold *per* Local Recorder).
Shetland Hoswick, Mainland, 19 October (W.A. Carter).
Shetland Sullom, Mainland, 1 November, photo (P. Sclater *per* Local Recorder).
2020: **Caithness** Duncansby, 6–8 October, photo (D. Brown, J. Eaton, R. Hughes *et al.*).

Radde's Warbler is a rare, now almost annual autumn visitor to Scotland, with the majority of occurrences in the Northern Isles, principally Shetland, and the remaining few along the east coast.



Plate 91. Cetti's Warbler, Kinneil, Upper Forth, first-calendar-year, female, 13 November 2021. © Iain Livingston



Plate 92. Radde's Warbler, Isle of May, 7–8 October 2021. © David Steel

The sightings on Isle of May and Shetland were typical for this species, these recording areas having the highest number of records. The observation in Caithness in 2020 was the first for the recording area. The increased frequency of occurrences in recent years is marked: the mean number of annual records in the last decade is 3.4, but only 1.4 for the previous decade.

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

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
59: 76: 3

Table 20. Accepted records of Dusky Warbler in Scotland, 2021. One Northern Isles record is summarised in the text.

2021: Fife Lower Kilminning, 19–22 October, photo, audio (W. Cresswell *et al.*).
Lothian Barns Ness, 18–22 October, photo (M. Williamson *et al.*).

Dusky Warbler is a rare annual visitor to Scotland, with the autumn migration period accounting for all but two sightings. It occurs mainly in the Northern Isles where records are assessed locally. Nearly all other sightings have been along the east coast of mainland Scotland.

Only three Scottish sightings were made in 2021 against a recent trend of a mean of 7.4 birds annually over the preceding decade. Exceptionally, the single bird total for the Northern Isles was fewer than the number seen elsewhere. The Shetland observation was made at Hamnavoe, Lunna on 6–7 October.

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

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
157: 142: 5

Table 21. Accepted record of Greenish Warbler in Scotland, 2021. Northern Isles records are summarised in the text.

2021: Isle of May 23–27 May, photo, trapped (S. Langlois *et al.*).

Greenish Warbler is a rare but annual migrant to Scotland, increasingly regular over the past few decades (McInerney & McGowan 2022). It is mostly seen in late August and early September, with smaller numbers in late May and early June; about 70% of sightings have been in the Northern Isles where records are assessed locally.

All sightings in Scotland in 2021 were at typical dates and localities. In Shetland, responsible for 40% of Scottish records of Greenish Warbler, birds were observed at Noss on 10 August, Out Skerries on 13 August, Hamnavoe, Foula on 22–25 August, and Sumburgh Hotel, Mainland on 18–20 September.

The total of five is lower than the mean annual total of 11 birds over the last decade.

(Four subspecies. *P. t. viridanus* breeds from the Baltic east through Russia to central Siberia and north-west China, wintering in the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka. Other subspecies breed in central and eastern Palearctic areas, wintering in southern India and northern Indochina.)

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
164: 126: 9

Table 22. Accepted records of Arctic Warbler in Scotland, 2021.

2021: Argyll Balinoe, Tiree, first-calendar-year, 12 September, photo (J. Bowler, K. Gillon) (*Scottish Birds* 42: 77–78).
Fair Isle Midway, first-calendar-year, 27–28 August, photo (S. Arlow *et al.*).
Fair Isle Wirvie Burn, 28 August, photo (D. Gornall).
Orkney Salties, Sanday, 12 September, photo (D. Douglas, M. Lewis *et al.*).
Orkney Gravity, North Ronaldsay, 20 September to 2 October, photo (T. Gale, G. Gay, R. Goater *et al.*).
Shetland Dalsetter, Mainland, 10 September, photo (K. Kelly *et al. per* Local recorder).
Shetland Quendale, Mainland, 11–15 September, photo (R. Riddington *et al.*).
Shetland Aithness, Fetlar, first-calendar-year, 12 September, photo (P. Macklam *et al. per* Local Recorder).
Shetland Quendale, Mainland, 13–14 September, photo (R.M. Fray *et al.*).



Plate 93. Arctic Warbler Dalsetter, Mainland, Shetland, 10 September 2021. © Roger Riddington

Arctic Warbler is a rare but annual and increasingly regular autumn migrant to Scotland occurring mostly in the Northern Isles and along the east coast (McInerney & McGowan 2022). It is most frequent in September, with fewer seen in late August and October; very small numbers are seen in late June and July; about 90% of observations have been in the Northern Isles.

The total of nine sightings in 2021 is consistent with the increased frequency in recent years, with a mean annual total of 8.8 birds between 2011 and 2020. All but one were in the Northern Isles. The observation on Tiree was the first record for the Argyll recording area (Bowler 2021).

(Breeds from northern Fennoscandia to the Bering Straits and west Alaska, and south to the Ural Mountains, Mongolia and Korea. Winters from Myanmar to Indonesia and the Philippines.)

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*
53: 28: 6

Table 23. Accepted records of Melodious Warbler in Scotland, 2021, and additional records for 2020.

- 2021: Fair Isle Observatory, first-calendar-year, 24 August, photo, trapped (D. Gornall *et al.*).
- Fair Isle Burkle, first-calendar-year, 31 August, photo (D. Gornall *et al.*).

Fair Isle Setter, first-calendar-year or older, 2 September, photo (D. Gornall *et al.*).

Fair Isle Lower Leogh & Nethertaft, first-calendar-year or older, 6–16 September, photo (D. Gornall *et al.*).

Fair Isle Ultra & Haa, first-calendar-year or older, 8 September, photo (D. Gornall *et al.*).

Shetland Sumburgh, Mainland, first-calendar-year, 2 November, photo (P.V. Harvey, R. Riddington *et al.*).

2020: Orkney Westness, North Ronaldsay, first-calendar-year, 10–13 August, photo, trapped (G. Gay, D. Shepherd *et al.*).

Orkney Dennishill, North Ronaldsay, 19 August, photo (G. Gay, D. Shepherd *et al.*).

Shetland Nurse House, Fetlar, 22 August, photo (B.H. Thomason *et al.*).

Melodious Warbler is a rare, but increasingly frequent, spring and autumn migrant to Scotland recorded in most years. About three quarters of occurrences have been in the Northern Isles.

During the last two decades only two sightings have been made on the Scottish mainland; both were at St Abb's Head, Borders, the first in May 2002 and the second in September 2018.

The six occurrences in 2021 represents the highest annual total in Scotland, and the additional three records for 2020 makes that the equal second-highest with five, the last being in 1992. Over the last decade, the mean annual total is 2.8 birds, double the 1.3 birds for the previous decade. The five consecutive observations on Fair Isle during 2021 are unprecedented; each record was meticulously described in the notes submitted to SBRC, confirming that five different birds were involved.



Plate 94. Melodious Warbler, Sumburgh, Mainland, Shetland, first-calendar-year, 2 November 2021. © Roger Riddington

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

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

139: 38: 2

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

Only two observations were made in Scotland in 2021: one at Shalstane, Fair Isle, on 9 May, and the other at Scousburgh, Mainland, Shetland on 3 August and 6 October (trapped on both dates).

The last Scottish mainland occurrence of Nightingale was at Garthdee, North-East Scotland on 7 May 2007.

(Nominate *L. m. megarhynchos* breeds from Morocco and western Europe through North Africa and southern and central Europe to the Ukraine and Turkey; *L. m. golzii* breeds from the Aral Sea to Mongolia (one record in Scotland, and another two in England); and another subspecies from the Caucasus area and eastern Turkey to Iran. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa.)



Plate 95. Red-flanked Bluetail, South Ness, Foula, 29 September 2021 © Michael McKee

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

15: 85: 8

Table 24. Accepted records of Red-flanked Bluetail in Scotland, 2021, and an additional record for 2020.

- 2021:** **Fair Isle** South Raeva, 19 October, photo (P.R. Gordon *et al.*).
Shetland Gorie, Bressay, 3 June, photo, trapped (G. & K. Clements).
Shetland Skaw, Whalsay, 26 September, photo (J.L. Irvine *et al.*).
Shetland South Ness, Foula, 29 September, photo (M.J. McKee *et al.*).
Shetland Hestingott, Mainland, 17 October, photo (A.H.J. Harrop *et al.*).
Shetland Voe, Mainland, first-calendar-year male, 22–26 October, photo (P.V. Harvey, D. Pointon *et al.*).
Shetland Swining, Mainland, 27 October, photo (P.A. Harris).
Shetland Lerwick, Mainland, first-calendar-year/female, 7 November, photo (P. Slater *per* Local Recorder).
2020: **Caithness** Biel of Duncansby, John o' Groats, 4 October (G. Garner).

Red-flanked Bluetail is a rare but annual migrant to Scotland, increasingly regular in the last two decades. The vast majority (93%) of sightings in Scotland have been from September to mid-November with a peak in mid-October, and 86% have been in the Northern Isles.

Since 2016 there have been six sightings on mainland Scotland, all in October on the east coast: Borders (St Abb's Head), Fife (Crail), Highland (Tarbat Ness) (all 2016), Caithness (Wick) (2017), North-East Scotland (Ratray Head) (2019), and Caithness (John o' Groats) (2020).

In 2021 seven of the eight sightings were in Shetland, this recording area responsible for 44% of the total number of records. The occurrence on Bressay was the first for June in Scotland. The Caithness sighting in 2020 was only the second for that recording area, the first being a bird at Wick in October 2017.

(Breeds in Finland through Eurasia to Kamchatka and south to Mongolia, China and Japan. Migrates to winter in China and south-east Asia. In recent years its range has expanded into more northern and western European areas.)



Plate 96. Citrine Wagtail, Utra scrape & various locations, Fair Isle, second-calendar-year female, 12–15 May 2021. © Alex Penn

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

105: 118: 7

Table 25. Accepted records of Citrine Wagtail in Scotland, 2021.

- 2021: **Angus & Dundee** Stannochoy Quarry, male, 24 April, photo (D. Banister, C. McGuigan) (*Scottish Birds* 41: 282).
Fair Isle Utra scrape & various locations, second-calendar-year female, 12–15 May, photo (M. Hellicar *et al.*).
Fair Isle Da Water, Bunes & South Harbour, first-calendar-year, 31 August to 2 September, photo (G. Platt *et al.*).
Outer Hebrides Hiort (Hirta), St Kilda, first-calendar-year, 9 September, photo, audio (W.T.S. Miles, C. Nisbet).
Shetland Spiggie, Mainland, female, 10 May, photo (R.M. Fray, P. Sclater).
Shetland Norwick, Unst, first-calendar-year, 28 September to 2 October, photo (T. Hutton *et al.* per Local Recorder).
Shetland Everland, Fetlar, first-calendar-year, 4 October, photo (L. & M. Sutton *per* Local Recorder).

Citrine Wagtail is a rare but annual spring and autumn migrant to Scotland, increasingly regular since the 1990s, though found mostly on islands. Occurrence is generally in autumn with

few seen in spring. The overwhelming majority (83%) have been in the Northern Isles with a further 6.5% in Outer Hebrides. Despite the recent increase in numbers Citrine Wagtail remains an extreme rarity in other parts of the country not being seen in many recording areas.

The seven observations in 2021 were consistent with previous decade's mean annual total of 7.8 birds. The three spring sightings were notable, and the April sighting in Angus & Dundee was the first for the recording area (McGuigan & Banister 2021).

(Nominate *M. c. citreola* breeds in Russia from Kola Peninsula to River Khatanga, south to Himalayas; another subspecies in Iran and Afghanistan. Migrates to winter in China, south-east Asia, the Indian subcontinent and the Arabian Gulf.)

Serin *Serinus serinus*

7: 7: 0

Serin is an extremely rare vagrant to Scotland, with just 12 previous records: four on Fair Isle,

three on Shetland (Unst and Fetlar), two on the Outer Hebrides, and one each in Lothian (Edinburgh), Borders (St Abbs), the Isle of May (McGowan & McNerny 2022). Six were males and six females, with birds being found in April (4), May (6), August (1) and November (1).

However, another ringed female Serin was observed at Talmine on 5 May 2022 which was deemed to be an escape from captivity. This resulted in a reappraisal of the 2021 record by SBRC; because of doubts about the bird's wild origin, it was found not proven (Appendix 1).

During 2021 an adult male bird was observed at Talmine, Sutherland, Highland on 17 May (Drew 2021). This record was initially accepted by SBRC as the identification was confirmed and the bird assumed to have a wild origin.

(Breeds from the Canary Islands, North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula to Germany, Denmark and the Middle East. Northern populations migrate south, remaining within the breeding range.)

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Appendix 1

List of records regarded as not proven by SBRC.

- 2021: White-rumped Sandpiper Skinflats, Upper Forth, 7 September; Lesser Yellowlegs Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, 11–12 October; Caspian Gull Pow Burn, Prestwick, Ayrshire, 9 January; Cory's Shearwater Corsewall Point, Dumfries & Galloway, 9 August; Great Shearwater St Abbs village, 13 November; Black Kite Torness, Inverness-shire, Highland, 26 June; Black Kite Ruddon's Point, Fife, 29 July; Cetti's Warbler St Ninian's Cave, Dumfries & Galloway, 14 July; Radde's Warbler Lettan, Sanday, Orkney, 3–5 October; Greenish Warbler Collieston, North-East Scotland, 22 August; Blyth's Reed Warbler Barn's Ness, Lothian, 15 October; Citrine Wagtail Brough of Gurness, Mainland, Orkney, 10 September; Parrot Crossbill two, female, Sullom Plantation, Mainland, Shetland, 16 October; Serin Loch Ness area, Highland, 26 May; Serin adult male, Talmine, Sutherland, Highland 17 May.
- 2012: Melodious Warbler Kilminning, Fife, 16–18 August.

Appendix 2

Summary of assessment of records by the Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC), the SBRC List, and other committees, 2017–21. 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 on the *Scottish List* have additional rare subspecies assessed by BBRC that are not shown here. Species and subspecies considered by BBRC are listed on www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/species-taxa

19	20	21	22	23	
■	■	■	■	■	Black Brant <i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>
■					Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Lesser Scaup <i>Aythya affinis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Alpine Swift <i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Continental Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>
■	■	■	■	■	White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Caspian Gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i> (except <i>L. m. atlantis</i> - BBRC)
■	■	■	■	■	White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Franz Josef Land Little Auk <i>Alle alle polaris</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Wilson's Petrel <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris borealis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Great Shearwater <i>Ardena gravis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Night-heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>
■	■	■	■	■	Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>

■	Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>
■	European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</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> - BBRC)
■	Marsh Tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>
■	Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>
■	Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
■	Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i> (except <i>C. d. daurica</i> or <i>japonica</i> - BBRC)
■	Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>
■	Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>
■	Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
■	Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
■	Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
■	Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
■	Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
■	Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
■	Western/Eastern Subalpine Warbler <i>Curruca iberiae/cantillans</i> *
■	Dartford Warbler <i>Curruca undata</i>
■	Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> (except <i>L. m. golzii</i> - BBRC)
■	Red-flanked Bluetail <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>
■	Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>
■	Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
■	Arctic Redpoll <i>Acanthis hornemanni</i> *
■	Parrot Crossbill <i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>
■	Scottish Crossbill <i>Loxia scotica</i>
■	Serin <i>Serinus serinus</i>
■	Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
■	Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
■	Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>

■ = SBRC ■ = BBRC ■ = SBRC except Northern Isles (Fair Isle, Orkney and Shetland) ■ = SBRC except Fair Isle and Shetland ■ = SBRC except Outer Hebrides ■ = SBRC except Dumfries & Galloway and Borders ■ = SBRC except Borders ■ = SBRC outside core range www.the-soc.org.uk/content/bird-recording/sbrc/identification-of-scottish-and-parrot-crossbills

* From 1 January 2019, all records to be considered by BBRC.

The species and subspecies considered by SBRC listed here are also shown on www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/sbrc-list-past-lists

Appendix 3

Older records assessed and accepted by SBRC for which up-to-date Scottish species and subspecies totals are not available:

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* - One, Kilmory, Rum, Lochaber, Highland, 13–15 September 2000 (S. Morris).

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* - One, adult, Kilmory & Kinloch, Rum, Lochaber, Highland, June 2003 (A. Morris, M. Blunt *et al.*).

Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans* - One, second-calendar-year or older, female, Rubha Àird a' Mhuile (Rubha Ardvule), South Uist, Outer Hebrides, 14 May 2015, photo (*per* Local Recorder).

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