## 2004 Highlights in the Clyde Area

**January** Two wintering **Green Sandpipers** at Carbarns; a **Common Sandpiper** at the Endrick mouth on 2nd; an immature **Mediterranean Gull** wintering at Drumchapel, joined briefly by an adult on 9th; an adult male **Ruff** at Strathclyde Loch (until 11th February); two **Barnacle Geese** wintering in the lower Endrick valley; a solitary Brent Goose commuting between the lower Endrick valley and Hogganfield Loch during the month; 20 Brambling at East Yonderton on 2nd; 21 Pintail at Cardross on 2nd; six Scaup throughout the month on Strathclyde Loch; an immature male Smew at Lochwinnoch (until April); 240 Canada Geese near Drymen on 5th, and 173 at Rowbank reservoir on 24th; 520 **Tufted Duck** at Strathclyde Country Park on 5th; 65 Snow Buntings on Cruachan on 13th, and 40 on Ben Dubh on 17th; single Slavonian Grebes inland at Aird Meadow on 14th and (same bird?) at Waulkmill Glen Reservoir on 17th; 235 Bean Geese at the traditional Fannyside Loch roost during January and February; 58 Longtailed Tits at Glasgow Green on 15th; 221 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Balgray reservoir roost on 18th; an adult Yellow-legged Gull at Strathclyde Loch on 18th, and two adults there on 25th February; 1,136 **Wigeon** at the Endrick mouth in January; other WeBS totals of 1,040 **Dunlin**, 1,485 **Curlews** and eight **Greenshank** on the Clyde estuary on 25th; and 12 **Jack Snipe** at Littleton reservoir on 26th.



**February** Two **Green Sandpipers** on the River Clyde at Wolfclyde on 5th, one at Garvald on 14th; four **Hen Harriers** roosting at Carnwath Moss on 6th; a **Chiffchaff** at Bishopbriggs on 7th; a **Great Grey Shrike** at Glentaggart Forest on 8th, and one wintering at the Endrick mouth until 19th; a pre-roost gathering of 29,000 **Black-headed Gulls** on the Clyde estuary between Cardross and Longhaugh Point on 8th; 20 **Tree Sparrows** at East Yonderton on 10th; 58 **Reed Buntings** at Garnkirk Moss on 11th; 61 **Slavonian Grebes** off Ardmore Point on 14th; 2,280 **Pink-footed Geese** in the Drymen area on 14th; a **Little Gull** at Ironotter Point and 22 **Razorbills** off Greenock Esplanade on 15th; 13 **Buzzards** between Loch Libo and Neilston Pad, an area only recently colonised, on 18th; 60 **Cormorants** on the River Clyde at Thankerton on 19th; an adult **Mediterranean Gull** at Cardross on 22nd; an exceptional 7,000 **Common Gulls** feeding between Cardross and Ardmore Point on 22nd; six **Iceland Gulls** at Strathclyde Loch on

25th (and again on 13th March); 150 **Stock Doves** at Blackstoun Farm on 27th; 165 **Goldeneye** at Strathclyde Country Park on 29th; a **Long-tailed Duck** inland on Bardowie Loch from 24th; a maximum count of 140 **Red-throated Divers** off Ardmore Point on 29th; 104 **Pochard** at Bishop Loch; and single 'redhead' **Smews** at Strathclyde Country Park and the East Renfrewshire dams.

March A pair of Ptarmigan on Meall nan Caora on 7th; 261 Greenland White-fronted Geese at Gallangad on 7th; 14 Jack Snipe at Windlaw Marsh on 7th; 725 Greylag Geese roosting on the Clyde estuary at Longhaugh Point on 9th; 1,400 Pink-footed Geese near Stepps on 9th; a site record count of 1,118 Teal on the Clyde estuary at Longhaugh Point on 9th; 66 Goldeneye on the River Clyde at Daldowie on 11th; 50 Twite at Ardmore on 12th; a Ring-billed Gull at Balgray reservoir on 14th; reasonably high WeBS totals of 482 Shelduck and 514 Goldeneye on the Clyde estuary; 63 Scaup at West Ferry on 15th; a 'redhead' Smew at Loch Arklet from 15th to 23rd; 22 Gadwall at Gartloch Pools on 24th; and a Great White Egret at Baron's Haugh on 31st, later seen at Merryton on 2nd April.

**April** A **Nuthatch** at Carnwath on 9th; 75 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Carbarns Pool on 15th; a **Black-necked Grebe** at Balgray reservoir from 17th to 25th; a female **Marsh Harrier** and a **Blue-headed Wagtail** at Lochwinnoch on 20th; several reports of **Little Ringed Plovers** at Carbarns Pool between 21st April and 25th July, including two birds on 18th May; a female **Ruff** at Carbarns Pool on 23rd; a record count for the Clyde estuary of 107 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Longhaugh Point on 24th; a **Sanderling** in Ardmore North Bay on 26th; 116 **Gannets** fishing off Gourock on 27th; four **Common Scoters** off Greenock on 27th; a spring record count of 651 **Guillemots** along the Renfrewshire coast on 27th; two **Dotterel** on Tinto from 26th to 28th.

## First reported dates of selected spring/summer migrants in 2004

Gannet	14 Feb	Sandwich Tern	10 Apr	Whitethroat	24 Apr
Sand Martin	7 Mar	Blackcap	10 Apr	Garden Warbler	24 Apr
Chiffchaff	19 Mar	Cuckoo	16 Apr	Common Tern	25 Apr
Wheatear	21 Mar	Grasshopper Warbler	16 Apr	Whinchat	25 Apr
Black-tailed Godwit	3 Apr	Whimbrel	17 Apr	Ring Ouzel	25 Apr
Swallow	3 Apr	Swift	18 Apr	Wood Warbler	25 Apr
Osprey	4 Apr	Marsh Harrier	20 Apr	Dotterel	26 Apr
House Martin	4 Apr	Yellow Wagtail	20 Apr	Pied Flycatcher	26 Apr
Willow Warbler	4 Apr	Little Ringed Plover	21 Apr	Lesser Whitethroat	28 Apr
White Wagtail	6 Apr	Ruff	23 Apr	Spotted Flycatcher	12 May
Common Sandpiper	8 Apr	Redstart	23 Apr	Arctic Skua	18 May
Tree Pipit	8 Apr	Sedge Warbler	24 Apr	Manx Shearwater	26 June

May Two male Yellow Wagtails at Carbarns on 2nd; seven Dotterel on Green Lowther on 2nd, and two on Tinto on 7th; 13 Whimbrel at Ardmore on 4th; a female Marsh Harrier at Barr Loch on 6th; a Reed Warbler singing at Baron's Haugh on 15th, moving to Strathclyde Country Park and singing there throughout June; an Arctic Skua at Cloch Point on 18th; a Little Egret at Carbarns/Merryton on 20th; a Red Kite on the Gargunnock Hills on 23rd; and a breeding-plumaged male Ruff at Carbarns Pool on 30th.

**June** Eleven **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Ardmore on 2nd; a **Spoonbill** in Ardmore North Bay on 8th; 193 **Mute Swans** at Hogganfield Loch on 24th; a **Little Gull** at Baron's Haugh on 24th; and a **Temminck's Stint** at Carbarns Pool on 27th.

Breeding Black-throated Divers bred at the usual site, but were unsuccessful; 55 pairs of Little Grebe reported; 102 pairs of Mute Swan at 79 sites; 20 pairs of breeding feral Greylag Goose; two pairs of feral Barnacle Geese bred at Kilmardinny Loch, fledging 11 young; ten pairs of Gadwall reared 71 young at Baron's Haugh; 199 Mallard and 54 Tufted Duck broods reported; a female **Red-breasted Merganser** with a brood on the River Clyde at Lamington; at least 16 broods of Goosander reported; 32 territorial pairs of Hen Harrier; widespread Osprey sightings, but only one breeding pair reported; a pair of Merlins reared a brood of three young in Inverclyde, first record of breeding in Renfrewshire since 1994; only eight pairs of **Peregrine** reported; Grey Partridges appear to be vanishing rapidly from most areas; 23 pairs of Water Rail; 161 pairs of Coot; 95 pairs of Oystercatcher, 117 pairs of Lapwing and only 23 pairs of **Redshank** reported; two pairs of **Little Ringed Plover** on territory, one pair raising two young; 722 pairs of Black-headed Gulls reported from ten colonies; 14 pairs of Common Tern bred at Bowling; 11 Barn Owl territories, 12 of Long-eared Owl but only seven of Short-eared Owl despite good vole populations in some areas; nine Kingfisher and eight Green Woodpecker territories; 190 pairs of Wren; 54 pairs of Stonechat, but only 28 pairs of Whinchat reported; 78 pairs of **Grasshopper Warbler**, 496 of **Sedge Warbler** and 494 of **Willow Warbler**; only two pairs of Lesser Whitethroat bred, none in Renfrewshire; only two pairs of Willow Tit found; seven pairs of Raven in Renfrewshire; only four pairs of Tree Sparrow reported; and totals of 172 pairs of Chaffinch, 36 pairs of Yellowhammer and 243 pairs of Reed Bunting.

**July** A peak count of 395 **Greylag Geese** in moult flock at Hogganfield Loch on 5th; 713 **Manx Shearwaters** past Cloch Point on 13th; a **Spotted Redshank** at Carbarns/Merryton on 13th; a female **Garganey** at Caplaw Dam on 16th; a **Nuthatch** at Garvald from 21st July (to 1st August); two **Pomarine Skuas** at Cloch Point on 22nd; 18 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Cardross on 25th; 215 **Sandwich Terns** at Ardmore Point on 29th; and two adult **Curlew Sandpipers** at Cardross from 31st July until 3rd August.

August Moult flocks of 369 Tufted Ducks at Balgray reservoir on 2nd, and 43 Pochard at Hogganfield Loch on 6th; 27 Ruddy Ducks, including ten ducklings, on Garnqueen Loch on 5th; a Wood Sandpiper at Baron's Haugh from 3rd to 8th, and one at Douglas Water Pool on 4th; maxima of five Green Sandpipers at Baron's Haugh on 5th, four at Balgray reservoir on 7th, and six on the River Clyde at Carbarns on 14th; a Little Gull at Baron's Haugh on 6th; 80 Goldfinch at Merryton on 8th; 156 Kittiwakes off Cloch Point on 8th; 34 Bar-tailed Godwits at Ardmore North Bay on 10th; 604 Curlews inland at The Meetings on 11th; 21 Black-tailed **Godwits** at the South Medwin Pools on 11th, and 21 (the same flock?) at The Meetings two days later; five Greenshank at Millichen Flood on 13th; 14 Ruff at the South Medwin Pools on 14th, and eight at Biggar Moss on 17th; single Sanderlings at Cardross on 6th and at Lunderston Bay on 15th; 739 Manx Shearwaters past Cloch Point on 7th, when 950 feeding between McInroy's Point and Wemyss Bay; a **Spotted Crake** at Baron's Haugh on 18th, followed by sightings of a juvenile (perhaps the same bird) there between 1st and 5th September; a Clyde area August WeBS total of 172 Little Grebe; 161 Great Crested Grebes off Ardmore Point on 22nd; a female Marsh Harrier at Millichen on 16th, one at Aird Meadow from 16th to 19th, and a juvenile bird there on 27th; a Barred Warbler (first Clyde record) in a Barrhead garden from 22nd to 27th; and two **Little Stints** in Ardmore North Bay on 28th and 29th.

September A Black Tern at Carbarns Pool on 1st; seven Ruff at Baron's Haugh on 2nd; a Spotted Redshank over Lochwinnoch on 4th; a drake Common Scoter on Strathclyde Loch on 6th; 49 Little Grebes on River Clyde at Lamington (still 39 in December); two juvenile Curlew Sandpipers at Baron's Haugh on 12th; 80 Goldfinch at Greenock on 17th; 250 Canada Geese at Newshot Island on 18th; 50 Mistle Thrush at Bowling on 19th; 29 Ruddy Ducks at Hogganfield Loch on 20th; a Little Auk at Wemyss Bay on 20th and 21st; and 9,500 Pinkfooted Geese in the South Medwin valley on 29th.

## First reported dates of selected autumn/winter migrants in 2004

Whimbrel	29 June	Redwing	30 Sep	White-fronted Goose	18 Oct
Green Sandpiper	5 July	Scaup	1 Oct	Waxwing	28 Oct
Pintail	29 Aug	Bean Goose	2 Oct	Snow Bunting	31 Oct
Slavonian Grebe	2 Sep	Fieldfare	7 Oct	Smew	24 Nov
Whooper Swan	7 Sep	Greylag Goose	9 Oct	Iceland Gull	5 Dec
Pink-footed Goose	23 Sep	Jack Snipe	9 Oct	Long-tailed Duck	9 Dec
Barnacle Goose	26 Sep	Brambling	11 Oct		

October A Ruff at Carstairs Junction on 2nd; a Red-throated Diver on Strathclyde Loch on 6th; a Little Auk at Port Glasgow on 7th; a female Capercaillie on Inconnachan on 9th; a Pectoral Sandpiper at Carbarns Pool on 11th; 500 Golden Plover and 1500 Lapwing in the South Medwin valley on 13th; a low autumn peak of only 16 Gadwall at Baron's Haugh, but an excellent count of 60 Shoveler there on 16th; 20 Twite at Greenock on 17th; a sub-adult Mediterranean Gull at Millichen Flood on 24th and 30th; eight Scaup on Loch Lomond on 30th; an adult female Long-tailed Duck on the "Barrhead Dams" from 22nd until the year end; and 170 Curlews at Merryton on 27th.

November A Red-necked Grebe and 21 Slavonian Grebes off Ardmore Point on 1st; a good max count of 261 Whooper Swans at Carnwath on 1st; three northern Bullfinches at Inversnaid on 2nd; 33 Great Crested Grebes at Langbank on 3rd; 14 Jack Snipe at Windlaw Marsh on 7th; a Mediterranean Gull at Strathclyde Loch on 7th; a late Wheatear at Linwood on 8th; 350 Waxwings at Govanhill Park on 7th, 400 at Glasgow Green on 9th, 350 at Clydebank on 14th, and 620 in Abercromby Street, Glasgow on 26th; a new record count of 262 Bean Geese at Luckenburn on 13th; four Scaup on Auchendores reservoir on 14th; 750 Fieldfares at Gartloch on 18th, 700 Redwings at Hartfield on 20th; single late Chiffchaffs at Bingham's Pond on 20th and Aird Meadow on 29th; an adult drake Smew at Lochwinnoch from 24th until the year end; a Goshawk at Glen Fruin on 28th; two Green Sandpipers wintering between Baron's Haugh and Carbarns; and single Greenshank wintering at Newshot Island and on the River Cart at Renfrew.

**December** A 'redhead' **Smew** intermittently at Mugdock Country Park; 19 **Pintail** at Cardross on 3rd; 109 **Goldeneye** at Castle Semple Loch on 4th; a small race **Canada Goose** and seven **Barnacle Geese** at Rowbank reservoir on 7th; a **Long-tailed Duck** inland on Lochend Loch from 9th to 12th; 300 **Linnets** at Arkleston Farm, Paisley from 10th to 21st; a **Purple Sandpiper** at Rhu on 12th; 10 **Jack Snipe** at Littleton reservoir on 12th; 1,964 **Redshank** on the Clyde estuary on 12th; 240 **White-fronted Geese** at Gartocharn on 12th; 300 **Waxwings** in Sauchiehall Street on 14th, 400 in Haining Road, Renfrew on 21st, 600 nearby on a hedgerow beside Cockels Loan on 22nd, and 440 at Annfield Place, Glasgow on 22nd; a **Common Sandpiper** at

the Endrick mouth on 19th; 17 **Rock Pipits** roosting at Victoria Harbour, Greenock on 19th; and a maximum of 118 **Whooper Swans** at the Black Cart Water on 30th.