

Lothian Bird Bulletin



The Newsletter of Lothian SOC 2004 : No 4

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Editorial

Happy Christmas from all the staff at LBB towers!

In this issue, Graham Checkley writes about the area around the Spanish town of Ronda, and Neville Crowther gives an account of 9 years of the Common Bird Census at Vogrie Country Park.

As always, thanks very much to all the contributors. I hope you enjoy the articles and - sorry to keep nagging - I also hope you'll consider sending in something for a future edition. I'd like the LBB to be more than just a newsletter, but this can only happen with the support of the LSOC membership.

Stephen

News

2003 Lothian Bird Report

If you'd like a copy of the 2002 report...I'm afraid **you're too late**, as they sold out last month. But don't despair. The 2003 report - once again edited by Ian Andrews - is progressing well, and should be on sale early in the new year.

Scottish Birdwatchers' Conference

This popular event is coming to sunny Edinburgh in spring 2005. The venue is the Royal Botanic Garden, and the date is 12th March. For further information, see the new Lothian Bird News, and also the Lothian SOC website.

Books For Sale

We've decided to auction some books donated to the branch by Roger Tozer and John Pringle. If you'd like to put in a bid for any of these, please get in touch. The books will go to the highest bidders at the end of January 2005; the proceeds to LSOC club funds.

- **Birds in Scotland** by Valerie M Thom
- **The Breeding Birds of South-east Scotland** by Murray, Holling, Dott & Vandome
- **The Shell Bird Book** by James Fisher (1966)
- **The Bird Seeker's Guide**, by John Gooders

A Birds-eye View of Ronda

I've now had the pleasure of visiting Ronda in both spring and autumn, and it's still the only place I know where a day's hill-walking ends with going uphill.

The town itself lies about 100 kilometres north-west of Malaga, between the coastal mountains of Marbella and the Rio Guadiaro, and was built in Roman times on an out-

flung spur of the surrounding sierras. The Romans, with a good eye for a strategic site, were followed by the Moors and then later the Spanish themselves in making use of the natural fortifications. A town built on cliffs that tower 500 feet above the surrounding valley systems can mean some end-of-day exercise!

It's these same natural features that provide a varied home for wildlife, with the broad-valley farmland to the east of the town giving way to the rougher terrain of the sierras to the west. But let's start with the town itself, and the El Tajo gorge.

The gorge divides Ronda into the old town and the new, and is spanned by two bridges providing excellent views of some of the local bird life.

In the centre of the town the high-arched 18th century bridge looks down on the roosting sites of a considerable population of Chough. During the day these birds frequent the surrounding farmland, possibly as far distant as the Libar Valley 15 kilometres to the south-west. In spring-time many of the birds roost on the open cliff-sides, but in autumn you should look down from the balcony of the parador into the communal roost on the north-west side. It's also well worth following this balcony westwards along the top of the cliffs. In autumn the parkland here is frequented by dragonflies, as well as the occasional praying mantis and gecko. On one particularly memorable evening there were spectacular views from above of a party of Alpine Swift hawking for insects.

The east end of the gorge is spanned by the much lower Roman Bridge. This provides an easily accessible vantage point into the lower reaches of El Tajo, with a lack of traffic that makes the bridge a very pleasant spot in its own right. It's probably the best place in Ronda for views of Crag Martin, and the hillside at its southern end is a frequent haunt of Blue Rock Thrush.

The Roman Bridge is also the starting point for a walk along the Arroyo de las Culebras. This gentle valley runs south beneath the Moorish walls of the old town, and, while it is farmland, it still provides a good place for birds. Look out for Woodchat Shrike, as well as the ubiquitous Sardinian Warbler, but perhaps the best indication of the health of the countryside is the number of Corn Buntings and Stonechats frequenting the field edges.



The Arroyo is also the location of the Alavera de los Banos, a delightful small hotel where we stayed in spring of this year. An east-facing room there provided out-of-the-window raptor watching during the more disturbed spring weather, as migrating buzzards and eagles made their way past the south end of the town.

A kilometre south of the San Francisco district on the Algeciras road is the start of the track that leads to the Arroyo Sijuela. The landscape here changes from

cultivated olive trees to holm and gall oaks abounding with Nuthatches. The margins of the track are excellent for butterflies and grasshoppers in the autumn, and a longer walk on the path to Benaolan can produce Black-eared Wheatear.



The Rio Guadiaro and the valley systems running south through the mountains can be readily accessed by train from Ronda, although if you're thinking of doing this you may find town centre accommodation at a hotel such as the Polo more convenient. Useful train stops on the way south are Benaolan, Jimera de Libar and Cortes de la Frontera, and in most cases it is possible to walk from station to station in time to get a return train. If you are a bit early at Jimera de Libar consider lunch at the restaurant by the railway

station; it has a very good reputation. Another, more energetic, option is the walk from Cortes de la Frontera to Montejaque via the Libar Valley. The valley is an out-of-the-way place with dramatic limestone scenery, but if you do decide to do it take plenty of water.

Bird-wise, in the more mountainous parts you should see Black Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail and Griffon Vulture, with Cirl Bunting, Fan-tailed Warbler and Cetti's Warbler on the margins.

Having left practicalities to last:

- The Rough Guide to Andalucia. Getting there, accommodation, food and drink, and a reasonable map of the town.
- Dogs. Perros Peligrosos. Fortunately they are normally on the other side of the barbed-wire fence.
- Ronda: Naturaleza y Cultura. 10 Rutas para Senderistas Exigentes. This book is available from the Ronda Tourist Information office and it describes 10 walks in the immediate vicinity of Ronda. Route descriptions are in both Spanish and English.
- Walking in Andalucia, by Guy Hunter-Watts. An essential guide to the Libar Valley and other walks in the Rio Guadiaro area.
- Large-scale maps. You can buy military maps from "Comansur" in Ronda but they're out-of-date and in some cases frankly misleading. Better to stick to the guide books and follow your nose.
- Private land and fences. Spanish landowners are not above fencing off rights-of-way. If they are well frequented by walkers you'll probably find that someone has either trodden the illegal fence down or taken a pair of wire cutters to it. This has been a problem at the south end of the Libar valley.
- Water. Don't rely on finding any potable water in the mountains. The streams are usually dry or suspect.

Graham Checkley, November 2004

Vogrie Common Bird Census

After 9 Years

The woodlands along the River Tyne at Vogrie Country Park, Midlothian, like most of the county's gorge woodlands have avoided clear felling mainly because of topography. However there has been some exploitation of timber resources including the coppicing of alder for charcoal. For both historical and educational reasons the park Ranger Service decided to reimpose alder coppicing as a management tool. Local SWT members mobilised by Win Elsley were asked if they would monitor the breeding birds on a 14 hectare site which included this coppice. The BTO wanted members to census new woodland sites at the time (1996) and the CBC methodology was appropriate for our local needs. So a group of eight volunteers began that Spring. The Ranger service were strongly involved in the census from the start, providing maps and a meeting place as well as participating in field work. Experienced people were paired with less experienced and there was constant discussion of methods used to ensure consistency of effort as well as accuracy.

Although the BTO were complimentary about our efforts, along with half the CBC sites in the UK, the support was withdrawn after the 2000 season. The BBS data was preferred as an alternative monitoring system for breeding birds as it was less labour intensive, random and cheaper. We like most of the CBC individuals and teams decided to continue, as unlike the BBS, it provided a valuable site specific data base for future management.

After 9 years of field work it is gratifying to see that there is a degree of consistency from year to year, with slight deviations in the results, explainable by weather variations, observer effort or changes conforming to national trends.

For the last three years we have included dusk census visits to pick up roding woodcock and calling owls. An added bonus unexpectedly was also much remarkable activity from roe deer, foxes, badgers, bats and, not to be forgotten, - midges.

The pleasure has been shared by us all : surprises are still eagerly awaited despite the familiar bringing reassurance. Roll on next spring.

SPECIES	STATUS	BREEDING PAIRS								
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Grey Heron	V	p	p	p	p			p	p	p
Mallard	B	p		p			2		p	1
Buzzard	B	p	p		p	p	1	1	1	1
Sparrow Hawk	B		p	p	p		1	1	1	1
Kestrel	B	p	1	p	p	p	1	1	p	1
Pheasant	B	3	3	1	1	3	3	2	4	3
Oystercatcher	O		p		p			p		p
Lapwing	O	p								
Woodcock	B			p			p	4	4	3
Wood Pigeon	B	7	6	4	6	4	4	2	6	7
Stock Dove	V		p			p				
Tawny Owl	B		1		p	1	p	1	2	1
Swift	V			p	p	p				p
Green Woodpecker	V		p	p	p	p				
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	B	1	p	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

Swallow	V			p		p	p	p		
House Martin	V						p	p	p	p
Grey Wagtail	V	p	p						p	
Dipper	B	p	p	p	p	p			p	p
Wren	B	17	13	14	15	14	9	20	24	27
Dunnock	B	1	2	2	2	2				1
Robin	B	6	9	10	10	11	5	7	13	15
Blackbird	B	11	4	7	10	9	8	11	10	8
Song Thrush	B	5	4	4	3	5	2	4	3	4
Redwing	W			p					p	
Fieldfare	W					p				
Mistle Thrush	B	p			1	p	p	p	2	p
Whitethroat	B	3	3	1	1		p	1	1	1
Blackcap	B	4	6	3	4	6	4	6	6	6
Garden Warbler	B	p	2	1	1	1	p	p	1	2
Chiff Chaff	B	3	3	4	2	4	5	6	5	8
Willow Warbler	B	13	10	6	11	10	9	11	7	5
Goldcrest	B	1	p	p	p	1	1	1	1	3
Spotted Flycatcher	B	p			p					p
Long tailed Tit	B	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
Coal Tit	B	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	2
Blue Tit	B	7	9	7	5	5	3	6	7	7
Great Tit	B	7	6	5	5	4	4	4	3	8
Tree Creeper	B	1	p	1	1	1	2	2	1	2
Jackdaw	B		1	1	p	1	1	1	p	p
Rook	B	1N								
Carrion Crow	B	1	1	p	p	1	1		1	1
Magpie	V					p	p			
Starling	B	1N								p
House Sparrow	V					p				
Chaffinch	B	24	24	20	24	17	19	25	15	22
Siskin	V					p		p	p	
Greenfinch	B	1	1	p	p	1		p	p	1
Goldfinch	B	p	p	p	p		p	p	1	p
Linnet	V	p								
Redpoll	V							p		
Bullfinch	B	2	p	p	p	p	1	p	2	1
Yellow Hammer	B	2	1	1	p		p			
TOTALS										
territories		124	113	96	105	104	91	116	123	145
breeding species		25	23	20	20	23	24	24	27	28
species also present		12	14	17	16	11	10	11	9	9
total species		37	37	37	36	34	34	35	36	37
breeding density in pairs/sq.km.		837	763	648	709	703	614	783	831	979

Abbreviations used

- B = breeding
- V = using the site for feeding or too few registrations for confirmation of territory
- O = overflying
- W = winter visitor
- N = nest
- p = present

Neville Crowther, August 2004

Lothian SOC Outings

Fife - 12th September

The starting point for this trip was Guardbridge near St Andrews (although a reconnaissance stop at Birnie Loch on the way had already allowed some of us to tick off Kingfisher on the day's species list). Guardbridge possesses the Rolls Royce of bird hides, with comfortable seats, heating, a kitchen and a toilet. (Come to think of it, even a Rolls Royce doesn't have a kitchen or a toilet.) The birds are good too, with 10 or 11 Greenshanks present, a couple of Curlew Sandpipers, a Ruff, Golden Plovers and Black-tailed Godwits. We could even watch the planes from the previous day's air show leaving Leuchars airport.

Next stop was Birnie and Gaddon Lochs - former quarries between Auchtermuchty and Cupar. Although the Kingfisher failed to put in a return appearance, we did have a pleasant stroll around Gaddon Loch, with a variety of species including Ruddy Duck, Snipe, Buzzard, Sand Martin, Little and Great Crested Grebes.

After a brief visit to the nearby Loch of Lindores, we ended the day at Vane Farm, where a strange hybrid goose with the large flock of Greylags caused much scratching of heads.

East Lothian Coast - 10th October

We got off to a promising start on this trip, with reports of a Barred Warbler in the wire dump almost as soon as we arrived at Barns Ness. Early attempts to spot it were restricted to a couple of brief glimpses, and most of us had to content ourselves watching a Stoat scurrying among the rocks, a dark phase Arctic Skua flying close to the shore, and a flock of around 1500 Golden Plovers. (Not that anyone was complaining.) Just as we were preparing to move on, the Barred Warbler finally overcame its stage-fright, and we were entertained for several minutes as it hopped around in full view of our telescopes and binoculars.

An afternoon walk from Thorntonloch to Torness yielded a late Swallow, thousands of Gannets offshore, and close views of a Snow Bunting.

(If you have access to the internet, pictures of the Barred Warbler and Snow Bunting can be found on the national and Lothian SOC websites respectively.)

Clyde - 14th November

Half a mile from Motherwell town centre is an unlikely place to find an RSPB reserve (especially when I'm giving the directions) but Baron's Haugh is an excellent place to watch birds. A target species for this visit was Water Rail, but unfortunately the recent wet weather and resultant high water levels meant that we didn't have any luck. Species we did see included Whooper Swan, Pintail, Shoveler, and Gadwall.

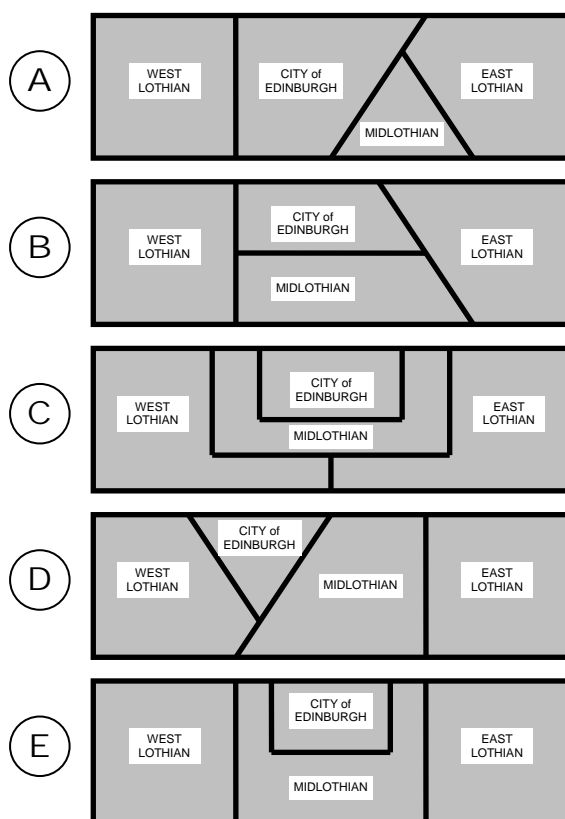
An afternoon visit to Hogganfield Loch on the outskirts of Glasgow featured some unusually tame Whooper Swans, and at least nineteen Ruddy Ducks. Sadly we failed to find my second target species for the day - Jack Snipe. Maybe some other time...

Coming Up...

16th Jan: Scone and Loch Leven
 20th Feb: Mersehead, Dumfries & Galloway
 6th Mar: Glen Artney
 1-3 Apr: Sutherland Weekend

Contact Gillian Herbert on 0131 337 0767 for details.

Christmas Quiz



Question 1 On the left are five rather abstract representations of Lothian region. Which one most accurately depicts the borders between the four council districts?

Question 2 Below is a list of Lothian birdwatching sites. Which district does each belong to: West Lothian, Midlothian, East Lothian, or the City of Edinburgh?

- Bavelaw
- Cramond
- Gladhouse
- Gosford Bay
- Harperrig
- Hound Point
- Loganlea
- Seafeld Pond
- Woodhall Dean

Question 3 Lots of Waxwings in Lothian this winter...but in 1998 what was the highest count (to the nearest 10 birds)?

The answers will be published in the next issue, and on the LBB page of the LSOC website.

Lothian Bird Sightings

OCTOBER

At *Aberlady*, counts of up to 314 **Little Gulls**, 216 **Barnacle Geese**, 22,070 **Pink-footed Geese**, and 11 **Twite**; a **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** on several dates; up to 6 **Pintails** from the 3rd-11th; a juvenile **Pomarine Skua** on the 5th; a **Manx Shearwater** on the 7th and 9th; an adult **Greenland White-fronted Goose** on the 11th; a **Lapland Bunting** from the 25th-27th; 2 **Snow Buntings** on the 26th and 3 on the 30th.

At *Barns Ness*, a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** on the 1st; a **Barred Warbler** from the 10th-17th; a **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** on the 14th and 15th; 2 **Waxwings** on the 25th; a **Brambling**

on the 28th. At *Belhaven*, a **Mediterranean Gull** on the 17th; a **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** on the 17th; 60+ **Twite** from the 28th-29th. At *Blackness*, up to 2 **Mediterranean Gulls**; a **Long-eared Owl** on the 3rd.

At *Cramond*, a **Curlew Sandpiper** on the 4th; a **Mediterranean Gull** on the 5th and 13th; 6 **Waxwings** on the 22nd. At *Hound Point*, counts of up to 200 **Little Gulls**; 3 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** on the 7th; 700+ **Kittiwakes** (W) on the 7th; 3 **Pomarine Skuas** on the 13th; a juvenile **Long-tailed Skua** on the 13th. At *Longniddry*, a **Black-throated Diver** on the 3rd; an adult **Mediterranean Gull** on the 7th; 18 **Waxwings** on the 24th.

At *Musselburgh*, an adult **Mediterranean Gull** on several dates; 7 **Pintails** on the 6th; 52 **Barnacle Geese** on the 6th; 15 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** on the 7th; a juvenile **Black Tern** on the 7th; 2 juvenile **Long-tailed Skuas** on the 16th; a **Manx Shearwater** on the 16th; a **Snow Bunting** on the 23rd.

At *South Queensferry*, a **Mediterranean Gull** on the 14th, and 2 on the 22nd. At *Silverknowes*, 2 **Black-throated Divers** on the 6th; 16 **Scaup** on the 6th; 1000+ **Kittiwakes** on the 7th; 2 **Pintails** on the 12th. At *Torness*, a **Snow Bunting** on the 10th; 2 **Firecrests** on the 13th; a '**Northern**' **Bullfinch** on the 15th; 2 **Bramblings** on the 15th; a **Waxwing** on the 19th; a **Lesser Whitethroat** on the 28th; a **Black Redstart** on the 28th. At *Tynninghame*, 248 **Barnacle Geese** on the 7th; 13 **Greenshanks** on the 10th; a **Brent Goose** on the 7th, and 2 on the 10th.

In the *Pentlands*, 2 **Greenshanks** at *Bavelaw* on the 3rd; a **Scaup** at *Harperrig* on the 3rd. Around *West Lothian*, a **Red-crested Pochard** at *Linlithgow Loch* on the 14th and 16th; a **Mediterranean Gull** at *Port Edgar* on the 23rd; a **Ring Ouzel** in the *Bathgate Hills* on the 25th. Around *Midlothian*, 50 **Waxwings** at *Penicuik* on the 28th; a **Nuthatch** at *Vogie CP* on the 31st.

Around *Edinburgh*, a **Great Northern Diver** at *Joppa* on the 6th; 2 **Waxwings** in *Morningside* on the 20th; 7 **Waxwings** at *Dobbies Garden Centre* on the 26th. Around *East Lothian*, a **Rose-coloured Starling** at *North Berwick* on the 1st; a **Barnacle Goose** at *Gullane* on the 3rd; a **Brambling** at *North Berwick* on the 9th; a **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** at *Dunglass* on the 10th; 2 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at *Seton Sands* on the 14th; a **Lesser Whitethroat** at *Skateraw* on the 25th; 7 **Waxwings** at *Port Seton* on the 26th; a **Waxwing** at *Dunbar* on the 28th; several **Bramblings** in the *Gifford* area on the 28th and 30th; 50+ **Twite** at *Inveresk* on the 28th.

SEPTEMBER

At *Aberlady*, up to 2 **Green Sandpipers** (also at *Luffness*) from the 4th-6th; a juvenile **Little Stint** from the 5th-7th; up to 2 **Spotted Redshanks** from the 1st-11th; 3 different female/imm **Marsh Harriers** on the 1st/2nd/5th; 7 **Manx Shearwaters** on the 7th, 3 on 11th, and 1 on the 22nd, up to 8 **Curlew Sandpipers** from the 1st-22nd; a **Lesser Whitethroat** on the 1st and 6th; a **Merlin** on the 2nd and 6th; up to 3 **Pintails** from the 5th-16th; 2 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** on the 14th, and 6 on the 22nd; a **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** on the 26th; up to 111 **Barnacle Geese** from the 16th-30th; 2 adult **Greenland White-fronted Geese** on the 26th.

At *Barns Ness*, a **Yellow Wagtail** on the 7th and 9th; a **Manx Shearwater** on the 24th; a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** on the 30th. At *Bavelaw*, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** on the 10th and 11th; a **Little Stint** from the 17th-20th; a **Wood Sandpiper** on the 19th. At *Blackness*, 4 **Pintails** on the 11th.

At *Cramond*, a 1st winter **Mediterranean Gull** on the 12th and 13th; a juvenile **Curlew Sandpiper** on the 17th and 19th; an adult **Pomarine Skua** on the 27th. At *Hound Point*, 13 **Pomarine Skuas** on the 14th, and 1-2 from the 16th; an **Osprey** on the 5th; up to 21 **Manx Shearwaters**; 8 **Pintails** on the 5th, and 2 on the 6th; 1-2 **Long-tailed Skuas** on the 18th, 22nd, and 28th; 7 **Black Terns** on the 22nd; 8 **Brent Geese** on the 24th. On *Linlithgow Loch*, a **Red-crested Pochard** and a **Ruddy Duck** on the 11th.

Musselburgh, up to 10 **Curlew Sandpipers** from the 2nd-20th; a 1st year **Mediterranean Gull** on the 4th; a juvenile **Little Stint** from the 4th-10th; a juvenile **Spotted Redshank** on the 12th and 13th. At *Skateraw*, a **Yellow-browed Warbler** on the 30th; 2 **Pomarine Skuas** on the 30th; 44 **Barnacle Geese** on the 30th; a **Pied Flycatcher** on the 30th.

At *South Queensferry*, a **Pomarine Skua** on the 28th. At *Tynninghame*, 14 **Greenshanks** on the 19th; 1-2 **Little Stints** on a number of dates; up to 3 **Curlew Sandpipers** from the 19th-26th; up to 3 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** on the 17th, 24th, and 26th; a **Merlin** on the 24th.

Around *Edinburgh*, 10 **Fieldfares** over *Corstorphine Hill* on the 27th. Around *East Lothian*, adult **Mediterranean Gull** at *Belhaven* on the 7th; an adult **Long-tailed Skua** off *Craigielaw Point* on the 12th; 3 **Pied Flycatchers** at *Dunbar* on the 5th; a **Mediterranean Gull** in *Gosford Bay* on the 15th; an adult **Rose-coloured Starling** at *North Berwick* on the 30th; a 1st winter **Mediterranean Gull** at *Port Seton* on the 19th; 2 **Nuthatches** at *Smeaton*, *East Linton*, on the 27th.

AUGUST

At *Aberlady*, a **Green Sandpiper** (also at *Luffness*) on several dates; a **Roseate Tern** on the 13th; a **Little Tern** on the 13th; 3 **Little Stints** on the 25th, and 1 on other dates; a **Spotted Redshank** from the 13th-19th; a **Jack Snipe** on the 14th; up to 5 **Black Terns** from the 13th-23rd; a juvenile **Marsh Harrier** on the 17th; 430+ **Swifts** over *Gullane Hill/Kingston House* on the 19th; a **Manx Shearwater** on the 23rd, and 8 on the 30th; a juvenile **Curlew Sandpiper** on the 24th and 25th.

At *Barns Ness*, a **Black Tern** on the 4th; a **Sooty Shearwater** on the 4th, and 3 on the 10th; a **Wood Sandpiper** on the 10th; a **Storm Petrel** on the 10th and 20th; a **Merlin** on the 20th and 22nd; 1-2 **Yellow Wagtails** from the 24th-28th; a **Leach's Petrel** on the 24th; a **Long-tailed Skua** on the 24th and 25th; a **Pomarine Skua** on the 25th; a **Manx Shearwater** on the 25th; a **Lesser Whitethroat** on the 26th and 28th; 2 **Curlew Sandpipers** on the 28th; a **White Wagtail** on the 28th.

At *Belhaven Bay*, up to 3 **Mediterranean Gulls**. At *Cramond*, a juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** on the 10th. At *Gosford Bay*, a **Greenish Warbler** on the 14th. At *Hound Point*, an **Osprey** on the 14th and 21st; 2 adult **Pomarine Skuas** on the 16th.

At *Musselburgh*, a **Garganey** on the 1st and 4th; a **Curlew Sandpiper** on several dates; a **Mediterranean Gull** on the 7th; up to 4 **Green Sandpipers** from the 1st-18th; a juvenile **Black Tern** on the 9th; a **Barn Owl** on the 10th; an adult **Little Stint** from the 10th-20th; 2140+ **Guillemots** on the 19th; a **Wood Sandpiper** from the 22nd; an adult **Long-tailed Skua** on the 24th.

At *Silverknowes*, a **Pomarine Skua** on the 18th; a juvenile **Black Tern** on the 16th. At *Torness*, a **Pied Flycatcher** on the 11th and 12th; a **Wryneck** on the 12th and 13th; a **Marsh Harrier** on the 30th. At *Tynninghame*, an adult **Little Tern** on the 6th; an adult

Black Tern on the 9th; up to 20 **Greenshanks** from the 9th-28th; a **Little Stint** on the 15th; 1-2 **Green Sandpipers** from the 18th; a **Mediterranean Gull** on the 15th, and 3 on the 19th; 320 **Swifts** on the 19th; 2 **Barnacle Geese** on the 22nd, 26th, and 28th; a **Merlin** on the 22nd; an **Osprey** on the 26th; a **Snow Goose** on the 29th.

Around *West Lothian*, a **Red-crested Pochard** at *Linlithgow Loch* on the 15th; 2 **Green Sandpipers** at *River Almond Pools* on the 1st; 300 **Swifts** at *Philpstoun* on the 3rd. Around *Edinburgh*, a **Green Sandpiper** over *Bruntsfield* on the 19th.

Around *East Lothian*, an adult **Mediterranean Gull** at *Port Seton* on the 6th; an adult and a juvenile **Roseate Tern** at *Seacliffe* on the 7th; a **Pied Flycatcher** at *Dunbar* on the 11th; a **Greenish Warbler** at *Thorntonloch* on the 13th.

Thanks to Eleanor Hurley and everyone who contributed to these records.

Mystery Bird

Identify the species pictured below. The answer will be published in the next issue, and on the LBB page of the LSOC website.



The last mystery bird was a juvenile **Yellowhammer**, photographed by Mike McDowall in East Lothian.