

Castle and Hightae Lochs



Wildlife Report 2012

Castle and Hightae Lochs L N R Wildlife 2012

Due to a proposed change of ownership in 2012 the situation regarding the L.N.R. agreement has still not been resolved.

Overall the weather in the two winter periods was much less severe in 2012 than in the two preceding years with only a limited covering of fairly thin ice which did not last for long. Unfortunately the spring and summer were consistently wet with regular periods of flooding in the woodland around the lochs and on Henderland Island. The drastic decline in the Pink-footed Goose roost (international importance) and Greylag Goose roost (national importance) has continued and although feeding grounds around the area remain in use Castle Loch rarely holds either species in any numbers. This is a very sad state for a Ramsar site.

This report is based on the WeBS counts conducted each month throughout the year by Andy Riches (AR) and additional records from other visits and observers. Many thanks to the following: Ross Gemmell (RG), Brian Henderson (BH), Joyce Henderson (JH), Helen Kelly (HK), Richard and Barbara Mearns (R&BM), Violet Sinclair (VS), Anna White (AW). Some old records have initials for the recorders: Iain Anderson (IA), Derek Bearhop (DB), Colin Bushell (CB), Stuart Graham (SG), Michael Granger (MG), John Miles (JM), Tristram Reid (TR), Paul Seddon (PSed), Freda Seddon (FSe), Paul Shimmings (PSh), Angus Sloan (AS), Dawn Wright (DW).

In addition to providing his records, Richard Mearns has provided historical information, support and advice without which this report would not exist.

The descriptions of status refer to status on the reserve only.

Species recorded in 2012 are listed in bold type.

In spite of the many regular contributors listed above new records are always welcome and should be sent to Andy Riches sloch69@aol.com as soon as possible after the end of the year. Thank you.

MAMMALS.



Water Shrew

SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE BAT: *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

COMMON PIPISTRELLE BAT: *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

DAUBENTON'S BAT: *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

NOCTULE BAT: *Reported occasionally from Hightae Loch. Numbers reported are declining since 2002 when at least 22 were noted on 28th May. This may simply be due to lack of observers or possibly results from the clearfell in 2009. Last record 18th July 2006 (R&BM).*

PIGMY SHREW: *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

COMMON SHREW: *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

WATER SHREW: *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

WOOD MOUSE: *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

FIELD VOLE: *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

BANK VOLE: *Present in the Castle Woodland and breeds.*

WATER VOLE: *Found for the first time in 2011 in the Castle Woodland and Valison Burn area. Still present this year and breeds.*

BROWN RAT: *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

RED SQUIRREL: *Present in Castle and Dalton Road Woodlands throughout the year and breeds.*

WEASEL: *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

STOAT: *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

AMERICAN MINK: *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

OTTER: *Present throughout the year and breeds. Many sightings at both lochs by a number of observers. The holt at Castle Loch is in regular use and there was successful breeding again this year. The holt at Hightae Loch has not been used since the clearfell in 2009.*

BADGER: *Often present in Hightae Woodland prior to the clearfell. No signs since the clearfell and the complete destruction of one sett and the partial destruction of the other. Occasionally visits Castle Loch.*

RED FOX: *Often present in Hightae Woodland prior to the clearfell and adjacent to the Castle Loch.*

ROE DEER: *Often present in Hightae Woodland prior to the clearfell and adjacent to the Castle Loch.*

DRAGONFLIES.



Large Red Damselfly

LARGE RED DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum number recorded: 16 on wing; 9 in cop; 5 ovipositing (AR).*

BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 100 on wing; 19 in cop; 12 ovipositing (AR).*

COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 120 on wing; 25 in cop; 12 ovipositing (AR).*

AZURE DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 16 on wing; 6 in cop; 4 ovipositing (AR).*

VARIABLE DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 32 on wing; 10 in cop; 4 ovipositing (AR).*

EMERALD DAMSELFLY: *Present and probably breeds. No records this year.*

COMMON DARTER: *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers: 2 in cop (AR).*

FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER: *Present and may breed. Maximum numbers: 1 on wing at Castle Loch and 2 on wing at Hightae Loch (both AR).*

COMMON HAWKER: *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers: 2 on wing at Castle Loch and 1 on wing at Hightae Loch (both AR).*

BLACK DARTER: *Visited and was seen apparently ovipositing in Valison Burn area in 2010. But the habitat preferences of this insect would suggest that this behaviour was an aberration. A single record of a male in 2011 (AR). No records in 2012*

GOLDEN-RINGED DRAGONFLY: *Occasional visitor. Single male recorded at Castle Loch on two occasions in 2012 (AR).*

MIGRANT HAWKER: *Present since 2004. No records this year.*

HOVERFLIES.



Male Hoverfly Eupeodes luniger

ARCTOPHILA SUPERBIENS: *Present at both lochs.*

BACCHA ELONGATA: *Present at both lochs.*

CHRYSOTOXUM BICINCTUM: *Four at Hightae Loch (AR).*

DASYSYRPHUS VENUSTUS: *Last recorded 16th May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

EPISTROPHE GROSSULARIAE: *Last recorded on 14th July 1979 at Castle Loch.*

EPISYRPHUS BALTEATUS: *Present and may breed. Seen from June to September at both lochs.*

ERISTALIS ARBUSTORUM: *Present at both lochs.*

ERISTALIS HORTICOLA: *Present at both lochs.*

ERISTALIS INTERRUPTUS: *Present at both lochs.*

ERISTALIS PERTINAX: *Present and breeds. Seen from May to September at both lochs.*

ERISTALIS TENAX: *Present and breeds. Seen from May to September at both lochs.*

EUPEODES LUNIGER: *Present at both lochs and may breed.*

HELOPHILUS PENDULUS: *Present and breeds. Seen from May to September at Castle Loch and June to September at Hightae Loch.*

HELOPHILUS TRIVITTATUS: *Last record on 14th June 1980 at Castle Loch.*

LEUCOZONA LATERNARIA: *Last record on 4th August 1976 at Castle Loch.*

LUCOZONA LUCORUM: *Present at both lochs and breeds at Hightae Loch.*

MELANOSTOMA MELLINUM: *Last record on 16th May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

MELANOSTOMA SCALARE: *Present at Castle Loch and probably breeds.*

MERODON EQUESTRIS: *Present at both lochs and breeds at Hightae Loch.*

MYATHROPA FLOREA: *Present at both lochs and probably breeds.*

NEOASCIA PODAGRICA: *Last record on 16th May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

NEOASCIA TENUR: *Last record on 16th May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

PLATYCHEIRUS CLYPEATUS: *Last record on 16th May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

PLATYCHEIRUS FULVIVENTRIS: *Last record 14th July 1979 at Castle Loch.*

PLATYCHEIRUS PERPALIDUS: *Last record on 16th May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

PORTEVINIA MACULATA: *Present and breeds at both lochs.*

RHINGIA CAMPESTRIS: *Present and breeds at both lochs.*

SCAEVA PYRASTRI: *Present and breeds. Seen from May to September at Castle Loch and May to August at Hightae Loch.*

SERICOMYIA LAPPONA: *Present and breeds at both lochs.*

SERICOMYIA SILENTIS: *Present and probably breeds at both lochs.*

SYRITTA PIPIENS: *Present at both lochs and breeds at Castle Loch.*

SYRPHUS RIBESII: *Present and probably breeds at both lochs.*

SYRPHUS TORVUS: *Present and probably breeds at both lochs.*

SYRPHUS VITRIPENNIS: *Present at both lochs and breeds at Hightae Loch.*

VOLUCELLA BOMBYLANS: *Present and probably breeds at both lochs.*

VOLUCELLA PELLUCENS: *Present at both lochs.*

XYLOTA SEGNIS: *Present at both lochs and breeds at Hightae Loch.*

BUTTERFLIES.



Orange Tip

SMALL WHITE: *Maximum numbers 10 at Castle Loch (AR).*

LARGE WHITE: *Maximum numbers 5 at Castle Loch (AR).*

GREEN-VEINED WHITE: *Maximum numbers 24 at Castle Loch (AR).*

ORANGE TIP: *Maximum numbers 6 at Castle Loch (AR).*

PEACOCK: *Maximum numbers 4 at Castle Loch (AR).*

SMALL TORTOISESHELL: *Maximum numbers 6 at Castle Loch (AR).*

RED ADMIRAL: *Maximum number 6 at Castle Loch (AR).*

RINGLET: *Maximum number 10 at Castle Loch (AR).*

SMALL COPPER: *No records this year. One was seen on 2nd June 2010 (AR) which was a first record for the reserve.*

SMALL HEATH: *Maximum number 2 at Hightae Loch. Only the second record for the reserve.*

MEADOW BROWN: *Maximum number 1 at Castle Loch. Only the second record for the reserve.*

COMMON BLUE: *No records this year. One was seen on 1st July 2010 (AR) which was a first record for the reserve.*

PAINTED LADY: *Maximum number 3 at Castle Loch (AR).*

COMMA: *One seen at Hightae Loch on 17th March 2009 (AW). A first record for the reserve and a rarity in the region. No records since then.*

BUMBLE BEES.



Bombus terrestris

BOMBUS PASCUORUM: *Maximum number: 7 at Castle Loch (AR).*

BOMBUS LAPIDARIUS: *Maximum number: 5 at Castle Loch (AR).*

BOMBUS PRATORUM: *Maximum number: 3 at Castle Loch (AR).*

BOMBUS TERESTRIS: *Maximum number: 15 at Castle Loch (AR).*

BOMBUS LUCORUM: *Maximum number: 6 at Castle Loch (AR).*

BOMBUS HORTORUM: *Maximum number: 3 at Castle Loch (AR).*

BIRDS.



Bittern Castle Loch 23rd December 2012 Brian Henderson

RED-THROATED DIVER: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 12th November 1972.*

BLACK-THROATED DIVER: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 21st March 1984.*

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER: *Very Rare. No previous records. First record seen at Castle Loch on 17th November 2008 (CB). Seen thereafter by a number of observers until the end of the month.*

LITTLE GREBE: *Recorded most years but no evidence of breeding. Maximum count: 3 at Vendace Bay, Castle Loch on 15th October (BH).*

GREAT CRESTED GREBE: *Regular breeder. First bred at Lochmaben in 1891. Maximum count: 7 adults on 3rd May (BH) and 2 adults with 3 young on 25 August (AR). It is strongly suspected that breeding success is being reduced as a result of nest predation of eggs and young by mink. It is hoped that a program of trapping, now in place will ease this.*

RED-NECKED GREBE: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 6th April 1992.*

SLAVONIAN GREBE: *Rare autumn/winter or early spring visitor. Last previous records one in October 2009 (BH) and two in November 2010.*

BLACK-NECKED GREBE: *Rare winter and summer visitor. Last recorded 6th October 1996.*

PIED-BILLED GREBE: *Rare American vagrant. One record 24-25th April 1981.*

GREAT CORMORANT: *Common resident. Last breeding records 1898-1903 (Sir Hugh Gladstone). Maximum count: 23 on 3rd September (R&BM).*

EURASIAN BITTERN: *Rare vagrant. Unconfirmed report of four on 29th January 2006 (Birdline Scotland). Possible sighting on 6th December 2006 when a bird took off from shallow water amongst willows but was immediately lost to view (RM). Report (via TR) of a Northumbrian birder having "good views" of 2 birds in the reeds by the yacht club on 18th January 2008. Further possible sighting on 23rd June 2008 with a bird taking off from the reeds on the west side of Castle Loch but again being immediately lost to view (AR & DW). One seen on ice near the inflow of the Innerfield Burn on 24th December 2010 (AR) and again on 28th (DB). Single bird seen on 24th December 2011(BH) and again on 27th and 28th December 2011 (BH, JH). Two birds present on 23rd and singles on 24th and 27th December 2012 (all BH).*

LITTLE EGRET: *Rare vagrant. Last record was a single bird seen on 6th March 2011 near mouth of Valison Burn (BH).*

GREY HERON: *Regular Visitor.*

PURPLE HERON: *Rare vagrant. One record only 27th May 1975 at Hightae Loch.*

MUTE SWAN: *Regular breeder with two pairs fledging young this year. The usual rise in numbers during the moulting period saw a maximum of 76 birds on 7th September (AR).*

BEWICK'S SWAN: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 20th January 1995. Three birds at Castle Loch on 15th December 2011 (BH) rising to five birds on 22nd December 2011(BH). Five birds still present on 5th January (AR).*

WHOOPER SWAN: *Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count: 44 on 18th December (AR).*

BLACK SWAN: *Rare vagrant. One record of a single bird that arrived in early July 2010 and was in the area until mid-September of that year.*

BEAN GOOSE: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 23-25th February 1983.*

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: *Formerly regular winter visitor in internationally important numbers. Although the surrounding fields are still used for feeding it is now extremely unusual to see any geese roosting on the loch at night. The weather was much less severe this year but the situation of the Pink-footed Goose roost remained dire. The roost counts this year recorded the following figures: No birds on 13th October and a single bird on the 10th November and 8th December (all AR). Once again considerable disturbance from overnighing fishermen was noted including the use of motor boats. It seems likely that activities of this nature have materially contributed to the demise of a once important Ramsar site. Maximum number of birds seen in daylight were 2100 birds feeding in the field next to the Valison Burn on 23rd March (BH) and 1900 at the same site on 18th December (AR).*

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: *Rare winter visitor. Last previous record 16th February 1992. Two seen in a flock of Pink-footed Geese feeding in the field next to the Valison Burn on 23rd March (BH).*

GREYLAG GOOSE: *Once a regular winter visitor in considerable numbers. Now a roost reaching three figures is noteworthy. Two resident pairs seen regularly throughout the year by a number of observers. Two broods of 4 and 3 young seen with parents on 25th July and observed regularly thereafter (AR). First Icelandic birds were 124 seen on 15th September (BH). Counts of Icelandic birds during the annual roost census were once again exceptionally low although double figures were reached on all three occasions with 125 on 13th October, 72 on 10th November and 89 on 8th December (all AR). The comments regarding the disastrous decline of the Pink-footed Goose roost need not be repeated here.*

SNOW GOOSE: *Rare winter vagrant and uncommon escapee from wildfowl collections. Last recorded 14th October 1990.*

BAR-HEADED GOOSE: *Asiatic introduction. Now feral. One record of 11 birds on two dates in August 2001 (PSh).*

CANADA GOOSE: *North American introduction, now a common U K resident. Occurs throughout the year and is an irregular breeder on the reserve. At least two pairs bred this year with broods of 3 and 5 young seen 25th June (AR). Maximum count: 160 on 20th August (AR).*

HYBRID GEESE (GREYLAG x CANADA GOOSE): *Single hybrid seen frequently throughout 2008. Last seen on 13th February 2009 (BH).*

BRENT GOOSE: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 12th January 2004.*

BARNACLE GOOSE: *Occasional winter visitor.*

COMMON SHELDUCK: *Irregular breeder, usually one or two pairs only. Last recorded breeding 2007. No signs of successful breeding on the reserve this year probably due to flooding within the sanctuary zone during the season. Maximum count: 7 on 6th January (BH).*

RUDDY SHELDUCK: *Accidental from Asia or north-west Africa, or uncommon escapee from a wildfowl collection. One record 27th April 2004 (AR).*

EGYPTIAN GOOSE: *Introduced now feral. Single bird at castle Loch on 1st November 2011 (BH) and seen thereafter by a number of observers.*

EURASIAN WIGEON: *Regular winter visitor, scarce in summer. Maximum count: 562 on 27th December (BH).*

AMERICAN WIGEON: *Accidental from North America or escapee from wildfowl collection. There was an unconfirmed sighting in 2003 and a single male was present between early October and Mid December 2009 (BH). A single bird was present from the 22nd January until 2nd February 2010 (BH). Single male at Castle Loch 22nd November 2011(BH). This bird remained in the area alternating between Castle and Kirk Lochs until the end of the year being seen by numerous observers. A single male was seen in a flock of Eurasian Wigeon in the Castle Wood area on 5th April (BH). A further single male was seen in Vendace Bay on the 2nd and 5th of November (both BH).*

GADWALL: *Occasional winter visitor or during spring passage. Maximum count: 8 on 14th March (BH).*

COMMON TEAL: *Regular winter visitor. Maximum count: 236 on 31st January (BH).*

GARGANEY: *Rare summer visitor. Last previous records 15th September 1991, 3rd June 2003 5th May 2006 and a single drake seen by numerous observers between 28th February and 30th March 2008. This bird was noted to have a yellow ring on the right leg (R&BM). This and the time of its arrival (rather early for a migrant) suggest that it might not have been a wild bird. A further sighting of probably the same bird on 16th April (JB & G Garner).*

MALLARD: *Regular throughout the year. Numbers peaking at 206 on 2nd November (BH).*

NORTHERN PINTAIL: *Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count: 3 on 26th December (BH).*

NORTHERN SHOVELER: *Irregular visitor, winter and spring. Maximum count: 3 on 19th November (AR).*

RED-CRESTED POCHARD: *Rare vagrant and uncommon escapee from wildfowl collections. Last recorded 9th September 1995.*

COMMON POCHARD: *Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count: 2 on 24th February, 2 on 22nd October and 2 on 29th November (all BH).*

TUFTED DUCK: *Present throughout the year. Maximum count: 238 on 14th February (BH).*

GREATER SCAUP: *Very occasional winter visitor. Last previous record was a single male at Castle Loch on 20th November 2010 (BH). A single bird (juvenile/female) was seen on the 18th and 22nd of October and an adult female was seen on 27th and 30th December (all BH).*

LESSER SCAUP: *Rare transatlantic vagrant. Last recorded 26th January 2004 (IA). Bird with superficial appearance of Lesser Scaup seen by a number of observers in 2008. This appears to have been a hybrid although its exact nature has not been determined.*

LONG-TAILED DUCK: *Rare winter visitor. Last previous records 24th December 1994, 6th November-15th December 2002, 23rd January 2003, 8th and 12th December 2005 and 11th January-12th April 2006. Two birds present during the latter half of February 2008 and then again from 17th November until the end of the year. In 2009 a single male was present from 14th to 28th January 2009 and a female from 15th November until 16th December. One male bird was first seen on 1st November 2010 (BH) and remained until 5th being seen by a number of observers.*

COMMON SCOTER: *Scarce visitor. Last record at Castle Loch on 13th March 2006 (RM).*

VELVET SCOTER: *Rare visitor. One record 18th October 2000.*

COMMON GOLDENEYE: *Regular winter visitor, sometimes remaining well into summer. Maximum count: 164 on 5th of February (BH). The birds were later leaving this year with 72 birds still present on 23rd of March (BH) dropping to 4 on 10th April (AR). No birds were recorded during the summer and the first return was a single bird sighted on 9th of October (BH). Thereafter numbers rose quickly, being into double figures within a week and peaking at 51 on 2nd November (BH).*

SMEW: *Seen most winters in small numbers. Last previous records: 3 on 14th January 2009 (BH) rising to 4 on 5th February. Last sighting: 1 on 28th February. Single Redhead at Castle Loch on 14th November 2010 (AR). Single female present at Castle Loch on 20th February 2011 (BH). Single female present at Dalton Road piers on 6th January (BH).*

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: *Fairly regular in winter. Probably slightly under-recorded. Record of a single male at Henderland Island, Castle Loch on 21st April (BH).*

GOOSANDER: *Regular winter visitor but in declining numbers. Breeds locally. Maximum count: 85 on 26th January (BH).*

RUDDY DUCK: *North American introduction. Occasional visitor. Last record is a pair at Castle Loch on 16th January 2006 (RM).*

RED KITE: *Rare vagrant. One record Hightae Loch early 1990s (FSed).*

MARSH HARRIER: *Scarce summer visitor. Last previous record on 20th May 1984 at Hightae Loch. Single at Castle Loch on 7th September 2010 (BH).*

HEN HARRIER: *Scarce visitor. Last recorded 2nd March 1990.*

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: *Scarce local breeder. Last previous record one flew over Castle Loch from the west, circled and then returned west on 17th March 2008 (AW).*

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK: *Resident, probably breeds in woodland on reserve. Seen regularly at both lochs by a variety of observers.*

COMMON BUZZARD: *Resident, has bred in woodland on reserve. Seen regularly at both lochs by a variety of observers. There appear to be 2 pairs again using the area this year. One based in woodland to the East and the other in Castle Wood (AR). Maximum count: 5 on 21st September (AR).*

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded at Hightae Loch February 2004 (FSe).*

OSPREY: *Occasional on passage, spring and autumn. Two birds seen at Lochside Plantation, Castle Loch on 27th July and a single bird each day thereafter until 3rd August (all BH).*

KESTREL: *Resident breeder. Seen regularly over sanctuary zone by a variety of observers.*

MERLIN: *Scarce visitor. Last recorded 8th April 2005 (but probably under-recorded).*

HOBBY: *Rare summer visitor. One record 17-18th July 1982.*

PEREGRINE: *Occasional winter visitor. Last records were a single at Castle Loch on 6th September 2010 and a juvenile seen at Hightae Loch on 28th September 2011 (both BH). No records in 2012*

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE: *Sometimes reared and released in area. Single bird seen on entrance road to castle on 28th September 2012 (BH). No records in 2012.*

GREY PARTRIDGE: *Declining farmland resident. Last recorded 1991.*

COMMON PHEASANT: *Resident breeder. Bred in Castle Wood.*

WATER RAIL: *Regular winter visitor but breeding has only rarely been confirmed. Three records this year. One at Valison Burn on 5th February and 4th December and a single in the reeds near the Sailing Club on 10th December (all BH).*

SPOTTED CRAKE: *Very rare breeder in UK. Only record 26th August 2001 at Hightae Loch (PSh).*

CORN CRAKE: *Former resident breeder? Last recorded 1st and 2nd August 1980 (PSh and Dugald Black).*

MOORHEN: *Resident breeder, in small numbers. Maximum count: 14 on 19th November (AR).*

EURASIAN COOT: *Winter visitor. Small numbers breed. Maximum count: 106 on 5th February (BH).*

AMERICAN COOT: *Rare American vagrant. One record 10-17th February 2004 (AW).*

OYSTERCATCHER: *Irregular visitor in spring and autumn, sometimes breeds in or near reserve.*

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER: *Scarce summer visitor to Scotland. One record 18th May 1996 (RM).*

RINGED PLOVER: *Occasional passage migrant. Last recorded March and July 2005.*

GOLDEN PLOVER: *Occasional passage migrant. None on reserve since 8th September 1995. Large flocks still regular at Greenhill, near River Annan, where 650 on 5th April 2006 (PSh).*

NORTHERN LAPWING: *Irregular visitor in spring and autumn, sometimes breeding on or near the reserve. Serious decline in numbers in recent years. 132 overflying on 26th December (BH).*

CURLEW SANDPIPER: *Rare passage migrant. One record 8th September 1999 at Hightae Loch (RM).*

DUNLIN: *Scarce passage migrant. Seen very occasionally, last recorded 10th May 1999, 29th April and 20th July 2003 with eleven birds seen on the latter date.*

RUFF: *Scarce passage migrant. Very occasional, last previous record several autumn dates in 1995. Three present at Castle Loch on the 7th September 2010 and one on the 9th September 2010 (both BH).*

JACK SNIBE: *Scarce winter visitor. Last previous record 9th March 1986. Single recorded in Victory Park area on 11th December (BH).*

COMMON SNIPE: *Common passage migrant and local breeder.*

WOODCOCK: *Occasional breeder and winter visitor. Last recorded roding 27th March 1990. Single records at both lochs in March 2004. Single at Castle Loch on 23rd and 24th December 2010 (BH).*

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT: *Scarce passage migrant. Last previous record 29th August to 1st September 2005. Single in the Sanctuary Zone at Castle Loch on 7th September 2010 (BH).*

BAR-TAILED GODWIT: *Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 21st October 1983.*

WHIMBREL: *Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 9th May 2006 (RM).*

CURLEW: *Regular passage migrant, sometimes in large numbers in spring. Breeds locally.*

SPOTTED REDSHANK: *Uncommon passage migrant. Last recorded 26th August 2001 (PSh).*

COMMON REDSHANK: *Irregular visitor to the reserve, usually in spring. Last records singles on 13th March 2006 and 13th July 2006 (RM).*

COMMON GREENSHANK: *Uncommon passage migrant. Last recorded 2nd-3rd September 2005.*

GREEN SANDPIPER: *Uncommon passage migrant. Last recorded 21st October 1994.*

WOOD SANDPIPER: *Rare passage migrant. Last record 3rd September 2005.*

COMMON SANDPIPER: *Uncommon passage migrant, local breeder. Single birds seen on exposed mud in Sanctuary Zone on 13th April and again on 3rd May (both BH).*

ARCTIC SKUA: *Rare passage migrant. Last recorded 8th October 1995.*

GREAT SKUA: *Rare passage migrant. Last recorded 27th April 1999.*

LITTLE GULL: *Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 20th March 2004.*

BLACK-HEADED GULL: *Common winter visitor; breeds locally. Maximum daytime count: 340(AR). Winter roost irregular but building with counts of 2200 on 13th October (AR), 1800 on 10th November and 3500 on 8th December (AR).*

MEDITERRANEAN GULL: *Rare vagrant. One record 15th March 2003 (Birdguides).*

COMMON GULL: *Mainly a winter visitor, in large numbers amongst other gulls in winter roost.*

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: *Most birds migrate south in winter. Usually at least one or two birds present throughout the year.*

HERRING GULL: *Seen regularly in small numbers, breeds locally.*

GLAUCOUS GULL: *Rare winter visitor. Last previous records 25th February 1974 and 11th January 1984 and first winter bird at Castle Loch 17 November 2008 (CB).*

ICELAND GULL: *Rare winter visitor. One record 25th February 1974.*

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: *Scarce local resident, seen occasionally. Last record 4 at Castle Loch on 15th February 2006.*

KITTIWAKE: *Rare visitor. Last recorded 10th-15th January 1984.*

COMMON TERN: *Occasional on passage. Last recorded 19th August 2001, 26th August 2003 and 8-10 October 2006.*

ARCTIC TERN: *Occasional on passage. Last previous records 26th September 2003 and 12th August 2011 (BH). Two at the Lochside Cottage area of Castle Loch on 3rd May (BH).*

BLACK TERN: *Fairly frequent on spring and autumn passage, most often seen second week of May to first week of June, and late August to early September. Last records 7th September 1998, a single at north end of Castle Loch from 8th –10th October 2006 (SG, RM) one at Castle Loch 16th May 2009 (BH) and other observers. A single bird was seen on the Lockerbie road side on 8th September 2010 (BH).*

SANDWICH TERN: *Rare visitor. One record only 6th September 1973.*

COMMON GUILLEMOT: *Rare vagrant. Last recorded 26th December 1987 (2 birds).*

LITTLE AUK: *Rare vagrant. Last recorded mid to late 1980s.*

ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON: *Common local resident in and around farms and towns. Occasional visitor to reserve.*

STOCK DOVE: *Resident breeder.*

WOOD PIGEON: *Regular breeder in the woods at both lochs.*

COLLARED DOVE: *Common local resident in and around farms and towns.*

COMMON CUCKOO: *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 10th May 2002.*

BARN OWL: *Scarce visitor, former breeder. Last record February to July 2009 in Castle Loch Woodland.*

TAWNY OWL: *Resident regular breeder.*

LONG-EARED OWL: *Irregular visitor. Last recorded at Hightae Loch 28th October 1978 (PSh).*

SHORT-EARED OWL: *Rare visitor. Last recorded 28th November 1985.*

COMMON SWIFT: *Common summer visitor, breeds in Lochmaben.*

COMMON KINGFISHER: *Regular visitor, breeds locally. Maximum records this year two birds seen at the bird hide on 3rd August and 2 at Vendace Bay on 13th December (both BH).*

EUROPEAN GREEN WOODPECKER: *Scarce resident locally. Last recorded 31st May 1984.*

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER: *Resident regular breeder.*

EURASIAN SKYLARK: *Irregular visitor. Last previous record 3 on 13th June 2011 (AR). No records in 2012.*

SAND MARTIN: *Regular visitor in spring and summer: breeds in banks of River Annan and at Applegarthtown Wildlife Sanctuary. First sighting of 6 on 19th March (BH) one day later than last year. Maximum count: 160 on 24th June (AR).*

BARN SWALLOW: *Summer visitor, breeds locally.*

HOUSE MARTIN: *Summer visitor, breeds locally.*

TREE PIPIT: *Scarce summer visitor.*

MEADOW PIPIT: *Irregular visitor. No recent breeding records for the reserve. Last recorded 2003.*

YELLOW WAGTAIL: *Rare summer visitor. Last recorded 25th September 1981.*

GREY WAGTAIL: *Common local resident but irregular visitor to the reserve.*

PIED WAGTAIL: *Irregular visitor and breeder. Bred in both 2011 and 2012 near the Bowling Club (AR).*

WHITE WAGTAIL: *Last recorded 28th April 1995.*

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: *Irregular, rare winter visitor. Last previous record 15 by Lochmaben Kirk on 17th November 2008.*

WREN: *Present throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

DUNNOCK: *Present throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

ROBIN: *Present throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

COMMON REDSTART: *Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder on the reserve. No records again this year.*

WHINCHAT: *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 10th May 1982.*

COMMON STONECHAT: *Scarce local resident. No record for the reserve.*

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: *Occasional passage migrant. Last recorded 2nd June 1991.*

BLACKBIRD: *Resident throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

FIELDFARE: *Regular autumn and winter visitor.*

SONG THRUSH: *Present throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

REDWING: *Regular autumn and winter visitor. Maximum count 47 Castle Woods on 27th December (BH).*

MISTLE THRUSH: *Recorded in most years, breeds locally. No 2001 or 2002 records. A few records in 2003, 2004 and 2005. No reports for 2006, 2007 or 2008. Maximum count of 3 in 2010. Single singing in Castle Wood 2011. Single seen in Castle Wood this year (AR).*

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER: *Summer visitor and irregular breeder. Last recorded on two spring dates in 1997.*

SEDGE WARBLER: *Summer visitor and regular breeder at both lochs.*

REED WARBLER: *Summer visitor and recent breeder.*

COMMON WHITETHROAT: *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 12th August 1996.*

GARDEN WARBLER: *Summer visitor and breeder.*

BLACKCAP: *Summer visitor and breeder.*

WOOD WARBLER: *Scarce summer visitor. Occasional in spring. Last recorded 25th July and 5th August 2003.*

CHIFFCHAFF: *Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional breeder.*

WILLOW WARBLER: *Summer visitor and regular breeder.*

GOLDCREST: *Present throughout the year and probable breeder at both sites.*

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER: *Irregular summer visitor and occasional breeder. Last previous records: single at Castle Loch 25th August 2006 (RM), three at Castle Loch on 4th June 2009 (MG) and single at Hightae Loch on 13th May 2009 (JM).*

PIED FLYCATCHER: *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 9th August 1993.*

LONG-TAILED TIT: *Resident and breeds at Castle Loch.*

WILLOW TIT: *Resident and regular breeder. Seen by a number of observers throughout the year. Surveys have been conducted since 2010 covering all suitable sites around the loch perimeter. When established territories are located they are regularly monitored to determine levels of breeding success. Once again eight areas initially showed territorial males and seven were subsequently used for breeding. Six sites fledged at least two young It was not possible to establish results at the seventh. Great care should be taken to ensure that the dead standing wood favoured by this species is not destroyed either by accident or design.*

COAL TIT: *Present throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

BLUE TIT: *Present throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

GREAT TIT: *Present throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

EURASIAN NUTHATCH: *Increasingly numerous resident in Dumfries and Galloway, having spread westwards from Cumbria and the Scottish Borders during the 1990s. First reserve record near the castle on 21st April 2003 (PSed). Single birds seen feeding on trees near the hide on a number of occasions (AR) but no records of breeding.*

COMMON TREECREEPER: *Present throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

JAY: *Resident and may breed on the reserve.*

MAGPIE: *Rare vagrant. Last recorded 24th March 1978.*

JACKDAW: *Resident breeder, supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost.*

ROOK: *Sporadic resident breeder supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost.*

CARRION CROW: *Resident breeder supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost.*

HOODED CROW: *Last recorded 1981.*

COMMON RAVEN: *Occasional visitor. Last previous record two birds overflying 2nd October 2008 and one on 25th December 2011. Single birds seen overflying on 3rd August, 2nd October and 26th December (all BH).*

COMMON STARLING: *Winter visitor and local breeder. The roost in the reeds around Vendace Bay continues to build. Maximum count: 8000 (AR).*

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING: *Rare Eurasian vagrant. One record late October 2003.*

HOUSE SPARROW: *Common resident in Lochmaben and at surrounding farms. Irregularly recorded on reserve. Maximum count 21 near the sailing club on 19th November (AR).*

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW: *Scarce and declining resident on local farmland. Last recorded 1984.*

COMMON CHAFFINCH: *Present throughout the year and bred at both sites.*

BRAMBLING: *Irregular winter visitor. Two birds with chaffinches and others at feeders by Vendace Burn on 18th December (AR).*

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH: *Present throughout the year, probably breeds. Numbers continue to rise slowly suggesting that the effects of Trichonomiasis might be diminishing.*

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH: *Occasional visitor. Probably breeds in some years. Maximum count: 14 on 20th August (AR).*

EURASIAN SISKIN: *Winter visitor and passage migrant. Maximum count: 46 on 7th November (BH).*

EUROPEAN LINNET: *Scarce resident locally. Last recorded 30th August and 29th December 2003.*

LESSER REDPOLL: *Resident in wider vicinity, irregular on the reserve. Maximum count: 23 on 7th November (BH).*

COMMON CROSSBILL: *Irregular visitor. Probable breeder in conifer forests in vicinity. Last recorded 27th May 2003.*

EURASIAN BULLFINCH: *Irregular. May breed occasionally. Maximum counts: 3 on 15th October (BH) and 3 on 18th December (AR).*

YELLOWHAMMER: *Used to be a regular resident breeder. Last recorded 2003.*

COMMON REED BUNTING: *Regular resident breeder.*

CORN BUNTING: *Rare visitor (and now extremely rare resident in D&G). Recorded 26th February and 6th May 1978 at Castle Loch and at Hightae Loch on 2nd February 1980 (all records PSh).*

Monthly Maxima of Waterfowl at Castle Loch 2012

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Little Grebe	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	3	2	2
Great Cr Grebe	0	6	6	7	7	6+5	6	0	4	6	6	0
Great Cormorant	0	16	17	16	3	8	6	6	6	12	10	0
Grey Heron	10	4	0	2	0	2	2	1	3	3	2	2
Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mute Swan	26	23	10	28	11	26	52	52	56	41	68	57
Whooper Swan	0	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Greylag Goose	0	32	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Pink-footed Goose	400	550	2100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1900
Canada Goose	1	109	0	22	0	52	0	160	0	0	22	142
Common Shelduck	2	5	4	5	0	2	4	0	6	4	2	0
Eurasian Wigeon	35	232	120	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	184	72
Gadwall	5	6	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
Common Teal	236	64	12	69	0	0	0	42	126	0	36	36
Garganey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mallard	81	56	33	46	0	46	102	68	45	28	206	41
Northern Pintail	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Northern Shoveler	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Common Pochard	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Tufted Duck	231	238	53	94	2	48	0	44	23	170	126	167
Goldeneye	115	164	72	4	0	0	0	0	0	22	46	43
Long-tailed Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smew	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goosander	85	28	12	4	0	0	4	4	4	22	32	80
Eurasian Coot	29	106	20	14	0	12	14	20	14	0	56	85
Common Moorhen	5	4	0	3	3	3	5	6	6	6	4	0

Annual maxima of wildfowl at Castle Loch 1980-2012

Selected species	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
Great Cr Grebe	24	45	44	18	14	42	24	0	18	14	24	15	13	19	14	18	22	14	25	20
Cormorant	4	20	nc	23	12	15	4	5	9	8	7	19	18	23	30	19	8	6	22	17
Mute Swan	17	10	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	5	65	80	98	92	74	46	69	55	28	37	38	102
Whooper Swan	27	6	0	0	0	5	1	14	28	2	9	13	24	0	21	33	7	47	26	41
Bewick's Swan	0	0	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pink-f Goose	700	30	2500	1580	8900	6950	13400	5000	950	2000	4	16.38k	14.0k	3.0k	3.5k	100	740	500	1340	2200
Greylag Goose	50	41	930	1.9k	2.5k	3.1k	2.85k	1017	1453	185	741	416	840	440	800	1.8k	800	230	600	500
Canada Goose	0	0	5	4	2	6	98	34	236	159	45	134	67	0	0	9	31	30	41	79
Shelduck	0	0	4	6	4	16	8	0	0	0	14	15	2	2	4	3	6	2	3	6
Mallard	nc	250	500	268	261	1800	480			285	145	193	310	246	152	299	380	139	470	508
Wigeon	250	200	320	144	182	280	430	300	806	388	194	755	431	90	300	50	307	184	120	396
Gadwall	1		0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Teal	50	18	121	95	174	360	30	50	4	7	7	11	11	0	12	27	60	5	24	163
Pintail	0	0	3	0	1	9	0	1	0	1	4	1	0	2	0	10	57	6	9	6
Garganey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoveler	2	11	1	3	14	3	21	14	8	13	1	16	2	1	0	10	2	0	9	6
Red-cr Pochard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pochard	300	45	155	205	132	165	120	26	15	11	49	44	63	63	55	35	70	9	38	103
Tufted Duck	150	40	71	100	34	44	260	113	83	119	170	144	141	136	120	110	104	118	111	151
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Long-t Duck	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Common Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Velvet Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldeneye	50	45	60	47	64	90	93	130	0	119	46	57	150	132	80	50	30	26	32	103
Smew	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	6		1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	2
Merganser	6	32	4	18	20	5	14	0	13	5	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Goosander	75	125	165	69	102	141	62	120	82	110	69	52	60	18	84	43	132	105	118	101
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Coot	50	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	60	262	376	172	476	614	228	500	520	176	191	160	343
Moorhen	nc	6	6	4	6	15	10	15	16	19	12	20	6	1	7	9	2	1	8	10

Annual maxima of wildfowl at Castle Loch 1980-2012 ctd

Selected species	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Great Cr Grebe	18	8	12	12	21	11	15	10	13	12	13	8	7
Cormorant	14	26	29	14	22	17	11	22	22	20	18	48	17
Mute Swan	113	121	135	135	158	155	152	117	113	102	132	160	68
Whooper Swan	62	82	32	23	12	1	10	16	18	12	71	31	12
Bewick's Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Pink-footed Goose	2900	86	150	2450	1500	1000	1000	0	2700	0	1000	620	2100
Greylag Goose	400	1000	14	600	500	9	2	5	75	42	42	18	32
Canada Goose	104	115	42	129	80	184	120	0	97	150	248	190	160
Shelduck	6	4	16	8	8	7	16	8	4	10	3	3	6
Mallard	465	444	393	398	395	369	416	102	288	420	600	214	206
Wigeon	762	472	320	842	450	532	359	160	399	200	433	115	232
Gadwall	0	1	0	6	2	3	5	0	4	18	11	14	8
Teal	208	190	367	124	142	180	172	93	250	350	110	283	236
Pintail	9	47	27	5	5	17	32	11	6	24	2	20	0
Garganey	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Shoveler	5	13	10	6	10	6	3	12	2	6	2	0	4
Red-cr Pochard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pochard	87	14	67	16	32	14	46	4	14	5	1	0	2
Tufted Duck	166	161	178	160	196	175	153	125	209	184	210	164	238
Greater Scaup	0	0	1	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Long-tailed Duck	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
Common Scoter	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Velvet Scoter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldeneye	128	154	136	69	208	75	57	42	89	32	44	121	164
Smew	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	5	0	1	1
Merganser	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Goosander	106	138	126	260	139	114	146	120	116	52	118	91	85
Ruddy Duck	0	1	2	4	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coot	207	326	243	450	330	342	375	188	72	67	84	186	106
Moorhen	16	11	7	16	14	10	7	7	6	3	5	12	6