

# Castle and Hightae Lochs L N R Wildlife 2008

January was cold and wet leaving the area around the Valison Burn under water and making access to the hide impossible for some days. After a clear but cold period in the middle of February the rains resumed in March, periodically flooding the lower lying land to the east of the Valison Burn and much of Henderland Island. May was the only month in which there was not some flooding. Temperatures during the year never got higher than 25C (in July). Both lochs were frozen for some days in both January and December.

The generally high level of the water throughout the year meant that areas of mud around the fringes of the Loch were rarely exposed and passage wader sightings have suffered accordingly. Frequent sudden rises in water levels have caused problems for some nesting birds.

The path around Castle Loch has been completed as far as the Castle area and a new bridge installed across the Valison Burn. Nesting boxes have been erected in many areas which is a pity as it will encourage blue and great tits that will compete with the willow tits – it has happened elsewhere to the detriment of the willow tits. Inevitably the disturbance caused by this work, the clearing of scrub in the western woodland strip and the greater numbers of people and dogs within the reserve has made the wildlife more wary.

This report is based on the WeBS counts conducted monthly throughout the year by Andy Riches (AR) and additional records from other visits and observers. Many thanks to the following John Bell (JB), Colin & Angie Bushell (CB), Ross Gemmell (RG), Brian Henderson (BH), Richard and Barbara Mearns (R&BM), John Miles (JM), Paul Shimmings (PSh), James Towill (JT), Anna White (AW) and Dawn Wright (DW). Some old records have initials for the recorders: Stuart Graham (SG), Paul Seddon (PSed), Freda Seddon (FSe).

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 2008 are listed in bold type.**

## MAMMALS.

**SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE BAT:** *Present in large numbers 21<sup>st</sup> September (RG).*

**COMMON PIPISTRELLE BAT:** *Present at both lochs. Two recorded at Castle Loch on 21<sup>st</sup> September (RG).*

**DAUBENTON'S BAT:** *Present at both lochs. Two recorded on 21<sup>st</sup> September (RG).*

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

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

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

**WATER SHREW:** *Presence detected on the Valison Burn via scat sample analysis. A first record for the reserve. Previous surveys conducted annually since 2005 failed to confirm presence.*

**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.*

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

**RED SQUIRREL:** *Seen in woodland at both Castle and Hightae Lochs. Regular presence at Hightae also confirmed by analysis of hair from feeder.*

**WEASEL:** *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

**STOAT:** *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

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

**OTTER:** *Present throughout the year and breeds. Many sightings by a number of observers.*

**RED FOX:** *Often present in Hightae Wood and Castle Loch Woodland. Vixen seen in Hightae Wood 25<sup>th</sup> December (RG) and prints noted at Castle Car Park 5<sup>th</sup> December (RG).*

**ROE DEER:** *Often present in Hightae Wood and adjacent to the Castle Loch. Prints found in snow at Castle Car Park on 5th December (RG).*

## **DRAGONFLIES.**

**LARGE RED DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum number recorded in 2008, 25 at Castle Loch and 6 at Hightae Loch (AR&DW).*

**BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers in 2008, 140 at Castle Loch and 25 at Hightae Loch (AR&DW).*

**COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers in 2008, 200 at Castle Loch and 30 at Hightae Loch (AR&DW).*

**AZURE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers in 2008, 60 at Castle Loch and 15 at Hightae Loch (AR&DW).*

**VARIABLE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds though none noted this year. There were limited opportunities to observe adults due to the inclement weather.*

**EMERALD DAMSELFLY:** *Present and probably breeds. Two seen in tandem at the Valison Burn 24<sup>th</sup> August (R&BM).*

**COMMON DARTER:** *Present and probably breeds.*

**FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER:** *Present and may breed. Maximum numbers in 2008, 6 at Castle Loch (AR&DW).*

**COMMON HAWKER:** *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers in 2008, 5 at Castle Loch and 3 at Hightae Loch (AR&DW).*

**MIGRANT HAWKER:** *Present since 2004. Seen in Castle Car Park 24<sup>th</sup> August (R&BM).*

## **HOVERFLIES.**

**SCAEVA PYRASTRI:** *Present at Castle Loch between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> September. Maximum numbers 14 (AR).*

**HELOPHILUS PENDULUS:** *Present at Castle Loch between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> September. Maximum number recorded 11 (AR).*

**ERISTALIS TENAX:** *Present at Castle Loch between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> September. Maximum number recorded 9 (AR).*

**ERISTALIS PERTINAX:** *Present at Castle Loch between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> September. Maximum number recorded 9 (AR).*

**EPISYRPHUS BALTEATUS:** *Present at Castle Loch between 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> September. Maximum number recorded 13 (AR).*

## **BUTTERFLIES.**

**SMALL WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 8 (AR&DW).*

**LARGE WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 6 (AR&DW).*

**GREEN-VEINED WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 11 (AR&DW).*

**ORANGE TIP:** *Maximum numbers 15 (AR).*

**PEACOCK:** *Maximum numbers 4 (AR&DW).*

**SMALL TORTOISESHELL:** *Maximum numbers 3 (AR).*

**RED ADMIRAL:** *Maximum number 1 (AR).*

**RINGLET:** *Maximum number 1 (AR).*

**PAINTED LADY:** *Maximum number 1(AR).*

## **BIRDS.**

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

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

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER:** *Very Rare. No previous records. One first seen at Castle Loch on 17<sup>th</sup> 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 of 1 at Castle Loch 19<sup>th</sup> December (AR) and 2 at Hightae Loch 17<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE:** *Regular breeder. First bred at Lochmaben in 1891. Maximum count of 13 adults, 4 small young and two pairs of medium young with a possible fourth brood on 24<sup>th</sup> August (R&BM). This is the best number of young in years.*

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

**SLAVONIAN GREBE:** *Rare autumn/winter or early spring visitor. Last recorded 15<sup>th</sup> December 2004.*

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

**PIE-BILLED GREBE:** *Rare American vagrant. One record 24-25<sup>th</sup> April 1981.*

**GREAT CORMORANT:** *Common resident. Last breeding records 1898-1903 (Sir Hugh Gladstone). Maximum count of 22 birds 12<sup>th</sup> October (R&BM).*

**EURASIAN BITTERN:** *Rare vagrant. Unconfirmed report of four on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2006 (Birdline Scotland). Possible sighting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006 when a bird took off from shallow water amongst willows but was immediately lost to view (RM). Report (viaTR) of a Northumbrian birder having "good views" of 2 birds in the reeds by the yacht club on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Further possible sighting on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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).*

**GREY HERON:** *Regular Visitor.*

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

**MUTE SWAN:** *Regular breeder. Highest count 113 adults on 18th July (AR). 10 cygnets 19<sup>th</sup> December (AR).*

**BEWICK'S SWAN:** *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 20<sup>th</sup> January 1995.*

**WHOOPER SWAN:** *Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count of 18 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November (AR).*

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

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** *Regular winter visitor, though numbers have declined in recent years. 2700 over Lochmaben at dusk 20<sup>th</sup> February (PSh). 2370 at Broadchapel 6<sup>th</sup> March (PSh).*

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 16<sup>th</sup> February 1992.*

**GREYLAG GOOSE:** *Regular winter visitor. 2 pairs seen regularly throughout the year by a number of observers. No signs of successful breeding. 75 wintering birds roosting at Castle Loch on 2<sup>nd</sup> November (RG).*

**SNOW GOOSE:** *Rare winter vagrant and uncommon escapee from wildfowl collections. Last recorded 14<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**HYBRID GEESE (GREYLAG x CANADA GOOSE):** *Single hybrid seen frequently throughout the year (AR).*

**BRENT GOOSE:** *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 12<sup>th</sup> January 2004.*

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** *Occasional winter visitor. 1 seen on 17<sup>th</sup> November (AR) in company with Canada Geese.*

**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.*

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

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** *Regular winter visitor, scarce in summer. Numbers higher at the Kirk Loch in the early part of the year possibly due to disturbance at Castle Loch. Maximum count of 400 on 19<sup>th</sup> December (AR).*

**AMERICAN WIGEON:** *Accidental from North America or escapee from wildfowl collection. Last record (unconfirmed ) 2003.*

**GADWALL:** *Occasional winter visitor or during spring passage. Maximum count of 4 birds on 13<sup>th</sup> February (AR).*

**COMMON TEAL:** *Regular winter visitor. Maximum count of 209 birds on 13<sup>th</sup> February (AR).*

**GARGANEY:** *Rare summer visitor. Last previous records 15<sup>th</sup> September 1991, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006. A single drake seen by numerous observers between 28<sup>th</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> March. 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 16<sup>th</sup> April (JB & G Garner).*

**MALLARD:** *Regular throughout the year. Numbers peaking at 288 on 19<sup>th</sup> December (AR).*

**NORTHERN PINTAIL:** *Irregular winter visitor. Six birds present on 16<sup>th</sup> January (AR).*

**NORTHERN SHOVELER:** *Irregular visitor, winter and spring.*

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

**COMMON POCHARD:** *Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count of 14 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> February (AR).*

**TUFTED DUCK:** *Present throughout the year. Maximum count of 209 birds on 13<sup>th</sup> February (AR).*

**GREATER SCAUP:** *Very occasional winter visitor. Last record single female at Hightae Loch 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 (RM).*

**LESSER SCAUP:** *Rare transatlantic vagrant. Last recorded 26<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> December 1994, 6<sup>th</sup> November-15<sup>th</sup> December 2002, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2003, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and 11<sup>th</sup> January-12<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Two birds present during the later half of February and then again from 17<sup>th</sup> November until the end of the year.*

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

**VELVET SCOTER:** *Rare visitor. One record 18<sup>th</sup> October 2000.*

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** *Regular winter visitor, sometimes remaining well into summer. Maximum count 89 on 13<sup>th</sup> February (AR). Last birds had left by 15<sup>th</sup> May and first arrivals seen in mid November.*

**SMEW:** *Seen most winters in small numbers. Last previous record 3 redheads on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006 (AW) still 2 on 23<sup>rd</sup> February (RM).*

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** *Fairly regular in winter. Probably slightly under recorded.*

**GOOSANDER:** *Regular winter visitor. Breeds locally. Maximum count 116 on 19<sup>th</sup> December (AR).*

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

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

**MARSH HARRIER:** *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 20<sup>th</sup> May 1984 at Hightae Loch.*

**HEN HARRIER:** *Scarce visitor. Last recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1990.*

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** *Scarce local breeder. Last previous record 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2001 at Castle Loch. One flew over Castle Loch from the west, circled and then returned west on 17<sup>th</sup> March (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 appeared to be 2 pairs now using the area this year. One based to the East and the other in Hightae Wood (AR).*

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

**OSPREY:** *Occasional on passage, spring and autumn. Last recorded mid-June 2004.*

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

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

**HOBBY:** *Rare summer visitor. One record 17-18<sup>th</sup> July 1982.*

**PEREGRINE:** *Occasional winter visitor. Last record 2004.*

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE:** *Sometimes reared and released in area. Last recorded 18<sup>th</sup> April 1997.*

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

**COMMON PHEASANT:** *Resident breeder. Bred in woods at both Castle and Hightae Lochs.*

**WATER RAIL:** *Regular winter visitor but breeding has only rarely been confirmed.*

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

**CORN CRAKE:** *Former resident breeder? Last recorded 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1980 (PSH and Dugald Black).*

**MOORHEN:** *Resident breeder, in small numbers. Five young seen on a number of dates in June and July (AR).*

**EURASIAN COOT:** *Winter visitor. Small numbers breed. Maximum count 111 on 31<sup>st</sup> August (JT).*

**AMERICAN COOT:** *Rare American vagrant. One record 10-17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> May 1996 (RM).*

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

**GOLDEN PLOVER:** *Occasional passage migrant. None on reserve since 8<sup>th</sup> September 1995. Large flocks still regular at Greenhill, near River Annan, where 650 on 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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

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

RUFF: *Scarce passage migrant. Very occasional, last recorded several autumn dates in 1995.*

JACK SNIBE: *Scarce winter visitor. Last recorded 9<sup>th</sup> March 1986.*

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

WOODCOCK: *Occasional breeder and winter visitor. Last recorded roding 27<sup>th</sup> March 1990. Single records at both lochs in March 2004.*

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT: *Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 29<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

GREEN SANDPIPER: *Uncommon passage migrant. Last recorded 21<sup>st</sup> October 1994.*

WOOD SANDPIPER: *Rare passage migrant. Last record 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005.*

COMMON SANDPIPER: *Uncommon passage migrant, local breeder. Last records two at Castle Loch on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006 (AW).*

ARCTIC SKUA: *Rare passage migrant. Last recorded 8<sup>th</sup> October 1995.*

GREAT SKUA: *Rare passage migrant. Last recorded 27<sup>th</sup> April 1999.*

LITTLE GULL: *Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004.*

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** *Common winter visitor; breeds locally. Maximum daytime count 82 on 17<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

MEDITERRANEAN GULL: *Rare vagrant. One record 15<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> February 1974 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 1984. One first winter bird at Castle Loch 17 November 2008 (CB).*

**ICELAND GULL:** *Rare winter visitor. One record 25<sup>th</sup> February 1974.*

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** *Scarce local resident, seen occasionally. Last previous record four at Castle Loch on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006.*

**KITTIWAKE:** *Rare visitor. Last recorded 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January 1984.*

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

**ARCTIC TERN:** *Occasional on passage. Last recorded 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003.*

**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 7<sup>th</sup> September 1998 and a single at north end of Castle Loch from 8<sup>th</sup> –10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (SG, RM).*

**SANDWICH TERN:** *Rare visitor. One record only 6<sup>th</sup> September 1973.*

**COMMON GUILLEMOT:** *Rare vagrant. Last recorded 26<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> May 2002.*

**BARN OWL:** *Scarce visitor, former breeder. Last definite record February to March 1985.*

**TAWNY OWL:** *Resident regular breeder.*

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

**SHORT-EARED OWL:** *Rare visitor. Last recorded 28<sup>th</sup> November 1985.*

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

**COMMON KINGFISHER:** *Regular visitor, breeds locally.*

**EUROPEAN GREEN WOODPECKER:** *Scarce resident locally. Last recorded 31<sup>st</sup> May 1984.*

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER:** *Resident regular breeder.*

**EURASIAN SKYLARK:** *Irregular visitor.*

**SAND MARTIN:** *Regular visitor in spring and summer: breeds in banks of River Annan and at Applegarthtown Wildlife Sanctuary. First sighting of 5 on 16th March (TR).*

**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 25<sup>th</sup> September 1981.*

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

**PIED WAGTAIL:** *Irregular visitor and breeder. Pair with 4 young seen at bowling green car park 23<sup>rd</sup> July (AR).*

**WHITE WAGTAIL:** *Last recorded 28<sup>th</sup> April 1995.*

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** *Irregular, rare winter visitor. Last previous record 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1996. 15 by Lochmaben Kirk on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Just a few of the many seen in D&G this year.*

**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 this year.*

**WHINCHAT:** *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 10<sup>th</sup> May 1982.*

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

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR:** *Occasional passage migrant. Last recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

**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.*

**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 12<sup>th</sup> August 1996.*

**GARDEN WARBLER:** *Summer visitor and breeder.*

**BLACKCAP:** *Summer visitor and breeder.*

**WOOD WARBLER:** *Scarce summer visitor. Occasional in spring. Last recorded 25<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 record Castle Loch 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006 (RM).*

**PIED FLYCATCHER:** *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 9<sup>th</sup> August 1993.*

**LONG-TAILED TIT:** *Resident and probable regular breeder.*

**WILLOW TIT:** *Resident and regular breeder. Seen by a number of observers throughout the year.*

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

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

**GREAT TIT:** *Present throughout the year and probably bred 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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2003 (PSed).*

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

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

**MAGPIE:** *Rare vagrant. Last recorded 24<sup>th</sup> 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. Two birds overflying 2<sup>nd</sup> October (RG).*

**COMMON STARLING:** *Winter visitor and local breeder.*

**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.*

**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. No reports this year.*

**EUROPEAN GREENFINCH:** *Present throughout the year, probably breeds.*

**EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** *Occasional visitor. Probably breeds in some years.*

**EURASIAN SISKIN:** *Winter visitor and passage migrant.*

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

**LESSER REDPOLL:** *Resident in wider vicinity, irregular on the reserve.*

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

**EURASIAN BULLFINCH:** *Irregular. May breed occasionally. A pair seen in trees at the start of the boardwalk to the hide on 22<sup>nd</sup> December (BH).*

**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 26<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> May 1978 at Castle Loch and at Hightae Loch on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1980 (all records PSh).*

## Monthly Maxima of Waterfowl at Castle Loch 2008

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Little Grebe</b>												1
<b>Great Cr Grebe</b>	1	6	4	2	4	5	5	13	12	9	4	5
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	10	11	14	5	10	8	6	5	15	17	11	
<b>Grey Heron</b>		3	2	4	3	3	3	3	6	4	5	2
<b>Bittern</b>												
<b>Mute Swan</b>	5	13	7	58	14	23	113	49	20	10	39	65
<b>Whooper Swan</b>												
<b>Greylag Goose</b>					2		1					
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>		51	242									
<b>Canada Goose</b>	16	9	2		16	24	14		2		41	97
<b>Common Shelduck</b>	4		2									
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	140	65		5	46				2	142	140	399
<b>Gadwall</b>		4							2		5	
<b>Common Teal</b>		7	23		9						250	
<b>Garganey</b>		1	1									
<b>Mallard</b>	95	63	23		32	45	157	44	66	50	133	288
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	6	6									4	1
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>		2			2	2						
<b>Common Pochard</b>	1	14								4	11	2
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	56	209	37	63	30	52	100	32	9	64	82	105
<b>Goldeneye</b>	4	89	11	4							21	26
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>		1									2	1
<b>Smew</b>		2										1
<b>Goosander</b>	4	16	2	8					48		26	116
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	35	71	11	3	26	32	63	77	33	55	71	35
<b>Common Moorhen</b>		4	3		5	6	1		3		5	2

## Monthly Maxima of Waterfowl at Hightae Loch 2008

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Little Grebe</b>	1											1
<b>Great Cr Grebe</b>												
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	1	2	2		1						1	
<b>Grey Heron</b>			1	1	1	1	2	2	1		2	
<b>Bittern</b>												
<b>Mute Swan</b>	10	2	2		2	4	2	2		2		
<b>Whooper Swan</b>												
<b>Greylag Goose</b>												
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>												
<b>Canada Goose</b>			2		4	2						
<b>Common Shelduck</b>												
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>		10										
<b>Gadwall</b>												
<b>Common Teal</b>			4		6	4			6	4		
<b>Garganey</b>												
<b>Mallard</b>		11	6	12	8	8	6	16	12	8	50	
<b>Northern Pintail</b>												
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>												
<b>Common Pochard</b>												
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	45	44	16	25								
<b>Goldeneye</b>		2	9	2							25	
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>												
<b>Smew</b>												
<b>Goosander</b>	3	4	4	3								
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>			1	2	3	3	2			8		
<b>Common Moorhen</b>		2	4		2	2	2		2	1	7	

## Annual maxima of wildfowl at Castle Loch 1980-2008

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		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				5	6					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			5	4	2	6	98	34	236	159	45	134	67	0	0	9	31	30	41	79
Shelduck			4	6	4	16	8				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						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							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 1980-2008 ctd

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