

# Castle and Hightae Lochs



## Wildlife Report 2010

# Castle and Hightae Lochs L N R Wildlife 2010

Although this is a continuation of the previous reports technically the L.N.R. did not exist in 2010 while negotiations to renew the agreement were on-going.

The reduction of westerly airstreams, resulted in a year that was colder, drier and sunnier than average. The greater part of both lochs was frozen during most of January, February, November and December and many birds headed to the coast or southern parts. Only April and June saw any prolonged warm weather with July and August being disappointingly dull and cool. 2010 was the coldest year since 1919 in Scotland for mean minimum temperatures but amongst the sunniest years on record with sunshine totals well above average in January, March, April, June, October and December. This was the driest year since 2003. The period from January to June was particularly dry but was followed by very heavy rainfall in July and August resulting in some flooding. Once again the disruptive and unpredictable nature of the weather has made things difficult for the wildlife.

The Pink-footed Goose roost (international importance) and Greylag Goose roost (national importance) have reduced drastically although feeding grounds around the area remain in use.

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 Derek Bearhop (DB), Ross Gemmell (RG), Brian Henderson (BH), Richard and Barbara Mearns (R&BM), Angus Sloan (AS), Anna White (AW). Some old records have initials for the recorders: Iain Anderson (IA), Colin Bushell (CB), Stuart Graham (SG), Michael Granger (MG), John Miles (JM), Tristram Reid (TR), Paul Seddon (PSed), Freda Seddon (FSe), Paul Shimmings (PSh), 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 2010 are listed in bold type.**

## MAMMALS.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> May. This may simply be due to lack of observers or possibly results from the clearfell in 2009. 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:** *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.*

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

**RED SQUIRREL:** *Present in Castle Woodland throughout the year and probably breeds.*

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

**STOAT:** *Present throughout the year and probably 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. 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:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum number recorded: 108(AR).*

**BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 5 (AR). This number is very low most likely due to the limited area surveyed rather than a species reduction.*

**COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 96 (AR).*

**AZURE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 20 (AR).*

**VARIABLE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 104 (AR).*

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

**COMMON DARTER:** *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers: 7 (AR).*

**FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER:** *Present and may breed. Maximum numbers: 1 (AR).*

**COMMON HAWKER:** *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers: 1 (AR).*

**BLACK DARTER:** *Visited and was seen apparently ovipositing in Valison Burn area. But the habitat preferences of this insect would suggest that this behaviour was an aberration. Maximum numbers: One pair seen on a single occasion (AR).*

**GOLDEN-RINGED DRAGONFLY:** *A single visitor was seen this year (AR).*

**MIGRANT HAWKER:** *Present since 2004. Single record this year on 27<sup>th</sup> August (R&BM).*

## **HOVERFLIES.**

**SCAEVA PYRASTRI:** *Present and probably breeds. Seen from 11<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Castle Loch and 11<sup>th</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> August at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 28 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**HELOPHILUS PENDULUS:** *Present and probably breeds. Seen from 11<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Castle Loch and 9<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 34 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**ERISTALIS TENAX:** *Present and probably breeds. Seen from 5<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Castle Loch and 11<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 29 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**ERISTALIS PERTINAX:** *Present and probably breeds. Seen from 11<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Castle Loch and 11<sup>th</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 35 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**EPISYRPHUS BALTEATUS:** *Present and may breed. Seen from 9<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Castle Loch and 9<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> September at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 64 at Castle Loch (AR).*

## **BUTTERFLIES.**

**SMALL WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 7 at Castle Loch on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (AR).*

**LARGE WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 5 at Castle Loch on 1<sup>st</sup> July (AR).*

**GREEN-VEINED WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 17 at Castle Loch on 1<sup>st</sup> July (AR).*

**ORANGE TIP:** *Maximum numbers 4 at Castle Loch on 5<sup>th</sup> May (AR).*

**PEACOCK:** *Maximum numbers 6 at Castle Loch on 9<sup>th</sup> August (AR).*

**SMALL TORTOISESHELL:** *Maximum numbers 5 at Castle Loch on 1<sup>st</sup> July (AR).*

**RED ADMIRAL:** *Maximum number 4 at Castle Loch on 9<sup>th</sup> August (AR).*

**RINGLET:** *Maximum number 7 at Castle Loch on 1<sup>st</sup> July (AR).*

**SMALL COPPER:** *One seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (AR). This may be a first record for the reserve.*

**SMALL HEATH:** *Four seen on 9<sup>th</sup> August (AR). This may be a first record for the reserve.*

**MEADOW BROWN:** *Six seen on 7<sup>th</sup> September (AR). This may be a first record for the reserve.*

**COMMON BLUE:** *One seen on 1<sup>st</sup> July (AR). This may be a first record for the reserve.*  
**PAINTED LADY:** *Maximum number 4 at Castle Loch in August (Butterfly Conservation).*

**COMMA:** *One seen at Hightae Loch on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009 (AW). A first record for the reserve and a rarity in the region. No records for 2010.*

## **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. First record 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 4 at Castle Loch (AR) and 2 at Hightae Loch (AR).*

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE:** *Regular breeder. First bred at Lochmaben in 1891. Maximum count of 8 adults with 5 young on 16<sup>th</sup> August (AR) .*

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

**SLAVONIAN GREBE:** *Rare autumn/winter or early spring visitor. Last previous record 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 (BH). One first seen on 20<sup>th</sup> November and then two on 22<sup>nd</sup> (both BH). Seen thereafter by a number of observers until 26<sup>th</sup> November*

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

**PIED-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 37 on 4<sup>th</sup> October (BH).*

**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 (via TR) 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). One seen on ice near the inflow of the Innerfield Burn on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (AR) and again on 28<sup>th</sup> (DB).*

**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 132 adults on 16<sup>th</sup> August (AR).*

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

**WHOOPEE SWAN:** *Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count of 71 on 28<sup>th</sup> January (BH).*

**BLACK SWAN:** *Vagrant and first record for the reserve. Probably an escape from a wildlife collection. Appeared in early July and alternated between Castle and Kirk Lochs. At Castle Loch 11<sup>th</sup> July (AR) and again on 15<sup>th</sup> (AS). Last reported sighting at Castle Loch 17<sup>th</sup> September (BH).*

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

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** *Formerly regular winter visitor in internationally important numbers although these have declined drastically in recent years with the birds tending to use the west of the region more. The decline continued this year. Considerable problems were caused by the weather rendering the surface of the loch frozen and burying feeding areas under the snow in January, February, November and December. Disturbance by overnighting fishermen with tents and boats may also be a factor.*

*Maximum daytime count 1000 on 23<sup>rd</sup> January (AR). W.W.T. roost counts of nil on 10<sup>th</sup> October, nil on 7<sup>th</sup> November and one on 5<sup>th</sup> December all (AR). Visits at either dawn or dusk were made on 14 other dates between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> December with counts reaching double figures on two occasions only.*

**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. Counts of Icelandic birds during the annual roost census: 12 on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 22 on 7<sup>th</sup> November and 38 on 5<sup>th</sup> December (AR). Roost has declined markedly. Maximum daytime count of 60 on 13<sup>th</sup> October (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. Maximum count: 248 on 9<sup>th</sup> September (BH)..*

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

**BRENT GOOSE:** *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 12<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February (BH).*

**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. Maximum count of 433 on 20<sup>th</sup> February (AR).*

**AMERICAN WIGEON:** *Accidental from North America or escapee from wildfowl collection.*

***Last previous records an unconfirmed sighting in 2003 and a single male present between early October and Mid December 2009 (BH). A single bird was present from the 22<sup>nd</sup> January until 2<sup>nd</sup> February (BH).***

***GADWALL: Occasional winter visitor or during spring passage. Maximum count of 11 on 16<sup>th</sup> March (BH).***

***COMMON TEAL: Regular winter visitor. Maximum count of 362 on 20<sup>th</sup> September (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 and a single drake seen by numerous observers between 28<sup>th</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> April (JB & G Garner).***

***MALLARD: Regular throughout the year. Numbers peaking at 139 on 8<sup>th</sup> October (AR).***

***NORTHERN PINTAIL: Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count of 3 on 8<sup>th</sup> September (BH).***

***NORTHERN SHOVELER: Irregular visitor, winter and spring. Maximum count of 32 on 8<sup>th</sup> September (BH).***

***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 19 on 28<sup>th</sup> February (BH).***

***TUFTED DUCK: Present throughout the year. Maximum count of 210 on 8<sup>th</sup> October (AR).***

***GREATER SCAUP: Very occasional winter visitor. Last previous record single male at Castle Loch. First seen on 6<sup>th</sup> March (BH) and thereafter by various observers until the end of the month. Single male at Castle Loch on 20<sup>th</sup> November (BH).***

***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 latter half of February 2008 and then again from 17<sup>th</sup> November until the end of the year. In 2009 a single male was present from 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and a female from 15<sup>th</sup> November until 16<sup>th</sup> December. One male bird was first seen on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 (BH) and remained until 5<sup>th</sup> being seen by a number of observers.***

***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 60 on 29<sup>th</sup> October (BH). Last birds had left by 28<sup>th</sup> March (AS) and first arrivals seen on 8<sup>th</sup> October (AR).***

**SMEW:** *Seen most winters in small numbers. Last previous records: 3 on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (BH) rising to 4 on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Last sighting: 1 on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Single Redhead at Castle Loch on 14<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** *Fairly regular in winter. Probably slightly under-recorded. Maximum count of 4 on 8<sup>th</sup> October (AR).*

**GOOSANDER:** *Regular winter visitor. Breeds locally. Maximum count: 118 on 28<sup>th</sup> February (BH).*

**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 previous record on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1984 at Hightae Loch. Single at Castle Loch on 7<sup>th</sup> September (BH).*

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

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** *Scarce local breeder. Last previous record one flew over Castle Loch from the west, circled and then returned west on 17<sup>th</sup> 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 now using the area this year. One based in woodland to the East and the other in Castle Wood (AR). Maximum count 7 on 6<sup>th</sup> September (BH).*

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

**OSPREY:** *Occasional on passage, spring and autumn. Last recorded 6<sup>th</sup> September (BH).*

**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 previous record 2004. One seen at Castle Loch on 6<sup>th</sup> September (BH).*

**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 Castle Wood.*

**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.*

**EURASIAN COOT:** *Winter visitor. Small numbers breed. Maximum count 240 on 25<sup>th</sup> November (BH).*

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 previous record several autumn dates in 1995. Three present at Castle Loch on the 7<sup>th</sup> September and one on the 9<sup>th</sup> September (both BH).*

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. Single at Castle Loch on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December (BH).*

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

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. Maximum count of 3 on 5<sup>th</sup> July (BH).***

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:30. Winter roost irregular but building.***

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. Maximum count: 14 on 16<sup>th</sup> August (AR).***

**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 and 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 4 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 previous records 7<sup>th</sup> September 1998, a single at north end of Castle Loch from 8<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (SG, RM) one at Castle Loch 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (BH) and other observers. A single bird was seen this year on the Lockerbie road side on 8<sup>th</sup> September (BH).***

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 record February to July 2009 in Castle Loch Woodland.*

**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. Maximum count 30 on 5<sup>th</sup> January (BH).*

**SAND MARTIN:** *Regular visitor in spring and summer: breeds in banks of River Annan and at Applegarthtown Wildlife Sanctuary. First sighting of 4 on 15<sup>th</sup> March (AR). Maximum count: 540 on 27<sup>th</sup> March (BH).*

**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. A pair with young seen at Victory Park on a number of occasions in June (AR) and a family group of 7 at the Sanctuary Zone on 5<sup>th</sup> July (BH).*

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

*BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Irregular, rare winter visitor. Last previous record 15 by Lochmaben Kirk on 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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. Maximum count in 2010: 3 on 20<sup>th</sup> July (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 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 previous records: single at Castle Loch 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006 (RM ), three at Castle Loch on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 (MG ) and single at Hightae Loch on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (JM ).*

**PIED FLYCATCHER:** *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 9<sup>th</sup> 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. Breeding survey carried out in 2010 (AR & RG) A Lewis lure was used to identify sites for further survey followed by a search for nests. Twelve areas around Castle Loch were singled out initially and nesting was confirmed at seven of these. This shows a very high population for the site in an area where this species is not at all common. 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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2003 (PSed). Two feeding in the trees near the hide on 12<sup>th</sup> January (BH).*

**COMMON TREECREEPER:** *Present throughout the year and 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. Last record two birds overflying 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 (RG).*

**COMMON STARLING:** *Winter visitor and local breeder. The roost in the reeds around Vendace Bay is building up again. 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.*

**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. Numbers were again reduced this year possibly due to the effects of Trichonomiasis which is still present in the area.*

**EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** *Occasional visitor. Probably breeds in some years. Maximum count of 14 on 30<sup>th</sup> November (BH).*

**EURASIAN SISKIN:** *Winter visitor and passage migrant. Maximum count of 20 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November (BH).*

**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. Maximum count of 3 birds on 12<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> November. Both (BH).*

**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.*

**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 2010

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Little Grebe</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Great Cr Grebe</b>	0	0	12	3	4	4	4	13	11	10	4	5
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	0	0	14	3	0	0	5	6	12	18	5	0
<b>Grey Heron</b>	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	1	5	3	2	1
<b>Bittern</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Mute Swan</b>	11	14	13	6	16	61	117	132	45	19	22	6
<b>Whooper Swan</b>	71	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Greylag Goose</b>	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	16	60	42
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>	1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	12	100
<b>Canada Goose</b>	0	6	1	6	10	8	16	0	248	3	6	0
<b>Common Shelduck</b>	0	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	400	433	40	15	0	0	0	0	7	153	47	0
<b>Gadwall</b>	2	2	11	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
<b>Common Teal</b>	0	100	110	0	2	0	0	18	0	18	54	1
<b>Garganey</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mallard</b>	600	112	33	17	19	52	182	111	88	82	110	0
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Common Pochard</b>	0	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	40	148	94	61	0	0	141	94	42	210	59	12
<b>Goldeneye</b>	0	44	22	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12	21
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Smew</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Goosander</b>	0	118	7	0	0	0	0	0	51	55	18	12
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	0	3	59	0	0	12	52	84	41	22	12	24
<b>Common Moorhen</b>	2	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	5	4	2	2

## Monthly Maxima of Waterfowl at Hightae Loch 2010

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Little Grebe</b>	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
<b>Great Cr Grebe</b>	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0
<b>Grey Heron</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Bittern</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mute Swan</b>	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Whooper Swan</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Greylag Goose</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Canada Goose</b>	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Common Shelduck</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Gadwall</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Common Teal</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Garganey</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mallard</b>	0	0	0	0	5	0	12	16	22	29	4	2
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Common Pochard</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	0	0	23	6	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1
<b>Goldeneye</b>	0	0	16	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Smew</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Goosander</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Common Moorhen</b>	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	3	1	1

### Annual maxima of wildfowl at Castle Loch 1980-2010

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 1980-2010 ctd**

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