

# Castle and Hightae Lochs



## Wildlife Report 2014

# Castle and Hightae Lochs L N R Wildlife 2014

Castle Loch is now owned by the local community and managed by a trust on their behalf.

The weather was generally milder in 2014 than the previous two years with far fewer days on which the lochs were frozen. The temperature dropped below zero on 46 days during the year, with the first winter period being the colder. Annual precipitation was the highest since 2011 although it was unevenly spread. September was the driest month with 15mm of rain recorded but this was quickly made up for by October, which at 313mm was the wettest month of the year by far. Sunshine was at average levels and winds were lower than in the two previous years. The breeding season was relatively benign and most species seem to have done well. Flooding was substantially reduced, and absent during the breeding season.

The Pink-footed Goose roost (international importance) and Greylag Goose roost (national importance) are now defunct 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: Pete Antrobus (PA), Kevin Findlater (KF), Darren Flint (DF), Ross Gemmell (RG), Brian Henderson (BH), Joyce Henderson (JH), Helen Kelly (HK), Jim Logan (JL), Richard and Barbara Mearns (R&BM), David Rose (DR), 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 2014 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](mailto:sloch69@aol.com) as soon as possible after the end of the year. Thank you.**

## 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 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 last year in the Castle Woodland and Valison Burn area. Remains present 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 was used briefly this year for the first time 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. Regular visitor to Castle Loch woodland.*

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

**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: 38 on wing; 12 in cop; 5 ovipositing (AR).*

**BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 120 on wing; 22 in cop; 16 ovipositing (AR).*

**COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 200 on wing; 38 in cop; 22 ovipositing (AR).*

**AZURE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 50 on wing; 15 in cop; 9 ovipositing (AR).*

**VARIABLE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 40 on wing; 10 in cop; 5 ovipositing (AR).*

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

**COMMON DARTER:** *Present and breeds. Maximum numbers: 3 on wing; 1 in cop; 1 ovipositing. All at Hightae Loch (AR).*

**FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER:** *Present and may breed. Maximum numbers: 3 on wing at Castle Loch and 4 on wing at Hightae Loch (both AR).*

**COMMON HAWKER:** *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers: 4 on wing at Castle Loch, 4 on wing at Hightae Loch and 1 in cop at Hightae Loch (all 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 prior or since.*

**GOLDEN-RINGED DRAGONFLY:** *Occasional visitor. Single male recorded at Castle Loch on two occasions in 2012 and a single occasion in 2013 (AR). Single record from Vendace Burn this year.*

**MIGRANT HAWKER:** *Present since 2004. No records in 2013 or this year.*

**SOUTHERN HAWKER:** *Single insect recorded at Castle Loch on 10<sup>th</sup> October (BH). A first for the reserve.*

## **HOVERFLIES.**

**ARCTOPHILA SUPERBIENS:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

**BACCHA ELONGATA:** *Present at both loch and may breed.*

**CHRYSOTOXUM BICINCTUM:** *Present at both lochs and may breed.*

**DASYSYRPHUS VENUSTUS:** *Last recorded 16<sup>th</sup> May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

**EPISTROPHE GROSSULARIAE:** *Last recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1979 at Castle Loch.*

**EPISYRPHUS BALTEATUS:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

**ERISTALIS ARBUSTORUM:** *Present at both lochs.*

**ERISTALIS HORTICOLA:** *Present at both lochs.*

**ERISTALIS INTERRUPTUS:** *Present at both lochs.*

**ERISTALIS PERTINAX:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

**ERISTALIS TENAX:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

**EUPEODES LUNIGER:** *Present at both lochs and breeds at Hightae Loch.*

**HELOPHILUS PENDULUS:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

**HELOPHILUS TRIVITTATUS:** *Last record on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1980 at Castle Loch.*

**LEUCOZONA LATERNARIA:** *Last record on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1976 at Castle Loch.*

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

**MELANOSTOMA MELLINUM:** *Last record on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

**MELANOSTOMA SCALARE:** *Present at Castle Loch and may breed there.*

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

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

**NEOASCIA PODAGRICA:** *Last record on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

**NEOASCIA TENUR:** *Last record on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

**PLATYCHEIRUS CLYPEATUS:** *Last record on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

**PLATYCHEIRUS FULVIVENTRIS:** *Last record 14<sup>th</sup> July 1979 at Castle Loch.*

**PLATYCHEIRUS PERPALIDUS:** *Last record on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1980 at Castle Loch.*

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

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

**SCAEVA PYRASTRI:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

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

**SERICOMYIA SILENTIS:** *Present at both lochs and breeds at Hightae Loch.*

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

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

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

**SYRPHUS VITRIPENNIS:** *Present at both lochs and breeds at Hightae Loch. No signs of breeding found at Castle Loch in spite of specific surveying in 2014.*

**VOLUCELLA BOMBYLANS:** *Present at both lochs and breeds at Castle Loch.*

**VOLUCELLA PELLUCENS:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

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

## **BUTTERFLIES.**

**SMALL WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 29 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**LARGE WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 8 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**GREEN-VEINED WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 73 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**ORANGE TIP:** *Maximum numbers 5 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**PEACOCK:** *Maximum numbers 12 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**SMALL TORTOISESHELL:** *Maximum numbers 11 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**RED ADMIRAL:** *Maximum number 18 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**RINGLET:** *Maximum number 36 at Castle Loch (AR).*

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

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

**MEADOW BROWN:** *Maximum number 1 at Castle Loch in 2012 which was only the second record for the reserve. No records in 2013 or 2014.*

**COMMON BLUE:** *One was seen on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 (AR) which was a first record for the reserve. No records since.*

**PAINTED LADY:** *Maximum number 5 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**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 since then.*

## **BUMBLE BEES.**

**BOMBUS PASCUORUM:** *Maximum number: 14 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**BOMBUS LAPIDARIUS:** *Maximum number: 8 at Castle Loch (AR).*

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

**BOMBUS TERESTRIS:** *Maximum number: 41 at Castle Loch (AR).*

**BOMBUS LUCORUM:** *Maximum number: 9 at Castle Loch (AR).*

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

## **AQUATIC MOLLUSCS.**

**LYMNAEA STAGNALIS:** *Maximum number: 8 at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**LYMNAEA PEREGER:** *Maximum number: 3 at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**ANISUS LEUCOSTOMA:** *A few present on 11<sup>th</sup> May (JL).*

**PHYSA FRONTINALIS:** *Maximum number: 100+ at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**PLANORBIS CARINATUS:** *Maximum number: 10+ at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**GYRALUS ALBUS:** *Maximum number: 1 at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**BYTHYNIA TENTACULATA:** *Maximum number: 10+ at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**LYMNAEA PALUSTRIS:** *Maximum number: 5 at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

## **CRUSTACEANS.**

**ASELLUS AQUATICUS:** *Maximum number: 100+ at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**GAMMARUS PULEX:** *Maximum number: 10+ at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

## **INSECTS.**

**NEPEA CINEREA:** *Maximum number: 1 larvae at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**SIALIS LUTARIA:** *Maximum number: 1 larvae at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**LIMNEPHILUS RHOMBICUS:** *Maximum number: 10+ larvae at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

### **OTHER AQUATIC SPECIES.**

**POLYCELIS FELIX:** *Maximum number: 10+ at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**HAEMOPSIS SANGUISUGA:** *Maximum number: 3 at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

**LEECH:** *Maximum number: 4 at car park area on 26<sup>th</sup> November (JL).*

### **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 at Castle Loch. Maximum count: 3 at Castle Loch on 17<sup>th</sup> February (AR). Adult with three young at Hightae Loch on 14<sup>th</sup> July (AR).*

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE:** *Regular breeder. First bred at Lochmaben in 1891. Maximum count: 12 adults on 14<sup>th</sup> July (AR). Three broods of young seen at Castle Loch this year but high mortality will mean that return to previous numbers will be slow. The programme of mink trapping now in place seems to be reducing the nest predation that was previously such a problem.*

**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 records one in October 2009 (BH) and two in November 2010.*

**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: 31 on 17<sup>th</sup> March (AR).*

**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). Single bird seen on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2011(BH) and again on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (BH, JH). Two birds present on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 (BH). Single bird seen at Castle Loch on numerous occasions between 8<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (BH). A single bird present on 6<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (BH). Single bird seen on a number of occasions in the Castle Wood area between 11<sup>th</sup> January and 27<sup>th</sup> February (BH). Single bird present in reeds on Lockerbie road side on 14<sup>th</sup> December (AR).**

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

**GREY HERON:** *Regular Visitor. Maximum count 8 on 17<sup>th</sup> March (AR).*

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

**MUTE SWAN:** *Regular breeder with two pairs fledging young again this year. The usual rise in numbers during the moulting period saw a maximum of 135 birds on 11<sup>th</sup> August (AR).*

**BEWICK'S SWAN:** *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 20<sup>th</sup> January 1995. Three birds at Castle Loch on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (BH) rising to five birds on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011(BH). Five birds still present on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 (AR). No records in 2013 or 2014.*

**WHOOPEE SWAN:** *Irregular winter visitor. Numbers remain low this year. Maximum counts: 22 on 19<sup>th</sup> March (BH) and 14 on 13<sup>th</sup> October (AR) dropping to 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December (PA).*

**BLACK SWAN:** *Rare vagrant. Last previous record of a single bird that arrived in early July 2010 and was in the area until mid-September of that year. Two birds present in sanctuary zone early on the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (BH). No records in 2014.*

**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. Sadly, although the surrounding fields are still used by some geese for feeding, the roost on Castle Loch has collapsed. Although regularly monitored during the winter season, this Ramsar site is now completely defunct. Once again this year no night time counts recorded any birds roosting.*

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

**GREYLAG GOOSE:** *Once a regular visitor in nationally important numbers. Two pairs were resident and bred. A third pair were occasionally present with their young. This pair are believed to have bred on Halleaths Oxbow on the River Annan. Broods were 4, 4 and 3. No large gatherings of post breeding birds or Icelandic bird noted on the loch this year although considerable numbers of Icelandic birds continue to use their traditional feeding areas around Lochmaben. No birds in the roost during the official count dates with fishermen very active in boats. Occasional dawn counts never made double figures.*

**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 UK resident. Occurs throughout the year and is an irregular breeder on the reserve. At least two pairs bred this year with broods of 6 and 4 young seen 11<sup>th</sup> August (AR). Maximum count: 181 on 12<sup>th</sup> October (AR).*

**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. Last record was a single bird overflying on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 (BH).*

**COMMON SHELDUCK:** *Irregular breeder, usually one or two pairs only. Last recorded breeding 2007. No signs of successful breeding on the reserve again this year. Maximum count: 8 during WeBS counts in July and November (AR).*

**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).*

**MANDARIN DUCK:** *Escape from wildfowl collections. Only recorded once on the reserve when a single bird was present on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 near Lochside plantation (BH).*

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

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** *Regular winter visitor, scarce in summer. Maximum count: 520 on 17<sup>th</sup> February (AR). Maximum count during the second winter period was 610 on 10<sup>th</sup> December (AR).*

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> January until 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 (BH). Single male at Castle Loch 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012 (BH). A further single male was seen in Vendace Bay on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2012 (both BH). No records in 2013 or this year.*

**GADWALL:** *Occasional winter visitor or during spring passage. Single summer record of two birds in 2013. Birds were regularly present during the first three months of the year with a maximum count of 6 on 17<sup>th</sup> February (AR). Numbers were held up during the second winter period, with 6 birds present on 10<sup>th</sup> November (AR). No birds were noted during the summer this year.*

**COMMON TEAL:** *Regular winter visitor. Maximum count: 252 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January (BH).*

**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 and breeds. Numbers peaking at 311 during the moult gathering on 11<sup>th</sup> August (AR).*

**NORTHERN PINTAIL:** *Irregular winter visitor. Two birds present on 2<sup>nd</sup> January (BH). A single bird was present between 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December (both AR).*

**NORTHERN SHOVELER:** *Irregular visitor, winter and spring. Maximum count: 8 on 13<sup>th</sup> October (AR).*

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

**COMMON POCHARD:** *Irregular winter visitor. Numbers returned to their usual levels with a maximum count of 7 on 19<sup>th</sup> February (BH). Two during second winter period on 10<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**TUFTED DUCK:** *Present throughout the year. Maximum count: 215 on 2<sup>nd</sup> February (BH). Maximum count during second winter period 177 on 14<sup>th</sup> December (AR). Four young seen during WeBS count on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 (AR) but none reported this year.*

**GREATER SCAUP:** *Very occasional winter visitor. Single record from Castle Loch in 2010 and six in 2013. No records in 2014.*

**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 previous record at Castle Loch on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006 (RM). Single male present in Vendace Bay on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2013 (BH). No records in 2014.*

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

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** *Regular winter visitor, sometimes remaining well into summer. Maximum count: 108 on 2<sup>nd</sup> February (BH). As usual all birds were gone by the end of March. The return was much earlier than in 2013 with two females present on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Numbers fluctuated thereafter with 41 on 10<sup>th</sup> November (AR), 25 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December (PA) and peaking at 72 on 10<sup>th</sup> December (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 2010 (AR). Single female present at Castle Loch on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (BH). Single female present at Dalton Road piers on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (BH). Single female present in Innerfield Burn area 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (BH).*

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** *Was once a fairly regular visitor in winter. Has declined substantially in recent years but probably slightly under-recorded. Record of a single male at Henderland Island, Castle Loch on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012 (BH). No records in 2013 or 2014.*

**GOOSANDER:** *Regular winter visitor. Breeds locally. Once present in sub-nationally important numbers. The increase in numbers noted in 2013 continued this year with regular counts of over*

**130 birds during both winter periods. Maximum count during first winter period 142 on 19<sup>th</sup> February (BH). Maximum count in second winter period was 151 on 10<sup>th</sup> November (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 previous records a single on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1984 at Hightae Loch and a single at Castle Loch on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (BH). Single bird quartering over the Vendace Bay reed beds on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013 (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. The area continues to be used by two pairs, one based in woodland to the East and the other in Castle Wood (AR). Maximum count: 6 soaring on 8<sup>th</sup> September (AR).*

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

**OSPREY:** *Occasional on passage, spring and autumn. A single bird was seen in the Lochside Plantation area on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 and there was a further sighting of a single bird in the same area on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 (all BH). One at Castle Loch on 13<sup>th</sup> May this year (DF).*

**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. Single flying over at Castle Loch on 24<sup>th</sup> February (BH). Last previous records were a single at Castle Loch on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and a juvenile seen at Hightae Loch on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (both BH).*

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE:** *Sometimes reared and released in area. Single bird seen on entrance road to castle on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (BH). No records in 2013 or 2014.*

**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. There were ten records in 2013, a considerable advance on 2012 in which there were only three. Numbers dropped again this year with only records of single birds, although they were recorded in all seasons.*

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. Maximum count: 12 on 10<sup>th</sup> November (AR). Adult with 5 juveniles seen on 14<sup>th</sup> July (AR).*

**EURASIAN COOT:** *Winter visitor. Small numbers breed. Maximum count: 69 on 17<sup>th</sup> February (AR). Adult and 5 young seen on 14<sup>th</sup> July (AR).*

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. A pair of birds was present in the reserve during the breeding season but once again no breeding was confirmed.*

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. No breeding noted in 2014. 120 birds overflying on 14<sup>th</sup> July (AR).*

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 previous records 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. Single bird at Henderland Island on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (BH). No records in 2014.*

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 2010 and one on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (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 2010 (BH). Two in Castle Woods on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 (BH). Single in Castle Woods on 10<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

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 2010 (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. Two records of single birds on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1994 and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (BH). No records in 2014.*

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

**COMMON SANDPIPER:** *Uncommon passage migrant, local breeder. An adult with 3 juveniles was present in Sanctuary Zone on 3rd July 2013 (BH) and this suggested breeding within the reserve. No records in 2014*

**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 previous record 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004. Single in gull roost on 27<sup>th</sup> February (BH).*

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** *Common winter visitor; breeds locally. Maximum daytime count: 190 (AR). Winter roost irregular but continues to build with a count of 11500 on 15<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL:** *Rare vagrant. Only previous records: One bird on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2003 (Birdguides). At least one bird present in Castle Loch roost between 24<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 with two birds confirmed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and three on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Two birds in the roost during the second winter period on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (all BH). A single bird seen in the roost on each occasion it was checked this year with two birds present on 19th February (BH).*

**COMMON GULL:** *Mainly a winter visitor. The decline in numbers in winter roost which is now dominated by Black-headed Gulls continues. Maximum count 350 on 15<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** *Most birds migrate south in winter. Usually at least one or two birds present throughout the year. Maximum count: 4 on 11<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**HERRING GULL:** *Seen regularly in small numbers in day time. Breeds locally. Present in roost. Maximum count 240 on 15<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**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 40 in gull roost on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (BH). Three seen in roost on 15<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**KITTIWAKE:** *Rare visitor. Last previous record 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January 1984. Two birds passed through on 19<sup>th</sup> February (BH).*

**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 previous records singles on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003 and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011 (BH). Two at the Lochside Cottage area of Castle Loch on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 (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 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 near the Lockerbie road on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (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 previous record was a bird seen daytime flying in Castle Loch Woodland on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (BH). Single bird seen over Sanctuary Zone field on 19<sup>th</sup> May (AR).*

**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. Maximum count 84 hawking over Castle Loch on 16<sup>th</sup> June (AR).*

**COMMON KINGFISHER:** *Regular visitor, breeds locally. Maximum records this year two birds seen by several observers on a number of occasion. No records of young.*

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

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

**EURASIAN SKYLARK:** *Irregular visitor. Last record 3 on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011 (AR).*

**SAND MARTIN:** *Regular visitor in spring and summer: breeds in banks of River Annan and at Applegarthtown Wildlife Sanctuary. First record of 20 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (BH). Maximum count: 255 on 21<sup>st</sup> April (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 25<sup>th</sup> September 1981.*

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

**PIED WAGTAIL:** *Irregular visitor and breeder. Confirmed breeding for the fourth consecutive year. Two adults with five young seen at Bowling Club Car Park on several occasions in June (AR).*

**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. Breeding confirmed from five sites at Castle Loch and one at Hightae.*

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

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

**COMMON REDSTART:** *Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder on the reserve. A pair present in Castle Woods on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013 (BH). No records in 2014.*

**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. Maximum count 9 on 13<sup>th</sup> October (AR).*



**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 in 2012. Three seen in boardwalk area on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 (BH). Pair present in Castle Wood in May/June but no proof of breeding found.*

**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. Breeding confirmed for two sites at Castle Loch and one site at Hightae Loch.*

**REED WARBLER:** *Summer visitor and recent breeder. Breeding confirmed for at least two sites again this year.*

**COMMON WHITETHROAT:** *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 12<sup>th</sup> August 1996 and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013 (BH).*

**GARDEN WARBLER:** *Summer visitor and breeder. Breeding confirmed at one site this year.*

**BLACKCAP:** *Summer visitor and breeder. Breeding confirmed at two sites.*

**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. Confirmed breeding at three sites at Castle Loch this year.*

**WILLOW WARBLER:** *Summer visitor and regular breeder. Breeding confirmed for at least two sites at Castle Loch and one site at Hightae Loch.*

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER:** *Scarce autumn visitor to Western Europe. A single bird, probably the same individual, was seen on three occasions in October 2013. These are the only records from the reserve.*

**GOLDCREST:** *Present throughout the year and confirmed 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. Maximum count 21 on 10<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**WILLOW TIT:** *Resident and regular breeder. The Willow Tit (*Poecile montana*) is a scarce resident of Dumfries & Galloway, very close to the northern boundary of its range. In 2011 an annual survey was started at Castle Loch to monitor success and failure of breeding. Published studies have suggested that Willow Tit nest site preferences are for standing dead wood of between 2-4m in height, within an area of developed understorey and high soil water content. Because of this, locating suitable points within the narrow bands of woodland around Castle Loch is not a particularly difficult task. The methodology was a simplified form of that used by Lewis et al 2009<sup>i</sup>. The woodland strips to the west, south and east of the loch were walked in the early morning on several days of suitable weather during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April. A recorded call was used at regular points 200m apart. The call was*

sounded for two minutes or until a bird responded, whichever was the sooner. When a bird responded, its location (ten figure grid reference) and the direction from which it came, were carefully recorded. All spontaneous calls and sightings were also recorded. Once territories were established they were monitored regularly during the breeding season to establish the success or failure of the breeding attempt. Five factors were monitored where possible although time constraints and other factors meant that it was unusual to be able to record all five for a particular territory.

- 1) *Singing male*
- 2) *Female present*
- 3) *Nest building*
- 4) *Adults with food or faecal sacs.*
- 5) *Fledged young*

The maximum number of territories held at the start of the 2011 season was eight. The table below shows the results for the years 2011 to 2013.

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Territories</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>1</b>	2011	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	2012	X	X	X	X		X	X	
	2013	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	2014	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>2</b>	2011	X	X	X	X			X	
	2012		X						
	2013								
	2014		X		X		X	X	
<b>3</b>	2011	X			X	X		X	
	2012		X						
	2013								
	2014		X		X	X		X	
<b>4</b>	2011		X			X			
	2012		X						
	2013							X	
	2014		X					X	
<b>5</b>	2011	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	2012	X		X		X	X	X	
	2013		X	X	X			X	
	2014		X	X	X			X	

<sup>1</sup> Lewis, Alex J. G., Amar, Arjun, Daniells, Laura, Charman, Elisabeth C., Grice, Phil and Smith, Ken (2009) 'Factors influencing patch occupancy and within-patch habitat use in an apparently stable population of Willow Tits *Poecile montanus kleinschmidti* in Britain', *Bird Study*, 56:3,326 — 337

**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). Single birds seen at a number of locations within woodland around both lochs (DF, AR). No signs of breeding so far.*

**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. Two adults with three juveniles seen on 5<sup>th</sup> June (BH).*

**HOODED CROW:** *Last recorded 1981.*

**COMMON RAVEN:** *Occasional visitor. Last previous record two birds overflying 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 and one on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Two birds overflying on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013 (BH). Two over Vendace Bay on 19<sup>th</sup> February (BH) and a single bird overflying on 13<sup>th</sup> October (AR).*

**COMMON STARLING:** *Winter visitor and local breeder. The roost in the reeds around Vendace Bay is smaller again this year. Maximum count: 2500 on 15<sup>th</sup> November (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 42 near Vendace Cottage on 11<sup>th</sup> 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 males in chaffinch flock near Vendace Cottage on 8<sup>th</sup> December (AR).*

**EUROPEAN GREENFINCH:** *Present throughout the year, probably breeds. Numbers continuing their slow increase this year.*

**EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** *Occasional visitor. Probably breeds in some years. Maximum count: 9 adults and 2 juveniles on 11<sup>th</sup> August (AR).*

**EURASIAN SISKIN:** *Winter visitor and passage migrant. Maximum count: 14 on 10<sup>th</sup> November (AR).*

**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. Seven on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (BH). No records in 2014*

**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. Family group of 6 seen in Castle Wood on 11<sup>th</sup> August (AR).*

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

**COMMON REED BUNTING:** *Regular resident breeder. Breeding confirmed for three sites.*

**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 Selected Species at Castle Loch 2014

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Little Grebe</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	1
<b>Great Cr Grebe</b>	6	7	10	8	4	8	8	10	13	12	10	10
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	0	0	0	0	5	12	10	11	16	20	22	22
<b>Grey Heron</b>	5	5	6	4	2	4	3	4	4	4	5	5
<b>Bittern</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Mute Swan</b>	22	49	62	44	45	42	22	128	12	84	62	58
<b>Whooper Swan</b>	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
<b>Greylag Goose</b>	6	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	4	2	2	6
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Canada Goose</b>	120	56	12	132	0	4	128	135	142	181	128	69
<b>Common Shelduck</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	314	317	120	33	2	12	46	132	281	262	141	38
<b>Gadwall</b>	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Common Teal</b>	252	0	0	14	22	20	12	21	30	0	120	40
<b>Garganey</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mallard</b>	120	68	69	0	102	102	60	311	251	168	110	130
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Common Pochard</b>	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	215	55	56	52	56	0	48	60	68	72	82	89
<b>Goldeneye</b>	108	0	0	186	0	0	0	0	0	1	48	72
<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	142	68	0	0	0	0	12	16	110	151	130
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	22	14	32	44	0	21	22	42	26	19	18	18
<b>Common Moorhen</b>	2	5	5	6	7	8	4	6	6	8	4	6

## Monthly Maxima of Selected Species at Hightae Loch 2014

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Little Grebe</b>	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2
<b>Great Cr Grebe</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Grey Heron</b>	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Bittern</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mute Swan</b>	2	1	0	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	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Gadwall</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Common Teal</b>	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	6	6	0	0
<b>Garganey</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mallard</b>	6	9	8	12	14	15	15	25	22	20	20	20
<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	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Goldeneye</b>	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	0	0	0	0
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Common Moorhen</b>	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2

