

Birds in Moray & Nairn



2019

Birds in Moray & Nairn in 2019

MORAY & NAIRN BIRD REPORT

No.34 – 2019

Published at www.birdsinmorayandnairn.org in July 2022

CONTENTS

	Page
How to submit records	3
Assessment of rarity records	4
Observers contributing to Birds in Moray & Nairn 2019	6
The recording area	7
Species accounts	8
Species account index	89
Ringling Report 2019	<i>Bob Proctor</i> 91
Grid references of localities mentioned in the species accounts	100

Edited by *Martin Cook* (Scottish Ornithologists' Club Recorder for Moray & Nairn).

Cover photograph: Whitethroat at the Lossie estuary, 25 April 2019 (David Main).

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Bob Proctor	wildfowl, tits, hirundines, warblers, thrushes, chats, sparrows, wagtails, pipits
Duncan Gibson	waders
Richard Somers Cocks	seabirds, doves, rails, grebes, owls, woodpeckers
Martin Cook	gamebirds, divers, raptors, corvids, finches, buntings

This edition of Birds in Moray & Nairn, the 34th edition of the Moray & Nairn bird report, is available only online at www.birdsinmorayandnairn.org. For those who wish a hard copy, this can be printed from the website.

In addition to the species account authors, the editor would like to thank all those who have submitted their observations, and the photographers who have generously permitted the use of their images.

HOW TO SUBMIT RECORDS

There are two main ways in which you can submit your records:

1. To Birdtrack

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club is now a BirdTrack partner with the BTO, RSPB and BirdWatch Ireland.

BirdTrack is a web-based bird recording project that looks at migration movements and distributions of birds throughout Britain and Ireland. It provides facilities for observers to store and manage their own personal records as well as using these for the production of local bird reports, and to support species conservation at local, regional, national and even international scales.

The principle behind BirdTrack is that if you have been out birdwatching anywhere in Britain and Ireland, or merely watching birds in your garden, records of the birds you have seen (or indeed have not seen) can be useful data. Thus, the scheme is year-round, and ongoing, and anyone with an interest in birds can contribute. Important results produced by BirdTrack include mapping migration timings and monitoring scarce birds. We know very little about the timing of arrival and departure of winter visitors and this is just one area in which BirdTrack will provide useful information. There are also many scarce birds where we would like to know much more about their populations. The SOC hopes that most birdwatchers in Scotland will soon adopt BirdTrack as their main bird recording and information sharing tool.

To find out more, or to register and get started, visit the BirdTrack website at www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdtrack

2. To the Moray and Nairn Recorder

Records may be submitted periodically during the year or in one batch as soon as possible after the end of the year, and by the end of January at the latest. Although any format is acceptable, the Recorder would be very grateful to receive as many submissions as possible on Excel – a spreadsheet with appropriate headings may be obtained from the Recorder (see below). Minimum information required for each record should include species name, number, date and location (if possible with a 6-figure map reference, although a 4-figure map reference is often adequate).

More information on how, and where, to submit your records can be found in the ‘Submitting records’ section of the Birds in Moray and Nairn website at www.birdsinmorayandnairn.org/bird-recording/submitting-records/.

ASSESSMENT OF RARITY RECORDS

In order that an entirely accurate archive of records of rare and scarce species is maintained it is clearly important to apply consistent standards to the acceptance of such records. This is ensured through a system of assessment of written descriptions of the circumstances of the occurrence and of the bird itself. Those who make use of our reports in the future must have confidence that all published records have been scrutinised and considered acceptable by the birding community of today.

A three-tier system of record assessment exists:

British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) assesses records of extreme rarities, in a British context. The full committee contains ten voting members of which at least nine must vote in favour of a record for it to be accepted.

A list of species currently considered by BBRC can be found at www.bbrc.org.uk/currentrarespecies.htm

Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) assesses records of birds rare in a Scottish context but not sufficiently rare to be assessed by BBRC. The committee consists of seven voting members of which at least six must vote in favour.

A list of species currently considered by SBRC can be found at www.the-soc.org.uk/sbrc-list.htm

Moray & Nairn Rarities Committee (MNRC) assesses slightly less rare Scottish species and all other local rarities. The committee consists of five voting members of which at least four must vote in favour for a record to be accepted. Current membership of MNRC is Martin Cook, Roy Dennis, Duncan Gibson, Bob Proctor and Dave Pullan.

The following species are currently on the MNRC list:

Bewick's Swan	Bean Goose	American Wigeon
Green-winged Teal	Garganey (except adult male)	Ring-necked Duck
Ruddy Duck (except adult male)	Surf Scoter (except adult male)	Balearic Shearwater
Leach's Petrel	Red-necked Grebe	Black-necked Grebe
White Stork	Spoonbill	Bittern
Little Egret	Great White Egret	Honey-buzzard
Rough-legged Buzzard	Hobby	Spotted Crake
Corncrake	Crane	Avocet
Little Ringed Plover (except lower River Spey)	American Golden Plover	Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Red-necked Phalarope
Grey Phalarope	Long-tailed Skua	Sabine's Gull
Ring-billed Gull	Black Tern	Roseate Tern
Turtle Dove	Nightjar	Hoopoe
Wryneck	Green Woodpecker	Red-backed Shrike
Great Grey Shrike	Golden Oriole	Chough
Bearded Tit	Shore Lark	Yellow-browed Warbler
Reed Warbler	Icterine Warbler	Lesser Whitethroat
Firecrest	Nuthatch	Rose-coloured Starling
Bluethroat	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Black Redstart
Yellow Wagtail	Richard's Pipit	Water Pipit
Common Rosefinch	Hawfinch	Lapland Bunting

Other species recorded for the first time in Moray & Nairn, and not on BBRC or SBRC lists, are also assessed by MNRC.

If you find a rare species in Moray & Nairn, please contact the recorder (Martin Cook) who will provide forms and forward these to the relevant committee. Alternatively, further information and forms can be found and downloaded from the website at www.birdsinmorayandnairn.org/bird-recording/moray-nairn-rarities-committee/

Records of species on the lists of BBRC, SBRC or MNRC will only appear in *Birds in Moray & Nairn* following acceptance of the record by the relevant committee. It must be stressed, however, that the failure of a record to be accepted by a committee does not imply disbelief of the observer, or that the observer is mistaken in the identification; simply that not quite enough evidence has been assimilated by the observer in the time or conditions available.

OBSERVERS CONTRIBUTING TO *BIRDS IN MORAY & NAIRN 2019*

S Adam, I Addis, H Addlesee, S Ainsworth, G Aitken, D Allan, V Anderson, A Antley, C Armour (CA), B Aspinall (BA), I Bailey (IB), M C Bale, T Barratt, B Bates, G Beattie, G Biggs, J H Bingley, F Birkinshaw, B Blackhall (BB), A Blinston, I Boston, R Bradshaw, A Bramhall, J Brander, M Brennan, I Broadbent, S Broyd (SBr), N Burgum, A N M Burns, D Campbell, P Carter, P Cartlidge, J Chandler, A Chapman (AC), H Clark (HC), P Clark, J A Clarke (JAC), K Clarke, A J Clunas (ACl), S Cohen, M Collins, J C Cook (JCC), M J H Cook (MJHC), N Cooper (NC), B Cosnette (BCo), J K Craib (JKC), E Craig, M G Crutch (MGC), S Cullum, K Cunningham (KCu), P Dale, E Dalglish (ED), P Daunter, J Davies (JD), P Day, M Deighan, R Denison-Pender, R H Dennis (RHD), D Derrick, T Dewick, S Donnelly, M Doubleday (MD), A Douse (AD), J Downing, J M Dowson, S Duffield, D Dugan (DD), G Dunbar, D Eatch, M Eaton, S Eaves, A Edward (AE), S Edwards, P Elford, B Etheridge, L G R Evans, H Farquhar (HF), M Farrar, M Fewster (MF), I Folly, I Francis (IF), A Galbraith, D Galloway, M Galloway (MG), M Garden, J Gate, D A Gibson (DAG), L Gibson, R Goater (RG), R Gomes, J D Gordon (JDG), P R Gordon (PRG), A Grady, L Graham, M Greaves, I Green, J Griffiths, A Grimsey, S Hamilton (SH), N Hammat, P Hampson, N&A Hand (N&AH), M Hanlin, E Harris, J Harrison (JH), R Harrison, E Harwood (EH), P Hibberd, A C Hilton, J Hogg, M Hooper, P Hopkinson, S Howells, A Hudson, L Hunter, P P Hyvonen, R Ince (RI), P Insole, L Ison, R Johnson, J Jones, T Jones, R Jordan, A Joss (AJ), S Julian, M King, K Kingscott, G&S Larrington (G&SL), J D Law (JDL), A J Lawrence, A Lawson (AL), J Leestmans, V Leith, C G Leslie (CGL), D Leslie (DL), S D Levene, R Leverton, J Lomas, A Macaskill (AMac), J MacDonald, F MacFraser, S Macgillivray (SM), C Mackay (CMac), D Mackay (DMac), T Mackrill, R MacLachlan (RMac), A MacLeod, A MacMillan, A MacNicoll, A MacQueen, H E Maggs (HM), D Main (DM), J Mair (JM), M Marquiss (MMq), B Marshall, T Marshall, K Martin (KM), S Massie, T Masson, W Mattingley, S Mawson, R McAloon, D Mchardy, G McCrae (GMcC), F McHugh (FM), R McMillan, G McMullins (GM), A McNee (AMc), A McNeil, A Meek, A Miller, C Miller, J Milne, P Moore (PMo), H Moors, I Morgan, L Morrison (LM), W M Morrison, R Morsley, S Murkin, M Murray, J Neal, S Noble, D C Orr-Ewing, D Owen, A Paterson (AP), G Paterson, K Paterson, D Patterson, J Penman, J Picton (JP), D Pierce, B Piercey, R Potter, J Poyner (JPo), R J F Prentice, S Prescott, G Prest (GP), R Proctor (RP), J Protheroe, D M Pullan (DMP), D Radford, G Rankin, M Ranner (MR), P Rawnsley (PR), G Rebecca (GR), S Reed, G Rees, A Reid, A Reid, G Reid, R Richardson, D Rickards, A & F Ritchie (A&FR), D Roche, H Rolton (HR), S Rosser, J Rowland (JR), G Russell, M Russell, K Rylands, A Scott, J Scrimgeour, S Seright, M Sharpe (MS), C&D Shaw, M Shaw, B Sheldon, R A Shewan (RS), A Shields, E Shilland, H Sim, J Simpson (JSi), L Simpson, A Sinclair, M Sitnikova, D Slater, G & D Smith, I Smith, C Smith, C Smout, R Somers Cocks (RSC), A Souter, A Spiers, J Spencer, M Spriggs, G Stacey, J Stalker, M Stanyer, A Steele, K Stokes (KS), T Stowe, P Stronach (PSt), M Sullivan, N Sutherland (NS), P Sutton, P Swainson (PS), B&K Tate, A Taylor, S Taylor, W G Taylor, C Thomas, B Thompson (BT), D Thomson, J Tilby, F Todd, R B Tozer, N Truby, J Trythall, A E Turner (AET), A Walker, G Walker (GW), S Wallace (SW), S Wanless, M Warren, K Waterfall (KW), T J Wells, C West (CW), E Weston (EW), D Wheeler, M Whifton (MWh), B Whyte, B Wilcock (BW), J Willet, A Williams (AW), K Williams, C&S Williamson, J Wilson, J Wilson, P Winn (PW), P Wood, D Wrycraft, L Wynn, A Young (AY).

Apologies to anyone accidentally omitted.

THE RECORDING AREA

The Moray & Nairn recording area comprises the local authority area of Moray together with the former county of Nairn, which is now part of Highland Council area. The two parts of the recording area are shown by grey lines in the map below. The boundary can be seen in greater detail on the SOC website at <https://www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/grid-reference-finder>



SPECIES ACCOUNTS

The following terms are used at the start of each species account to denote relative abundance:

Breeding species:

Occasional	Has bred but none in most years
Rare	1-10 pairs in most years
Scarce	11-50 pairs
Fairly common	51-200 pairs
Common	201-500 pairs
Very common	more than 500 pairs

Non-breeding species:

Rare	1-20 records in total
Very scarce	Not rare but less than 10 in most years
Scarce	10-50 in most years
Fairly common	51-200 in most years
Common	201-500 annually
Very common	more than 500 annually

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*

Scarce resident breeder.

Breeding: Birds persist at very low densities in Moray & Nairn, spread across a number of fragmented forests. Leks or single cocks were located in five areas (down from nine in 2017), containing a total of 7 males, down from 16 in 2017 (MD, RSPB). A female was near Fochabers on 22 Nov (FM).

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

Scarce resident breeder.

Recorded at Aitnoh (3 on 23 Feb, up to 4 males in Apr-May), Ardwell (1 male on 30 Mar), Blackwater Lodge area (6 males on 17 May), Blairnamarrow (2 on 24 Feb), Carn Daimh (2 on 11 Dec), Dava (8 [7 males] on 28 Apr, 4 on 15 Sep), Glenmullie (8 males on 1 Jun), Inverblye (2 on 11 Jan) and Mid Bellandy (4 on 25 May).

Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Largest monthly counts on Ben Rinnes were 6 on 2 Mar, 5 on 24 Mar, 8 on 23 Oct and 4 on 18 Dec (AE, DL, DM). Very low numbers reported in the Cairngorms; five around Lochan Buidhe on 25 May was the highest of 24 counts received.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Very common resident breeder.

Counts of 10 or more were 15 Cairn Ellick 14 Dec, 10 Creagan a' Chaise 1 Dec and 20+ near Well of Lecht 24 Dec.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa**Introduced scarce breeder. Commonly released.*

Breeding: An adult was accompanied by 3 tiny chicks at Pitairlie on 14 Jul (RP) and a pair with small chicks was at Westfield on 18 Jun (HF). Although in some areas large numbers are reared and released for shooting, breeding is not often confirmed in the wild.

Largest counts were 8 Dunearn 14 Feb and 6 near Refouble 17 Sep. Elsewhere, up to four were seen at Aitnoch, Auchnarrow, Ballindalloch, Balnught, Bogeney, College of Roseisle, Dava, Dulsie Bridge, Glenferness, Glenshiel, Little Aitnoch and Lynebeg.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix**Fairly common resident breeder.*

Breeding season (April-Aug): Birds were seen or heard at Auldearn, Balormie, Covesea, Dunearn, Forres, Gelford, Hillhead, Howford Bridge, Inverugie, Kinloss, Lethen, Lossiemouth, Milton of Grange and Netherton. The only confirmation of breeding came from Lossiemouth airbase where there was a pair with 12 chicks on 5 Aug.

Additional sites where birds were seen at other times of year were Coltfeld, Croughly, Cummingston, Duffus Castle, Earnhill, Easter Lawrenceton, Grigorhill, Househill, Kinnudie, Kintessack, Loch Spynie, Lochaber, Longmorn, Kingsteps, Ordbreck, Refouble, Roseisle maltings, Shenvault and Upper Meft.

Reports of more than five birds together were 15 Coltfeld 10 Feb, 15 Earnhill 14 Jan, 13 Netherton 8 Jan, 12 Cummingston 6 Jan (and 7 there 21 Oct), 12 Roseisle maltings 17 Nov (8 there on 10 Feb), 8 Duffus Castle 4 Nov, 8 Loch Spynie 4 Dec, 7 Hillhead 7 Oct, 7 Refouble 29 Oct, 6 Auldearn 24 Oct and 6 Easter Lawrenceton 18 Jan.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix**Very scarce summer visitor and breeder, occasionally more numerous.*

Only one singing bird reported, at Lethen during 2-20 Jul (JH).

In recent years, the total number of singing Quail has varied as follows:

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
4	4	2	9	0	0	3	3	2	12	2	1

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus**Very common resident breeder.*

In slightly unusual habitat was one at Culbin Bar on 1 Jun.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla**Scarce migrant and winter visitor.*

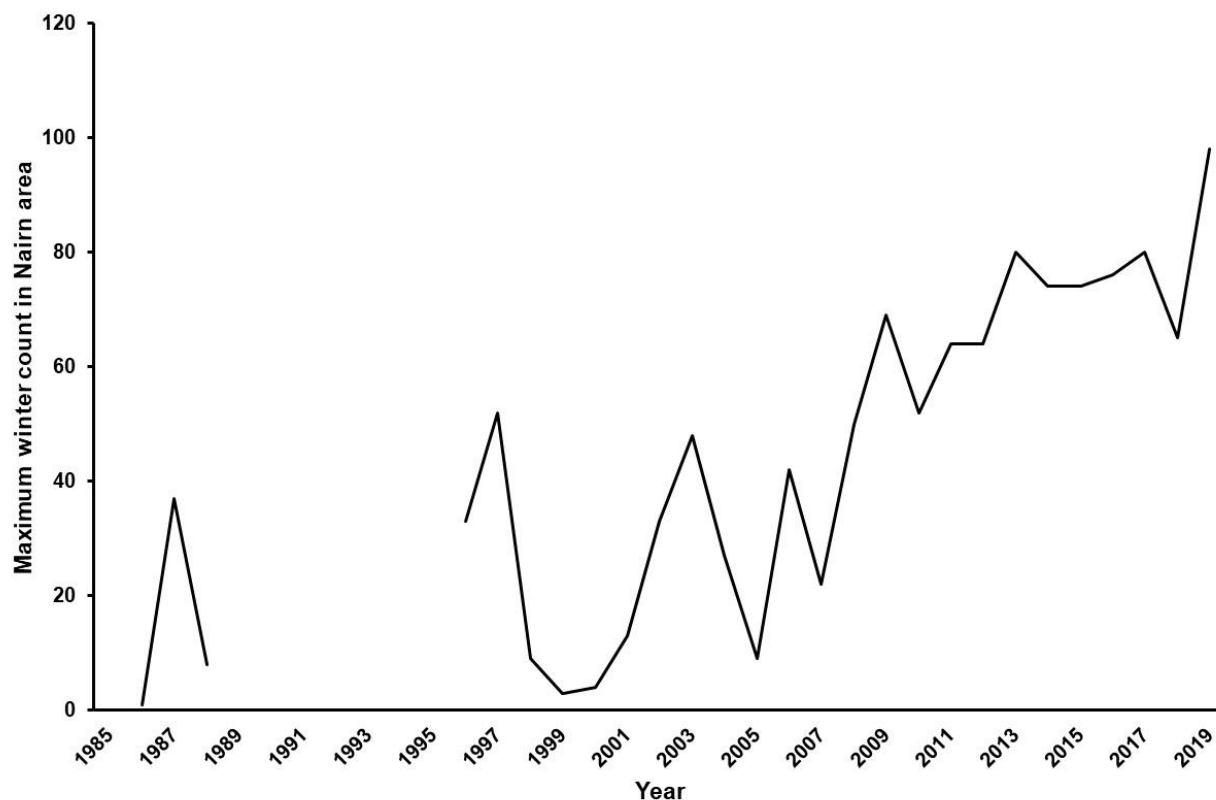
The majority of records related to Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B. b. hrota* particularly the regular flock in the Nairn area where groups were recorded from Delnies eastwards to the Nairn/Culbin Bars. In December, the flock off Nairn west golf course also held a Dark-bellied Brent Goose *B. b. bernicla* and two Grey-bellied Brants *Branta sp.* Grey-bellied Brant is a new taxon for Moray & Nairn, however, it has not been assigned a scientific name as research continues into its taxonomy. Grey-bellied Brant breeds on Melville and Prince Patrick Islands in the High Arctic. These areas are within the breeding range of the more widespread Pale-bellied Brent Goose.

Winter: Present in the Nairn area from 1 Jan-20 Apr; maximum was 70 on 21 Feb.

Largest annual group size reported from the Nairn area 2009-2019:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
69	52	64	64	80	74	57	76	80	65	98

Maximum annual winter counts from the Nairn area, 1985-2019:



One record away from the Nairn area involved an unusual inland sighting; an individual with Pink-footed and Greylag Geese at Aitnoch 29 Mar (A&FR).



Brent Goose, Aitnoch 29 March 2019 (Alison Ritchie)

Autumn passage period (September-October): The only autumn records occurred in the Nairn area (involving 12 on 16-19 Sep), Lossie estuary (initially 2 on 14 Sep, increasing to 13 on 16-28 Sep, with a maximum count of 14 on 26 Sep) and Lossiemouth (2 west 15 Sep during a seawatch; Lossie estuary birds?). Two broods at the Lossie estuary involved 3 & 5 juveniles.

Winter: In the Nairn area, the maximum count in November was 9 on 9th. Numbers were still low in early December (*e.g.* 5 on 9 Dec), though quickly increased with 12 Delnies and 43 Nairn Bar 15 Dec and *c.*80 Nairn 16 Dec. Larger numbers present in the latter half of December; 96 Kingsteps 23rd and 98 Nairn 26th & 28th (this becomes the largest count from Nairn for the wintering flock). Distinct broods at Nairn on 29 Dec involved 4, 4, 4 & 5 juveniles.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose: a single at Nairn west golf course foreshore on 26, 28 & 31 Dec (DMP, RHD, IB).

Grey-bellied Brant: two adults on the foreshore at Nairn golf course 6 Dec (DMP *et al.*), only one present on 26th & 28th, and two again on 29th & 31st.



Grey-bellied Brant (right), Nairn 26 December 2019 (Dave Pullan)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Scarce migrant in summer, rare in winter.

Winter & spring records: 2 Nairn 12 Feb was the only record during the winter period. In late spring, present at Findhorn Bay (24-29 May; max. count 8 on 29th) and Spey estuary (11 on 29 May).

Summer (June-July): Present at Findhorn Bay 1-26 Jun; the largest count was 99 on 4 Jun. Elsewhere, coastal records included 50+ The Maggot (Nairn) 9 Jun, 19 west Burghead 17 Jun, 15 west Lossiemouth west beach 3 Jun, 23 Lossie estuary 1 Jun (also 13 on 16 Jun), *c.*30 west Lossiemouth (over town) 17 Jun, 24 Spey estuary 16 Jun and 29 west Portgordon 2 Jun. Inland; 2 Aitnoch 8 Jun and *c.*20 Cloddach quarry 1 Jun (Lossie estuary flock?).

Autumn (August-October): Present in the Findhorn Bay area from 15 Aug-1 Oct (largest count was 61 on 1 Oct). Elsewhere, c.25 Nairn 1 Oct, 20 Spey estuary 8 Sep (also 14 on 22 Aug, 1 on 24 & 26 Aug) and singles Loch Spynie 1 Sep and Balliesland 8 & 12 Oct. Two hybrid Canada x Greylag Geese were in Findhorn Bay on 22 Jun (GM).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Winter-spring: The largest group during this period was 5 Firhall Bridge, Nairn 22 Mar. Other counts during this period were 2 Loch Flemington 12 Jan, 1 Bogmoor 23 Jan, 1 Milntown 11 Feb, 1 Coltfoot 22 Mar (with Pink-footed Geese) and 3 Findhorn Bay 30 Apr (with Pink-footed Geese).

Summer: Singles recorded in Findhorn Bay 15 Jun and flying west over Lossiemouth 17 Jun with Canada Geese – both records probably relate to the same individual. One was also in Findhorn Bay 4-5 Jul.

Autumn: In Findhorn Bay, 1 on 18 Sep and 6 on 22 Sep were the precursors to a large influx when flocks were recorded daily 24-30 Sep (maxima were 425 on 24th, 672 on 25th, 668 on 26th, 441 on 27th, c.40 on 28th, 192 on 29th and 33 on 30th). Elsewhere, flocks were recorded during the same period in late September at Nairn (450 & c.50 on 25th and 15 on 30th), Spey estuary (39 on 23rd, 3 in off sea on 24th, 19 east 25th), Strathlene (66 east on 25th), Clochan (41 east on 29th) Altyre (5 south on 30th). In October, 17 counts from Findhorn Bay 1st-20th (10 counts over 10 individuals; largest count being 59 on 1st). Smaller counts at Balliesland (1 on 5th, 8 on 8th) and Nairn Bar (14 on 19th).

Winter (November-December): recorded in Findhorn Bay on five dates 5-25 Nov and five dates 3-15 Dec (max. count 6 on 5 Nov and 10 Dec) and singles at Barmuckity 8 Nov and Auldearn 28 Dec.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Rare visitor or escape.

An intermediate morph bird appears to be a returning bird from autumn 2017. Present at Auldearn 28 Dec (RHD) and Findhorn Bay 31 Dec (RSC).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Rare breeder and very common winter visitor.

Winter-spring: No flocks containing 500 or more birds were recorded. Largest count received was 413 Findhorn Bay 5 Feb.

Range of all flock sizes reported containing less than 400 individuals Jan-Apr:

	1-100	101-200	201-300	301-400
2019	43	2	3	0
2018	59	10	8	1
2017	49	6	5	2
2016	52	7	3	2
2015	63	8	1	3
2014	41	10	1	3
2013	51	6	8	3
2012	39	7	3	1

Well inland, and probably part of the breeding population, maximum counts were 200+ Little Aitnoch 22 Feb and 250+ Refouble 23 Feb.

Summer: In the Dava breeding area maximum counts were 2 Dava lochans 10 May, 20+ Ferness 9 Jun, 80 Dunearn area 16 Jun, 38 Refouble 17 Jun, 35 Aitnoch 17 Jun and 26 Little Aitnoch 17 Jun. Although 1,070 Lochindorb 18 Jun were outside Moray & Nairn Recording Area, many of these birds move down to Findhorn Bay in late summer.

In the coastal strip; recorded at Loch Spynie over several dates between 3 May-29 Jun and included a family party of 5 fledged juveniles flying in from the direction of Lossie Forest 28 Jul.

Confirmed breeding: A pair and a brood of 5 were seen at Loch Oire 18 May (MJHC), following a potential territory in the area in 2018. At Clunas Reservoir, pairs with broods of 4, 4 & 6 on 15 May (MJHC) and a brood of 3 on 25 May (JH) may refer to one of the previous broods.

Non-breeding flocks were regular at Findhorn Bay between 1 Jun-31 Jul; no count exceeded 100 this year; maximum 49 flew in from the south on 23 Jul. Elsewhere in June-July (max. counts) were, 1 north-west Lossiemouth 12 May, 1 west Portgordon 2 Jun and 4 Spey estuary 14 Jun.

Late summer: Frequently seen around the Findhorn Bay area during August where 294 were counted on 24th. Only four further counts exceeded 100 (12 counts in 2018). Flocks were also seen in the coastal strip in August at Lossie estuary (1 on 25th-27th) and Kingsteps (104 on 3rd). Inland, a leucistic individual was seen at Little Aitnoch 6 Aug.

Autumn: Difficult to assess which are local birds and which are Icelandic breeders returning in September; three large counts from Findhorn Bay (524 on 2nd, 604 on 8th and 575 on 10th) probably originated from the Dava population. Away from Findhorn Bay c.60 north-west Loch Loy 16 Sep. In October, the largest count was 600 Moy 27th. Still present around Lochindorb during this period (e.g. 4 on 13 Oct).

In November, flocks exceeding 100 individuals (max. counts) were: 1,108 Findhorn Bay 18th (with a further four counts exceeding 500), 550 Loch Spynie 23rd and c.100 Moyness 30th.

Winter (max. counts only): Two flock counts exceeded 500; 1,100 Mundole 15 Dec and c.500 Duffus Castle 29 Dec.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Very common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter (January-March): Reported at 11 sites from Nairn, with no flock counts exceeding 500; c.50 Loch Flemington 1 Jan, 20+ Cawdor 2 Jan, 1 in Nairn harbour 13 Jan, 73 Delnies 23 Feb, 112 Kingsteps 16 Mar, 4 Little Aitnoch-Refouble 17 Mar, 500+ Firhall (Nairn) 22 Mar, 200+ road south of Nairn 22 Mar, 100+ Little Aitnoch 29 Mar, c.50 Aitnoch 29 Mar and 45 Nairn 31 Mar.

In Moray, the largest counts in this period were again from Findhorn Bay, particularly dawn counts, where the largest was 18,800 on 6 Mar (RSC), and 10 others in excess of 1,000 individuals. Elsewhere, counts in excess of 1,000 included; 1,550 Brodie 10 Jan, c.1,500 Roseisle 5 Feb and 1,830 Colfield 10 Feb (1,800+ on 22 Mar).

Spring passage (max. counts): The largest flock reported from Findhorn Bay was 19,750 on 1 Apr, with 17 other counts in excess of 1,000. One other flock in excess of 1,000 was reported from Wester Colfield (c.12,000 on 13 Apr). Passage later in the month involved predictably small numbers, with those exceeding 100; 200 Aitnoch 1 Apr, c.250 Drumdivan 16 Apr, c.500 Kinloss 19 Apr, c.240 Kingsteps 21 Apr and 100 Burghead-Cummingston 28 Apr. During early-mid May sizeable flock sizes only occurred at Findhorn Bay (max. count 1,740 on 1st, with seven further counts exceeding 1,000 until 10th).

Summer: Present again in the Findhorn Bay area during the summer between 1 Jun-29 Aug (maximum monthly counts were 12 on 15-27 Jun, 14 on 6 & 19 Jul and 13 on 1 Aug). Away from Findhorn Bay the only record was 1 Loch Spynie 2 Jul.

Autumn: Although a single flew west passed Burghead on 1 Sep it is unclear if this was an arrival or one of the summering Findhorn Bay birds. An obvious arrival occurred on 2 Sep; 201 & 33 Findhorn Bay, 57 over Knock of Braemoray and 30 over Dufftown. At Findhorn Bay daily arrival in September; daily counts in the bay were 2,065 on 3rd, 366 on 4th, 1,512 on 5th, 93 on 6th, 1,400 on 7th, 1,280 on 8th, c.100 on 12th, c.1,100 on 13th, c.40 on 14th, 1,850+ on 15th, with a major arrival of 40,000 on 16th, 34,250 on 17th, 50-55,000 on 18th, 25,000+ on 19th, 56,200 on 20th, c.37,500 on 23rd, 30,500 on 25th, 2,500 on 26th, 50,000 on 27th, 26,700 on 29th and 31,300 on 30th. Elsewhere, smaller numbers compared to Findhorn Bay (e.g. c.2,300 Forres enterprise park 30 Sep and 1,332+ Nairn 18 Sep). Unusual on the mud were 18 Lossie estuary 14 Sep. Still large numbers roosting in Findhorn Bay in October (e.g. 24,300 on 2nd, 23,000 on 5th and 20,800 on 20th). Smaller numbers elsewhere except c.20,000 Linkwood Farm, Elgin 20th, other max. counts; 70+ Tearie Walks 1st, 2,000+ Elgin 7th-8th, 50+ Loch Spynie 11th, c.4,000 Bailliesland 12th-13th, 5,350 Nairn Bar 19th, c.6,000 Barmuckity 21st, 450 Cloddach quarry 27th and 250 Duffus Castle area 29th. In November, flocks over 1,000 (max. counts) were seen at Findhorn Bay (34,600 on 24th and 32,000 on 28th), Lethen (c.10,000 on 7th), Barmuckity (7,000 on 8th), Kinloss (3,000+ on 11th), Clochan (2,400 on 15th), Nairn Bar (12,850 on 23rd), Moyness (3,000+ on 23rd) and Netherton Farm (2,040 on 23rd).

Winter: Counts exceeding 1,000 were received from five areas; 26,000 Findhorn Bay 3 Dec (16,700 on 15th, 18,000 on 19th & 15,600 on 29th), 1,380 Kirkhill 7 Dec, 3,000+ Kingsteps 23 Dec, 4,000 Auldearn 28 Dec and c.3,000 Duffus Castle 29 Dec.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Very scarce winter visitor.

A group of 14 Muirton 30-31 Mar were of the Greenland subspecies *A. a. flavirostris* (DAG) - [the last big group was 13 on 14 Nov 2015 at Loch Spynie]. Six Arradoul 28 Oct were of the European subspecies *A. a. albifrons* (HC) and 1 Findhorn Bay 11 Nov (RSC) was not assigned to subspecies.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Scarce resident breeder and short-distance migrant. Common in winter.

Breeding: A total of 23 apparently occupied territories were recorded in 2019, with 14 pairs producing 48 young; of these, a minimum of 40 appear to have fledged. The mean total of fledged young in 2019 was 3.0.

Mean number of young probably fledging from those pairs known to have produced young:

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Pairs	17	17	13	19	13	17	11	12	11	16	14
Young fledged	57	84	53	53	73	43	38	56	26	42	40
Mean	3.3	4.9	4.1	2.8	5.7	2.5	3.5	4.7	2.4	2.6	2.9

Maximum monthly counts of local flocks (excluding breeding birds in April-August) were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
L. Flemington	40	20	12		Breeders				22	31	60	39
Nairn harbour	8	7	nc		Breeders				4	nc	nc	nc
Kingsteps	7	12	10	8	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	2	2	nc
Loch Loy	7	22	13	2	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	2	2	2
Loch of Blairs	6	6	5		Breeders				5	4	2	2
Findhorn Bay	4	13	18	62	82	59	8	nc	19	18	6	8
Lossie estuary	nc	nc	nc	1	4	1	nc	nc	nc	2	nc	3
Loch Spynie	59	60	76	8	9	6	4	nc	13	23	20	75
Cloddach	nc	9	nc		Breeders				19	19	nc	15
Loch Oire	5	4	nc		Breeders				nc	30	50	41
Loch na Bo	nc	nc	nc		Breeders				6	13	1	6
Dallachy	2	2	nc		Breeders				4	3	3	3
Spey estuary	0	0	0	2	5	12	16	15	14	1	0	0

nc = no count received

Other records from the coastal strip (max. counts): 1 Nairn Bar 6 Jan, 2 Gordon Castle (Fochabers) 20 Jan, 17 Feb & 24 Mar, 2 Sanquhar pond 21 Jan, 4 Easter Clune 10 Feb, 2 Delnies 17 Feb, 2 Sunbank (Lossiemouth) 17 Feb, 2 River Spey (Baxters) 23 & 25 Apr, 2 Newmill (Auldearn) 15 May, 15 & 29 Dec, 2 Culbin Bar 24 Feb, 1 Burghead-Hopeman 13 Oct, 2 Hilton of Delnies 29 Dec.

In stubble fields were 1 Bailliesland 5 & 8 Oct and 3 Windyridge 24 Mar.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter-spring: In Nairn, reported from five sites (only 1 in 2018) (max. count from each site): 8 Loch Loy 1 & 31 Jan, 17 Loch Flemington 3 Jan, 5 Achavraat 15 Jan, 1 Loch Kirkaldy 1 Mar and 10 Cran Loch 28 Mar.

In Moray, reports were received from 10 sites. Maximum counts from each site were: 21 Calcots 8 Jan, 8 Kirkhill 7 Feb, 13 Loch of Blairs 17 Feb, 47 Cloddach quarry 17 Feb, c.40 Easter Calcots 20 Feb, c.60 Loch Spynie 25 Mar, 21 Findhorn Bay 27 Mar, 8 Bailliesland 28 Mar, 83 Windyridge 24 Mar and 70 Muirton 30 & 31 Mar.

Spring (April-May): 1 Dava 7 Apr, 34 Muirton 7 Apr, 8 Loch Flemington 12 Apr, 10 Findhorn Bay 19 Apr and 3 Loch Spynie 28 Apr.

Summer: No summer records received this year.

Autumn: The first record for the autumn period was 1 Loch Spynie 12 Sep (still present 13 & 14 Sep). Arrival on 17-19 Sep when flocks were recorded (max. counts) from Findhorn Bay (29 on 17th), Loch Flemington (10+ on 18th) and Nairn harbour (17 on 19th). Later in September, the only sizeable flock was 57 Loch Spynie on 29th.

In October, 40 reports were received with most flocks again under 50. Ten counts exceeded 100 individuals, max. counts from each site were 310 Bailliesland 12th, 100+ Waterton 19th and 854 Duffus Castle area 29th.

In November six sites held large flocks: 760 Loch Spynie 1st, 120 Duffus 9th, 101 Foresterseat 20th, 429 Sunbank (Lossiemouth) 23rd, 100+ Muirton 27th and 251 Lossiemouth 29th.

Winter (December): In Nairn, birds were only recorded at Loch Flemington: 8 on 15th and 6 on 31st. In Moray, seen at seven sites (max. counts): 10 Kirkhill 5th & 12th, 336 Loch Spynie

11th, 9 Loch of Blairs 15th, 59 Findhorn Bay 15th, 16 Clochan 19th, 61 Loch Oire 24th and 134 Duffus Castle 29th.

Brood sizes reported in October-December 2014-2019:

	1	2	3	4	5	6
2019	0	0	3	2	0	0
2018	1	1	4	3	1	0
2017	0	6	7	6	4	0
2016	9	17	10	9	0	0
2015	10	5	8	2	1	1
2014	3	14	16	7	6	0

The mean from the five broods reported was 3.4 young.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Fairly common visitor in winter and spring. Scarce breeder.

Breeding: Records were received from Findhorn Bay (9 broods) and Spey estuary (1 brood) giving a mean of 8.7 chicks from those reported and trying to reduce duplication.

Seen in potential breeding areas at Balormie pig farm, Cloddach quarry, Culbin Bar, Kingsteps, Loch Flemington, Loch Spynie, Lossie estuary, Milton of Grange and Nairn.

Best monthly counts at coastal sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Nairn/Culbin Bars	163	371	nc	nc	nc	6	nc	nc	nc	8	nc	170
Findhorn Bay	162	118	140	85	97	104	97	52	2	35	73	55
Spey estuary	0	2	0	7	4	7	6	3	1	0	0	0

Other coastal sites (max. counts): 10+ Carse of Delnies 24 Jan, 25 Delnies 17 Feb, 2 Nairn 15 Apr & 4 Oct, 2 Lossie estuary 26 Apr, 1 west Nairn 1 Dec, 1 Burghead 15 Dec and 65 Kingsteps (Nairn) 23 Dec.

Inland (max. counts): 14 Cloddach quarry 17 Feb, 1 Dallachy pool 23 Feb, 2 Balormie pig farm 13 Apr, 2 Loch Flemington 15 Apr and 4 Loch Spynie 27 Apr.

At Lossiemouth during seawatches: 4 west on 16 Feb, 4 west on 14 Apr, 2 east on 20 Apr, 1 west on 13 Jul and 2 west on 26 & 27 Oct.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Probable escape or feral origin.

Cawdor area: The Cawdor/Clephanton/River Nairn area is the centre of a large population. Breeding was reported again around the estate; a female and 12 ducklings reported by staff on 23 May with c.10 chicks still present the following day (BB), also a female with a brood of 5 (another brood?) present on 1 Jun (JH). The maximum count of adults was 27 (16 males, 11 females) on 14 Jan, although staff counted 40 in early March. Other counts included 18+ on 5 Jan, 18 on 12 Jan and 10 on 12 Jul.

Kilravock area: 2 Holme Rose 2 Oct.

Loch Belivat: 1 on 25 Dec.

Loch Spynie: A male present 18-22 Apr had been ringed in November 2016 at Lower Basildon, West Berkshire, 700 km to the south.



Mandarin Duck (female with duckling), Cawdor Castle 1 June 2019 (Jack Harrison)

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Rare in spring.

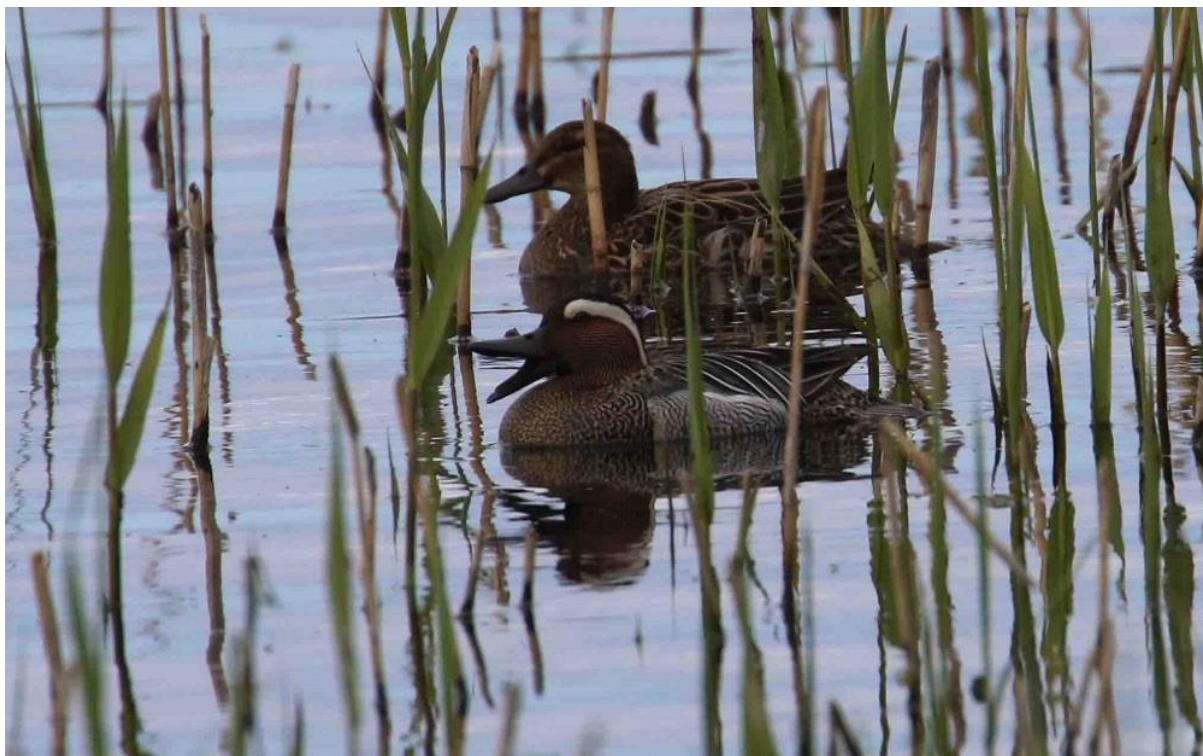
Two sites held birds this year.

Loch Loy: A male present on 29 Apr (CGL).

Loch Spynie: A pair seen 26 Apr (CA, NS, AP, HF, DAG) and 10 May (JH), male only on 2, 3 & 9 May, and one bird (sex?) on 30 Apr, 1 & 9 May (many observers).



Garganey, Loch Loy 29 April 2019 (Colin Leslie)



Garganey, Loch Spynie 26 April 2019 (Carol Armour)

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Occasional breeder and scarce migrant.

In Nairn: Another blank year with no records received.

In Moray:

Brodie: A female on 12 Feb.

Findhorn Bay: Intermittently seen 26 Jan-7 Feb (max. male & 3 females on 26 Jan) and then from 29 Aug-23 Dec (max. count 5 females 22 Nov).

Balormie pig farm: Two females 1 Sep.

Lossie estuary: A pair on 13 Apr.

Loch Spynie: Two males and a female on 17 Feb, then seen from 12 Apr-7 Jun (max. count; 15 on 14 Apr was the largest count from any site) and 11 Sep-15 Dec (max. count; 7 on 13 Sep).

Loch Oire: 'Present' on 26 Apr & 15 Oct.

Dallachy pool: Two on 17 Jul.

Spey estuary: A male 20-21 Apr, 'present' 17 Jun and an eclipse male & female 17 Jul.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Scarce visitor.

Loch Flemington: A male on 2 Jan, two birds 10 Feb and one 14-15 Dec.

Kingsteps: A pair 22 Apr.

Lossie estuary: A male on 3 Jun.

Cloddach quarry: 14 (7 males & 7 females) on 15 Sep and 12 (6 males & 6 females) on 27 Oct (MJHC).

Loch Spynie: A female and brood of 6 tiny chicks on 7 Jun was the first breeding record for Moray & Nairn (RP). Largest number together was five on 28 Apr (2 males, 3 females), 11 May (4 males, 1 female), 31 Aug (2 males, 3 females) and 10 Sep (5).

Summary of monthly maximum counts of each sex at Loch Spynie:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Male	2	1	0	2	4	1	0	2	2	0	nc	nc
Female	0	1	0	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	nc	nc
Unsexed	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	5	3	nc	nc

Loch na Bo: A male on 9 Nov and a pair on 29 Nov.

Loch Oire: A female 27 Jan, also recorded as 'present' on 7 Jan, 20 & 25 Feb.

Spey estuary: A pair on 6 May.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Very common winter visitor and rare breeder.

Breeding: No breeding records received this year.

Non-breeders in summer (May-July), away from main sites below, involved 1 male Dallachy pool 14 Jun.

Monthly maximum counts at main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Findhorn Bay	665	372	537	222	12	54	15	15	930	1085	746	744
Lossie estuary	579	1583	356	80	1	2	3	16	190	710	2091	1254
Loch Spynie	70	150	18	4	2	7	6	nc	30	9	115	34
Spey estuary	nc	47	nc	150	7	7	nc	1	50	72	123	138

Winter: Monthly maximum counts at other coastal sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Carse of Delnies	50	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Nairn area	140	12	16	3	nc	125	nc	42
Nairn/Culbin Bars	286	262	nc	nc	nc	363	11	330
Portgordon	2	2	nc	nc	nc	60	nc	nc

On freshwater:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Flemington	189	52	17	nc	nc	nc	67	40	84
Loch Loy	80	50	8	nc	nc	nc	34	4	1
Loch of Blairs	40	35	4	nc	nc	nc	34	nc	48
Cloddach quarry	nc	694	nc	nc	nc	28	205	nc	308
Dallachy pool	5	2	nc	nc	3	4	1	9	nc
Loch na Bo	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	21	4
Loch Oire	37	38	nc	2	2	24	259	205	165

Other counts on freshwater included (max. counts): 48 Achavraat 15 Jan, 3 Cran Loch 18 Feb, 2 Gordon Castle (Fochabers) 8 Sep, 8 Balormie pig farm 1 Sep and 10 Loch Kirkaldy 12 Oct.

Regularly seen on seawatches off Lossiemouth harbour in the autumn period: max. 34 on 1 Sep.

A male Mallard × Wigeon hybrid was at Findhorn Bay 7 Nov and Spey estuary 17 Nov.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident breeder and winter visitor.

Breeding: The mean brood size from 16 broods was 5.5 chicks.

Breeding was confirmed at Findhorn Bay, Gordon Castle (Fochabers), Loch of Boath, Loch Spynie, Lossie estuary, Mosset Burn, The Maggot (Nairn), Newmill (Auldearn) and the River Lossie (Elgin).

Also recorded in suitable breeding habitat in the coastal strip at: Brodie Castle, Dallachy pool, Glenshiel Farm, Kingsteps, Loch Flemington, Loch Loy, Loch of Blairs, Loch of Boath, Loch Oire, Lower Bogrotten and Myreside.

Inland, also recorded in suitable habitat at Loch of the Cowlatt and Rothes.

Best monthly flocks in regularly counted areas were:

Freshwater:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Loch Flemington	40	60	19	nc	nc	nc	8	nc	7	40	nc	37
Loch Loy	58	40	24	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	10	29	24	140
Loch of Blairs	39	49	16	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	30	29	nc
Cooper Park, Elgin	16	9	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Loch Spynie	84	30	18	3	nc	10	86	115	140	50	121	280
Cloddach quarry	nc	111	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	187	170	nc	150
Loch Oire	72	8	nc	6	nc	nc	nc	23	7	29	190	24
Loch na Bo	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	40	74	68
Rothes	6	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	12	10	40	30	nc	nc
Nether Dallachy tip	42	49	nc	8	nc	26	53	52	61	27	30	nc
Gordon Castle	nc	42	24	7	6	11	44	34	43	96	57	56

Large counts on other freshwater sites were (max. counts): 40 Brodie Castle 10 Jan, 30 Gilston 30 Jan and 21 Clunas Reservoir 18 Mar.

Well inland in winter were: 2 Dava moor 14 Feb, c.60 Loch Allan 10 Nov, 14 Marypark 4 Dec and 105 Glenlivet 11 Dec.

Coastal sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	30	nc	nc	nc	15	9	nc	nc
Kingsteps area	nc	nc	nc	16	nc	95	120	4
Nairn/Culbin Bars	110	100	120	nc	100	2	120	100
Lossie estuary	nc	nc	nc	27	26	nc	nc	nc
Spey estuary	nc	nc	nc	57	25	6	nc	nc
Strathlene-Portgordon	67	55	nc	nc	nc	41	nc	107

Records received throughout the year (max. counts) at Findhorn Bay and Nairn:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Findhorn Bay	306	228	49	29	34	73	71	92	109	74	142	246
Nairn	251	87	92	75	71	48	107	25	111	162	192	206

A male on Halford's roof (Elgin) 16 May was unusual.

A male Mallard × Wigeon sp. hybrid was seen at Findhorn Bay 7 Nov and Spey estuary 17 Nov.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant. Occasional breeder.

Loch Loy area: 8 on 1 Jan, then 6 on 26 Jan and 17 & 18 Feb. Later in the year, 1 on 14 Oct increasing to 7 on 16 Dec and 12 on 8 Dec (CGL, SM).

Nairn Bar: 13 on 6 Jan (GP).

Findhorn Bay: Present from 6 Jan-28 Apr and 3 Sep-30 Dec. With continued regular visits large numbers were again recorded during both periods providing 92 records in excess of 100 individuals but slightly lower numbers than recent years, maximum count in each period was 384 on 19 Jan (RHD) and 436 on 3 Dec (GM, RSC).

Best monthly flocks in 2019 were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max. counts	384	368	232	146	0	0	0	11	128	237	343	436

Loch Spynie: A pair present 20-21 Apr (CGL, DAG), then a male on 7, 16 & 30 Nov (BA, DAG, MJHC) and two on 22 Dec (CGL).

Lossie estuary: One male on 6 Apr (HF).

Spey estuary: A female on 27 Sep (MJHC).

Teal *Anas crecca*

Scarce breeder and very common winter visitor.

Breeding: No confirmed breeding reports were received this year.

Potential breeding sites occupied during the breeding season included: Achavraat, Achdregnie, Cragganmore, Cran Loch, Dallachy pool, Delnies, Dulsie Farm, Keppernach Wood, Loch Belivat, Lochs of Bogmussach, Loch Dubh (Drynachan), Loch Flemington, Loch Loy, Loch of the Cowlatt, Loch Oire, near Black Loch (Dava), Loch Spynie, Lossie estuary, Mosset Burn (Findhorn), Spey estuary, River Conglass (Tomintoul) and Wood of Achnatone.

Monthly maximum counts from main coastal/inland sites outside the breeding season were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Flemington	8	160	12	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	9
Kingsteps	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	11	7	6
Loch Loy	160	182	36	nc	nc	nc	1	54	30
Cran Loch	60	42	8	nc	nc	nc	60	140	160
Findhorn Bay	278	159	201	208	66	41	255	132	166

Lossie estuary	105	506	61	101	4	105	218	251	618
Spynie Canal	10	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	400	nc
Loch Spynie	11	47	6	2	nc	520	7	230	100
Cloddach quarry	nc	2	nc	nc	nc	76	98	nc	82
Loch Oire	2	nc	nc	5	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Dallachy pool	63	22	6	12	2	12	16	15	nc
Spey estuary	nc	8	nc	nc	60	190	nc	nc	8

Other large counts (max.): c.40 Loch of Blairs 2 Jan, 175 Balormie pig farm 1 Sep, 31 Loch Kirkaldy 12 Oct, 86 Black Loch (Dava) 10 Nov, 96 Loch Allan 13 Nov and 29 Nairn/Culbin 19 Nov.

Coastal records (max. counts) included: 20+ Carse of Delnies 24 Jan, 20 Gilston 30 Jan, 18 Delnies 18 Apr and 5 Burghead Bay 15 Nov.

Regular during seawatches off Lossiemouth harbour, the largest count was 12 on 30 Nov.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Rare visitor.

A male at Loch Flemington 1 Jan-14 Mar (JAC *et al.*) and again on 15 Nov (PSt).



Green-winged Teal (front), Loch Flemington 1 January 2019 (Jon Clarke)

Pochard *Aythya ferina**Scarce winter visitor and occasional breeder.*

Recorded at two sites (a slight decrease from 5 sites in 2018).

Loch Spynie: A male 7 Apr was the only spring record. Later in the year a single male 16-30 Nov and then two males on 29 Nov, 3 & 4 Dec.

Dallachy pool: Three on 17 Jul, falling to a single male on 21-22 Jul.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula**Scarce breeder and common winter visitor.*

Breeding: A female with a brood of three chicks at Loch Spynie 3 & 28 Aug.

Other potential breeding sites occupied during the summer months were Loch Flemington, Black Loch (Dava), Brodie Castle, Dallachy pool, Delnies, Gordon Castle (Fochabers), Hilton of Delnies pond, Loch Loy and Loch Oire.

Monthly maximum counts (excluding ducklings) at main sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Loch Flemington	24	21	15	10	nc	3	3	nc	nc	nc	nc	18
Loch Loy	42	71	25	4	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	7	19
Brodie Castle pool	9	12	12	8	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	10	10
Loch of Blairs	2	9	5	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	1	nc	nc
Loch Spynie	69	50	35	100	23	8	30	4	31	20	25	23
Cloddach quarry	nc	48	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	10	42	nc	39
Cooper Park, Elgin	7	3	5	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	11	nc	nc
Dallachy pool	11	3	2	8	3	5	21	25	13	9	8	3
Loch na Bo	5	6	nc	13	nc	nc	nc	7	10	9	5	11
Loch Oire	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	21	52	90	32
Gordon Castle	nc	4	2	2	nc	nc	nc	2	4	4	1	nc

Elsewhere, a female Spey estuary 31 Aug and a single flying east offshore at Tugnet 5 Oct.

Scaup *Aythya marila**Scarce winter visitor.*

Nairn: Present 6 Jan-11 Mar (max. count 60+ on 8 Feb). During this period a male was also present on the River Nairn at Fishertown, Nairn on 13 Jan. Later in the year present from 6 Nov-30 Dec (max. count 73 on 8 Dec).

Nairn & Culbin Bars: Two on 24 Feb and 20+ on 19 Nov.

Findhorn Bay: A male on 2 & 4 Jun.

Lossiemouth: Seen during seawatches: 2 males west 30 Jan, 3 west 15 Sep, a male west 13 Oct and a male east on 26 Dec.

Loch Spynie: A male 26 & 28 Apr, a female on 23 Sep, one bird on 26 Sep and two on 4 Dec.

Dallachy pool: A female/immature was present on 22, 25 & 30 Oct.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis**Rare visitor.*

A male King Eider has been a regular winter visitor to the coast of Moray & Nairn since November 2009, with most records in the vicinity of Nairn or Burghead. Over the same period,

a King Eider has been present in summer on the Ythan estuary in Aberdeenshire. Close examination of the dates of stay at these two locations shows no overlap and it is now considered that the same long-staying bird accounts for all records of King Eider since 2009. This position has been agreed by the SOC Recorders of Moray & Nairn and Aberdeenshire, and by Nigel Hudson, Secretary of British Birds Rarities Committee - and is set out in the Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 2014 (*British Birds* 108:565-633).

In 2019, the male was seen at Nairn (mostly off the west beach, though also off the harbour and Culbin Bar) during the following periods: 31 Mar-2 May, 17 May, 27 May-7 Jun, 22 Jun, 20-21 Jul and 4-6 Aug. (PRG, CGL *et al.*). It is of course quite possible that it was present on other dates but not detected. After a short period away from the area it was reported on 9-10 Nov off Kingsteps, Nairn (MG, AJ).



King Eider, Nairn 16 April 2019 (Richard Somers Cocks)

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Scarce breeder, common offshore.

Breeding: A nest with four eggs was found along the Culbin foreshore in Findhorn Bay on 28 May (GMcM). At Portgordon, 14 ducklings were with 10 females in the harbour on 15 Jun (MJHC).

Regular counts (max.) from coastal areas:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Nairn	500	25	71	100	27	58	nc	nc	nc	37	9	13
Culbin/Nairn Bars	256	4	nc	nc	3	14	nc	nc	nc	33	nc	112
Findhorn Bay area	1	2	17	4	7	2	nc	nc	5	nc	120	nc
Burghead Bay	50	49	14	12	3	nc	85	55	65	151	800	940
Burghead-Hopeman	461	172	33	100	9	5	nc	nc	7	496	100	31
Lossiemouth	98	53	nc	nc	7	16	nc	nc	nc	363	148	66
Spey Bay	80	35	nc	60	100	89	17	60	15	80	1	20
Portgordon-Strathlene	35	16	nc	nc	nc	10	2	nc	nc	2	nc	19

Other counts included 10 off Cullen golf course 6 Apr and 63 off Spey estuary 5 Jul.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Fairly common winter visitor.

Only two counts exceeded 50 individuals during 2019, both from Burghead Bay: 120 on 15 Nov and 62 on 22 Dec.

Maximum counts for main areas were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	31	10	nc	20	nc	30
Burghead Bay	17	14	6	50	120	62
Lossiemouth (seawatches)	2	1	3	5	nc	nc
Spey Bay	nc	nc	5	1	nc	nc

Coastal summer records (May-July) included c.30 Nairn Bar 26 May.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common winter visitor, small numbers in summer.

Summer records (May-July), maximum counts from each site, included: 17 Burghead Bay 1 May, 22 Burghead 21 May, 40 Spey Bay 23 May, c.50 Culbin 26 May, 20 Cullen 6 Jun, 50 Nairn 7 & 25 Jun, c.25 off Nairn Bar (from a boat) 26 May and 94 Lossiemouth (1-hour seawatch) 16 Jun.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	20	2000	10	20	nc	40	12	nc	14
Nairn Bar	837	89	nc	nc	nc	nc	189	nc	1580
Culbin Bar	155	8	nc	nc	nc	nc	17	nc	17
Off Findhorn	nc	nc	35	nc	nc	nc	10	258	nc
Burghead Bay	389	615	75	130	68	190	310	910	576
Burghead-Hopeman	20	42	13	6	nc	12	150	nc	nc
Lossiemouth (seawatches)	14	59	47	37	22	33	32	12	19
Spey Bay (Boar's Head)	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	100	121	nc
Spey Bay (off Tugnet)	270	nc	8	300	7	22	120	nc	85

Elsewhere, 10 Covesea 22 Feb and 5 Cullen 1 Aug.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Common winter visitor offshore.

Coastal records in summer (June-July): 1 Spey estuary 26 Jun.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	14	200	nc	5	nc	nc	23
Nairn area	100	5	80	160	4	140	48
Nairn Bar	594	165	4	nc	119	nc	1680
Culbin Bar	321	16	nc	nc	2	nc	523
Off Findhorn	1	26	31	nc	200	757	690
Burghead Bay	127	249	69	46	84	367	776
Burghead-Hopeman	19	38	5	275	20	12	7
Lossiemouth	nc	26	11	2	nc	nc	8
Lossiemouth (seawatches)	122	62	108	12	69	35	50
Spey Bay	230	22	20	1	250	10	113
Portgordon-Strathlene	7	17	nc	nc	2	nc	10

On estuaries (max. counts): 2 Spey estuary 18 May, 1 Mosset Burn (Findhorn Bay) 23 Oct and pair off Minton Point (Findhorn Bay) 7 Nov.

In harbours (max. count): 4 Burghead harbour 19 Jan.

Inland: 1 Loch Spynie 15 Jan.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Rare breeder and fairly common winter visitor.

Breeding: No confirmed breeding was reported. Present in potential breeding habitat were a pair Loch Allan 27 Feb and a pair Black Loch (Dava) 5 Apr.

Summer records in the coastal strip included: 1 Dallachy pool 3 May, 1 male Loch Spynie 25 May, 15 & 26 Jun and 1 male Spey estuary 14 Jun.

Maximum counts on most frequented lochs were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Loch Flemington	10	6	15	nc	nc	3	2	11
Loch of Blairs	1	6	2	nc	nc	nc	1	nc
Loch Spynie	11	13	13	10	3	2	20	6
Cloddach quarry	nc	4	nc	nc	2	4	nc	8
Loch na Bo	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	1	1
Loch Oire	14	20	1	nc	nc	nc	nc	2
Dallachy pool	23	24	17	13	nc	5	9	3

Elsewhere, a pair Milnorduff pool 9 Jan, 3 Gilston 30 Jan, 1 Cullen 12 Mar, 4 Loch Loy 10 Nov, 1 Black Loch (Dava) 10 Nov and a male Sanquhar pond 20 Dec.

On the River Spey: 3 males Aberlour 20 Jan (pair 27 Jan) and 8 males, 5 females Blacksboat 6 Feb.

On the River Lossie: a pair Elgin 19 Jan.

Maximum counts at most frequented coastal sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	9	20	nc	nc	nc	nc	2
Nairn	18	13	6	3	nc	nc	nc
Nairn/Culbin Bars	17	3	nc	nc	nc	nc	7
Findhorn Bay	22	28	24	17	11	19	12
Burghead	2	5	11	1	nc	nc	6
Burghead-Hopeman	13	7	nc	nc	3	nc	8
Lossiemouth	nc	10	nc	nc	1	nc	2
Lossie estuary	nc	1	1	nc	nc	nc	nc
Spey estuary	nc	10	28	9	nc	14	9
Spey Bay	5	8	nc	5	nc	7	5
Portknockie-Strathlene	2	1	nc	nc	nc	nc	2

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Scarce breeder and fairly common visitor.

Breeding: A brood of five was present at Findhorn Bay.

Seen in potential breeding areas: 1 River Nairn (Newton of Cawdor) 9 Mar, 1 Cawdor Burn 9 Mar, 3 females Muckle Burn 3 Apr, 1 Tombae 15 Apr, pair Allanreid 19 & 21 Apr, 1 Cabrach 17 May, 3 pairs Fishertown, Nairn 26 May, female Glen Avon 1 Jun and 1 Sluie walk 13 Jun.

Maximum monthly counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forres	nc	1	4	5	nc	1	nc
Burghead Bay	0	0	nc	nc	42	5	0
Lossie estuary	0	0	1	18	0	1	0
Loch Spynie	5	4	2	0	3	7	10
Loch Oire	8	2	0	0	0	4	6
Loch na Bo	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Maximum counts from Nairn (River Nairn), Findhorn Bay and Speymouth:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn area	3	11	6	4	6	3	1	nc	3	8	1	2
Findhorn Bay	2	3	nc	42	108	55	23	33	103	34	8	4
Speymouth	0	2	0	39	93	155	257	268	236	4	3	0

Elsewhere (max. counts): 95 Burghead Bay (off Findhorn dunes) 11 Sep, 2 Portgordon 25 Aug, 76 Burghead Bay (off Roseisle) 28 Aug and 12 Lossiemouth (seawatch) 15 Sep.

Inland maximum counts in autumn and winter were: 1 Muckle Burn (Dyke) 1 Jan, 4 Loch Flemington 6 & 8 Jan, a male River Lossie, Elgin 6 Jan, 4 Gilston 13 Jan, 1 Brodie pond 2 Feb, male Cooper Park, Elgin 17 Feb and 9 Cloddach quarry 12 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce breeder, fairly common offshore.

Breeding: One brood of five noted on four dates in Findhorn Bay 29 Jun-5 Aug. In potential breeding habitat were 3 (2 males, 1 female) Cothall 27 Apr, pair Waterford 30 Apr and 2 Fishertown (Nairn) 6 Jun.

Coastal records in summer (May-July): 2 Lossiemouth 4 & 11 May, 2 Burghead Bay 6 May, 5 Spey estuary 14 May (6 on 23 May), 6 Culbin Bar 1 Jun, 12 Nairn 25 Jun and 1 off Findhorn beach 19 Jul.

Regular monthly maximum counts in the Nairn area, Findhorn Bay and Burghead Bay:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Nairn area	10	15	15	43	4	12	2	1	nc	nc	7	3
Findhorn Bay	26	14	17	35	26	7	9	6	17	13	20	7
Burghead Bay	17	18	10	24	2	nc	1	19	2	6	10	11

Maximum monthly counts at other sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies area	1	16	nc	3	38	nc	nc	3
Nairn/Culbin Bars	19	20	nc	nc	nc	77	2	9
Lossiemouth	nc	3	1	5	nc	3	nc	1
Lossie estuary	1	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	1
Spey Bay	1	1	nc	8	6	1	1	1
Spey estuary	nc	nc	nc	5	nc	1	14	nc

Elsewhere, maximum counts included: 1 Cullen 11 Feb, 4 Loch Loy 12 Dec and 4 Hopeman 31 Dec.

Inland in winter: 5 Loch Spynie 21 Jan.

Swift *Apus apus*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Arrival: First were 3 Loch Spynie 9 May, rising to 10 there by 11 May. Elsewhere, 1 Altyre 11 May, 1 Cullen 12 May and 2 Elgin 15 May.

Breeding: Swifts were seen entering eight probable nest sites in roof spaces in Cullen square (JM). Other towns where birds were seen and likely to have been breeding were Aberlour, Buckie, Burghead, Elgin, Forres, Keith, Nairn, Rothes and Tomintoul.

Largest concentrations were 30 Loch Spynie 25 May, 20 Bishopmill (Elgin) 19 Jul, 20 Muirton 11 Aug and 20 Nairn 15 Aug.

Records in the last week of August included 2 Nairn 24th, 4 Rothes 24th, 1 Loch Spynie 25th, 1 Lossiemouth 25th, 6 Buckpool 26th, 4 Aberlour 28th and 7 Lossiemouth 31st. Late birds, in September, were 1 Muirton 1st, 1 Lossiemouth 1st, 2 Brodie Castle 9th, 1 Cullen 14th and 2 Loch Spynie 14th (3 there on 15th).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Summer visitor and fairly common breeder.

Arrival: First reports, in April, were at Tomintoul 26th, Drynahan 27th and Highland Boath 28th.

Subsequently seen or heard in May-June at Balnught, Bin of Cullen, Black Loch (Dava), Blackwater Lodge, Cawdor, Glenmullie, Knauchland, Knockaneorn Wood, Lagganvoulin, Little Aitnoch, Loch of Boath, Millbuies, Milton (Strath Avon), Tips of Corsemaul, Tomnamoon and Whiteash Hill Wood.

An unusual record of one flying north in Coire Domhain in the Cairngorms on 25 May (JD).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Very common resident breeder.

Few reports in 2019 of this widespread and numerous bird. Flocks over 40 were reported in Burghead, Elgin and Nairn.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Scarce resident breeder.

Breeding season (March-July): 2 Culbin Bar dunes 8 Jul, up to 4 Darkland 27 Apr & 16-18 May, 1 Findhorn 12 May, up to 3 Loch Spynie & Scarffbanks on ten dates (song heard), 1 Nairn 14 Jul, 1 Netherton 2 Jun and 1 Newlands of Inchnacaorach 9 Apr.

Autumn/winter records from additional localities were 2 Baddock 29 Dec, 1 Earlsmill 23 Aug and 1 Loch Flemington 10 Feb.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident breeder.

Flocks of 100 or more (approximate counts) included 800 Moyness (Auldearn) 21 Dec (and 400 on 30 Aug), 400 Scarffbanks 21 Jan (and 200 on 22 Feb), 300 Kinnudie Farm (Auldearn) 14 Feb, 300 Covesea 17 Feb, 200 Marypark (Aberlour) 10 Sep, 100 Glenferness 22 Mar and 100 Hopeman 22 Feb.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident breeder.

Breeding: A pair was reported nesting in a Forres garden (A&FR).

The only count of 10 or more was 11 Kinloss 20 Dec. Smaller groups of 4-9 were reported from Clochan, Nairn and Tomintoul.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce breeder and winter visitor.

Heard at Loch Spynie up to May and from Oct onwards, with up to 3 birds seen around the hide in both winter seasons. Elsewhere single birds were seen at Loch Loy (Nairn) on 23 Jun (CGL) and on the Spey estuary on 2 Aug (RS).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Breeding proved (*italics*) or probable at *Brodie Castle lake*, Cloddach quarry, Dallachy landfill site pool, *East Grange*, *Gordon Castle lake*, Loch Flemington, Loch Loy, Loch na Bo, *Loch of Blairs*, *Loch Oire* and *Loch Spynie*.

Maximum counts (excluding small young) at sites holding five or more birds were 34 Loch Spynie 20 Jan, 18 Cloddach Quarry 27 Oct, 14 Loch Loy 14 Oct, 11 Loch Oire 23 Oct, 10 Brodie Castle lake 4 Feb, 7 Loch Flemington 13 Oct and 5 Gordon Castle lake 24 Mar.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Scarce resident breeder and winter visitor.

Breeding proved (*italics*) or probable at Loch Flemington, Loch Loy, *Loch Oire* and *Loch Spynie*.

Maximum monthly counts (excluding small young) on main lochs were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Flemington	2	nc	2	1	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	1	nc
Loch Spynie	23	30	25	8	13	10	5	nc	2	nc	nc	35
Loch Oire	4	0	nc	2	nc	nc	nc	20	18	12	1	1

Elsewhere, maximum site counts were 15 Loch Loy 28 Mar, 8 Delnies (Nairn) 18 Apr, 2 Loch of Blairs 20 Apr, 1 Cloddach quarry 27 Oct, 1 Cran Loch 28 Mar and 1 Dallachy pool 3 May.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis**Scarce breeder, scarce on the estuaries in winter.*

Monthly maximum counts on main freshwater sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Flemington	3	1	4	3	nc	nc	6	8	16	7	nc	nc
Loch of Blairs	nc	1	5	4	5	5	6	5	2	2	nc	nc
Loch Spynie	8	3	3	20	10	9	5	nc	8	2	1	1
Loch Oire	0	0	nc	3	nc	nc	nc	5	8	3	1	1
Loch na Bo	0	0	0	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	22	2	2	1
Dallachy pool	nc	1	nc	4	4	4	8	14	3	2	nc	nc

Mid-winter: Elsewhere on freshwater in January or December were 5 Brodie Castle lake 6 Dec (and 2 on 2 Jan), 4 Gilston pond (Elgin) 30 Jan, 2 Gordon Castle lake (Fochabers) 15 Dec and 1 on river at Nairn 29 Jan (and 1 on 15 Dec).

Present in spring/summer (*italics* = proved breeding) at Achavraat, *Altyre House lake*, Brodie Castle lake, Gordon Castle lake, Hilton of Delnies pond, *Nether Dallachy landfill site pool* (2 pairs), *Loch Flemington*, Loch Loy, Loch na Bo, *Loch of Blairs*, *Loch Oire*, *Loch Spynie* and Newmill (Auldearn).

Largest post-breeding congregations in late summer/autumn were 22 Loch na Bo 10 Sep, 16 Loch Flemington 16 Sep, 14 Dallachy pool 12 Aug, 9 Cloddach quarry 15 Sep and 8 Loch Spynie 13 Sep.

Coastal in autumn-winter: Regular in Findhorn Bay (mostly in the old River Findhorn channel, the Mosset Burn and around other creeks of the south and west sides) where the highest count was 11 on 12 Oct. Maximum monthly counts here were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	10	3	0	0	0	0	3	4	11	9	5

Also seen irregularly on the Lossie and Spey estuaries in January-early March and November-December; usually only 1-2 but 3 Lossie estuary 25 Dec. One was around Nairn harbour and The Maggot in January-February and November-December.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus**Occasional breeder, and very scarce offshore in autumn and winter.*

Only one sighting, of a single bird off Boar's Head area of Spey Bay on 29 Oct (MJHC).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus**Scarce offshore in winter, formerly rare breeder.*

One in breeding plumage seen on Loch Spynie on 28 Apr (DAG, JSi) and present at Loch Oire 7-19 Jun (EH).

Coastal: Another year with generally small numbers in Burghead Bay. Monthly maxima there were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	3	1	nc	nc	3	6	2
(6th)	(5th)	(5th)			(3rd)	(24th)	(19th)

(RSC *et al.*)

In addition, a bird in non-breeding plumage was seen off Findhorn dunes on 31 Jul (RSC). Elsewhere, present at Culbin Bar 24 Feb (PMo), 1 Kingston 9 Oct (GMcC) and 1 Spey Bay 12 Oct (NS, CA).



Slavonian Grebe, Loch Spynie 28 April 2022 (Jim Simpson)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Very common resident breeder, winter visitor and migrant.

First inland record, which also constituted a pre-breeding flock, was 35 Easter Clune (Darnaway) 10 Feb. Other pre-breeding flocks of 20 or more were 155 Cloddach quarry 17 Feb, 30 Knock (Strath Avon) 22 Mar and 60+ Delnabo 25 Mar. Later in the spring, 51 Delavorar (Tomintoul) on 23 May.

Other inland records were received from Elgin with 2 The Wards 12 Feb and 1 Cooper Park and 2 over the High Street 14 Feb. One by the A96 at Forres 14 Feb. At North Crannoch (Keith), singles on 16 & 23 Feb. Elsewhere, 10 Moyness 11 Mar, 8 Clunas reservoir 18 Mar, 1 Dava Moor 22 Mar and at Tomintoul, 6 by the River Conglass 19 Apr and 12 Conglass Lane 20 Feb. Breeding: Numerous records from potential breeding sites both in the coastal fringe and further up-country. Three pairs by River Nairn at Howford 11 Mar and 2 Cawdor Castle pond 13 Apr. At Lossiemouth cemetery, one incubating 18-30 May and two adults incubating 9 June (one on a clutch of three) - on 16 Jun, one young about a week old and a clutch of three. On the roof of Balvenie distillery on 4 Jun there was a pair with a brood of two. At The Oaks (Elgin) there was one young $\frac{3}{4}$ grown on 8 Jul. At Drynachan, on the very late date of 27 Aug, there was an adult behaving anxiously as if with young.

Spring, summer and early autumn peak counts of 10 or more at coastal localities:

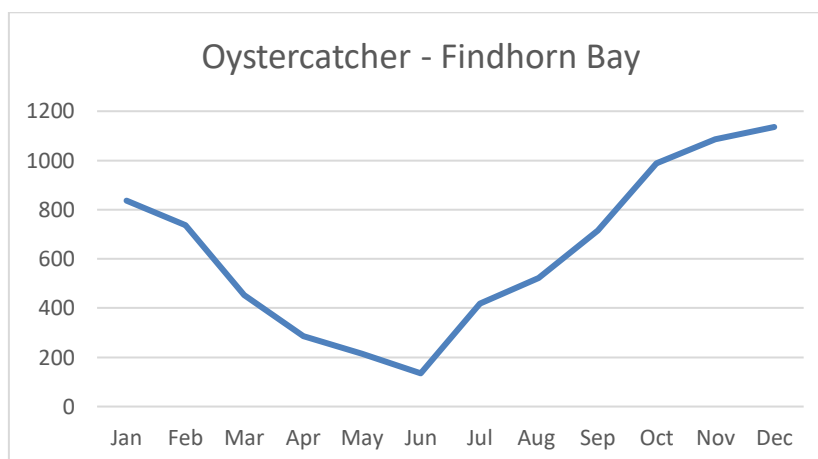
April:	55 Nairn 3rd, 287 Findhorn Bay 15th, 91 Lossie estuary 24th
May:	215 Findhorn Bay 4th, 120+ Nairn 10th, 36 Lossie estuary 24th
June:	135 Findhorn Bay 20th, 19 Nairn 22nd, 60 Culbin Bar 30th
July:	30 Lossiemouth 6th, 47 Nairn – Kingsteps 14th, 58 Spey estuary 23rd, 418 Findhorn Bay 27th, 41 Hopeman 27th
August:	c.100 Spey estuary 2nd, 191 Nairn – Kingsteps 6th, 15 Culbin Bar 13th, 86 Lossie estuary 13th, 523 Findhorn beach 28th
September:	69 Lossie estuary 1st, 10 Burghead 10th, 30+ Delnies 12th, 716 Findhorn Bay 17th

Winter maxima at the coast were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	569*	531*	1047*	600*
Findhorn Bay	837	738	988	1136
Burghead-Hopeman	83	80+	135	19
Lossiemouth	29	51	56	39
Portgordon-Strathlene	68	79	51	69

*Combination of Nairn & Culbin Bar counts – counting carried out concurrently

Monthly maxima in Findhorn Bay throughout the year:



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare visitor

Five birds flew west past Tronach Head at 11:00am on 20 Apr (JDL). At Spey estuary five were also seen on the afternoon of 20 Apr (LSi, AMacL). It is reasonable to assume that both records were of the same flock. This is the tenth record for Moray & Nairn. Apart from an old record from 1887, there have been five records in the period of 1969-86, and records from 2010, 2015 & 2016.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Very common migrant breeder, small numbers in winter.

First up-country was a pre-breeding flock of 50 Feith Musach (Tomintoul) 17 Feb. Other pre-breeding flocks up-country (of 10 or more) in the Tomintoul area included 40 at the Lecht Drive fields 17 Feb with 10 counted there 21 Mar, also 100 Blairnamarrow 24 Feb. At River Conglass, 12 on 19 Apr, 10 at Conglass Lane 20 Apr and 10 Birnies Lane fields 26 Apr. Elsewhere, in the Refouble/Dunearn area, 10 on 27 Feb, c.40 on 5 Mar and 12 on 11 Apr. There were 65 in the fields at Aldunie (Cabrach) 5 Apr. In lower country, 20 Tomloan, southeast of Cawdor, 18 Feb.

Breeding: Numerous records were received from potential breeding sites both in the coastal fringe and further up-country, but very little confirmed breeding reported.

In the coastal lowlands, at Bogs of Blervie (Forres), an adult was incubating 9 May and on 2 Jun there were three pairs with young (estimated broods of 2, 1 and 1). At Balormie pig farm one adult was seen with a chick 1 Jun. At Netherton on the south of Findhorn Bay there was a pair with one young 14 Jul.

Up-country, the only breeding record was one incubating at Burnside farm (Dunearn) 17 Apr. The only up-country post-breeding flock of 100 or more was 100 at Lecht Drive fields (Tomintoul) 19 Jul.

Lowland post-breeding flocks of 100 or more consisted of five records from the Spey estuary – 120 on 28 Jul, 130 on 12 Aug, 170 on 23 Aug, 140 on 21 Sep and 187 on 29 Sep. There were 206 at Balormie pig farm 8 Oct and 168 in three flocks flying south at Findhorn Bay 23 Oct. In mid-winter (January-February and November-December), flocks over 100 included 160 Gilston 13 Jan and 150 Balormie pig farm 15 Jan, presumably the same flock. At Kingsteps on 24 Feb, 200 were recorded. Inland at Cloddach quarry were 130 on 17 Feb. During November the largest count from the Findhorn Bay area was 196 on the 3rd and at Balormie pig farm there were 287 on the 24th. Balormie pig farm held 388 on 8 Dec.

The pattern of occurrence over the year at Findhorn Bay and the Spey estuary (maximum monthly counts) was:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
F Bay	22	c.20	23	8	19	3	6	34	15	168	108	39
Spey	0	0	0	3	0	0	120	170	187	0	0	0

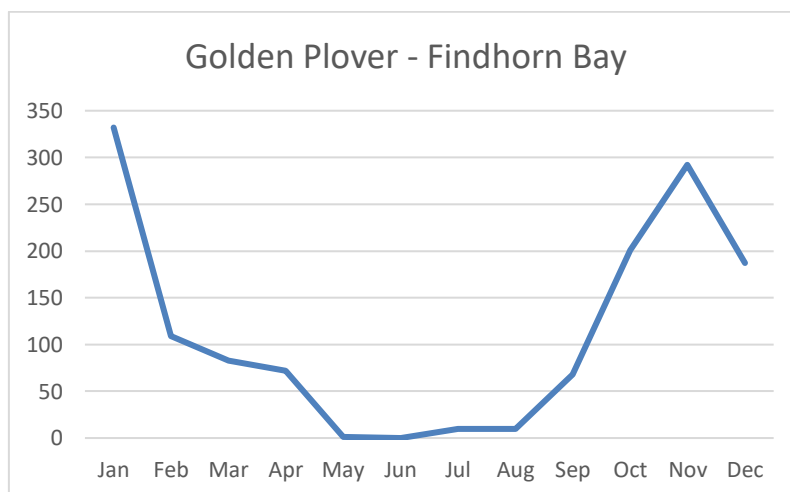
Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common breeder, migrant and winter visitor.

Very few records received from potential breeding grounds. A pre-breeding flock of c.40 was at Round Hill (Cabrach) 30 Mar and 12 were at Refoule 15 Apr. A flock of 72 northern birds, pausing prior to moving on, were just south of Findhorn Bay on 1 Apr.

In summer, 6 Carn Eachie and 2 Creagan a' Chaise (Hills of Cromdale) 22 Jun. Four were still up country at Cabrach 14 Sep. During winter, 3 Little Conval (Dufftown) 1 Dec. First back at the coast, returning from breeding grounds, was 1 Findhorn Bay 13 Jul.

Maximum counts of Golden Plover in Findhorn Bay throughout the year:



Winter monthly maxima in Findhorn Bay were:

	Jan	Feb	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Findhorn Bay	332	109	82	201	292	187

Outwith Findhorn Bay, other coastal records included 23 Cullen 15 Aug, 15 flying west past Lossiemouth 31 Aug, 1 Portgordon 16 Sep and 30 Portgordon – Strathlene 21 Oct.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Scarce autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Highest counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	7*	13	0	15*	12	21
Findhorn Bay	0	0	1	9	0	0
Lossiemouth	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Combination of Nairn & Culbin Bar counts – counting carried out concurrently

Summer: 2 Lossie estuary 19 Jun, 2 Findhorn Bay 20 Jun, 1 Findhorn Bay 8 Aug and 1 Delnies 24 Aug.

Highest counts at any one site since 2008 have been:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
24	11	46	27	16	16	20	17	29	19	21

The highest Grey Plover count in Moray & Nairn was 130 at the Bars on 14 Oct 1978.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Scarce resident breeder and very common migrant.

Breeding: A pair bred in the dunes at Findhorn beach. On Lossiemouth east beach, there were four adults and one chick on 28 Jun and 9 Jul.

The pattern of occurrence over the year at Findhorn Bay and at the Lossie and Spey estuaries (maximum monthly counts) was:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
F Bay	28	19	17	175	705	593	12	147	124	39	20	17
Lossie	22	12	2	37	226	110	6	20	c.50	0	0	2
Spey	0	17	0	26	86	29	22	49	0	0	0	0

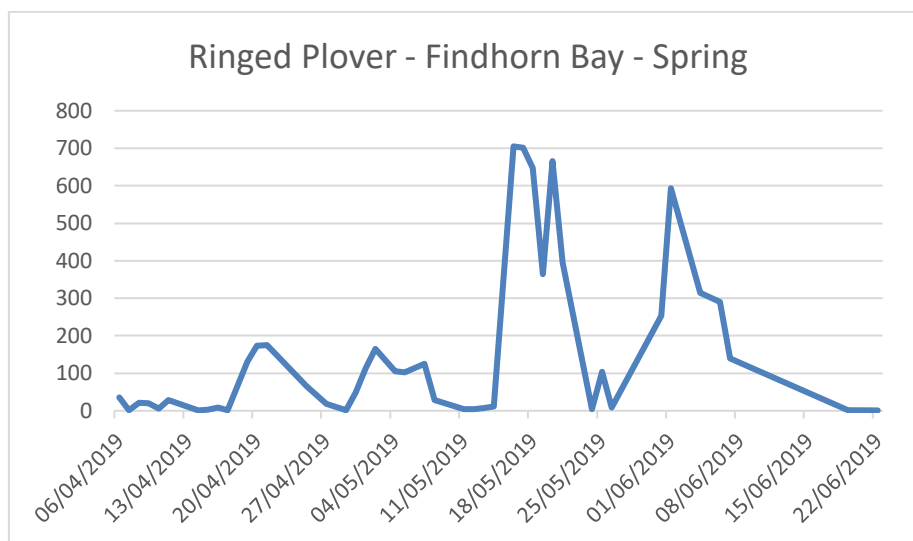
Winter maxima at the coast were:

	January-February	November-December
Nairn/Culbin Bars	67	0
Findhorn Bay	28	20
Kinloss	0	0
Burghead-Hopeman	13	15
Lossiemouth	22	2
Spey estuary	17	0
Portgordon-Strathlene	13	22*

*Portgordon harbour only

Spring passage (April-early June):

Findhorn Bay: regular counts during this period show a strong movement during May and early June with a peak of 705 on 17 May.



At the Spey estuary, highest spring count was 86 on 26 May and at Lossiemouth 226 on 28 May.

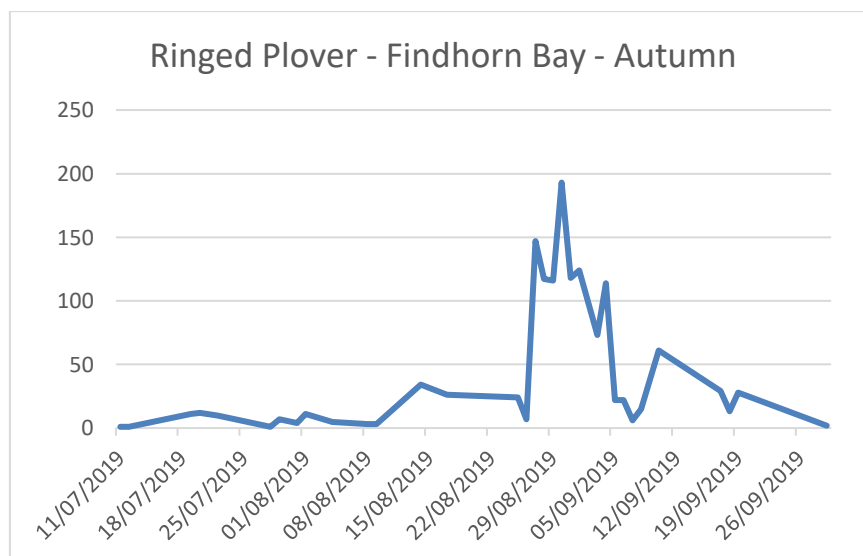
The highest spring migration counts in Findhorn Bay in recent years have been:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
413	156	1500	1000	450	985	1200	1946	1190	849	705

An unusual upland record of 1 Garbh Uisge Beag (Cairngorms) 25 May – considered by the observer to have possibly been of subspecies *C. h. tundrae* (JD).

Autumn passage (July-September):

Findhorn Bay: regular counts during this period show a peak of 193 on 30 Aug:



At the Spey estuary the highest count during this period was 49 on 15 Aug and at Lossiemouth a high of c.50 on 1 Sep.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Rare summer visitor and breeder.

One juvenile (and possibly two) was on the man-made pools to the south side of the main road at Hopeman 27 Jul (SBr). One bird was also there on 30 Jul (MJHC) and 31 Jul (AJL).



Little Ringed Plover, Hopeman 30 July 2019 (Martin Cook)

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Scarce summer visitor and breeder.

A male reported on Ben Rinnes 30 Mar (CMac) was exceptionally early.

All but one of the records came from the Cairngorms plateau:

During May, 2 (MF) and 3 (PRG) on 15th, and birds in two locations on 17th. On 25th, one observer had 10 records of various numbers totalling 35 birds with a maximum of six in flight at two separate locations (RI).

During June, 2 on 7th and on 22nd, two singles calling at separate locations, one male foraging, one male with a brood of three small chicks and one male incubating (RI). On 27th, one adult with a brood of two, three females, one adult male with a brood of two, three females foraging and one male incubating (RI). On 28th, four individual records consisting of two adults, one adult, seven adults + broods of three and two all about one week old and one other single adult (JD). An adult male and one chick were recorded on 29th (RG).

During July, adults were incubating sterile eggs in two nests, on 5th and 8th. On 15th, one male with a brood of two well feathered young, and another male with two juveniles. Also, on the 15th there was a nest with a clutch of three. This nest was previously reported on 22 Jun and 27 Jun, and was not the same location as the previously reported sterile clutch (RI). Elsewhere, 3 Mullach Lochan nan Gabhar (Ben Avon) 9 Jul (MG).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus**Scarce migrant.*

Spring: First of the year (and the only inland record) was one over Bishopmill (Elgin) 9 Apr. During April-early June, there were 60 records, from Delnies in the west to Portgordon in the east, 25 of which were of single birds. No counts in double figures and the highest numbers were in Findhorn Bay with 9 on 4th & 16th May. Last in spring was 1 Netherton 2 Jun.

Earliest spring arrival dates for the preceding ten years:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
24 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	4 May	21 Apr	8 Apr	6 Mar	6 Apr	14 Apr	17 Apr

Autumn: Extreme dates of passage were 2 Findhorn Bay 10 Jul and 1 Lossie estuary 20 Sep. A total of 57 coastal records were received from Delnies in the west to Cullen in the east with a total of 438 birds, although some duplication is likely. Most of the records were in single figures but there were several of 10 or more, including good numbers at the Spey estuary with 67 in two flocks on 26 Jul (MJHC), 103 in two circling flocks 27 Jul (JM), 19 flying west 28 Jul and 10 on 1 Aug. Elsewhere, 13 flew east past Burghead 27 Jul, 30+ between Burghead-Cunnington 28 Jul and 23 west past Portknockie 24 Aug. The count of 103 at the Spey estuary is the largest number ever recorded in Moray & Nairn.

Curlew *Numenius arquata**Common breeder. Very common migrant and winter visitor.*

Pre-breeding flocks consisted of 20 Delnabo 25 Mar and c.40 Upper Knockando 15 Apr.

Breeding: Two adults and two chicks at Aitnoch 17 Jun and five adults and three chicks in the same locality the next day. A pair had a brood of two at Aldunie (Cabrach) 23 Jun.

Other records, of possible/probable breeding included 3 near Black Loch (Dava) 7 Apr, 2 at Chapeltown (Glenlivet) and Ladderfoot 21 Apr, 2 Casfuair (Tomintoul) 20 May, 4 Lagganvoulin 28 May, 6 Tips of Corsemaul 7 June, 8 Little Aitnoch-Refouble 17 Jun, 2 Knock (Strath Avon) 22 Jun and 2 Tomintoul 19 Jul.

The highest counts of post-breeding flocks in early summer/autumn from the most popular coastal locations were:

	June	July	August	September
Findhorn Bay	147	412	266	229
Lossiemouth	0	5	78	3
Spey estuary	23	140	250	4

Coastal winter maxima were:

	January	February	October	December
Nairn/Culbin Bars	146*	140*	189*	234*
Findhorn Bay	481	432	433	252
Burghead-Hopeman	1	40	30+	0
Lossiemouth	93	6	10	143
Portgordon-Strathlene	10	5	4	28

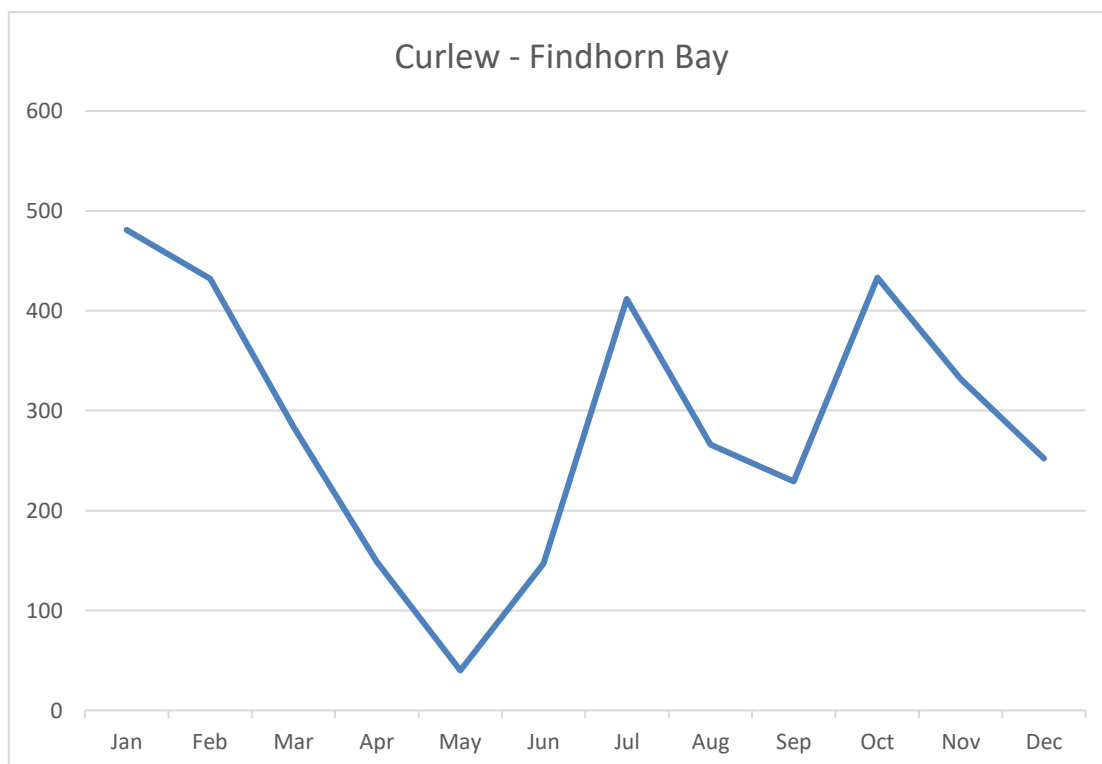
*Combination of Nairn & Culbin Bar counts – counting carried out concurrently.

During November there was a maximum of 328 on the 19th.

Elsewhere, c.60 Covesea 17 Feb, 20+ Delnies 23 Feb and 32 Kingsteps 23 Dec.

Inland in lowland areas were 32 Gilston 13 Jan and at Cloddach quarry, 317 on 17 Feb and 100 Wester Manbeen on 21 Nov. A small gathering of 7 were at Cloddach on 22 Dec.

Monthly maxima in Findhorn Bay throughout the year were:



Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Common winter visitor and migrant. Small numbers in summer.

Monthly maxima at main sites were:

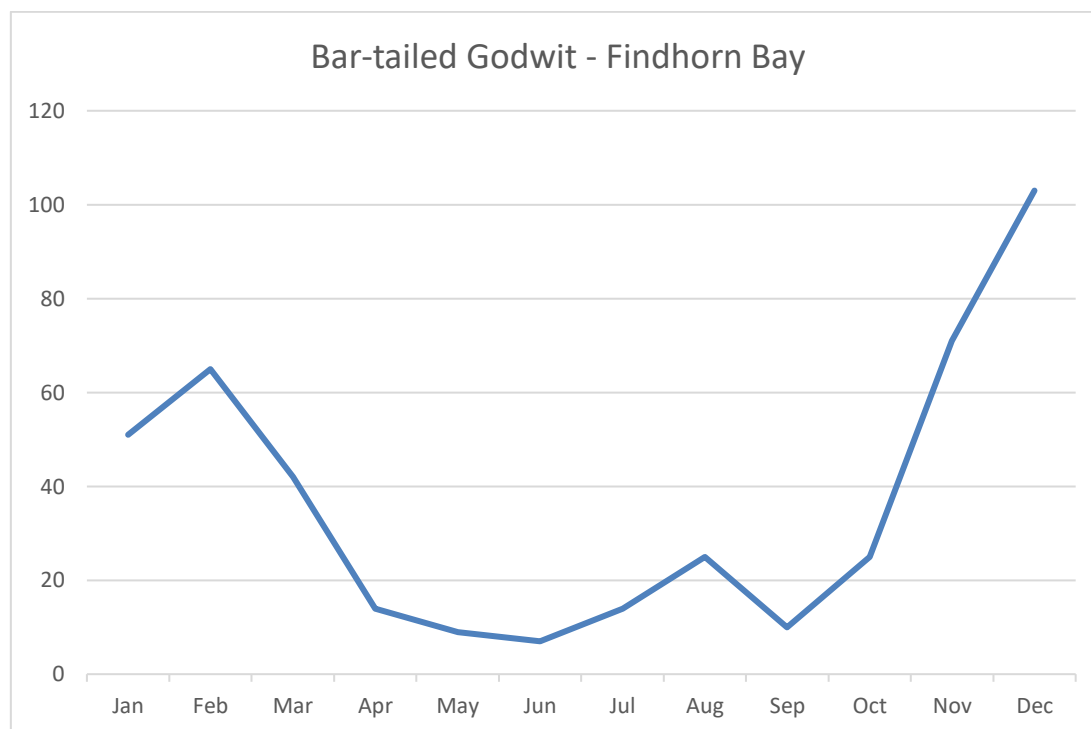
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	79*	200+	0	0	112*	0	46
Nairn	c.100	200+	109	7	0	11	24
Findhorn Bay	51	65	42	10	25	71	103
Burghead	0	36	0	0	15	0	0
Burghead-Hopeman	18	15	0	0	24	0	9
Lossiemouth	3	3	3	6	3	3	6

*Combination of Nairn & Culbin Bar counts – counting carried out concurrently.

Elsewhere, east of Nairn at Kingsteps were c.400 on 22 Jan and c.250 on 7 Feb.

At other times, 40 Nairn 9 Apr, 31 Delnies 19 Jul and 25 Findhorn 26 Aug.

Monthly maxima in Findhorn Bay throughout the year were:



Maximum annual count at any site since 2009 has been:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
75	107	204	150	90	137	145	c.300	121	231	c.400

The last count exceeding 1000 was back in winter 1996-97.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Scarce migrant.

Early winter (January-March): Records of overwintering birds in Findhorn Bay (maximum counts) were 5 on 25-26 Jan, 6 on 24-26 Feb and 6 on 1-2nd & 12th Mar (GM, RSC).

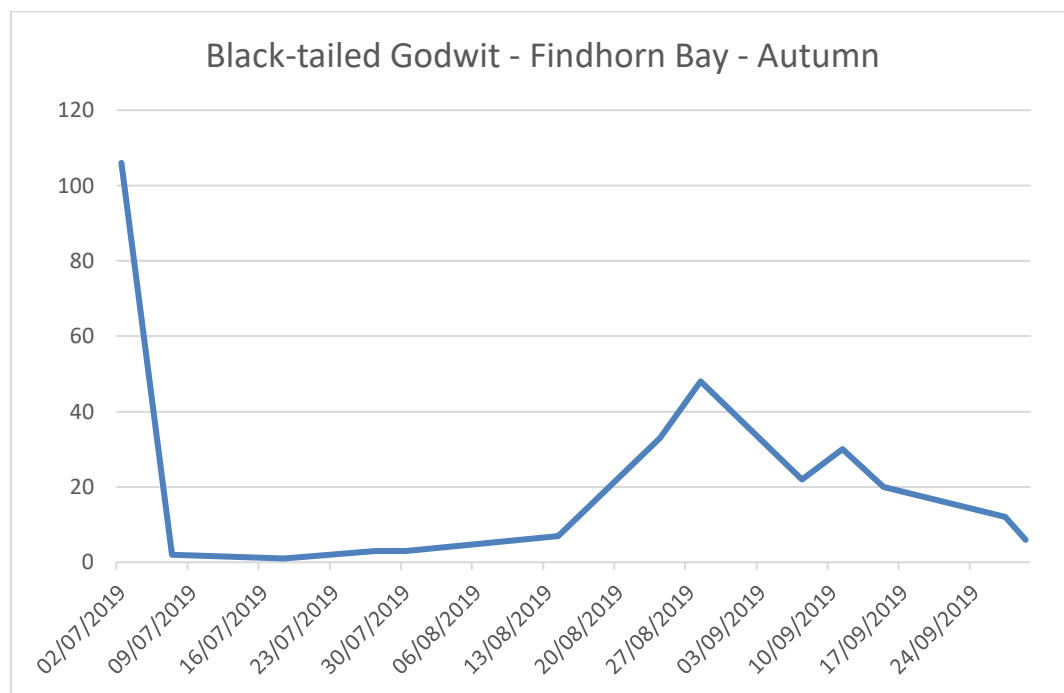
Spring: Almost all records were from Findhorn Bay. During April, all records were in single figures except 28 on 21st (RHD). At Loch Spynie (the only inland record) were 2 also on the 21st. During May only records of single figures were received from Spey Bay with the highest count of 5 on the 2nd.

Late summer/autumn (mid June-October): First to return were 2 Findhorn Bay 18 Jun. Flocks of 26 Kingston 22 Jun and 12 Loch Spynie 29 Jun. Maximum counts thereafter were:

	July	August	September	October
Findhorn Bay	106	48	30	3
Lossie estuary	0	0	1	0
Spey estuary	0	7	0	0

The count of 106 on 2 Jul (GM) was an unusually high number for that time of year. Elsewhere, there were inland records of single birds at Wester Calcots on 12 Aug and Loch Spynie 25 Aug. At The Maggot (Nairn) there were 40+ on 19 Sep.

Regular counting in Findhorn Bay (GM, RSC *et al.*) revealed the following pattern of autumn occurrence, peaking at 106 on 2 Jul:



Late winter (November-December): no records received during this period.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Common winter visitor, small numbers in summer.

Winter monthly maxima at main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	1	2	8	6
Nairn & Culbin Bars	29	27	11	10*
Findhorn	43	23	28	25
Burghead	25+	c.80	49	13
Burghead-Hopeman	0	45	110	33
Lossiemouth	12	1	0	3
Spey estuary	0	18	37	18
Portgordon-Strathlene	87	62	41	45

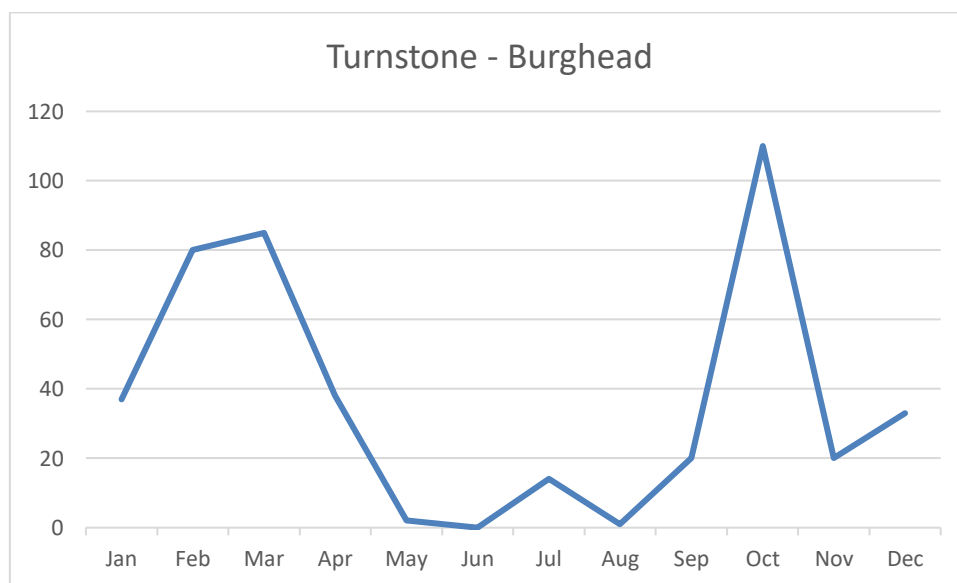
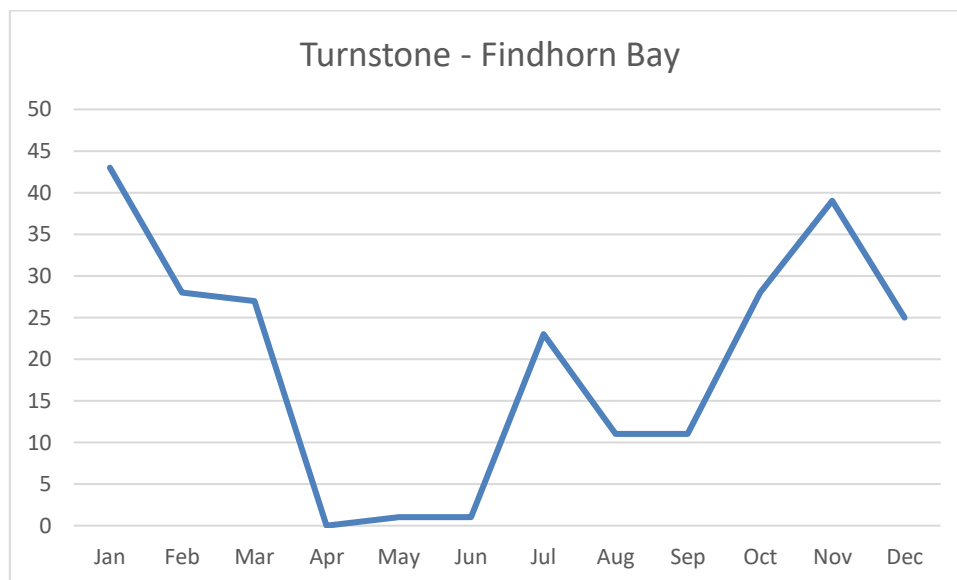
*Combination of Nairn & Culbin Bar counts – counting carried out concurrently.

During November, 18 Portgordon harbour 5th, 18 Burghead 6th, 25 Spey estuary 17th and 39 Findhorn Bay 22nd.

Spring: Highest counts in spring months included c.45 Portgordon 12 Mar (and 57 on 20 Apr) and 85 Burghead 20 Mar (and 38 on 6 Apr). Last record was 3 Spey estuary 6 Jun.

Summer-autumn: First in July were 6 Spey estuary on 6th (increasing to 22 on 26th) and 23 back at Findhorn Bay 22nd. Highest count during August was 50 Spey estuary 10th and in September 22 Nairn on 30th.

Numerous records from Findhorn Bay and the Burghead area, using monthly maxima from each, revealed the following pattern throughout the year:



Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter maxima were:

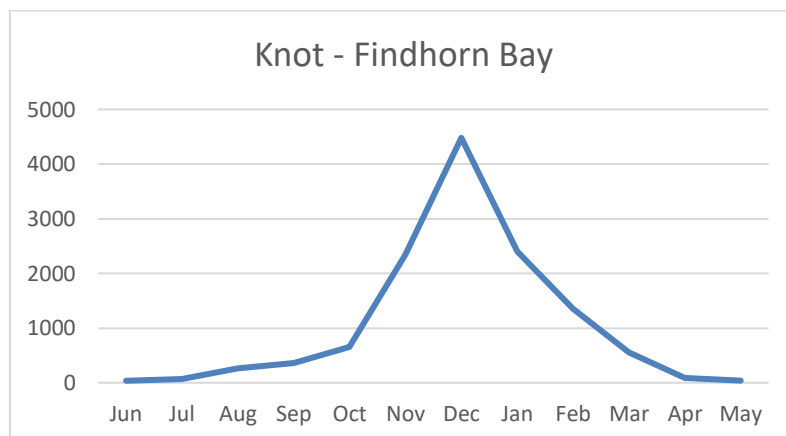
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars, east Nairn	1680	1770*	20	13	400+	2300
Burghead-Hopeman	0	0	nc	115	nc	22
Findhorn Bay	2400	1360	556	649	2340	4480

*Combination of Nairn & Culbin Bar counts – counting carried out concurrently.

Spring: During April, maxima of 84 Findhorn Bay 1st, 30+ Nairn 13th and 10 Burghead 27th. In May, c.100 in flight over Lossie estuary 5th and 39 Findhorn Bay 19th. In June the highest count was of 36 Findhorn Bay 30th.

Summer-autumn: First to return was 1 Lossiemouth east beach 12 Jul followed by 1 Findhorn Bay 14 Jul and 1 Spey estuary 16 Jul. Numbers increased during July with a maximum of 22 Spey estuary 24th and 65 Findhorn Bay 27th. Highest counts during August and September were at Findhorn Bay with 264 on 29th Aug and 359 on 3rd Sep.

Monthly maxima in Findhorn Bay throughout the year were:



Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Scarce autumn migrant, rare in spring.

Spring: The only record was of a female at Lossie estuary 21 Apr (DAG).

First autumn arrivals were at the Spey estuary, where 1 on 26 Jul (MJHC, HF), 2 on 27 Jul (JM) and 28 Jul (RS, IS), 1 on 29 Jul (RS, GMcC) and 2 on 30 Jul (JM). Elsewhere, 1 Hopeman 28 Jul (IB) and 1 Findhorn Bay 30 Jul (GM).

During August, 1 Spey estuary 4th-6th (RS) and 3 there 14th (PRG). At Findhorn Bay 1 on 17th and 24th, 2 on 28th and 1 on 29th (RSC, GM). Inland on a partially flooded field at Wester Calcots were 8 on 12th (LM) and 2 on 31st (DAG).

In September, 3 Wester Calcots on 1st (RP), 3 Findhorn Bay 24th (GM) and (last record of the year) 2 Lossie estuary 26th (AMac).

Dates for the first autumn migrants in recent years have been:

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
30/07	04/09	07/08	03/08	28/07	12/08	08/08	06/07	07/08	21/08	31/07

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce migrant.

Another poor year with very small numbers. There have been no flocks exceeding 10 since 2008.

Spring: 1 Findhorn Bay 20 May (RSC, GM).

Autumn: 1 Findhorn Bay 29 Aug (GM, PW) and 30 Aug (GM). 1 Lossie estuary 1 Sep (DAG).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Scarce migrant and fairly common but very localised winter visitor.

Monthly maxima at the four regular sites were:

Winter-spring:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Nairn/Culbin Bars	146	71	0	0	0	0
Lossiemouth	63	c.40	0	0	64	40
Findhorn Bay	0	15	3	2	4	24
Nairn	36	15	12	0	0	0

First to return from breeding grounds were 17 Lossiemouth east beach 12 Jul.

Late summer-autumn:

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	0	0	0	2	0	137
Lossiemouth	103	0	c.100	40	0	15
Findhorn Bay	22	11	8	3	0	0
Nairn	1	0	0	0	1	0

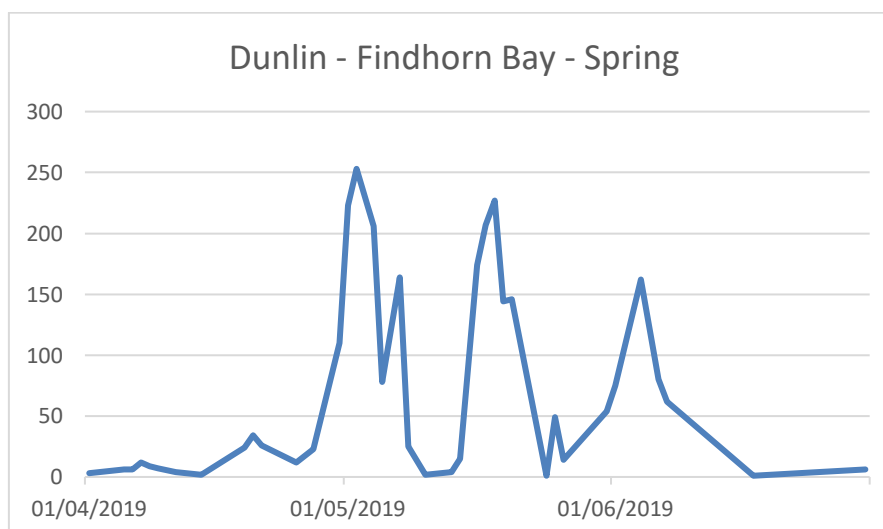
Maximum counts at other locations included 31 Covesea 6 Jan (also c.35 on 17 Feb and 17 on 27 Aug), 30 Kingsteps 22 Jan (and 12 on 7 Feb) and 12 Delnies 12 Sep.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Scarce breeder, very common migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding: records from potential breeding grounds consisted of one foraging on Crane-fly larvae Cairn Lochan 25 May (RI), 1 Lochan Buidhe area 7 Jun (GR), one agitated bird at Monadh an t-Sluich Leith (Ladder Hills) 16 Jun (AE) and one at an altitude of 1,173 m near the summit of Ben Macdui 15 Jul (PRG).

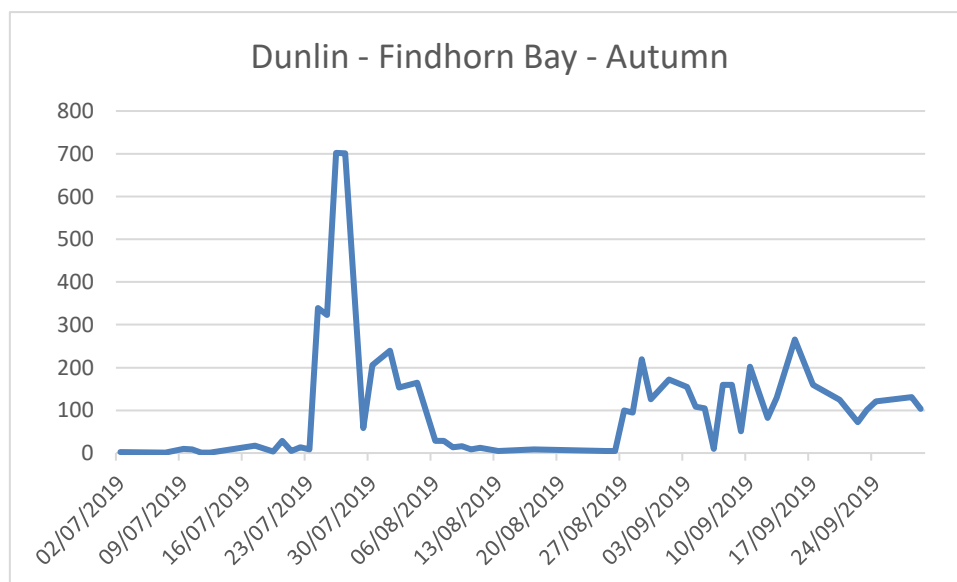
Spring passage (April-June): Counts in Findhorn Bay were:



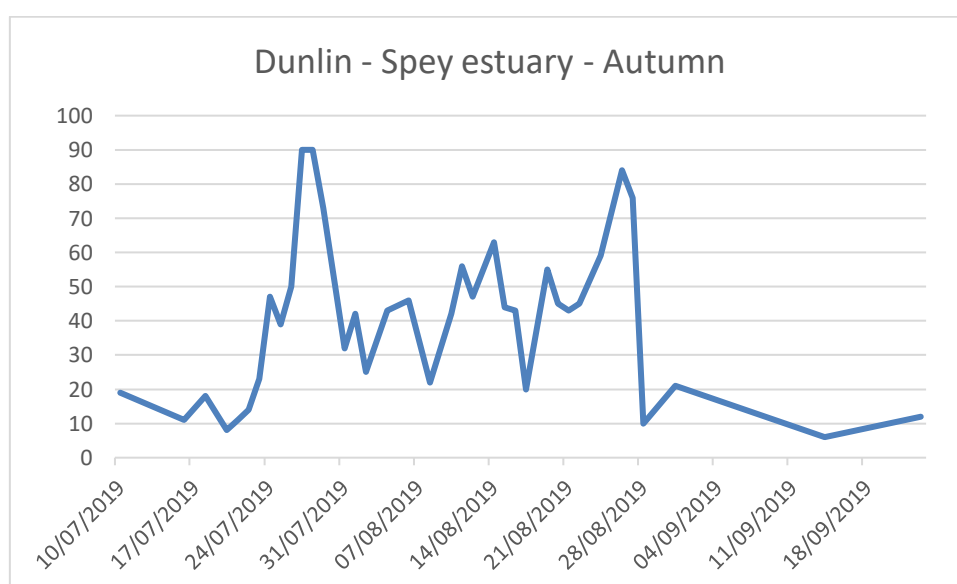
Main passage took place during May with peaks of 253 on the 2nd and 227 on the 18th.

Elsewhere during May there were peaks of 50 Kingsteps 20th and, on 23rd, 75 Lossie estuary & 56 Spey estuary. Also, on the 23rd a flock of 14 flew over Loch Spynie.

Autumn passage (July-September): Counts in Findhorn Bay and the Spey estuary are shown below:



Fluctuating numbers during this period. However, the initial July movement, with a maximum of 702 on 26 Jul, is likely to consist mainly of birds of subspecies *schinzii* which are on migration and will leave Scotland in winter. The later August and September build-up will be of subspecies *alpina* which will over-winter here.



Fluctuating numbers throughout this period. The July peak of 90 (probable *schinzii*) on the 27th & 28th coincided with the Findhorn Bay July peak of 26th -27th. The August peak of 84 on 26th is three days before the Findhorn Bay August peak of 219 on 29th. At Lossiemouth there was a July peak of 16 also on the 27th.

Inland during September, at Balormie pig farm (Drainie), 7 on 10th and 9 on 14th.

Winter monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	January	February	October	November	December
Nairn/Culbin Bars	650	510	12	0	922
Findhorn Bay	1495	1728	1034	c.2200	1825
Lossiemouth	0	0	21	0	30*
Portgordon-Strathlene	86	30	0	0	47

*Counted flying west during a sea-watch.

The estimated count of 2,200 on 30th Nov (GM) was the highest in Findhorn Bay since Jan 2012 when 2,180 were counted.

Highest count during March was 727 Findhorn Bay 8th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Common winter visitor.

Main winter site maxima were:

	January-March	October-December
Nairn	10	9
Burghead-Hopeman	4*	11
Lossiemouth	44	4
Portgordon-Strathlene	14	26
Cullen	0	25

*Burghead only

During April, 28 Cullen 8th and 35 Lossiemouth 14th.

Yearly maximum flock sizes since 2007 have been:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017	2018	2019
73	144	100	120	100	73	45	19	60	70	80	44

Last in spring were 7 flying west past Lossiemouth harbour 11th May and first to return was 1 at Burghead 27th Aug.

The variability of arrival dates from breeding grounds for the previous ten years is indicated below:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
03/09	14/09	16/10	20/09	09/09	23/07	27/09	15/09	15/09	21/08

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola**Common resident breeder, migrant and winter visitor.*

January-March: 1 Loch Spynie 6 Jan and 2 on 20 Jan. All other records were of single birds, at Wellheads 15 Jan, Inverugie 23 Jan, Achneim (Cawdor) 30 Jan, Loch of Blairs 2 Feb, Fochabers pond 3 Feb and Little Aitnoch-Refouble 3 Mar.

Breeding: Roding birds were at Newlands of Inchnacaorach (Cawdor) 20 Mar, Carron 9 Apr and Loch Spynie 12 May. In breeding habitat elsewhere were 1 Cawdor castle wood 1 May and 2 Lagganvoulin 28 May.

Autumn-winter: 17 records received of single birds, 10 from the coastal lowlands and 7 from further up-country. Records from up-country included Marypark 2 Oct, Tomnamoon 21 Oct, Wester Regaule 28 Oct, Bantrach 3 Nov, Sluie 10 Nov, Auchnarrow 2 Dec and Cairnglass 20 Dec. Nearer the coast, reports came from Limekilns 28 Oct, Loch Spynie 1 & 17 Nov, Torrieston woods 1 & 27 Nov, Loch Loy 10 Nov, Kirkhill 21 Nov, Covesea Farm 30 Nov & 10 Dec and Kinloss 15 Dec.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus**Scarce migrant and winter visitor.*

January-February: 1 Kingsteps 3 Jan (PRG), 6 Jan and 10 Feb (GP).

Autumn-winter: At Kingsteps, 2 on 24 Oct (AMc), 2 on 26 Oct (CGL) and singles on 30 Nov (CGL), 15 Dec (GP) and 23 Dec (CGL). Elsewhere, 1 Kirkhill 22 Nov (MWh).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago**Common breeder and migrant.*

Breeding: Recorded in breeding habitat at Regaule 5 Apr, Upper Howbog (Cabrach) 17 May, Lagganvoulin 28 May, Tomintoul 21 & 23 Jun and south of Drynachan 27 Aug.

Winter-spring (January-April): Most records from Kingsteps where 8 on 6 Jan, 1 on 1 Feb, 2 on 10 Feb, 1 on 17 Feb, 2 on 16 Mar and 2 on 6 & 13 Apr. Elsewhere, 1 Findhorn Bay 3 Jan, 3 Spynie canal west 30 Jan, 1 near Nairn east beach 1 Feb and 5 Nairn Bar 10 Feb.

Late summer-winter: 17 records from the Spey estuary during 16 Jul-6 Nov, maximum 9 on 14 Aug. At Hopeman, 4 on 27 Jul and 2 on 30 Jul. Eight records from Findhorn Bay during 31 Jul-8 Nov with the highest count of 5 on 25 Aug. Elsewhere, 1 Burghead-Cummingston 26 Aug, 6 over the A941 at Ardivot 15 Sep, 1 Lossie estuary 22 Sep and 1 Culbin Bar 13 Oct. At Kingsteps, 3 on 13 Oct, 6 on 24 Oct, 7 on 26 Oct and 5 on 15 Dec – at nearby Nairn Bar, 7 on 13 Oct and 11 on 15 Dec. At Dallachy pool, 9 on 4 Dec and 6 on 6 Dec.

Maximum winter counts since 2010:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
60	45	6	83*	65*	13*	18*	53	11*	11

* at Kingsteps.

The largest congregation in Moray & Nairn was 134 at Culbin in October 1995.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos**Common summer visitor and breeder.*

Arrival: First, on 14 Apr, were 2 coastal birds at the Spey estuary and 1 upcountry at Cragganmore. Later in April, 1 Dallachy pool 21st, 1 Lossie estuary 26th, 1 Drynachan 27th and 2 Birnie 28th.

The first arrival dates (in April) since 2009 were:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
9th	17th	12th	10th	15th	10th	17th	16th	14th	15th	14th

Breeding: Only two reports of confirmed breeding, at Clunas Reservoir and at the Spey estuary where there was a pair with a chick at Tugnet on 27 Jun. Present in other potential breeding sites in the coastal lowlands at Cloddach quarry and Dallachy pool, and up-country near Balnught (Drynachan) and at Cragganmore.

The usual post-breeding assemblage on the Spey estuary with records on 29 dates during 12 Jul-30 Aug. 10 counts in double figures occurred during July with a peak of 19 on the 20th. Elsewhere. At Nairn there was 1 on 20 Jul and 2 on 11 Aug. Lossiemouth had 8 on 21 Jul and 2 on 20 Aug. The last of the year were 2 at Cullen 23 Sep.

Dates for 'last departing migrant of the year' have fluctuated greatly:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
31 Jul	28 Sep	19 Aug	28 Aug	19 Sep	8 Sep	27 Aug	10 Sep	7 Sep	23 Sep

But first arrivals are more regularly and reliably reported than last departures.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Very scarce migrant, rare in winter.

No winter or spring records were received.

Late summer/autumn: 3 Buckpool shore 24 Jul (JDL) flew off west. Two on the Spey estuary 26-30 Jul (HF, JM, MJHC) were probably from the same group, with 1-2 remaining on 1 Aug (JM), and (probably) a different bird there on 24 Aug (JM). Elsewhere, 1 Loch Spynie 4 Aug (RP) and 1 near the Mosset Burn (Findhorn Bay) 30 Aug (RHD).

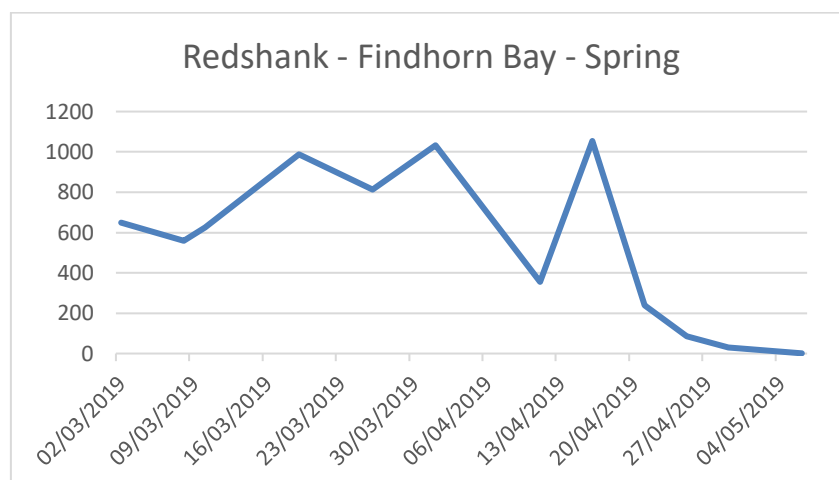
Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Scarce breeder, very common migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding: In suitable habitat were 3 Aldunie (Cabrach) 5 Apr (still 1 adult 23 Jun) and 4 at River Conglass (Tomintoul) 26 May. At the coast, present during May-July at the southern end of Findhorn Bay, where one juvenile 4 Jul, 2 on 5 Jul and an adult with 3 juveniles on 14 & 16 Jul, assumed to have been bred locally.

Spring (March-May):

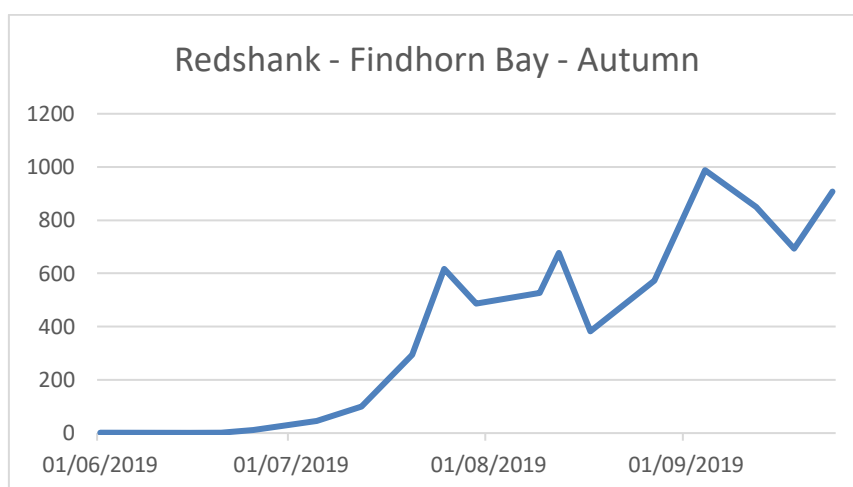
Weekly maximum counts in Findhorn Bay revealed the following pattern with a decline following the peak in mid April:



Highest counts were 988 on 19 Mar, 1,033 on 1 Apr and 1,054 on 16 Apr. Elsewhere, the maximum count was 60+ at Nairn 22 Mar.

Late summer-autumn (July-September):

Weekly maximum counts in Findhorn Bay (GM, RSC) revealed the following pattern with numbers increasing, although some fluctuations, through July and August and peaking in early September with 988 on the 4th.



Highest counts (monthly maxima) elsewhere were:

	July	August	September
Carse of Delnies	0	0	10
Nairn	20	47	80+
Burghead	3	0	28
Lossiemouth	28	c.10	8
Spey estuary	12	16	12
Portgordon	0	0	27

A short distance inland was 1 Loch Spynie 10 Aug.

Winter: Monthly maxima at the coast were:

	January	February	October	November	December
Nairn/Culbin Bars	61*	46*	48	0	215*
Carse of Delnies	65+	30+	3	0	3
Nairn	53	350+	c55	17	177
Findhorn Bay	663	881	1021	583	575
Burghead-Hopeman	20	20+	66	0	34
Lossiemouth	7	9	12	4	10
Portgordon-Strathlene	43	79	47	39	59

*Combination of Nairn & Culbin Bar counts - counting carried out concurrently.

Maximum winter counts in Findhorn Bay since 2010 have been:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
536	500	599	513	870	845	912	976	919	1021

The count of 1,021 in Findhorn Bay on 13 Oct is the highest winter count since 1,080 in October 2008.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Very scarce migrant.

1 Spey estuary 16-27 Jul (RS, MJHC *et al.*) and 1 Hopeman (at the roadside pools) 27-28 Jul (IB).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Very scarce migrant.

In Findhorn Bay, one on 11, 17 & 19 Sep (RSC, GM) was probably the same bird – the first record since 2016.



Spotted Redshank, Findhorn Bay 11 September 2022 (Richard Somers Cocks)

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce migrant, very scarce in winter.

Spring (late March-June): At Findhorn Bay, 1 on 29 Mar, 31 Mar, 13 Apr and 22 Apr, 2 on 14 Jun and 5 feeding in the Old Findhorn Channel 15 Jun. Elsewhere, singles at Nairn 18 Apr,

Loch Spynie 20 Apr, Spey estuary 20 Apr, Lossiemouth west beach 21 Apr and Lossie estuary 30 Apr.

Late summer-autumn (July-October): 39 records received from the Findhorn Bay area from 5 Jul until 27 Oct. Records consisted of 19 singles, 2-3 on 16 occasions, 4 on 27 Aug, 8 Oct & 26 Oct and 6 on 12 Oct. At the Spey estuary, 13 records during 21 Jul-23 Sep were mostly of 1-2 birds but there were 3 on 1 Aug and 4 on 2 Aug. At Lossiemouth, 9 records during 12 Aug-3 Oct usually 1-2 birds, 5 on 14 Aug and 3 on 20 Aug. Elsewhere, single birds were at Burghead 9 Aug, Nairn 11 Aug, Hopeman 27-28 Jul and Loch Spynie 21 Jul.

Winter (November-December): no winter records received.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Very common breeder and migrant.

Breeding: The number of apparently occupied nests (AON) at both colonies this year was slightly higher than 2018, with 560 AON at Covesea (Lossiemouth) on 22 Jun and 300 AON at Portknockie on 17 Jun (MJHC).

Numbers of AON in the past 10 years at these colonies are as follows:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Covesea	535	540	590	425	569	627	488	700	476	560
Portknockie	355	360	365	233	336	260	220	319	263	300

In the first half of the year high counts included 100 off Cullen on 6 Apr and 50 off Burghead on 16 Apr. Counts along the coast in late summer included around c.2,000 off Delnies (Nairn) on 7 Sep, 615 off Findhorn beach on 17 Sep, 700 off Tugnet on 23 Sep and 800 off Hopeman on 9 Oct. Peak one hour passage counts offshore from Lossiemouth included 887 on 23 Mar, 265 on 1 Jun, 1,221 on 7 Sep and 1990 on 19 Oct.

At Lossiemouth, regular sea-watches were conducted throughout 2019 and the maximum passage recorded over a one-hour period was as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
118	0	887	60	234	265	144	100	1221	1990	4	0

(RP)

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare migrant.

A 1CY bird was on Lossie estuary on 22 Sep (HF, DAG, RP).



Sabine's Gull, Lossie estuary 22 September 2019 (Bob Proctor)

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus**Fairly common resident breeder and very common winter visitor*

Breeding: Numbers at Loch Spynie were up on 2018 with 25 apparently occupied nests (AON) seen on 21 May. At Forres, north of the A96, at least 19 AON with 88 adults were present on 21 Jun. The only other breeding noted was at Aldunie (Cabrach) where there were 13 AON on 23 Jun.

Highest count of the year was 1,200 Loch Spynie 20 Jan. Other early counts from inland sites included 132 Cooper Park Pond (Elgin) 17 Feb and 37 Gordon Castle (Fochabers) 17 Feb. On Dunearn moorland were 10 on 15 May but no sign of nests. Late in the year, high counts included 420 Loch Spynie 17 Dec and 654 Balormie pig farm (Lossiemouth) 25 Dec. Counts over 300 on Findhorn Bay included 343 on 3 Jul and 582 on 27 Jul. Elsewhere on the coast significant counts were 250 Spey Bay 8 Sep and 190 passing Lossiemouth in a one hour sea-watch on 19 Oct.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus**Very scarce visitor.*

First sightings of the year were an adult and a 2CY on passage past Lossiemouth on 27 Jan (RP). The only other sighting was a 2CY at Spey estuary on 30 May and 1 Jun (MJHC, JM).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus**Very scarce visitor.*

Slightly fewer sightings in 2019, all of which were from the Lossiemouth area. First was 1 Balormie pig farm 25 Jan (PRG) and possibly the same bird, an adult, was seen on four occasions around Loch Spynie during 30 Jan-13 Feb (DM, AE, HC, SBr). At Lossie estuary, an adult on 21 Jul (HF), and an adult and a 1CY on 10 Sep (MG) and 20-23 Sep (RP, DAG *et al.*). Later in the year, 1 adult Lossie estuary 29 Oct (DSI) and Balormie pig farm 24 Nov (RP).

Common Gull *Larus canus**Very common resident breeder and winter visitor.*

Breeding: At the Tips of Corsemaul colony (east of Dufftown) 208 adults 6 May and (1 km southeast) at Tom Mor a further on 20 the same day. At Beinn a' Chruinnich (Lecht), at least 1,000 in a large colony on 2 Jun (IF) and also upcountry, at Birchfield-Foal's Craig (Glen Avon), 130 birds with around 40 apparently occupied nests (AON) on 1 Jun. In the lowlands, 16 adults with 4 AON on the High School roof at Fochabers on 16 Jun (MJHC) and at Forres (north of the A96) were 64 AON with 284 adults and 26 juveniles on 21 Jun (RSC). In Elgin, 76 AON recorded during 15 May-1 Jun at a number of locations, notably at the old gas works, the old sawmill site and Moray College (RP). Elsewhere, 2 AON Lossiemouth cemetery 18 May and single AONs at Cawdor Castle and Clunas Reservoir (where 10 adults on 15 May). Other likely breeding sites were Dunearn moorland (130 adults on 15 May) and Balvalley Moss (Cabrach) (50 adults on 23 Jun).

Significant flock counts away from breeding areas early in the year included 120 Kinloss 6 Jan, 100 Loch Spynie 21 Jan, c.1,000 Spey Bay 10 Feb and 130 Lossie estuary 24 Feb. High counts later in the year included 620 Spey estuary 10 Sep and c.500 Lethen (7 km south-east of Nairn) on 6 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus**Scarce resident breeder and common visitor.*

Breeding: One apparently occupied nest (AON) on B&Q's roof in Elgin on 18 May (RP) and one AON on the roof of a wood merchant in Forres on 28 Jun (RHD).

Two adults with two 1CYs Refouled 24 Aug – but no evidence that they had bred in that area (A&FR).

Overall, numbers through the year were slightly down at the Spey estuary but higher at Lossie estuary. The maximum at Spey estuary was 710 on 25 Sep followed by 560 on 5 Oct. At Lossie estuary numbers also peaked in autumn with 1,102 on 22 Sep and 1,117 on 6 Oct. These estuaries are only about 10 km apart and the extent of interchange between these two flocks is uncertain. Lesser numbers were also present at Findhorn which peaked at 52 on 18 Jul.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lossie estuary	97	149	118	17	15	47	16	438	1102	1117	248	247
Spey estuary	nc	nc	nc	45	165	13	270	480	710	560	nc	nc
Findhorn	16	27	nc	20	22	36	52	47	42	32	26	12

The only other coastal count to exceed 25 was 60 Burghead 27 Jul. Inland, very few reported other than around 400 on fields near Loch Spynie on 4 Oct, although these were likely to be associated with the high counts at Lossie estuary which is 4 km away.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Very scarce winter visitor.

As always with this species, duplication is impossible to discount fully as mobile individuals around the coastal strip may relate to more than one sighting. Observers are requested to note the ages of individuals involved, and whether birds are considered the same or different to any others seen around the same period to assist in obtaining a full picture of the number of individuals seen.

Fewer sightings than 2018 and mainly from the area around Lossie estuary.

Findhorn Bay:	A single bird on 7 Mar and a 2CY on 9-11 Jun (RPo, TS).
Burghead:	A 2CY was reported on three occasions during 6-25 Jan and again on 7 Mar. A single bird (perhaps the same) was seen on 28 Mar, 13 Apr and 21 May. All of these reports may relate to the 'Viking Gull' (Glaucous x Herring Gull) which was present on 25 Mar, 18 May, 4 Jun and again on 13 Aug (NT, MJHC <i>et al.</i>).
Hopeman:	A 'Viking Gull' was seen on 12 Nov (MW) – presumably the Burghead bird.
Lossie estuary:	The first sighting was a 3CY on 19 Jan, which may have been the same bird reported in January at Loch Spynie. A 2CY bird was then seen on eight occasions during 26 Feb-23 Apr. Another sighting of a 3CY on 30 Mar, was probably the same as reported at Loch Spynie. In early summer, a 3CY was present on 16 & 19 Jun, and at the end of the year a 1CY was recorded on 3 Nov. (DAG, DM, HF <i>et al.</i>).
Loch Spynie:	A 3CY was seen on seven occasions during 2-25 Jan and a further four occasions during 24 Feb-11 Mar. As noted above, some overlap with Lossie estuary birds is likely. Also one adult on 11 Apr. (RP, DAG, JH, <i>et al.</i>).



'Viking Gull', Burghead 13 August 2019 (Martin Cook)

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Very scarce winter visitor.

As with Glaucous Gull, duplication is impossible to discount with this species as mobile individuals around the coastal strip may relate to more than one sighting. Observers are requested to note the ages of individuals involved, and whether birds are considered the same or different to any others seen around the same period to assist in obtaining a full picture of the number of individuals seen.

Although difficult to ascertain the exact numbers, there were fewer sightings in 2019, probably involving around 13 birds.

Findhorn Bay:	First sighting was on 15 Jan, followed by six sightings during 30 May-9 Jun, probably involving two birds as a 2CY was seen on 30 May and a 3CY on 5 Jun (JHB, GM, MJHC).
Burghead:	One on 9 Apr (AMac).
Lossie estuary:	First sighting was a 2CY on 10 Jan. Nearby, on Lossiemouth west beach a 2CY was seen 20-21 Jan. Further sightings on the estuary of a 2CY were on 2 & 4 Mar and 21 Apr. Later in the year, a 1CY on 3 Nov and the final sighting was a 3CY on 31 Dec. (MJHC, DAG, DM, MS <i>et al.</i>).
Loch Spynie:	A 3CY was seen on 2 Jan and 26 Feb, and an adult on 25 Jan and 15, 16 & 23 Feb. One on 8 Mar may have been one of the earlier birds. (SBr, PRG, AJL, DAG, RSC).
Dallachy Pool:	An immature bird (2CY or 3CY) on 7 May (MJHC).
Portknockie:	A single bird was reported on 24 Apr (per Birdguides).



Iceland Gull, Lossiemouth 20 January 2019 (Margaret Sharpe)

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Very common resident breeder and winter visitor.

Breeding: Numerous sites on roofs of industrial and commercial buildings in the area including 220 apparently occupied nests (AON) in Elgin, 118 AON in Buckie, 11 AON in Fochabers and 10 AON in Forres. There were also 74 AON at Auchroisk Distillery (6 km east of Rothes). Undoubtedly there were many more sites around the region where breeding took place but were not recorded.

Monthly maximum counts on the Lossie estuary, on the Spey estuary and at Nairn were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lossie	232	98	284	204	324	267	44	63	1600	165	658	1181
Spey	nc	nc	nc	60	nc	250	700	400	500	nc	nc	nc
Nairn	120	235	40	110	170	130	249	158	80	nc	20	40

Elsewhere, significant counts included 1,400 at Loch Spynie on 20 Jan, 250 at Burghead on 17 Feb, 1,500 at Balormie pig farm (Drainie) on 14 Sep, 1,830 on Findhorn beach on 18 Oct and 650 at Cloddach quarry (Elgin) on 22 Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder. Very scarce in winter.

Wintering: Recorded in both winter periods. At the start of the year, the first sighting was an adult at Balormie pig farm (Lossiemouth) on 6 Jan. At nearby Lossie estuary there were reports to mid March of 2 adults, one of which may have been the same bird seen at Balormie. At the end of the year the last sighting was 2 adults at Lossie estuary on 16 Nov.

Arrival: By late March there were reports from a number of locations. High counts included 3 Spey estuary 25 Feb and 10 Lossie estuary 2 Apr.

Breeding: Several sites were identified around Elgin including 7 apparently occupied nests (AON) around Edgar Road, 4 AON at Pinefield estate and 3 AON at Moycroft estate. Breeding was also noted on buildings in Buckie with 9 AON on 28 May, at Auchroisk Distillery (6 km

east of Rothes) with 3 AON on 4 Jun and in Forres with 7 AON on 21 Jun. Possible breeding was also reported from Dunearn moorland on 15 May with 12 adults but no sign of nests. Other significant counts were 8 Loch Oire 27 Apr, 15 Lossiemouth 13 May and 5 Cloddach quarry (Elgin) 15 Sep.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Very common summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Arrival: First of the year were on 26 Mar when 4 flew west past Burghead and 2 were at Nairn. First sightings at other locations were 3 Findhorn Bay 1 Apr, 4 Spey Bay 11 Apr and 2 past Lossiemouth 14 Apr. High counts in spring included 110 on Nairn east beach 11 Apr, 120 Findhorn Bay 17 Apr, 41 off Burghead 24 Apr and 25 Spey estuary 3 May.

First arrival dates in the last ten years have been as follows:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
25	27	18	3	25	12	21	14	18	26
Mar	Mar	Mar	Apr	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar

Breeding: No breeding has been confirmed in Moray & Nairn since 2005.

First juveniles with adults from colonies outwith Moray & Nairn were noted from mid July. From the colour ringed birds observed at Findhorn most of the juveniles had come from the Forvie NNR on the Ythan Estuary. Some had also arrived from breeding sites on the Northumbrian coast and the Netherlands. Numbers observed at Findhorn beach this year were higher than in 2018, with counts from July to September above 300 including 375 on 19 Aug, 320 on 31 Aug, 360 on 2 Sep and a high of 470 on 13 Sep (RSC). Elsewhere, high counts were lower and included 245 Kingsteps (Nairn) 11 Aug, 135 Culbin sands 13 Aug and 41 in 15 minutes on passage at Spey Bay on 31 Aug.

Half-monthly maximum counts of flocks on the shore at Findhorn from early July to late September were:

	Jul 1-15	Jul 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30
Findhorn shore	0	72	230	375	470	230

(RSC)

Passage of Sandwich Terns along the Moray coast was monitored during regular sea-watches from Lossiemouth. Passage counts up to July were generally low with a maximum of 14 in one hour on 16 Jun. By late summer and autumn, counts had increased and included 50 on 11 Aug, 74 on 1 Sep, 203 on 7 Sep, 38 on 22 Sep and the final sighting of 6 on 19 Oct. The maximum half monthly one hour passage counts taken at Lossiemouth from late April through to early October were:

Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	Jun 1-15	Jun 16-30	Jul 1-15	Jul 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
9	4	0	0	14	0	0	50	45	203	38	6

(RP)

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Very scarce summer visitor and rare breeder.

Most reports from Lossiemouth where breeding took place again on the east beach. First birds seen were 10 on 16 May. By 14 Jun there were 4 birds on nests and at least 3 chicks were observed on 23 Jun. Highest count was on 2 Jun when 15 adults included 3 on nests. Last sighting was 2 adults and 2 juveniles on 19 Jul (MS, DAG). Elsewhere, 1-2 were seen on the

Spey estuary in early May and a single bird was present on 28 Jul (PRG, MJHC, IB). At Nairn harbour, 2 on 11 Aug (PR).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer visitor and fairly common breeder.

Arrival: First was 1 Spey estuary 10 Apr, followed by 3 on the Spey at Aberlour 17 Apr, 2 Nairn 18 Apr and 1 passing Lossiemouth on 20 Apr.

Breeding: At Loch Spynie, numbers of apparently occupied nests (AON) on the platform were similar to 2018 with 12 on 26 Jun. By 30 Jul there were 24 adults and 13 juveniles (MJHC). At Lossiemouth harbour 4 AON were noted on 20 Jul (RP). Inland, breeding took place again on the roof of Walkers factory in Aberlour, with 8 adults and 3 juveniles seen on 28 Jun (AE). Elsewhere, the highest count at the Spey estuary was 64 on 26 Jul, and there were 41 off Findhorn on 31 Aug. At Lossiemouth, the main passage was recorded in late July with a one-hour count of 45 on 27 Jul. Last sightings were of single birds off Lossiemouth and Findhorn on 5 Oct. In addition, 2 Common or Arctic Terns were seen off Kingston on 10 Oct. The maximum half monthly one hour passage counts taken at Lossiemouth from late April through to early October were as follows:

Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31	Jun 1-15	Jun 16-30	Jul 1-15	Jul 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30	Oct 1-15
8	19	12	3	0	7	45	7	18	10	1	1

(RP)

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer visitor and fairly common breeder.

Arrival: First returning birds were 6 off Portknockie 21 Apr followed by 2 at the Spey estuary 23 Apr and 2 Hilton of Delnies (Nairn) 30 Apr.

Breeding: At the Spey estuary colony at least 23 AON and 80 birds were noted on 7 Jun (MJHC). High count at the estuary was around 100 on 11 May. A pair also bred on the Kinloss Barracks (AJL).

On Findhorn beach they were seen regularly post-breeding but only small numbers with a maximum of 3 on 3 Sep (RSC). A few passage sightings at Lossiemouth in May to July but once again low numbers with a maximum of 3 in one hour on 13 & 14 Jul (RP). Last sighting of the season was 2 Nairn east beach 4 Oct (AC).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Very scarce spring and autumn migrant.

An adult was at the mouth of the River Spey on 6 Jun (MJHC, RP, JM, N&AH). This was the 10th record since 2000.



Black Tern, Tugnet 6 June 2019 (Martin Cook)

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Fairly common migrant in summer and autumn.

Spring: First of the year were single birds off Nairn on 15 Apr and Burghead on 19 Apr. In May-June, birds were seen on 3 days off Lossiemouth which included 2 on 11 May. Elsewhere, single birds off Burghead on 3-6 May and off Findhorn on 19 May.

Summer: In July-August there were three dates with records from Lossiemouth including 3 on 14 Jul, 4 on 27 Jul and 13 on a one hour sea-watch on 31 Aug (RP). Elsewhere, there were six days with sightings off Cullen with 3 birds seen on 7 Jul, 15 & 16 Aug (JM). Single birds were recorded off Burghead on 27 & 30 Jul and 3 past Strathlene in one hour on 9 Aug.

Autumn: In September-October there were three dates with records at Lossiemouth including 6 on 1 Sep, 10 on 7 Sep and 5 on 15 Sep (RP). Elsewhere, 1 off Findhorn on 2 & 8 Sep and 3 on 5 Oct, and 1 off Nairn on 25 Sep.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Very scarce migrant offshore in summer and autumn, rare in winter.

One flew west past Lossiemouth on 4 May (RP). In autumn, 2 (adult and juvenile) were seen from a boat off the Moray coast on 22 Sep (AW). Single birds were also seen at Spey Bay 14 Sep (SH), off Lossiemouth 22 Sep (RP), off Strathlene 29 Sep (MJHC) and off Burghead 3 Nov (CGL).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fairly common migrant in summer and autumn.

Spring: Relatively few sightings in the April-May period. First was 1 off Hilton of Delnies (Nairn) 30 Apr. This was followed on 4 May with 1 off Burghead and 2 off Findhorn beach. Later in May, 2 off Burghead 5th, 2 past Tugnet 18th and 1 off Cullen 29th.

Summer: During June-August there were only four days with reports from sea-watches at Lossiemouth with single birds on 9 Jun, 16 Jun, 27 Jul and 31 Aug (RP). Elsewhere, there were 3 in two hours off Cullen harbour on 5 Jun and single birds off Findhorn on 16 & 20 Jul.

Autumn: The September-October period saw the largest number of sightings of the year. There were seven days with sightings on sea-watches at Lossiemouth including 3 on 4 Sep and 5 on

14 Sep (RP). Elsewhere, reports included 5 off Nairn 10 Sep, 2 off Kingsteps 12 Sep, 3 off Findhorn 19 Sep and 3 off Strathlene 25 Sep. Last of the year was 1 off Lossiemouth 19 Oct.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Very scarce visitor in autumn and winter. Occasionally more numerous.

All sightings were in October. On sea-watches at Lossiemouth, single birds were seen on 5, 12 & 13 Oct and 3 on both 26 & 27 Oct (RP). The only other sighting was 2 Burghead Bay 13 Oct (BW).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Rare breeder, very common offshore.

Breeding: No count was made of the colony on the seaward side of Bow Fiddle Rock, Portknockie this year, but 5 adults were on mainland ledges on 17 Jun (MJHC).

First of the year were 10 Delnies 6 Jan. One hour passage counts in the first few months of the year at Lossiemouth included 13 on 24 Mar and 26 on 14 Apr. Other counts included around 100 off Nairn harbour 2 Apr and 25 from Burghead-Cummingston 28 Apr. By spring the highest passage counts recorded at Lossiemouth were 152 on 5 May and 825 on 18 May. Elsewhere on the coast there were several sightings in Burghead Bay from Findhorn but not involving more than 2 birds.

In summer off Lossiemouth, 55 were recorded on 16 Jun and 47 on 13 Jul.

In autumn, the peak passage counts at Lossiemouth occurred in early-mid October and included 715 on 5 Oct and 82 on 19 Oct. Elsewhere, 24 off Nairn east beach 4 Oct, 75 off Findhorn 5 Oct and 20 off Kingston 10 Oct. Last of the year off Lossiemouth included 25 on 8 Dec and 2 on 25 Dec.

At Lossiemouth regular sea-watches were conducted throughout 2019 and the maximum passage recorded over a one-hour period was:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	4	13	26	825	55	47	1	21	715	11	25

(RP)

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Scarce breeder, very common offshore.

Breeding: At the Portknockie colony, the highest count of adults on ledges was 125 on 17 Jun (MJHC). Further west at Tronach Head another colony had 12 adults on cliffs on 5 Jul (MJHC). High counts in the first half of the year included 32 Covesea 18 Feb, 67 Burghead Bay 26 Feb and 70 off Nairn harbour 27 Mar. In one-hour counts at Lossiemouth the peak passage records were 689 on 3 Mar, 2,266 on 16 Mar and 672 on 20 Apr. In addition, 1,000 auks flew east past Lossiemouth on 20 Apr, many of which were likely to have been Razorbills. High counts later in the year included 630 off Findhorn on 5 Oct, 350 off Cummingston on 8 Oct and 600 off Tugnet on 10 Oct. A 30-minute passage count off Findhorn on 9 Oct recorded around 900 auks, mostly Razorbills. Highest count of the year was off Lossiemouth where an exceptional 12,300 were estimated on westerly passage over one hour on 12 Oct (RP).

At Lossiemouth regular sea-watches were conducted throughout 2019 and the maximum passage recorded over a one-hour period was:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17	84	2266	672	114	95	13	0	130	12309	55	50

(RP)

Regular counts were also taken of birds on the sea in Burghead Bay, from Findhorn, which were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
24	67	38	60	9	5	7	5	27	630	15	6

(RSC)

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Scarce breeder and scarce offshore.

Breeding: Highest count of adults on the sea near Bow Fiddle Rock (Portknockie) was 12 on 17 Jun (MJHC). The long-term traditional breeding crevice at Tronach Head had 2 adults on 10 Jul. Although breeding at these sites is apparent among the small number of birds present, the success rates are difficult to ascertain owing to the inaccessibility of the nests on these cliffs.

Counts early in the year included 14 on 30 Jan and 14 on 16 Mar on one hour sea-watches at Lossiemouth, 30 off Findochty to Bow Fiddle Rock on 16 Feb and 9 off Hilton of Delnies on 30 Apr. Also several reports of 1-2 birds in Burghead Bay from both Findhorn and Burghead. Away from the east Moray breeding area, the highest counts in autumn were from Lossiemouth with passage counts of 7 on 17 Aug, 9 on 26 Oct, 48 on 30 Nov and 41 on 8 Dec (RP). Elsewhere, 3 off Findhorn 8 Nov.

At Lossiemouth, regular sea-watches were conducted throughout 2019 and the maximum passage recorded over a one-hour period was:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	13	14	1	1	0	2	7	1	9	48	41

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Very scarce offshore.

Sightings off Lossiemouth were 1 on 18 May, 2 on 1 Jun, 6 on 16 Jun, 1 on 20 Jul and 6 on 14 Sep (RP). At Burghead, 2 on 18 May (HR, A&FR), 3 on 25 May (CGL) and 1 flying east on 25 Sep (SBr), and off Cullen, single birds on 29 May and 1 Aug (JM).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Rare breeder. Fairly common autumn and winter visitor offshore.

Summer: One pair bred but failed to raise young. Pairs were seen on two other lochs in May but there was no evidence that they bred there. Another two lochs held single birds on 19 May and 7 June.

Best monthly counts at main coastal sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Nairn/Delnies	2	2	1	24	nc	nc	nc	1	2	0	6	3
Burghead Bay	8	4	3	8	8		1	2	4	4	7	5
Lossiemouth (flying past)	17	10	18	3	6	5	1	3	7	4	12	10
Lossiemouth (on sea)	2	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	4	nc	2
Spey Bay	3	4	nc	21	8	2	0	0	18	60	6	3

Highest count in Spey Bay (between Kingston and Lossiemouth) was 60 on 13 Oct (JDL).

Elsewhere, a few were scattered along the coast at other sites. All counts were of five birds or fewer, except 10 off Portgordon on 29 Oct and off Cullen where there were 15 on 27 Apr and 30 on 28 Apr.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Rare breeder. Scarce autumn and winter visitor offshore.

Upland lochs: For the 11th successive year, one pair bred on the same loch. They failed to rear any young, and have done so only once, in 2013 (MJHC).

Best monthly counts at main coastal sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Burghead Bay	10	6	1	8	7	0	0	0	0	12	12	3
Lossiemouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Spey Bay	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1

Best counts in Burghead Bay were 10 on 10 Jan (RSC, MJHC) and 12 on 31 Oct and 20 Nov (RSC).

Elsewhere, 1 Covesea 18 Feb, 1 Cullen 14 & 28 Apr and 25 May, 3 Delnies 29 Nov and 3 Nairn 15 Apr (2 on 23 Apr and 15 Aug).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Scarce visitor offshore.

Best monthly counts at main coastal sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Burghead Bay	7	1	1	10	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Lossiemouth (flying past)	7	0	1	8	9	4	0	0	5	3	6	3
Lossiemouth (on sea)	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spey Bay	0	1	1	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	7

Elsewhere, 3 Covesea 21 Feb, 18 Cullen 27 Apr (7 on 28 Apr, 8 on 14 May), 2 Hopeman 19 Apr, 2 Kingsteps 21 Apr, 1 Nairn Bar 13 Oct and 4 Portknockie 27 Apr.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

Rare visitor.

Recorded at Cullen, Burghead and Lossiemouth.

Cullen: Present 2-30 Apr. Highest counts were 4 on 14 Apr (MJHC), 3 on 2 & 16 Apr (per Birdguides) and 2 on seven other dates.

Burghead: Present 11 Apr-1 May. Highest counts were 3 on 16 & 26 Apr (AMac), 2 on 11, 18, 19 & 27 Apr (AMc, per Birdguides) and single birds on eight other dates.
In autumn, 1 flew past on 5 Nov (SBr).

Lossiemouth: 2 on 14 Apr (RP).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Summer and autumn visitor offshore, probably very common at night.

In daylight hours, 1 off Lossiemouth 31 Aug (RP) and 2 off Nairn 4 Oct (KW). Otherwise, most records were of birds trapped and ringed at night at Portknockie, where catches were

made on 4-5 Jul (4), 8-9 Jul (5), 9-10 Jul (7), 12-13 Jul (3), 13-14 Jul (10), 17-18 Jul (26), 21-22 Jul (25), 24-25 Jul (18), 26-27 Jul (4), 27-28 Jul (34), 28-29 Jul (17) and 9-10 Sep (1); a total of 154 birds (AY). At Strathlene, 2 were caught and ringed on 6-7 Aug (MJHC).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare migrant in late summer and autumn.

A good year, with single birds caught and ringed at night at Portknockie on 17 and 28 Jul. Another bird was heard and seen on 27 Jul (AY). There have only been five previous records in Moray & Nairn, with the last in October 2017.



Leach's Petrel, Portknockie 17 July 2019 (Al Young)

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common breeder, very common offshore.

Breeding: In colonies, 75 Cove sea cliffs 18 Feb and c.30 on cliffs from Cummingston to Hopeman 5 Apr.

Passage: From January to July, counts were low with the only totals of 15 or more past Lossiemouth in one hour being 15 on 14 Apr, 30 on 4 May, 21 on 18 May, 18 on 1 Jun and 27 on 9 Jun. High counts over summer included 61 on 17 Aug and 301 on 4 Sep, but the strongest passage was on 31 Aug when 685 were counted in one hour and 1,466 over three hours with over 85% of these heading east (RP).

At Lossiemouth regular sea-watches were conducted throughout 2019 and the maximum passage recorded over a one-hour period was:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	0	8	15	30	27	13	685	201	0	0	5

(RP)

Elsewhere, 272 passed Strathlene in one hour on 9 Aug (MJHC).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea**Very scarce migrant in late summer and autumn.*

Only a single report, of 7 passing Lossiemouth in one hour on 31 Aug (RP).

Annual totals since 2009 have been as follows:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
0	7	605	11	1	27	8	4	42	21	7

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus**Fairly common offshore in summer and autumn.*

First of the year were single birds off Burghead on 19 Apr and Lossiemouth on 20 Apr. Regular passage was then seen off Lossiemouth and Cullen until late Sep. At Lossiemouth, one-hour counts included 21 on 18 May, 8 on 16 Jun, 8 on 14 Jul, 13 on 31 Aug and 5 on 15 Sep (RP). At Cullen there were 103 in a two-hour count on 5 Jun, 69 on 7 Jul and 12 on 1 Aug (JM).

Regular one hour sea-watches at Lossiemouth (RP) and sightings from Cullen (JM) over the summer period gave the following maximum passage counts:

	Jun 1-15	Jun 16-30	Jul 1-15	Jul 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sep 1-15	Sep 16-30
Lossiemouth	8	8	8	5	3	13	5	1
Cullen	103*	nc	69	14	12	3	nc	nc

* in 2 hours

Other sightings were off Findhorn (5 on 20 Jul, 2 on 1 Sep), off Burghead (1 on 28 Apr, 1 on 5 Jun, 6 on 27 Jul), off Hilton of Delnies (1 on 30 Apr) and off Spey Bay (1 on 14 Sep).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra**Rare visitor.*One was in the south-west corner of Findhorn Bay on 9-10 Jun (MJHC, JCC, GM *et al.*).

This was the third record for Moray & Nairn, following one at Dulsie Bridge on 17 July 1977 and one flying over Tomfarclas Distillery on 13 May 2006.



Black Stork, Findhorn Bay 9 June 2019 (Gordon McMullins)

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Very common offshore in summer and autumn, fewer in winter.

In January-February there were no sightings of more than 15 birds. By the end of March larger numbers were seen offshore with one-hour counts at Lossiemouth including 100 on 23 Mar, 97 on 13 Apr, 101 on 28 Apr and 624 on 4 May (RP). Other sightings during this period included 80 Burghead Bay 16 Apr, 40 Burghead-Cummingston 28 Apr, 40 Nairn 28 Apr and c.200 off Hilton of Delnies (Nairn) on 30 Apr. Highest counts occurred from July to the end of October with passage records at Lossiemouth including 147 on 14 Jul, 165 on 31 Aug, 350 on 7 Sep, 292 on 22 Sep and 1,905 on 12 Oct.

At Lossiemouth regular sea-watches were conducted throughout 2019 and the maximum passage recorded over a one-hour period in each month was:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	1	100	101	624	81	147	165	350	1905	56	5

(RP)

Elsewhere, most large counts were also in autumn *e.g.* off Findhorn where 1,100 on 16 Sep, 620 on 25 Sep and 1,400 on 9 Oct. At Tugnet, 570 on 25 Sep, 450 on 26 Sep and 900 on 10 Oct. Other significant counts included c.3,000 off Delnies 7 Sep, 200 Burghead 8 Oct and c.800 Burghead-Hopeman 9 Oct.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Rare breeder and fairly common winter visitor.

Breeding: There were 15 apparently occupied nests in the small Covesea colony on 22 Jun (MJHC).

Coastal: Counts of 20 or more included 21 Portgordon-Strathlene 6 Jan, 24 Burghead 27 Mar, 30 Nairn harbour 19 Sep and 20 Lossiemouth harbour 13 Oct. Larger numbers were counted at the mouths of Findhorn Bay and the River Spey where the annual pattern of occurrence was revealed by maximum monthly counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
River Spey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	65	29	35	3
Findhorn	9	9	1	4	0	6	6	23	41	38	61	2

Inland: Monthly maximum counts at Loch Spynie were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Loch Spynie	7	3	3	2	1	2	1	0	0	3	11	2

Elsewhere, 3 on the River Spey at Aberlour 22 Dec (and 1 on 3 Dec), 1 Loch Oire 23 Nov, 3 Loch na Bo 29 Nov, 1 Cooper Park pond (Elgin) 6 & 9 Mar and 1 Gordon Castle pond (Fochabers) 15 Dec.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Fairly common breeder and very common visitor, chiefly in winter.

Breeding: At Portknockie, numbers increased slightly to 83 apparently occupied nests (AON) on 17 Jun. At Tronach Head 69 AON were counted on 17 Jun and 5 Jul, which was close to the long-term average but well down on 2018. At Covesea, numbers remained constant with 23 AON on 22 Jun (MJHC).

Over the last ten years the occupancy of the three colonies (AON) has been as follows:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Portknockie	76	85	93	86	66	77	73	74	78	83
Tronach Head	60	58	53	86	72	80	77	65	118	69
Covesea	14	17	14	16	18	21	21	27	24	23

(MJHC)

Counts away from colonies included 60 Portgordon-Strathlene 6 Jan (24 there 16 Dec), 40 Lossiemouth 16 Feb and 30 Cullen 7 Apr.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare visitor.

A 2CY bird was in Findhorn Bay during 29 May-27 Jun and on 1-2 Aug and 15 Aug (GM, RSC *et al.*).



Spoonbill, Findhorn Bay 9 June 2019 (Gordon McMullins)

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Heronries: 11 occupied nests Aberlour (AE) and 5 at Loch Spynie (RP). Other occupied heronries were at Binsness, Nether Dallachy and Druim (Nairn).

As usual, largest congregations were on the three estuaries where best monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Findhorn Bay	5	3	6	17	17	22	18	25	25	25	6	4
Lossie estuary	nc	nc	1	1	1	2	3	6	3	2	2	1
Spey estuary	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	3	2	6	3	nc	nc	1

Best counts in Findhorn Bay were 25 on 25 Aug, 30 Sep and 14 Oct.

The only counts of five or more elsewhere were 9 Dallachy pool 28 June (and 6 there 28 Jul), 7 Arradoul 5 Oct, 6 Lossiemouth 8 Aug and 6 Spey Bay 25 Aug.

Well upcountry were 2 Auchmair (Cabrach) 21 Aug.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor.

Findhorn Bay: 1 on eight dates during 3 Jan-15 Apr, 2 regularly seen during 10 May-10 Aug and 1 during 14-27 Aug (GM, RSC *et al.*).

Kingsteps: 1 on 13 dates during 1 Jan-18 Feb may have been the second bird which appeared in Findhorn Bay from 10 May (CGL *et al.*).

Elsewhere, 1 Lossie estuary 1 Jan (RMac) and 1 Loch Spynie 20 Jan (KCu).



Little Egret, Kingsteps 17 February 2019 (Colin Leslie)



Little Egrets, Findhorn Bay 10 May 2019 (Gordon McMullins)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce summer visitor and breeder.

First back was one in the lower Findhorn valley 29 Mar. First reports on the estuaries were on 3 Apr in Findhorn Bay and 5 Apr on Lossie estuary.

Breeding: In west Moray & Nairn, 12 pairs nested, three more than in 2018. Eleven pairs laid eggs and eight were successful, raising a total of 15 young. The breeding productivity was therefore 1.3 young per nesting pair and 1.9 per brood. In east Moray, the population which fishes mainly at the mouth of the Rivers Spey and Lossie held eight pairs and all laid eggs. Seven pairs raised a total of 13 young; small young died in the eighth nest as a result of wet weather. The breeding productivity was 1.6 young per nesting pair and 1.9 per brood. (RHD). Largest congregations in Findhorn Bay in late summer were 8 on 24 Aug and 7 on several dates during mid-August to mid-September. Best counts on the other estuaries were 3 Spey estuary 12 & 14 Aug and 4 Lossie estuary 11 May. Last of the year was 1 Findhorn Bay 27 Sep.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Rare resident breeder.

Breeding: Four sites were occupied by breeding pairs, of which two were successful, raising three young between them (EW).

Reports were received from four other upland sites (away from known breeding areas) in autumn/mid-winter.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Common resident breeder.

Breeding season (April-July) records included birds/pairs at Auldearn, Bogmoor, Burghead, Clochan, Findhorn, Forbes, Loch of Boath, Mill of Grange and Rafford. Records received from a further 28 localities at other seasons

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare resident breeder.

Breeding: 13 sites were checked in Moray and 10 were occupied by pairs. Breeding was confirmed at six sites where five broods of two fledged young were reared and one fledged young at the sixth site (AY).

Autumn/winter: Only one report, of 1 Clunas Reservoir 13 Nov (JAC).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Occasional breeder and very scarce visitor.

At Loch Spynie, a female on 13 Apr, 12 May and 1 Jun (HF, DAG), and a probable male on 28 Apr (HF).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare resident breeder, very scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding: 10 sites were occupied by pairs of which 7 were successful, raising 13 young between them; 1.3 young per pair (JKC, GR).

In recent years, the breeding population and success of Hen Harriers in Moray & Nairn has fluctuated as follows:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Territorial pairs	3	5	4	6	11	6	4	13	10
Prs raising young	2	1	2	4	3	2	1	10	7

The upturn in the fortunes of the species was maintained in 2019, although the number of young raised (13) was substantially lower than the 35 reared in 2018.

Outside the breeding season, 1 Duneart 21 Jan (AET), 1 Earlseat 4 Feb (PS), 1 Little Aitnoch 17 Feb (PRG) and 1 Spey Bay 25 Aug (CW).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Occasional breeder, reintroduced in Highland and North-east Scotland.

Breeding: Reported at 18 locations during March-August. Pairs were present in at least four sites but breeding was not confirmed.

Autumn/winter: Reports from other localities came from Auldearn (Feb), Blairfindy (Sep), Cragganmore (Oct), Croy (Jan), Earlseat (Jan), Ferness (Dec), Inverugie (Feb), Kingsteps (Oct), Lethen (Feb), Little Aitnoch (Feb), Newlands of Inchnacaorach (Jan), Newmill (Feb) and Tomloan (Feb).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Rare visitor.

Three records, of single immature birds. One at Aitnoch on 19 Jan (SBr) originated from a nest in Angus. Another, although possibly the same bird, was over Creagan a' Chaise (Hills of Cromdale) on 16 Feb (MR). In autumn, 1 Tomintoul 9 Oct (TM).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Common resident breeder.

The only report of five or more together was 5 over Clochan 26 Aug.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Scarce resident breeder.

Breeding season (March-July) reports came from Auldearn, Bishopmill (Elgin), College of Roseisle, Craigellachie, Glenfarclas, Inverugie, Kinloss, Knockando, Llanbryde, Loch Oire, Lyne of Carron and Muirton.

The number of breeding season localities reported in the last 15 years (2005-2019):

05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
13	21	10	9	5	0	1	9	5	9	8	17	7	16	12

At other times of year, reports came from the following additional sites: Alves, Auchmair (Cabrach), Brackla, Broadley (Nairn), Broom of Moy, Burnside of Enzie, Cawdor, Cragganmore, Dufftown, Ferness, Forres, Glenmulliach (Tomintoul), Loch Flemington, Lossiemouth, Mosstodloch, Rothes, Spynie Canal and Wester Hardmuir.

The total number of localities from which Barn Owls were reported (at any time of year) since 2005 is:

05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
27	31	21	40	20	11	13	21	12	30	47	39	21	33	30

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*

Very scarce visitor.

An adult female was on the Cairngorms plateau in the vicinity of Ben Macdui during 22 Jun to 26 Jul (RI, PRG *et al.*).



Snowy Owl, Ben Macdui 26 July 2019 (Pete Gordon)

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident breeder.

Records received from nine localities: Altyre, Auldearn, Brackla, Kinloss, Kirkhill, Lagganvoulin (Tomintoul), Loch Spynie, Mulben and Rafford.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Scarce resident breeder.

Records received from two localities. Single birds were seen in the Hopeman area at Keam on 27 Mar and Inverugie on 2-3 Apr (G&SL), and at Nairn Dunbar golf club on 10 & 12 Aug (PR).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Rare breeder and very scarce migrant.

Very few records received. In spring/early summer, 1 Findhorn 13 Mar & 20-21 May (RSC, GM), 1 Grange 9 Apr (DMac) and 1 Spey estuary 14 May (ED). In autumn, 2 Strathlene golf course 7 Oct (RG), 1 Spey Bay 18 Oct (JP) and 2 Delnies (Nairn) 29 Nov (GP).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops**Rare visitor.*

One remained on the Lein at Kingston during 15-19 Apr (JR). This is the 21st record for Moray & Nairn. The last sighting was in 2016.

Month of discovery for the 21 individuals:

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
4	6	1	0	1	2	5	2

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis**Very scarce visitor and occasional breeder.*

Breeding season (April-July): Records received of single birds at Burn of Aberlour 1 Apr (AE), Loch Spynie 21 Apr (RP), Howford Bridge (River Nairn) 28 May (ACI), Mosstodloch 27 Jul (AY) and Bogmoor (River Spey) 29 Jul (DD). A pair were feeding young in nest at Kinermony (River Spey, Aberlour) 10 Jun (MJHC).

At other times, single birds were seen at Cloddach Quarry 13 Oct, Daltra (River Findhorn, Glenferness) 15 Sep, Dufftown 1 Sep, Elgin (River Lossie) 6 & 22 Jan, Elgin (Linkwood Burn) 5 Aug, Elgin (Cooper Park) 19 Oct, Fochabers 17 Jan and 9 Sep, Gallowhill 16 Sep, Nairn 14 Feb and four sightings at Spey Estuary 4-19 Aug. At Loch Spynie single birds reported 22 Jan and 24 Feb, and five sightings on dates between 14 Aug-22 Nov. Two were seen together at Findhorn Bay 24-25 Oct and Maverston 13 Oct.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major**Common resident breeder.*

Widespread in woodlands and visiting garden feeders. Drumming heard at Loch Spynie 24 Feb, Grigorhill (Nairn) 18 Mar and Brodie Castle Estate 19 Mar. Other sightings included 2 in Campdalmore Wood (Tomintoul) 19 Apr, 1 in woods by Findhorn Bay 15 May, 1 in Forres garden 22 May, 4 in Cawdor Woods 8 Jun and 3 at Loch Spynie 29 Nov.

[Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis**Very scarce visitor.*

For the third consecutive year, no records were received.]

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus**Scarce resident breeder.*

Breeding season (April-July) records (*confirmed breeding in italics*) included birds/pairs at Auchmair, Blackwater Lodge, Dulsie Bridge, Findhorn Bay, Forres, Glenferness, Knockaneorn, Little Aitnoh, Lossiemouth west beach, Marypark, Refouble, Rothiemay, Sluie, The Buck and Tronach Head.

Additional sites, with birds seen in other months, were Burghead, Clarkly Hill, Clunas Reservoir, Covesea lighthouse, Craighead, Cummingston, Delnies, Foynesfield, Glenlivet, Hopeman, Inverugie, Laggan (Glen Fiddich), Loch Flemington, Middlefield, Moyness, Myreside, Netherton, Portgordon, Spynie canal and Tugnet.

Merlin *Falco columbarius**Scarce resident breeder and migrant.*

Breeding: 48 sites were checked and 12 of these were found to be occupied by pairs, all of which laid clutches. Eight pairs were successful, and these raised 21 young between them. Mean brood size (fledged young per pair) overall was 1.8, but better in east Moray, at 2.5, than in west Moray and Nairn, at 1.0 (BCo, JKC). The extensive wildfire in west Moray and Nairn in April burned out 1-2 sites that would probably otherwise have been occupied.

Outside the breeding season, single birds were seen in the lowlands at Balormie 8 Dec, Findhorn Bay 6 & 14 Jan, 6 & 28 Feb, 6 Apr and 15 Nov, Loch Spynie 30 Jan, Lossiemouth 12 Feb, Scarffbanks 4 Feb, Spey estuary 28 Aug & 23 Sep and Tomintoul 22 Sep.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo**Rare visitor. Has bred.*

One pair bred near Bogmoor, raising 2 young to fledging (DD, AY, MJHC). This is the second occurrence of breeding in Moray & Nairn, following one pair near Lhanbryde in 2016.



Hobby nestlings, near Bogmoor 31 July 2019 (Ewan Weston)

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus**Rare resident breeder.*

Breeding: Four sites were occupied by pairs. Two of the pairs each raised broods of two young, one pair did not lay, or failed early, and the outcome of the fourth pair is uncertain (AY, MJHC, JKC).

In late summer-winter, single birds were seen at Balormie (Sep), Burghead (Sep), Cullen (Aug), Dava (Mar), Delnies (Dec), Elgin (Aug), Findhorn Bay (Jan-Apr and Jul-Dec), Loch Flemington (Jan, Feb, Dec), Loch Oire (Mar), Loch Spynie (Jan, Sep), Lochan Buidhe (Cairngorms plateau) (Sep), Kingsteps (Dec), Lossiemouth (Mar, Sep), Refouble (Feb), Tomintoul (Mar) and Wellheads (Aug).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Very scarce winter migrant.

One remained on moorland near Refouble during 16 Feb-11 Mar (BW, A&FR, RSC *et al.*).

This is assumed to be the same bird that was present in this area during 20 Oct-15 Nov 2018.



Great Grey Shrike, Refouble 21 February 2019 (Richard Somers Cocks)

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Breeding season (April-July): Reports from Brodie Castle pond, Burghead, Cawdor Woods, Caysbriggs, Culbin, Dulsie Bridge, Elgin (Bishopmill), Fochabers pond, Inshoch, Kirkhill, Loch Belivat, Loch Spynie, Mostowie, Loch Loy and Upper Knockando.

At other seasons, additional sites were Ardivot, Arr Wood, Cloddach quarry, Cragganmore, Craighead, Deerhill (Aultmore), Delnies, Forres Enterprise Park, Gallowhill, Holme Rose, Kingsteps, Loch Oire, Marypark, Rothes, Torrieston Woods and Tynet Mill.

Numerous at Loch Spynie, where 8 on 20 Sep (LM) and 12+ on 6 Oct (DAG), and at Torrieston Woods where 13 gathered at a feeding station on 27 Aug (DM).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Common resident breeder.

Widely recorded at 50 sites throughout the lowlands.

Groups of 10 or more were 14 Clochan 19 Dec and 12 Forres Enterprise Park 1 Jan.

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Very common resident breeder.

A large pre-roost assembly at Myreton (Aultmore) on 15 Dec was estimated at 2,500 (IF). Counts of 100 or more elsewhere were 340 Carron 6 Feb, 300 Tomintoul 17 Feb, 200 Knockando Distillery 4 Dec, 160 Glenlivet 11 Dec and 125 Ballcorach (Strath Avon) 22 Jul.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus**Very common resident breeder.*

No rookery counts received. The largest flock count was an estimated 2,000 assembling for roost at Myreton (Aultmore) on 15 Dec.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone**Very common resident breeder.*

Largest groups were 30-40 Findhorn Bay in January-March, 23 Kingsteps 6 Aug and 19 Spey estuary 6 Aug.

Carrion Crows were again recorded during seawatches off Lossiemouth harbour during March-April and in October. Best counts were 11 on 24 Mar, 5 on 14 Apr and 5 on 12 Oct (RP).

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix**Scarce visitor and rare breeder.*

Hooded Crows (or Carrion x Hooded hybrids very closely resembling Hooded) were reported in small numbers at Auldearn, Burghead, Clarkly Hill, Clephanton, Covesea, Craigellachie, Delnies, Druim, Drumdivan, Findhorn Bay, Grigorhill, Hopeman, Kingsteps, Loch Flemington, Loch Spynie, Nairn, Newton of Budgate, Roseisle, Spey estuary and Urquhart. As expected, a notable westerly bias is evident.

Most together were 7 Grigorhill 14 Feb, 6 Findhorn Bay 4 Aug and 5 Nairn 15 Apr.

Obvious hybrids were seen at 15 localities, again mostly towards the west of the region. Largest group was 6 Kingsteps 14 Jul.

Raven *Corvus corax**Scarce visitor and rare breeder.*

Breeding: At the coast, one pair fledged three young at Tronach Head (MJHC, MMq). Another pair was nest building at Covesea on 27 Mar (DM) but they were unsuccessful – if they even laid. Inland, one pair raised four young in a quarry (KCu) and pairs were seen in two other localities but there was no evidence of breeding.

Elsewhere inland, small numbers now occur quite widely over moors and sheepwalks and the reports received do not fully reflect the frequency with which Ravens are now seen in these areas – 2 Aldunie 20 Mar, 2 Allanreid 19-21 Apr, 4 Altavallie 10 Feb, 2 Ben Aigan 22 Oct, 2 Ben Rinnes 18 Dec, 2 Bogeney 9 Jan, 1 Carn Eilasaid 18 Jun, 5 Carn Liath 17 Feb, 2 Cawdor 20 Nov, 1 Croughly 11 Dec, 1 Dava 29 Mar, 1 Drynachan 20 Apr & 27 Aug, 2 Ferness 22 Mar, 6 Hills of Cromdale 22 Jun, 1 Keith 27 Aug, 2 Kirkhill 5 Dec, 1 Knockando 3 Oct, 1 Lagganvoulin 28 May, 4 Lecht 4 Jan (and 1 on 24 Dec), 1 Little Conval 1 Dec, 1 Logie 13 May, 2 Lyne of Knockando 26 Oct, 1 Monadh an t-Sluich Leith (Ladder Hills) 21 Apr, 2 Teindland 26 Oct and 2 Tomintoul 19 Apr.

Ravens were also present on various parts of the Cairngorms plateau, with 14 records received during May-August. Usually only 1-2 birds were involved but larger groups were 5 over Garbh Uisge Beag 27 Jun (thought to be a family group) and 3 Carn Lochan 27 Jun.

Reports in coastal regions, away from breeding sites, are slowly increasing. In 2019: 1 Carse of Delnies 6 Jan, 1 Culbin Bar 10 Feb, 2 Loch Flemington 7 Feb, 2 Loch Spynie 25 Aug, 1 Lossiemouth 7 Mar, 2 Lower Auchenreath 1 Jan and 3 Spey Bay 14 Jun.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous*

Irruptive winter visitor, scarce in most years but occasionally common.

Winter-spring: Only small flocks remained into 2019 from an influx during October-November 2018. Maximum numbers at each site in each time period are given below:

1-10 Jan:	11 Nairn 3rd and 8 Elgin 3rd.
11-20 Jan:	27 Elgin 18th.
21-31 Jan:	24 Elgin 23rd.
1-10 Feb:	c.30 Elgin 2nd.
11-20 Feb:	3 Nairn 15th and 8 Elgin 15th.
21-28 Feb:	no records received.
1-10 Mar:	6 Hopeman 2nd, 10 Nairn 4th and 8 Elgin 7th-10th.
11-20 Mar:	12 Nairn 16th.
21-31 Mar:	3 Elgin 24th.
1-10 Apr:	8 Burghead 2nd and 8 Forres 4th.

Autumn-winter:

A larger influx, again in October-November, with smaller numbers remaining in December. However, flocks in December remained in some areas for longer periods.

21-31 Oct:	9 Forres 25th-27th, 7 Elgin 25th, 20 Hopeman 31st and 4 Lossiemouth 31st.
1-10 Nov:	16 Elgin 5th, 30 Hopeman 8th, 52 Forres 8th-9th, 20 Duffus 9th, 20 Nairn 10th and c.20 Findhorn 11th.
11-20 Nov:	80+ Hopeman 11th, 170 Forres 14th, 50 Lossiemouth 15th, 30 Nairn 17th and 38 Elgin 20th.
21-31 Nov:	c.25 Nairn 21st, 10 Nether Dallachy 21st, 170 Forres 26th, 8 Lossiemouth 26th and 200+ Elgin 27th.
1-10 Dec:	110 Forres 1st, 32 Nairn 5th-6th, 30 Half Davoch 6th and 40 Elgin 10th.
11-20 Dec:	80+ Elgin 11th, 8 Mosstodloch 16th and 2 Forres 18th.
21-31 Dec:	40+ Elgin 22nd, 20 Forres 28th, 2 Findhorn 28th and 7 Craigellachie 28th & 31st.



Waxwings, Forres 24 November 2019 (Gordon Biggs)

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Very common resident breeder.

First song at Elgin cemetery 14 Jan.

Groups of 10 or more were: 44 Loch Loy 31 Jan, 13 Shenvault 30 Nov and c.10 Rumachroy 11 Mar.

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*

Common resident breeder.

Breeding confirmed at Culbin Forest where the first hatching was recorded on the very early date of 26 Apr (WGT).

Away from the coastal forests, reports from other areas (max. counts) were 2 Torrieston Woods 9 Dec, singles Loch Kirkaldy 10 Feb, Ordiquish Forest 6 Mar, Findlay's Seat (Teindland) 27 Oct, Rothes golf club 3 Dec and 'present' Glenferness 8 Apr.

The highest count was 7 Loch Loy 31 Jan.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident breeder.

The proportion of juveniles caught per adult for ringing at the Loch Spynie 'Constant Effort Site' was 1.0, down from 4.6 in 2018 (RP).

Counts exceeding 10 birds were 21 Firhall Bridge (Nairn) 14 Feb, 20 (a single flock) Cawdor 12 Jan, 15 Loch Loy 31 Jan and 12+ Loch Spynie 21 Jan.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common resident breeder.

Productivity, as assessed by ringing at the 'Constant Effort Site' at Loch Spynie, was 0.7 juveniles caught per adult, a decrease from 2.0 in 2018 (RP).

Two counts exceeded 10 birds, both were from Firhall Bridge (Nairn), 23 on 14 Feb and 15 on 22 Mar.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Former rare breeder.

One in the north-east fen Loch Spynie 21 Jul (RP) circled the observer before flying off in a north-westerly direction. Last recorded at Loch Spynie on 17 & 19 Jan 2016.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Very common breeder and migrant.

First song Kingsteps 18 Feb, followed by 1 Lossie estuary 9 Mar and 4 Findhorn Bay saltmarsh 17 Apr.

The largest count was 80 Clochan 4 Feb, with the next highest being 24 Lossiemouth 8 Feb.

Breeding season (April-July): Seen or heard at Achavraat, Blackwater Lodge, Burghead, Carn Eilasaid (Lecht), Clunas Reservoir, Culbin Bar, Cummingston-Hopeman, Duffus cemetery, East Grange, Findhorn Bay, Grigorhill, Kingsteps, Lagganvoulin, Loch Flemington, Mosstowie, Nairn & Culbin Bars, Nairn and Roseisle.

Migrants flying south included 7 Elgin cemetery 3 Oct, 2 St Columba's Church, Elgin 14 Oct and 2 Bishopmill, Elgin 26 Oct.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor and very common breeder.

Arrival: A typical range of late March arrivals; 7 Loch Flemington 20th, 5 Loch Spynie 30th and 3 Kingsteps 31st. Concentrations of birds early in the season (away from colonies) included 300 Loch Spynie 3 May, 100+ Cragganmore 14 Apr, c.100 Dallachy pool 2-3 May, 100+ River Nairn mouth 27 May and 75 Loch na Bo 1 Apr.

Colony counts: The largest colony report was from the Quarry pool, Mosstodloch 27 Jul where 2,126 holes were counted – but the number of pairs is uncertain. Other colonies were reported at Barmuckity (52 apparently occupied nests in vertical face of a pile of soil on 6 May), Blackwater Lodge (8 birds starting to nest in riverbank on 17 May), Dunearn moorland (c.20 pairs on 15 May), Findhorn beach (maximum 25 birds on 29 Apr & 11 May), Howford Bridge (Nairn) (at least one hole being used 20 Jun) and Nairn (c.100 holes in pile of soil on 15 Jun). In mid-late summer, 350 roosting at the Kingston reedbed 12 Jul and increased to an estimated 700 on 19 Jul. Other counts exceeding 50 were: 75+ Mosset Burn 12 Jun and c.70 Spey estuary 2 Aug.

Last record of the year involved c.20 Loch Spynie 28 Sep.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Summer visitor and very common breeder.

Arrival: First, in April, was a single at Loch Spynie on 4th. A small arrival on 11th when 12 Househill (Nairn) and 2 Lossie estuary. Seventeen other sites with reports from 15th-26th but still small numbers involved.

Breeding: The only breeding record received was from the remote Blackwater Lodge 17 May. Late summer/early autumn flocks included 72+ Kronyhillock 16 Sep and c.50 Nairn west beach 19 Sep.

Departure: Small groups seen throughout October (max. c.40 East Milton, Nairn on 6th) with the last record, in November, of a single around Findhorn village on 5th-7th.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Arrival: First reports, in April, were 3 Broom of Moy and 1 Wardend (Fogwatt) on 12th, quickly followed by 3 Findhorn dunes on 14th, 2 Burghead 19th, 1 Clochan 19th and 1 Tugnet 19th. Larger numbers later in the month with 30+ Drumduan on 22nd.

Breeding: Two building nest cups Lossiemouth 12 May.

Late summer counts included c.100 Lethen 24 Jul, 20 Tomintoul 24 Aug, 27 Findhorn 3 Sep and 30+ Marypark 7 Sep. Last report, 50 Auldearn 29 Sep.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Very common resident breeder.

One gathering nest material Kingsteps 17 Feb. The proportion of juveniles caught per adult for ringing at the Loch Spynie 'Constant Effort Site' was 0.3:1, down from 3.0:1 in 2018 (RP).

The largest counts reported were 20 Delavorar (Ballindalloch) 23 May, 20 Tomintoul 21 Sep & 30 Nov, c.20 Clephanton 3 Dec and 20 Knockando distillery 4 Dec.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Summer visitor and very common breeder.

Arrival: First was 1 Rumachroy 12 Apr and then singles at Cawdor, Mains of Moy and Loch Spynie 13 Apr. During the following six days (18-23 Apr) a further nine sites had first birds reported.

Productivity, as measured by ringing at the 'Constant Effort Site' at Loch Spynie, was 1.6 juveniles per adult – down from 4.4 in 2018 (RP).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Summer visitor and fairly common breeder. Scarce migrant and rare winter visitor.

Arrival: The first record was a singing individual at Waterford (Forres) 2 Mar, then no other records until 19 Mar when 1 Brodie Castle and 2 Waterford (Forres). Almost daily records to the end of the month usually relating to singles but 8 singing River Findhorn (dump to Findhorn Bay) 29th. Subsequently reported in spring and summer at 31 sites.

Productivity at the Loch Spynie 'Constant Effort Site' was 0.4 juveniles/adult well down from 8.5 in 2018.

In autumn, single birds likely to have been late migrants were seen at Cragganmore-Knockando 3 Oct, Tugnet 5 Oct, Dallachy 10 Oct and Loch Flemington 13 Oct. Late records in November included 1 Hopeman on 7th, 1 (trapped) Clochan on 11th and 1 Covesea Farm on 21st.

Records relating to 'Siberian Chiffchaff' *P. c. tristis* involved 2 Hopeman 7 Nov, with at least one remaining on the following day when photographed and sound recorded (SBr, DMP, MJHC) and another individual present at Loch Spynie 12, 15 & 16 Dec (photographed) (KS, DAG, AL).



Siberian Chiffchaff, Hopeman 8 November 2019 (Dave Pullan)



Siberian Chiffchaff, Loch Spynie 15 December 2019 (Andy Lawson)

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare migrant.

Singles were recorded at Hopeman 25 Sep (SBr), old railway line at Portknockie 25 & 27 Sep (MJHC) and another there 4 Oct (MJHC). This is the second occasion that three have been recorded, the first year being 2016. These constitute the 13th-15th records for Moray & Nairn.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Arrival: The first was recorded as 'present' Loch Spynie 26 Apr, then several singing Spynie Canal 28 Apr and 1 Portknockie 28 Apr. Breeding: At the 'Constant Effort Ringing Site' in the north-east fen at Loch Spynie, the number of juveniles caught per adult was 2.5:1, up slightly from 1.0:1 in 2018.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder.

The only record received was a singing individual at Darkland 27 Apr (JDL).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Summer visitor and common breeder. Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

January-March: seen at Nairn (female on 1 Jan, 2 on 8 Jan, 1 on 25 Mar), Forres (female on 9 Jan), Cummington (1 on 20 Jan), Findhorn (male on 31 Jan), Urquhart (1 on 3 Feb) and Tomintoul (2 on 22 Mar).

Spring/summer: Widespread records from the lowland area. Notable counts were 5 River Findhorn (Waterford to Findhorn Bay) 30 Apr, 5+ River Spey (near Quarry Pool, Mosstodloch) 14 May and 5 Netherton 21 May. Inland, 1 Lagganvoulin 28 May.

Productivity, as measured from individuals trapped for ringing at the 'Constant Effort Site' at Loch Spynie, was 3.3 juveniles per adult, well down from the 7.5 recorded in 2018 (RP).

Autumn: Likely migrants were seen along Quarry Road, Lossiemouth on 1 Sep (female) and 13 Oct (male).

November-December: seen at Nairn (1 on 22 Dec), Forres (male & female 15 Nov-30 Dec), Covesea Farm (female on 11 Dec) and Lossiemouth (male on 30 Nov).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder.

Recorded in the breeding season only at Quarry pool, Mosstodloch 14 May & 2 Jun (MJHC).

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Rare visitor and occasional breeder.

A singing male was present at Dallachy 24 May-8 Jun (MJHC *et al.*). In autumn a migrant was seen at Portknockie, along the old railway line, on 4 Oct (MJHC). A probable 'Siberian Lesser Whitethroat' *S. c. blythi* was also seen along the old railway track at Portknockie 5 Nov (MJHC) and is the first record of this sub-species in Moray & Nairn.



Probable Siberian Lesser Whitethroat, Portknockie 5 November 2019 (Martin Cook)

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

Summer visitor and very common breeder.

Arrival: In late April, 2 Lossie estuary 25th, 1 Findhorn 29th, 1 Hilton of Delnie 30th and 'present' Kingsteps 30th. Widespread in the coastal area during the summer. Furthest inland was 1 Sheals, Glass 6 May.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Very common resident breeder and scarce migrant.

The highest counts were 50 Glenmullie Forest 4 Nov and c.10 Rafford 10 Nov. Possible coastal migrants were 5 along the old railway line at Portknockie 5 Oct and 6 in the valley at the golf course, Hopeman 8 Nov.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident breeder.

Breeding: At Loch Spynie Constant Effort ringing site, the ratio of juveniles to adults was 1.4:1, down from 2.7:1 in 2018 (RP). Counts included 10 Firhall Bridge (Nairn) 14 Feb & 22 Mar and 8 Netherton 21 May.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

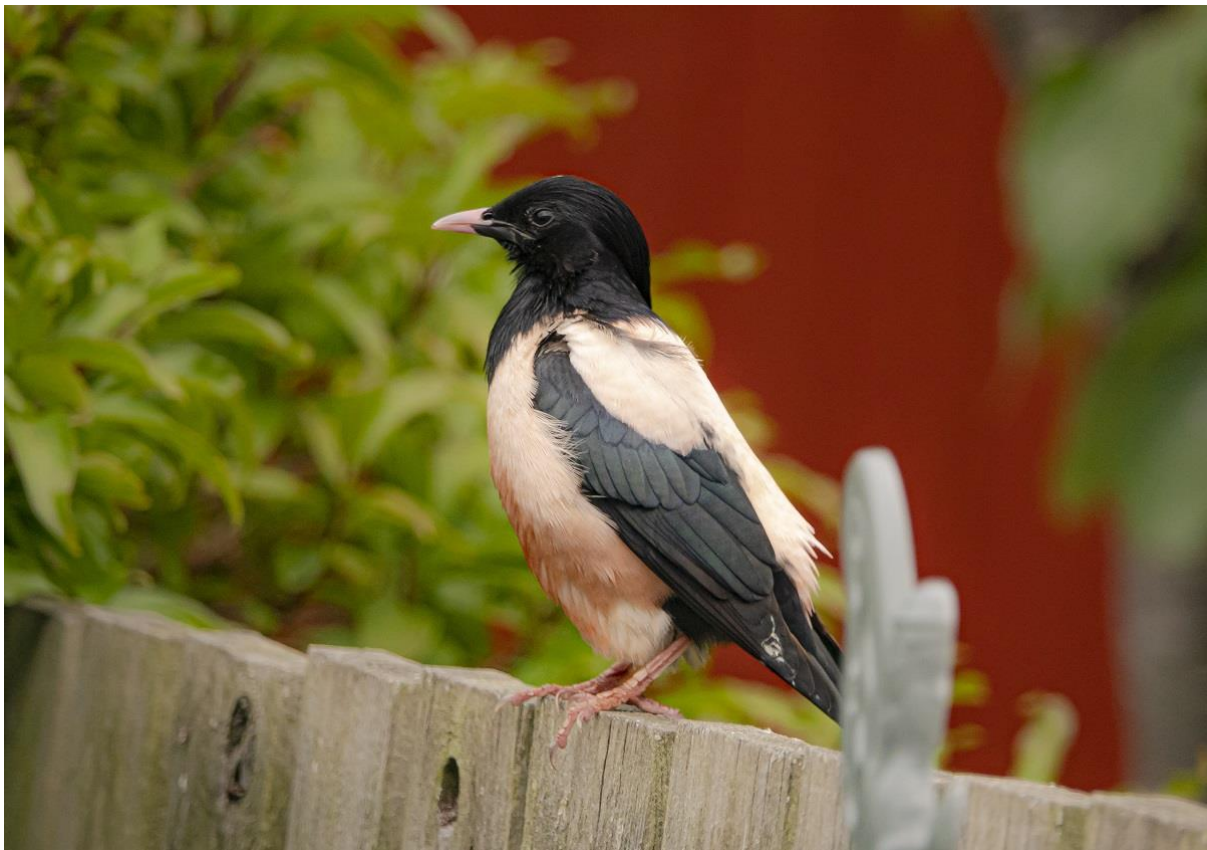
Very common resident breeder.

Four in Cawdor Woods 8 Jun was the largest count received.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

Rare visitor.

Single adults were seen in an Elgin garden 3-5 Jul (DM) and at Boath Park, Nairn 27 Jun-6 Jul (SW, GW, MJHC, SBr). These are the 13th-14th records for Moray & Nairn.



Rose-coloured Starling, Nairn 2 July 2019 (Kate McArdle)



Rose-coloured Starling, Elgin 4 July 2019 (David Main)

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common resident breeder and winter visitor.

Flocks of 100 (max. counts) or more were 4,000+ Culbin Bar 8 Jul, 2,511 (from photograph) Cummingston 6 Jan, c.2,500 Nairn 6 Jul, 1,600 in to roost Loch Spynie 1 Nov, 1,000+ Findhorn Bay 27 Jun, c.250 Grigorhill 14 Feb, 150+ Elgin 7 & 23 Oct and 130 Croy 12 Jan.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder.

No confirmed breeding records but seen at the following potential breeding sites; maximum count of 3 Cairn Gorm 29 Apr (NC *et al.*), 2 Lynemore (Dunearn) 6 May (CW), 2 Ailnack Gorge 30 Jun (DAG), 2 Ben Macdui 15 Jul ('present' on 15 May) (PRG, MF). In the Glen Avon area; 2 Dalestie 16 May (HM), 6 (including 3 singing males) Birchfield-Foal's Craig 1 Jun (MJHC) and 7 males Glen Avon & Glen Builg 29 June (MJHC).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident breeder, winter visitor and migrant.

Highest spring counts were 29 Nairn 10 May, 12 Urquhart 7 Mar and 10 Firhall Bridge (Nairn) 22 Mar.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Very common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter-spring: 15 reports of flocks of 20 or more. Maximum counts from each site were c.130 Mill of Tynet 8 Feb, 120+ Kirkhill 19 Feb, c.100 Buckie 22 Jan, 95 Findhorn Bay 6 Feb, 80+

Knockando 28 Mar, 70+ near Coltfoot 22 Mar, 66 Tomnamoon 28 Feb, c.50 Mill of Grange 18 Jan, 48 Netherton 19 Jan, 32 Clochan 4 Feb, c.25 Drumdivan 16 Apr, 22 Gilston 13 Jan and 20+ near Dalmore 29 Jan.

Last in spring were records on 16 Apr from Drumdivan (c.25), Nairn (single) and Knock of Braemoray (present).

Autumn: First was 1 Rumachroy 6 Oct. No large-scale arrival in October.

Winter: In November-December, eight flocks of 20 or more were reported, including 100+ Waterford (Forres) 10 Nov, c.100 New Elgin 22 Nov, 50+ Glenshiel Farm 9 Dec, 40 Edinville 14 Dec, c.40 Kirkhill 26 Dec, 35 Glenferness 6 Dec and 20 Wellheads 31 Dec.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Very common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter-spring: Four reports of flocks of 20 or more; 50 Elgin cemetery 18 Jan, c.50 Fochabers 28 Jan, 40+ Firhall Bridge (Nairn) 14 Feb and 20 Forres 10 Jan. Last in spring was from Knock of Braemoray 16 Apr.

Autumn: First record was 14 Altyre House 30 Sep. No major influx recorded in October, with only three flocks exceeding 100: 300+ Blacksboat-Cragganmore on 5th, 100+ east of Knockaneorn Wood on 13th and 128 Waterford on 27th.

Winter: In November-December, seven flocks of 20 or more were recorded, 106 Waterford 22 Nov, c.100 Greshop Industrial Estate (Forres) 10 Nov, c.80 Forres 12 Nov, 60 Knockomie (Forres) 10 Nov, 40 Hopeman 8 Nov, 20 Wellhead 5 Nov and c.20 Forres Enterprise Park 5 Nov.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Very common breeder and migrant. Scarce in winter.

January-February: As usual, over-wintering birds were almost exclusively found, in very small numbers, in close proximity to the coast. In January, 1 Moray Crematorium (Broadley) on 17th and 2 Spynie Canal on 30th. In February, 5 Firhall Bridge (Nairn) on 14th, 1 Tugnet on 16th, 1 Kirkhill on 19th, 1 Delnies on 23rd, song Clochan on 23rd, 3 Nairn Academy on 24th, 2 Kingsteps on 24th, 3 Balblair on 24th, 1 Myreside on 24th, 1 Lossie estuary on 24th and 2 Tomnamoon on 28th.

By March well established in coastal areas, still less common inland with upcountry records comprising 1 Little Aitnoh-Refouble on 3rd & 17th, 2 Ben Aigen Forest on 6th, 4 Clunas reservoir on 18th and 1 Delavorar (Ballindalloch) on 25th.

Breeding: An adult was seen feeding a juvenile in Nairn 7 Jul.

Potential migrants were 2 Quarry Road (Lossiemouth) 1 Sep and 10 Strathlene golf course 7 Oct.

In December, 1 Culbin Bar 15th and 1 Loch Loy 27th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Very common resident breeder and migrant.

Typical late summer aggregations were 46 Wellhead 11 Sep, 41 Newlands of Inchnacaorach (Cawdor) 5 Sep, 26 Kronyhill 16 Sep, 25-40 Leid's Hill (Cabrach) 21 Jul, 22 Cabrach 16 Sep, 12 Roseisle 28 Aug and 11 Little Aitnoh-Refouble 17 Sep.

Ten or more together at other times included 20 Elgin 18 Jan.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Arrival: First was 1 Blacksboat-Cragganmore 17 May (a typical arrival date), followed quickly by singles at Cawdor 19 May and Ardoch 20 May.

Breeding: A brood of two was seen at Aberlour 18 Aug.

Reports from elsewhere in summer came from Burnside of Enzie, Delnabo, Knockaneorn Wood, Glenferness, Loch Flemington, Logie Steading, Nairn & Culbin Bars, Nairn, Scarffbanks and Tomdow.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident breeder and migrant.

Productivity at Loch Spynie, as measured by ringing at the Constant Effort Site, was 1.8 juveniles per adult - down on 6.3 in 2018 (RP).

Counts (time/distance unknown) included 14 Firhall (Nairn) 14 Apr, 11 The Maggot (Nairn) 14 Feb & 16 Sep and 10 Allanreid forest 27 Aug.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder. Very scarce migrant.

Very few records received again this year; 1 male Dulsie 27 Apr (DAG), 1 Cawdor Castle 1 May (JAC), 2 Lagganvoulin 28 May (KM), 1 Glenferness 19 Jun & 1 Jul (CGL) and 2 Culbin Forest 13 Aug (PR).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Scarce resident breeder and migrant.

Breeding season (*italics* = confirmed breeding): Coastal: occupied sites were Burghead, Burghead-Cummingston, Cummingston-Hopeman, *Findhorn beach*, Hopeman and *Spey estuary*.

Inland: Dava moor, Dunearn, *Elrick (Cabrach)*, Ferness, *Findlay's Seat (Teindland)*, Glack Harnes (Ben Rinnes), *Knockaneorn Wood*, Lagganvoulin, *Lecht mine*, Leid's Hill (Cabrach), *Little Aitnoch-Refoable*, Newlands of Fleenas, *Portgordon*, *Refoable*, Tips of Corsemaul, *Tirfogrean* and Whiteash Hill Wood.

Birds were recorded in additional localities in autumn and winter as follows:

Coastal: Roseisle Forest (Feb, Mar, Nov), Clashach Cove (Feb), Covesea (Oct), Culbin Bar (Jan, Feb, Dec), Cullen (Feb), Cummingston-Hopeman (Jan), Delnies (Sep), Findhorn Bay (Feb, Mar, Aug, Dec), Kingsteps (Feb), Kingston (Aug, Dec), Nairn (Feb), Nair Bar (Dec), Spey Bay (Aug, Oct, Nov) and Strathlene (Oct).

Inland: Aitendow (Nov), Auchlochan (Nov, Dec), Aultmore (Dec), Bailliesland (Nov), Bogeney (Nov, Dec), Cairn Eney (Nov, Dec), Clephanton (Dec), Clochan (Feb), Easter Clune (Feb), Easter Milton (Oct), Forres enterprise park (Sep), Glenferness (Oct), Glenmullie Forest (Nov), Knock of Braemoray (Nov, Dec), Loch Flemington (Oct-Dec), North Crannoch (Nov) and Refoable (Feb).

Largest count was 12 between Burghead-Cummingston 9 Jul.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Summer visitor and fairly common breeder and migrant.

Arrival: First was a single at Spey Bay 26 Mar, followed by 5 Kingston (The Lein) and singles Findhorn beach, Lossiemouth west beach and Cairnbrallan (Cabrach) 30 Mar. A further 3 Findhorn beach 31 Mar. No large arrival in April although more records beginning to be reported inland; 4 College of Scaln 21st, 4 Ladderfoot 21st, 2 Aitnoch 23rd, 1 Tomintoul 26th

and 4 Cairngorms 29th. On the coast 9 Balormie pig farm 6 May appeared to be of the Greenland subspecies *O. o. leucorhoa* (JPo).

Breeding: Confirmed breeding involved 2 juveniles Cairngorms plateau 28 Jun. Also on the Cairngorms plateau recorded from Ben Macdui (present on 15 May, male on 15 Jul), Cairngorms (1 on 4 May, present on 21 Jun), Carn Lochan (female on 8 Jul), Feith Buidhe (female on 5 Jul) and Lochan Buidhe (5 on 25 May, 2 on 7 Jun). Recorded in suitable breeding habitat at Ailnack Gorge (1 on 30 Jun), Delnabo (present on 18 Jun) and Dunearn moorland (female on 15 May).

Coastal records in summer involved 1 male Findhorn 4 Jun, 1 Nairn 12 Jun, 1 Nairn golf course 20 Jul and 1 Kingston 17 Jul.

There appeared to be an arrival of migrants on the coast over 25-27 Aug; 2 Portgordon 25th, 8 Burghead-Cummingston and 9 Lossiemouth on 26th, then 3 Burghead, 4 Covesea, 9 Cullen harbour, 3 Dallachy airfield, 1 Findhorn Bay, 2 Spey estuary and 5 Strathlene on 27th.

In August and September, records usually consisted of 1-2 birds: present Auchmair (Cabrach) 21 Aug, 2 Bantrach 1 Sep, 1 Easter Delnies 7 Sep, 1 Ben Macdui 15 & 27 Aug, 2 Cairngorms plateau 1 Aug, 1 Culbin 13 Aug, 1 Delnies 7 & 12 Sep, 2 Lossie estuary 20 Aug, 1 RAF Lossiemouth 15 & 22 Aug, 1 Mossie (Rafford) 29 Sep, 1 Spey Bay 14 Sep and 1 Tomnamoon 21 Aug & 9 Sep. Higher counts were 15 Cullen harbour 2 Sep, 7 Drynahan area 27 Aug, 6 Findhorn beach 4 Sep and 4 Portgordon 1 Sep.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Common resident breeder.

Breeding: Territories were reported from Burnside of Enzie, Cothall (2), Dulsie Bridge, River Lossie (Landshut Bridge), River Nairn and Well of Lecht. Elsewhere, breeding season records came from Allanreid, Ballcorach, Ben Macdui, Cawdor, Fochabers, Forres, Garbh Uisge Mor, Loch Etchachan, The Maggot (Nairn), River Livet (Drumin Castle), Sanquhar Loch and Newton of Budgate.

At other times of the year localities holding Dippers were: Ardclach, Ballcorach, Clephanton, Croy, Dalvenuan (River Spey), Delnabo, Drynahan, Dyke, Gallowhill, Marypark and Mosset Burn.

At winter roost sites, 6 Cloddach 21 Feb and 8 Forres 21 Feb.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident breeder.

Highest counts were 70 Myreside 29 Nov, 60+ The Maggot (Nairn) 10 May, 56 Dyke 27 Jan, 40 Hopeman 8 Nov, 30+ Moyness 6 Aug, 30 Lossiemouth 10 May and 30 Spey Bay 8 Sep.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common resident breeder.

Breeding: Confirmed at Forres where fledged juveniles were seen in a garden 31 May & 7 Jun. Counts of 10 or more included 22 in a Forres garden 4 Jan & 27 Oct, 16 Netherton 23 Nov (14 there 14 Nov) and 12 Kinloss 20 Dec.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident breeder.

First song Elgin cemetery 26 Feb.

Largest counts were 10 Nairn 16 Apr and 8 Auchnarrow 2 Dec.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Summer visitor and common breeder. Very scarce in winter.

Winter (January-February and December): One Burn of Aberlour 12 Jan was the only inland record. Remaining reports all from the coast; 4 Cullen Burn 24 Feb, 1 Glassgreen (Elgin) 14 Dec (likely the same Linkwood Burn (Elgin) 23 Dec), 1 Mosset Burn (Findhorn Bay) 3 Jan, 1 Forres sewage works 6 Jan, 1 Gallowhill 28 Feb, 1 Holme Rose (Croy) 16 Feb, 1 coming to window feeder Lossiemouth 22 Jan, 1 Lossiemouth harbour 27 Feb, 1 Nairn 14-21 Feb & 29 Dec, 1 Rafford 4 Jan and 1 River Lossie (Elgin) 6 Jan.

At potential upcountry breeding sites were 1 Allanreid 19 & 21 Apr, 2 Loch Belivat 24 May, 2 Dulsie Bridge 20 & 27 Apr, 1 Edinglassie Farm (Glass) 7 Jun, 2 Lagganvoulin 28 May, 2 Rumachroy 12 Apr and 1 Tomintoul 22 Apr.

At potential lowland breeding sites were (max. counts); 1 Birnie bridge 28 Apr, 2 Cawdor 13 Apr, 1 River Nairn (Househill) 16 Apr, 1 Elgin 12 Apr, 2 Gordon Castle (Fochabers) 21 Apr, 1 Hopeman 30 Jul, 1 Kirkhill 9 May, 1 Loch Spynie 10 May, 1 Mosset Burn (Findhorn Bay) 12 Jul, 2 Nairn harbour 23 Apr, 3 The Maggot (Nairn) 16 Apr & 9 Jun, 1 New Fleenas 2 Apr, 1 River Nairn (Allanaha) 20 Jun, 1 River Nairn (Firhall) 16 Apr, 1 River Nairn (Howford) 20 Jun, 2 Sanquhar pond 2 Apr and 1+ Sluie walk 19 Apr.

Elsewhere, at other times of the year were 2 Burgie arboretum 31 Mar, 1 Elgin cemetery 4 Sep, 1 Essil cemetery 21 Aug, 1 River Findhorn (Findhorn Bay) 31 Mar, 2 Gallowhill 27 Nov, 1 on a garden lawn Rafford 19 Oct and 1 Spey estuary 4 Aug.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Very common breeder and migrant.

Winter: Unusual inland in winter was 1 Aberlour (at Walkers factory) 21 Jan.

Seen on the Cairngorms plateau at Lochan Buidhe 1 May.

Highest late summer/autumn counts were 29 Spey estuary 10 Aug, 28 Delnies 7 Sep and 28 Nairn 14 Sep.

Passage: A poor year for sightings of 'White Wagtails' *M. a. alba*. In spring; 3 Burghead headland 19 Apr, 1 Tugnet 14 Apr, 1 Kingston 21 Apr and 1 Spey estuary 3 May. Autumn; 4 Spey estuary 26 Aug (2 on 27 Aug) and 1 Cullen harbour 1 Sep.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Very common breeder and migrant.

January-February: The largest counts during this period were 45 Findhorn Bay 1 Feb, 20 Kingsteps 7 Feb and 6 Spynie Canal 6 Jan. Otherwise only small numbers (up to 5) were reported, all were in coastal areas, except at Tomnamoon 28 Feb where partial display was also noted.

March-May: Counts of 10 or more in lowland areas included c.400 Coltfoot 21 Apr, 70 Allanreid 21 Apr and c.20 moving upriver Cragganmore 14 Apr. On the Cairngorms plateau were 3 Cairn Lochan 15 May and 18 Lochan Buidhe 25 May.

Seen on spring passage during seawatches off Lossiemouth harbour on 23 Mar (5 west), 24 Mar (28 west, 1 east) and 20 Apr (5 west).

June-July: 40 Leid's Hill (Cabrach) 21 Jul.

Autumn: In late August, 30 Bridge of Brown 26th and 30+ Ben Macdui 27th. In September, the largest counts were 18 Balormie pig farm 15th, 20+ Ferness 16th and 12+ Lochindorb 16th. Still present on the Cairngorms plateau with 5 A' Choinneach 20 Sep.

Seen during seawatches in this period off Lossiemouth harbour on 3 Aug (1 east), 14 Sep (2 west), 15 Sep (2 in off the sea), 13 Oct (1 in off the sea) and 7 Dec (2 in off the sea). Migration also involved 1 south over Elgin cemetery 1 Oct.

November-December: No large counts reported, but still well inland were singles at Bogeney, Cairn Eney, Knock of Braemore and Cairn Daimh (Tomnavoulin) all on 30 Nov.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Arrival: First reports, in April, were 3 Dulsie Bridge 20th, 1 singing Allanreid 21st, 1 singing Cragganmore-Blacksboat 27th and 2 Newtyle 30th.

Subsequently, 1-3 birds were found in breeding habitat at Cawdor Castle wood, Craigellachie-Dufftown, Glen Avon, Lagganvoulin and along the lower River Findhorn near Findhorn Bay.

No reports after 1 Half Davoch 1 Aug.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Scarce breeder, fairly common in winter.

Breeding season: Seen carrying food at Covesea, Lossiemouth harbour and Tronach Head. Song also noted at Portknockie. Reported during April-June at Findhorn Bay, Burghead, Burghead-Cummingston, Cummingston and Cummingston-Hopeman.

Largest numbers in winter; 16 Portgordon-Strathlene 10 Feb and 12 Covesea-Lossiemouth 17 Feb. Other autumn/winter counts of five or more were 9 Cummingston-Hopeman 10 Oct, 8 Cummingston 10 Oct, 8+ Lossiemouth 16 Feb, 6 Burghead 27 Mar, 6 Covesea 24 Oct, 5 Findhorn Bay 3 Jan and 5 Portgordon harbour 16 Sep.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident breeder, migrant and winter visitor.

First song noted on 14 Feb at Auldearn and 16 Feb at Tugnet.

Flocks of 100 or more were 120 Wellheads 31 Dec, 100 Tomintoul 4 Nov and c.100 Achneim (Cawdor) 13 Nov. Other sizeable flocks of 30 or more included 50+ Achneim 30 Jan & 18 Mar, 50+ Loch Spynie 21 Jan (45 on 22 Feb), 47 Dyke 27 Jan, 35 Forres (in a garden) 27 Jan, 32 Kinloss 23 Dec and 30 Croughly 30 Nov.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant.

January-April: Largest flocks (of 10 or more) were 180 Ardlowie (south of Dufftown) 10 Feb, 50+ Achneim (Cawdor) 30 Jan and 18 Mar, 50 Clochan 4 Feb, 28 Lachlanwells 3 Feb, 20+ Longmorn 7 Feb, 17+ Dunphail 4 Apr, 15+ Elgin (near the Leisure Centre) and c.10 Loch Spynie 8 Feb. Last report was 2 Loch Spynie 18 Apr.

October-December: Very scarce in autumn/early winter with the only reports being 2 Gallowhill 2 Dec and 6 there on 12 Dec.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare visitor.

The only record was of one in Cawdor Castle wood on 2-3 Jan (JAC, SBr).



Hawfinch, Cawdor 2 January 2019 (Steve Broyd)

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Very common resident breeder.

The only counts of 10 or more were 16 Glenmullie Forest 29 Nov and 10 near the River Findhorn at Seafeld on 3 Nov.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Very common resident breeder.

Thirty records were received but only very small numbers. Most together were 7 Kinloss 23 Dec, 6 Findhorn 12 May and 6 Urquhart 7 Mar.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Scarce resident breeder and winter visitor.

The only inland report was of 20 near Tomintoul on 30 Nov (BT). All other records were from Findhorn Bay and westwards to Delnies. On the south side of Findhorn Bay were 2 on 6 Feb (RSC) and 17 on 11 Mar (MGC), and at the Nairn and Culbin Bars were 7 on 6 Jan (AY), 32 on 10 Feb (AY) and 120 on 15 Dec (GP). At Kingsteps were 12 on 7 Feb (AMac) and 40 on 13 Feb (RHD). The saltmarsh at Delnies held 50+ on 1 Jan (AD) and 45 on 15 Dec (RHD).

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Very common resident breeder.

Flocks of 100 or more were 500 Darkland 19 Jan, 400+ Longmorn 19 Jan, 200+ East Grange 12 Feb, 200 Broadley 7 Aug, 200 Dufftown 10 Feb, 200 Nairn Bar 13 Oct, 150+ Moyness 24 Aug and 150 Clochan 4 Feb.

Common (Mealy) Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Rare winter visitor and migrant.

Single birds were at Drynachan 6 Jan (RHD), Holme Rose 16 Feb (JDG) and Teindland Forest 18 Oct, where five were seen on 26 Oct (AY).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Common resident breeder and migrant.

Breeding season (April-July) records came from Allanreid, Achdregnie, Easter Newforres Wood, Forres, Lagganvoulin, Moor of Tore, Nairn and Tomintoul.

Flocks of 20 or more were 450 Teindland Wood 18 Oct, 150 Ben Aigan 21 Dec, 100 Delnabo 18 Jan, 80 Newtyle 29 Oct, 60 Kingsteps 6 Jan and 40 Drynachan 6 Jan.

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*

Probable common resident breeder.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Common resident and irruptive migrant breeder.

In view of the absence of any known means of separating these species (see *British Birds* 115:218-220), all crossbill records are combined.

Flocks of 10 or more: 47 Newtyle Forest 29 Oct, c.45 Culbin Forest 22 Feb, c.20 Deer Park (Fochabers) 15 Mar, 20 Earlseat 1 Jan, 19 Loch Kirkaldy 12 Oct (11 there 1 Mar), 15 Pitgaveny 21 Jan and 15 Bogeney 26 Oct.

Elsewhere, smaller numbers were seen at Allanreid, Altyre, Bantrach, Cawdor Wood, Covesea, Crannoch Wood, Delnapot, Gilston, Glenferness, Glenmullie, Heldon Wood, Knockando, Lagganvoulin, Loch of Blairs, Loch Loy, Loch Spynie, Nairn, Roseisle, Rumachroy, Tomintoul, Tomnamoon and Torrieston.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Very common resident breeder.

Flocks of 10 or more included c.130 Mosstowie 5 Feb, c.50 Tugnet 27 Aug (40 on 26 Sep), 35 Netherton 23 Nov, 30 Hopeman 26 Sep, 28 Dyke 27 Jan, 26 Half Davoch 6 Dec, 21 Kinloss 23 Dec (12 on 31 Aug), c.20 Clarkly Hill 30 Jan (10 on 17 Jan), 20 Findhorn Bay 3 Jan (12 on 24 Jan), 20 Forres 27 Jan, 20 Nairn 10 May (14 on 4 Feb & 4 May), 15+ Covesea 21 Feb, c.12 Findhorn 7 Nov, 10 Croy 12 Jan, 10 Delnies 9 Dec, 10 Glenmullie 29 Nov and 10 Loch Spynie 11 May & 4 Dec.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Very common resident breeder and migrant.

Flocks of 20 or more were 180 Drynachan 6 Jan, 100 Kingsteps 3 Jan, 41 Findhorn 17 Mar, 35 Deerhill (Aultmore) 6 Dec, 35 Howford Bridge 28 Jan, 30+ Loch Spynie 22 Feb, 30 Balnalon 1 Dec, 24 Crook (Nairn) 9 Jan, 21 Forres 7 Mar and 20+ Nairn area 14 Feb & 22 Mar.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Common winter visitor and rare breeder.

Breeding: On the Cairngorms plateau, 10-12 singing males on 22-28 Jun (RI, JD). Numerous other reports of small numbers at various sites across the plateau.

Inland in winter: In mid-winter on the Cairngorms plateau were 18 Cairn Lochan 2 Jan and 9 Ben Macdui summit. On Ben Rinnes, 9 on 3 Jan, 13 on 6 Jan and 4 on 30 Mar. At the Lecht ski area, 11 on 4 Jan.

Coastal: Most numerous westwards from Findhorn.

Findhorn: 35 on 17 Nov.

Culbin Bar: 26 on 6 Jan, 20 on 5 Feb and 12 on 24 Feb.

east Nairn/Kingsteps/Nairn Bar: 25-30 during 22 Jan-15 Feb, rising to 37 on 23 Feb, still 13 on 3 Mar.

Delnies: 12 on 17 Feb.
 Burghead: 3 on 12-14 Nov.
 Tugnet: 50-60 during 7-17 Nov.

Last in spring were 2 Nairn harbour 2-12 Apr and 2 Lossiemouth west beach 3 Apr. First back in autumn were 1 Spey Bay 7 Oct, 1 Nairn Bar 13 Oct and 1 Lossiemouth east beach 18 Oct.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Scarce resident breeder.

January-March: The only reports were 3 Spey Bay 15 Jan and 1 Spynie canal 29 Jan.

Breeding season: Seen and/or heard at Boath (2 singing 19 Jun and 4 Jul), Cummingston (1 on 3 Jul), Mosstodloch (1 on 16 Jun), Muirton (1 singing 6 Apr), Pitgaveny (2 on 2 Apr, 1 on 10 May), Porttannachy (2 singing 5 Aug) and Portgordon (2 singing 16 Jun).
 September-December: 1 Balormie 8 Dec, 1 Drainie 24 Nov, 1 Glasterim (near Portgordon) 17 Nov and 1 Kinneddar 25 Dec.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Very common resident breeder.

Large flocks were 200+ Pitgaveny 2 Apr and 150+ Achneim (Cawdor) 30 Jan (50+ there 18 Mar & 13 Nov). Elsewhere, flocks of 20 or more were 98 Netherton 19 Jan, 70 Gollachy 29 Oct, 50+ Gallowhill 17 Jan, 50 Darkland 3 Jan and 22 Lochaber (Forres) 28 Mar.

Regular in a garden on the outskirts of Forres in March and early April, max. 15 on 1 Apr.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Very common resident breeder.

Breeding season: reported from Culbin Bar, Howford Bridge, Loch Flemington, Loch Loy, Netherton, Loch Spynie, Mill of Grange, Nairn, Tomintoul and Waterford.

The proportion of juveniles/adults trapped at the Loch Spynie Constant Effort ringing site was 0.3, down from the 2017 figure of 1.3 (RP).

The only count to exceed 10 was 26 Culbin Bar 6 Jan.

INDEX TO SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Auk, Little	58	Godwit, Black-tailed	39	Mallard	20
Avocet	32	Goldcrest	79	Martin, House	75
Blackbird	80	Goldeneye	26	Martin, Sand	75
Blackcap	77	Goldfinch	87	Merganser, R.-breasted	27
Brambling	85	Goosander	26	Merlin	70
Bullfinch	86	Goose, Barnacle	12	Moorhen	29
Buzzard	67	Goose, Brent	9	Osprey	66
Capercaillie	8	Goose, Canada	11	Ouzel, Ring	80
Chaffinch	85	Goose, Greylag	12	Owl, Barn	67
Chiffchaff	76	Goose, Pink-footed	13	Owl, Long-eared	68
Coot	29	Goose, Snow	12	Owl, Short-eared	68
Cormorant	63	Goose, White-fronted	14	Owl, Snowy	68
Crossbill	87	Goshawk	66	Owl, Tawny	68
Crossbill, Scottish	87	Grebe, Great Crested	30	Oystercatcher	31
Crow, Carrion	72	Grebe, Little	30	Partridge, Grey	9
Crow, Hooded	72	Grebe, Slavonian	30	Partridge, Red-legged	9
Cuckoo	28	Greenfinch	86	Peregrine	70
Curlew	37	Greenshank	49	Petrel, Leach's	61
Dipper	83	Grouse, Black	8	Petrel, Storm	60
Diver, Black-throated	60	Grouse, Red	8	Pheasant	9
Diver, Great Northern	60	Guillemot	58	Pigeon, Feral	28
Diver, Red-throated	59	Guillemot, Black	59	Pintail	21
Diver, White-billed	60	Gull, Black-headed	51	Pipit, Meadow	84
Dotterel	36	Gull, Common	51	Pipit, Rock	85
Dove, Collared	29	Gull, Glaucous	52	Pipit, Tree	85
Dove, Stock	28	Gull, Gt. Black-backed	51	Plover, Golden	33
Duck, Long-tailed	25	Gull, Herring	54	Plover, Grey	34
Duck, Mandarin	16	Gull, Iceland	53	Plover, Little Ringed	36
Duck, Tufted	23	Gull, Less. Black-backed	54	Plover, Ringed	34
Dunlin	43	Gull, Little	51	Pochard	23
Dunnock	83	Gull, Mediterranean	51	Ptarmigan	8
Eagle, Golden	66	Gull, Sabine's	5	Puffin	59
Eagle, White-tailed	67	Harrier, Hen	66	Quail	9
Egret, Little	65	Harrier, Marsh	66	Rail, Water	29
Eider	24	Hawfinch	85	Raven	72
Eider, King	23	Heron, Grey	64	Razorbill	58
Fieldfare	80	Hobby	70	Redpoll, Common	86
Flycatcher, Spotted	82	Hoopoe	69	Redpoll, Lesser	87
Fulmar	61	Jackdaw	71	Redshank	47
Gadwall	18	Jay	71	Redshank, Spotted	49
Gannet	63	Kestrel	69	Redstart	82
Garganey	17	Kingfisher	69	Redwing	81
Godwit, Bar-tailed	38	Kite, Red	67	Robin	82
		Kittiwake	50	Rook	72
		Knot	41	Ruff	42
		Lapwing	32	Sanderling	43
		Linnet	86	Sandpiper, Common	46
		Magpie	71	Sandpiper, Curlew	42

Sandpiper, Green	47	Twite	86
Sandpiper, Purple	45	Wagtail, Grey	84
Sandpiper, Wood	49	Wagtail, Pied	84
Scaup	23	Warbler, Garden	78
Scoter, Common	25	Warbler, Grasshopper	77
Scoter, Velvet	24	Warbler, Sedge	77
Shag	63	Warbler, Willow	75
Shearwater, Manx	62	Warbler, Yell.-browed	77
Shearwater, Sooty	62	Waxwing	73
Shelduck	16	Wheatear	82
Shoveler	18	Whimbrel	37
Shrike, Great Grey	71	Whitethroat	78
Siskin	87	Whitethroat, Lesser	78
Skua, Arctic	57	Wigeon	19
Skua, Great	57	Woodcock	46
Skua, Pomarine	57	Woodpecker, G. Spotted	69
Skylark	74	Woodpecker, Green	69
Snipe	46	Woodpigeon	29
Snipe, Jack	46	Wren	79
Sparrow, House	83	Yellowhammer	88
Sparrow, Tree	83		
Sparrowhawk	66		
Spoonbill	64		
Starling	80		
Starling, Rose-coloured	79		
Stonechat	82		
Stork, Black	62		
Swallow	75		
Swan, Mute	14		
Swan, Whooper	15		
Swift	28		
Teal	21		
Teal, Green-winged	22		
Tern, Arctic	56		
Tern, Black	56		
Tern, Common	56		
Tern, Little	55		
Tern, Sandwich	55		
Thrush, Mistle	81		
Thrush, Song	81		
Tit, Bearded	74		
Tit, Blue	74		
Tit, Coal	74		
Tit, Crested	74		
Tit, Great	74		
Tit, Long-tailed	75		
Treecreeper	79		
Turnstone	40		

RINGING REPORT 2019

BOB PROCTOR

Numbers of birds ringed in Moray & Nairn during 2019:

	FG*	Pullus	Total		FG*	Pullus	Total
Storm Petrel	155		155	Wren	47		47
Leach's Petrel	2		2	Treecreeper	19	5	24
Osprey		11	11	Starling	56		56
Golden Eagle		3	3	Blackbird	60	1	61
Goshawk		5	5	Fieldfare	4		4
Hen Harrier		15	15	Redwing	14		14
Red Kite	1		1	Song Thrush	16		16
Buzzard	3	5	8	Mistle Thrush	1		1
Oystercatcher		3	3	Robin	79		79
Lapwing		8	8	Dipper	11		11
Ringed Plover	1	2	3	House Sparrow	185	73	258
Turnstone	11		11	Tree Sparrow	18	39	57
Redshank	2		2	Dunnock	62		62
Common Gull		3	3	Pied Wagtail	107		107
Arctic Tern	1		1	Rock Pipit	1		1
Black Guillemot	2		2	Chaffinch	123	2	125
Woodpigeon		2	2	Brambling	22		22
Collared Dove	1		1	Bullfinch	8		8
Tawny Owl		2	2	Greenfinch	13		13
Great Sp. Woodpecker	8		8	Linnet	8		8
Merlin		12	12	Common Redpoll	9		9
Hobby		2	2	Lesser Redpoll	587		587
Peregrine		2	2	Goldfinch	143		143
Jay	2		2	Siskin	664		664
Raven		4	4	Yellowhammer	9		9
Coal Tit	249	127	376	Reed Bunting	64		64
Crested Tit	23	5	28				
Blue Tit	280	344	624				
Great Tit	110	268	378				
Sand Martin	1144		1144				
Swallow	123	32	155				
Long-tailed Tit	88		88				
Willow Warbler	91		91				
Chiffchaff	37		37				
Sedge Warbler	127		127				
Blackcap	39	2	41				
Whitethroat	3		3				
Goldcrest	167		167				
				TOTALS	5000	977	5977

*FG=full grown

From: Robinson, R.A., Leech, D.I. & Clark, J.A. (2020) The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2019. BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 27 June 2020).

Recoveries in 2019:

All ringing recoveries reported for 2019 are included in this section with the more interesting ones given in full. Anyone finding a ringed bird in Moray or Nairn is asked to pass the details to Martin Cook.

Ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second line. The age when ringed is given according to the EURING code, note however, that these numbers do not represent age in years:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Nestling or chick |
| 2 | Fully grown, year of hatching unknown |
| 3 | Hatched during year of ringing |
| 4 | Hatched before year of ringing, exact year unknown |
| 5 | Hatched in the previous year |
| 6 | Hatched before the previous year, exact year unknown |

m = Male f = Female J = Juvenile CES = Constant Effort Site

Recovery symbols:	V	Caught and released with ring
	VV	Ring number read in field, or sight record of a colour-ringed bird
	VB	Breeding when trapped
	+	Shot or killed by man
	X	Found dead or dying (F = Fresh, L = Long dead)
	?	Unknown circumstances

WHOOPEE SWAN

ZY2546		200218	Caerlaverock
(yellow ZVD)	VV	111019	Bailliesland

ZY2789		200218	Caerlaverock
(orange XLB)	VV	200119	Loch Loy

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

1302405	6f	011216	Martin Mere
	XF shot	120119	Findhorn Bay

PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE

A colour-ringed individual seen amongst the Nairn flock on 25-31 Dec 2019 was ringed there on 25 Jan 2015.

MANDARIN DUCK

FB49536	4	271116	Lower Basildon, West Berkshire	
	VV=m	180419	Loch Spynie	700 km
	VV=m	210419	Loch Spynie	700 km

STORM PETREL

ED00317	4	300814	Hamnaholmen, More og Romsdal, NORWAY	
	V	210719	Portknockie	683 km

With recent increases in ringing activity at Burghead and particularly Portknockie, a number of movements occurred between Orkney, Shetland, the West Coast and Northumberland. A summary of distances travelled (km) are given in the table below:

km	1-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251-300	301-350
Number	2	3	18	4	7	0	2

km	351-400	401-450	451-500	501-550	551-600	601-650	651-700
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

SHAG

Other than the expected Isle of May movements, additional ringing locations included:

1703067	1	080718	Inchkeith	
	XF	020119	Covesea, near Lossiemouth	187 km
1471371	1	160618	North Sutor	
	X	020219	Roseisle beach	29 km

OSPREY

1123606	1	070716	near Beaully	
	VV	190619	Lossiemouth	81 km

GOSHAWK

GV29761	1m	130618	Moray	
	XL	100519	Rafford	33 km
HT20562	1f	080618	Highland	
	XF	020119	Tomintoul	13 km

BUZZARD

GV05297	1	050618	New Geanies, Easter Ross	
	XF	010119	Burghead	27 km

LAPWING

DE09401	1	050612	Tomintoul	
	XF	170519	Tomintoul	1 km

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

K04703	3	110916	Klepp, Rogaland, NORWAY	
(yellow NAA)	VV	011016	Burghead	537 km
	VV	061016	Hopeman	534 km
	VV	180218	Burghead	
	VV	210818	Balcomie Bay, Fife	555 km
	VV	031018	Burghead	539 km
	VV	211218	Burghead	
	VV	300319	Nairn	
	VV	031019	Burghead	
	VV	311219	Findhorn Bay	547 km
DA53220	3m	070919	Makkevika Giske, More og Romsdal, NORWAY	
(yellow PEN)	VV	121019	Portgordon harbour	734 km

TURNSTONE

RN02590	6	260108	Portgordon	
	V	250119	Portgordon	Local

KNOT

SR74636	5	170110	Penmon Quarry, Beaumaris, Wales	
	VV	180518	Altcar Rifle Range, Merseyside	69 km
	VV	060818	Crosby beach, Merseyside	70 km
	VV	021118	Caldy, Merseyside	60 km
	VV	060519	Findhorn Bay	484 km
	VV	170419	Altcar Rifle Range, Merseyside	69 km
	VV	010819	Altcar Rifle Range, Merseyside	69 km
	VV	171118	Caldy, Merseyside	60 km
	VV	171219	Ainsdale, Merseyside	74 km
SR76796	Ad.	220917	Altcar Rifle Range, Merseyside	
(orange U9)	VV	041017	Caldy, Merseyside	18 km
	VV	180518	Lambastadir, Myrarsyla, ICELAND	1620 km
	VV	030818	Altcar Rifle Range, Merseyside	
	VV	300419	Bass Pool, Cumbria	59 km
	VV	060519	Findhorn Bay	459 km
	VV	310719	Altcar Rifle Range, Merseyside	
SV72872	Ad.	141117	Findhorn Bay	
	V	040119	Alness Bay	41 km

REDSHANK

DD01691	3	290814	Findhorn Bay	
	V	130919	Barbaraville	31 km

KITTIWAKE

Following an autumn build-up of Kittiwakes on Findhorn Beach two foreign colour-ringed individuals were seen:

6204602	1	220614	Nidingen, Halland, SWEDEN	
(yellow MDZ)	VV=B	2017-19	Nidingen, Halland, SWEDEN	
	VV	170919	Findhorn beach	926 km

FX26223	1	100719	Finistere, Brittany, FRANCE	
(GYmr/BBN)	VV	170919	Findhorn beach	

The Brittany (France) individual follows a similar sighting at Burghead on 31 August 2017.

COMMON GULL

white JE729		200818	Tveitevannet, Bergen, NORWAY	
	VV	280719	Findhorn beach	595 km

BLACK-HEADED GULL

6206047	1	200618	Revlingen, NORWAY	
	XL	150119	Lossiemouth	829 km

K06607		310318	Stavanger, Rogaland, NORWAY	
(green JEYO)	VV	230919	Lossie estuary	543 km

ER11194	6	120817	Ythan estuary	
(yellow 2EY1)	VV	170218	Lossie estuary	90 km
	VV	200119	Loch Spynie	87 km

EY94500	3	260816	Ythan estuary	
(yellow 2CN5)	VV	290618	Ythan estuary mouth	3 km
	VV	201018	Lossie estuary	90 km
	VV	311019	Balormie pig farm	

EZ29145	1	190617	Ythan estuary	
(yellow 2CX3)	VV	031017	Lossie estuary	90 km
	VV	190119	Loch Spynie	90 km

EX51439	4	251013	Cooper Park pond, Elgin	
	VV	161114	Cooper Park pond, Elgin	
	VV	010115	Cooper Park pond, Elgin	
	VV	011115	Cooper Park pond, Elgin	
	VV	270216	Cooper Park pond, Elgin	
	VV	210117	Cooper Park pond, Elgin	
	VV	070118	Cooper Park pond, Elgin	
	VV	020119	Cooper Park pond, Elgin	Local

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

MA30205	10	170118	Pitsea landfill site, Essex	
(orange L5ST)	VV	150918	Lossie estuary	728 km
	VV	08-091218	Lossie estuary	728 km
	VV	251218	Lossie estuary	728 km

MA43029	1	260617	Isle of May	
(yellow X:112)	VV	130817	Elliot Mouth, Arbroath	40 km
	VV	200119	Loch Spynie	172 km
MA43065	1	060618	Isle of May	
(yellow 065:M)	VV	200119	Loch Spynie	172 km
	VV	020120	Lossie estuary	176 km
HT64161	1	300698	Nigg Ferry	
	X	270119	Lossiemouth	44 km

A total of 7 colour-ringed individuals from various Caithness colonies were reported, mainly from the Lossie estuary.

HERRING GULL

Only movements over 100 km are given in full below:

GG99087	1	100718	Sule Skerry	
(yellow 9A2B)	VV	300319	Lossie estuary	165 km
9N2B	10	200718	Sule Skerry	
	VV	200119	Loch Spynie	
GV31626	5	210815	Harwood Whin landfill site, York	
	VV	131115	Whitburn, Tyne & Wear	
	VV	120316	Whitburn, Tyne & Wear	
	VV	310716	Whitburn, Tyne & Wear	
	VV	041216	Whitburn, Tyne & Wear	
	VV	110718	Whitburn, Tyne & Wear	
	VV	230619	Whitburn, Tyne & Wear	112 km
	VV	261019	Lossie estuary	437 km
GV31815	5	260216	Harwood Whin landfill site, York	
(yellow Y:144)	VV	150716	Lossie estuary	
	VV	03&100916	Lossie estuary	
	VV	271116	Lossie estuary	
	VV	120617	Lossie estuary	
	VV	09&110717	Lossie estuary	
	VV	26&300717	Lossie estuary	
	VV	111017	Lossie estuary	
	VV	010118	Lossie estuary	
	VV	290418	Lossie estuary	
	VV	070918	Lossie estuary	
	VV	061018	Lossie estuary	
	VV	091218	Lossie estuary	
	VV	251218	Lossie estuary	
	VV	270919	Lossie estuary	437 km

SANDWICH TERN

1588120		270615	Texel, THE NETHERLANDS	
(yellow T19)	VV	170819	Findhorn beach	

DE52599	1	120612	Forvie, Ythan estuary	
(yellow ENH)	VV	Feb/Apr 2013	NAMIBIAN coast	
	VV	Sep 2014	Findhorn Bay	
	VV	Aug 2015	Findhorn Bay	
	VV	Mar 2016	NAMIBIAN coast	
	VV	Aug 2016	Findhorn Bay	
	VV	Dec 2016	NAMIBIAN coast	
	VV	Jan 2017	NAMIBIAN coast	
	VV	Aug 2017	Findhorn Bay	
	VV	Aug 2018	Findhorn Bay	
	VV	Mar 2018	NAMIBIAN coast	
	VV	Jul 2019	Findhorn Bay	

ARCTIC TERN

SX91542	1	020701	RAF Kinloss	
	X	050719	Invergordon	36 km

GUILLEMOT

R29477	1	210614	North Sutor	
	X	120619	Nairn	13 km

PUFFIN

EZ46513	Ad.	180715	Sule Skerry	
	X	290619	Buckie	178 km

LONG-EARED OWL

GV61652	1	180518	near Balnakeil, Durness	
	X	180419	Nairn	121 km

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

LE67615	5m	070516	Invererne, Forres	
	V	140516	Invererne, Forres	
	V	310519	Invererne, Forres	Local

MAGPIE

ET79941	6	230816	Clochan, near Buckie	
	XF	200119	Buckie	5 km

BLUE TIT

AFB3733	3	140818	Inchberry, Fochabers	
	V	200919	Ross Wood, Loch Lomond	185 km

SAND MARTIN

ALJ9046	3	050819	Kingston	
	V	100919	Chenal, Charente-Maritime, FRANCE	1362 km
ALJ9513	3	130819	Kingston	
	V	100919	Sandouville, Seine-Maritime, FRANCE	1362 km
ABA1119	4	230817	Kingston	
	V	110619	River Lochy, Lochaber	146 km
S242918	4m	160816	Kingston, Perth & Kinross	
	V	270719	Kingston	139 km
S615264	3	250718	Errol, Perth & Kinross	
	V	010819	Kingston	143 km
Z614251	3	280815	Kingston	
	V	240819	Graemeshall Loch, Holm, Orkney	136 km

SEDGE WARBLER

AZB1498	3	010818	Litlington, East Sussex	
	V	070519	Loch Spynie CES	797 km

BLACKCAP

EK73429	3f	081119	Lista Fyr, Farsund, Vest-Agder, NORWAY	
	V cat	151219	Nairn	619 km

GOLDCREST

KJH740	4m	051019	Clochan, near Buckie	
	V	181019	Mains of Usan, Angus	109 km

HOUSE SPARROW

NF75348	2f	031018	Buckie	
	XF	141119	Portessie	1 km

TREE SPARROW

VT05131	1	230518	Little Croy Wood	
	V	110519	Invererne, Forres	25 km

DUNNOCK

TV27377	3	121114	Elgin cemetery, Elgin	
	V	160219	Finningley airfield, near Doncaster	485 km

PIED WAGTAIL

Z549299	1	270517	Balmakeith, Nairn	
	X	030219	Nairn	3 km

ROCK PIPIT

ED09126	4	161016	Maletangen, More og Romsdal, NORWAY	
(green U87)	VV	081116	Skinningrove, Cleveland	1038 km
	VV	110219	Kingston	811 km

LESSER REDPOLL

S640501		171116	Teinland Forest	
	V	060419	Inchberry	3 km
ACF2582	5	020319	Deer Park Croft, Avoch	
	V	261019	Teindland Forest	58 km
AXJ4014	4	171019	Teinland Forest	
	V	291019	Pitfichie Hill, Aberdeen	52 km
AXJ4353	3m	251019	Teinland Forest	
	V	291019	Blackmiddens, Aberdeen	32 km

GOLDFINCH

ACF4594	3f	151118	Plumpton, East Sussex	
	V	070719	Inchberry	769 km
S091673	6m	190119	King's Norton, West Midlands	
	XF cat	310319	Keith	576 km

SISKIN

XX60937	3f	081018	Juodkrantes didzioji gaudykle, LITHUANIA	
	V	170319	Inchberry, Fochabers	1502 km
S526768	5m	050317	Clochan, near Buckie	
	XF	220719	Kingussie	81 km
S526829	5m	100417	Clochan, near Buckie	
	V	090319	Cromdale	
	V	250319	Grantown-on-Spey	50 km
S803373	5m	150417	Inchberry	
	V	020319	Kemple End, Lancashire	416 km
Z909852	3j	190617	Kinveachy, near Boat of Garten	
	V	060419	Inchberry, Fochabers	56 km
AAF1019	3m	291018	Nanjizal, Lands End, Cornwall	
	V	300319	Inchberry	854 km
AFA4001	4m	240717	Clochan, near Buckie	
	V	190219	South Perrott, Dorset	752 km

AKC0458	6m	030218	Bourne Wood, Lincolnshire	
	V	300319	Inchberry	563 km
AKB2607	5m	050319	Llanfyllin, Powys, Wales	
	V	060519	Inchberry	854 km

GRID REFERENCES OF LOCALITIES MENTIONED IN THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Aberlour	NJ2642	Balblair	NH8051
Achagour	NH9346	Ballcorach	NJ1526
Achareidh	NH8656	Ballindalloch Castle	NJ1736
Achavelgin	NH9150	Ballnellan Burn	NJ1326
Achavraat	NH9148	Ballochford	NJ3633
Achdregnie	NJ2424	Balnacoul	NJ3146
Achnatone	NH9149	Balnaspirach (Nairn)	NH8654
Achmore	NJ2631	Balnught	NH8840
Ailnack	NJ1414	Balormie	NJ2167
Aitnoch	NH9839	Balvalley Moss	NJ3725
Allaburn	NJ1961	Balvenie	NJ3242
Aldivalloch	NJ3626	Banchor	NH9140
Aldroughty	NJ1862	Bank Farm	NJ3929
Aldunie	NJ3626	Bankhead	NH9658
Alltachbeg	NJ3626	Bardonside	NJ2154
Altnaglander	NJ1628	Barmuckity	NJ2461
Altyre Woods	NJ0253	Barns of Bynack	NJ0405
Alves	NJ1362	Bauds of Cullen	NJ4766
Archiestown	NJ2344	Beatshach	NJ2737
Ardclach	NH9545	Beinn a' Chaorainn	NJ0401
Ardgye	NJ1563	Burnside of Geddes	NH8851
Ardivot	NJ2267	Beinn a' Chruinnich	NJ2313
Arndilly	NJ2848	Beinn Mheadhoin	NJ0201
Arthur's Bridge	NJ2567	Bellandy	NJ2832
Auchbreck	NJ2028	Bellie cemetery	NJ3561
Auchenhalrig	NJ3761	Ben Aigan	NJ3048
Auchindoun Castle	NJ3437	Ben Avon	NJ1302
Auchinhandoch	NJ3338	Ben Macdui	NN9999
Auchlochan	NJ0241	Ben Main	NJ3535
Auchmair	NJ3828	Ben Rinnes	NJ2435
Auchnarrow	NJ2123	Berryburn	NJ0545
Auchroisk	NJ3351	Bin of Cullen	NJ4764
Auchtertyre	NJ1858	Binn Hill	NJ3065
Auldearn	NH9155	Binns	NJ3164
		Binsness	NJ0362
Backlands	NJ1469	Birchfield	NJ1614
Badcheat	NJ3532	Birkenhill	NJ2260
Badentinan	NJ2957	Bishopmill	NJ2163
Badnafrave	NJ2015	Black Loch	NJ2163
Bailliesland	NJ2565	Blackhillock	NJ2644

Blacksboat	NJ1838	Calcots	NJ2563
Blackwater Lodge	NJ3328	Cantsford	NJ0754
Blairnafade	NH8451	Cardhu	NJ1843
Blinkbonnie	NJ3365	Cardnach Farm	NJ1942
Boar's Head Rock	NJ2867	Carn a' Chrasgie	NJ1942
Boat o' Brig	NJ3251	Carn a' Gharbh-ghlaic	NH8935
Boath	NH8845	Carn Allt a' Chlaiginn	NJ3230
Bogeney	NJ0243	Carn Daimh	NJ1824
Bogheads	NH9155	Carn Liath	NJ2515
Boghole	NJ9655	Carn Mor	NJ2618
Bogmoor	NJ3562	Carn na Sguabaich	NH8736
Bognafuaran	NH8954	Carron	NJ2241
Boldow	NJ1740	Carse of Delnies	NH8356
Bow Fiddle Rock	NJ4968	Catherinebraes	NJ2544
Braes of Enzie	NJ3959	Cawdor	NH8449
Braidbog	NJ4963	Caysbriggs	NJ2466
Brandston	NJ2865	Charlestown of Aberlour	NJ2642
Bridge of Avon	NJ1835	Clackmarras	NJ2458
Bridge of Brown	NJ1220	Clarkly Hill	NJ1368
Bridgend	NJ3731	Clashach	NJ1570
Broadley	NJ3961	Clochan	NJ4060
Brodie Castle	NH9757	Clockeasy	NJ2962
Brodieshill	NJ1059	Cloddach	NJ1958
Brokentore	NJ1854	Cloddymoss	NH9860
Broom Knowe	NJ1059	Clovenside	NJ0459
Broom of Moy	NJ0159	Clunas Reservoir	NH8646
Broombank	NH9255	Cluny Hill	NJ0458
Broomton	NH9654	Cnoc Lochy	NJ1621
Brown Muir	NJ2555	Coire Raibeirt	NJ0003
Bruntland	NJ1264	Coldburn	NJ1449
Buckie	NJ4165	Coldhome	NJ3639
Buckpool	NJ4165	Coleburn	NJ2455
Budgate	NH8349	College of Roseisle	NJ1366
Burghead	NJ1169	Coltfield	NJ1163
Burghead Bay	NJ0867	Conglass Water	NJ1916
Burgie Wood	NJ0958	Conicavel	NH9953
Burnside	NH9440	Cook's Cairn	NJ3027
Burnside of Birnie	NJ2259	Corbiewell	NJ3165
Burnside of Dipple	NJ3256	Corryhabbie Hill	NJ2829
Burnside of Enzie	NJ3960	Cotts of Innes	NJ2766
Burnside of Geddes	NH8851	Coulmony	NH9747
Byres	NJ3562	Covesea	NJ1870
		Covesea Skerries	NJ1971
Cabrach	NJ3827	Coxton	NJ2660
Cairn Ballantruan	NJ1524	Coxtontower	NJ2660
Cairn Gorm	NJ0003	Crachies	NH9453
Cairn Lochan	NH9802	Craigellachie	NJ2844
Cairn Uish	NJ1750	Craigmill Lodge	NJ1052
Cairneyhillock	NJ2658	Craigroy	NJ1250
Cairnfield	NJ4162	Cragganmore	NJ1636

Cran Loch	NH9459	Earnhill	NJ0160
Croftglass	NJ2530	Earnside	NJ1062
Crofts of Buinach	NJ1855	East Mains	NJ2066
Crofts of Dipple	NJ3259	East Meur Gorm Craig	NJ1504
Cromdale Hills	NJ1226	Easter Allanaha	NJ1062
Crook	NH8854	Easter Calcots	NJ2563
Crooked Wood	NJ2762	Easter Cloves	NJ1461
Croy	NJ1657	Easter Galcantray	NH8148
Cruats Farm	NJ4968	Easter Gaulrig	NJ1514
Culbin Bar	NH9662	Easter Greens	NJ0449
Culbin Forest	NH9862	Easter Lawrenceton	NJ0858
Cullen	NJ5167	Easter Newforres	NJ0658
Cummingston	NJ1368	Easterton	NJ2156
Cunninghaugh	NJ3564	Edinkillie	NJ0246
		Elchies	NJ2245
Dallas	NJ1252	Elgin	NJ2162
Dallas Dhu	NJ0356	Elginshill	NJ2663
Dallas Lodge	NJ1052		
Dallasbraughty	NJ0346	Feakirk	NJ0344
Darkland	NJ2662	Fèith Buidhe	NJ0909
Darnaway Castle	NH9955	Ferness	NH9644
Daugh of Kinermony	NJ2441	Ferniefield	NJ3064
Dava	NJ0038	Findhorn Bay	NJ0462
Delmore	NJ2442	Findochty	NJ4668
Delnabo	NJ1617	Findrassie	NJ1965
Delnapot	NJ1737	Fochabers	NJ3458
Delnashaugh	NJ1835	Fodderletter	NJ3458
Delnies	NH8356	Fogwatt	NJ2357
Deskford	NJ5061	Fords of Avon	NJ0403
Dounduff	NH9949	Foresterseat	NJ2562
Drainie	NJ2168	Fornighty	NH9350
Drumdivan	NH8454	Forres	NJ0358
Drumduan Mill	NH9156	Foynesfield	NJ0358
Drumfurrich	NJ2944		
Drumin	NJ1830	Garbh Uisge Beag	NH9900
Drummuir	NJ3844	Garbh Uisge Mòr	NH9900
Drybridge	NJ4362	Garlinebeg	NJ1741
Drynachan	NH8639	Galcantray	NH8148
Dufftown	NJ3239	Garmouth	NJ3364
Duffus	NJ1668	Garmouth viaduct	NJ3464
Duffus Castle	NJ1867	Gateside	NJ3647
Dulsie	NH9341	Geddes	NH8852
Dulsie Bridge	NH9341	Gervally	NH9948
Dunearn	NH9341	Gilston	NJ2066
Dundurcas	NJ2950	Glack Harnes	NJ2836
Dunnyduff Wood	NJ4449	Glacks of Balloch	NJ3534
Dunphail	NJ0047	Glass	NJ4239
Dyke	NH9858	Glen Avon	NJ1006
Dykeside	NJ1159	Glen Gheallaidh	NJ1338
		Glen Latterach	NJ1951

Glen Lossie	NJ1347	Keith	NJ4250
Glen Rinnes	NJ2834	Kellas	NJ1754
Glenallachie	NJ2741	Kerrow	NH9941
Glenfarclas Distillery	NJ2138	Kilravock	NH8149
Glenferness	NH9443	Kilravock Castle	NH8149
Glenlatterach Reservoir	NJ1952	Kinermory	NJ2541
Glenmarkie	NJ3837	Kingsteps	NH9057
Glenmullie	NJ1916	Kingston	NJ3365
Gollachy Burn	NJ4064	Kinloss	NJ0661
Gordonstoun	NJ1869	Kinneddar	NJ2269
Gordonsward	NJ2564	Kinnudie	NH9055
Gow Moss	NJ3853	Kintessack	NJ2269
Gownie	NJ2842	Kirdellbeg	NJ1741
Greenside	NJ2656	Kirkhill	NJ2462
Half Davoch	NJ0451	Kirkmichael Church	NJ1423
Hardmuir	NH9556	Kirkton	NJ2462
Heathfield	NH8050	Knauchland	NJ5651
Heldon Wood	NJ1257	Knock of Braemoray	NJ0141
Hempriggs	NJ1063	Knock of Gownie	NJ2942
Herricks	NJ4549	Knockanbeg	NJ2632
Highland Boath	NH8844	Kronyhillock Wood	NH8349
Hill of Glenroads	NJ3031	Kylnadrochit Lodge	NJ1419
Hill of Mackalea	NJ3638	Ladder Hills	NJ2719
Hill of Maud	NJ4662	Ladycroft	NJ2444
Hillhead	NJ2058	Laggan	NJ3436
Hill of Mulundy	NJ1053	Lagganauld	NJ2026
Hillpark	NJ4360	Lagganvoulin	NJ1817
Hills of Cromdale	NJ1226	Laikenbuie	NH9052
Hilton of Delnies	NH8456	Lecht	NJ2413
Holme Rose	NH8048	Leids Hill	NJ4126
Hopeman	NJ1469	Lein	NJ3365
Househill	NH8855	Lethen Bar	NH9351
Howford	NH8753	Lethenhill	NJ1058
Humbrack	NJ2556	Lhanbryde	NJ2761
Hunt Hill	NJ2346	Lintmill	NJ5165
Inchberry	NJ3155	Little Aitnoch	NH9640
Inchbroom	NJ2566	Little Pitlurg	NJ4245
Inchnacape	NJ2020	Little Urchany	NH8748
Inchrory	NJ1708	Loch Allan	NH9939
Innes House	NJ2764	Loch Belivat	NH9547
Innesmill	NJ2863	Loch Dallas	NJ0947
Inshoch Wood	NH9558	Loch Flemington	NH8152
Inveravon	NJ1837	Loch Kirkaldy	NH9641
Invererne	NJ0360	Loch Loy	NH9358
Inverharroch Farm	NJ3831	Loch Noir	NJ0945
Inverlochy	NJ1324	Loch of Blairs	NJ0255
Johnstripe	NJ0447	Loch of Boath	NJ0255
		Loch of the Clans	NH8353

Loch Oire	NJ2860	Monahoudie Moss	NJ2243
Loch Park	NJ3543	Monaughty	NJ1260
Loch Romach	NJ0652	Moniemouies	NJ2756
Loch Spynie	NJ2366	Montgrew	NJ4551
Loch Trevie	NJ0944	Moor of Tore	NJ1054
Lochan Buidhe	NJ2366	Morinsh Forest	NJ2330
Lochan Tùtach	NH9840	Moss of Barmuckity	NJ2461
Lochanan a' Ghubhais	NH9840	Moss of Birnie	NJ2051
Lochbuie	NJ2153	Mosstodloch	NJ3360
Lochindorb	NH9736	Mossyards	NJ1566
Lochs of Bogmussach	NJ1347	Moycroft	NJ2362
Lochyhill	NJ0559	Moyness	NH9553
Logie	NJ0150	Muir of Holmie	NJ4161
Logieburn	NJ2656	Muir of Linksfield	NJ2264
Longmorn	NJ2358	Muir of Miltonduff	NJ1859
Lossie estuary	NJ2469	Muir of the Clans	NH8352
Lossiemouth	NJ2370	Muirhead	NJ0863
Lower Auchenreath	NJ3763	Muirton	NJ2268
Lower Blairnain	NJ2738	Muiry Wood	NJ0558
Lower Bogrotten	NJ4861	Mulben	NJ3550
Lower Dallachy	NJ4861	Mulderie Mains	NJ3950
Lower Hempriggs	NJ1064	Mundole	NJ0156
Lyne of Knockando	NJ1745	Myreside	NJ2164
Lynemore	NJ1438		
Macbeth's Hillock	NH9656	Nairn	NH8856
Machattie's Cairn	NJ3547	Nairn Bar	NH9260
Mains of Kirdells	NJ1739	Nether Bellandy	NJ2833
Mains of Balnagowan	NH8154	Nether Birnie	NJ2059
Mains of Moyness	NH9553	Nether Dallachy	NJ3663
Manachie Farm	NJ0356	Nether Meft	NJ2764
Manbeen	NJ1959	Netherbyre	NJ1557
Maryfield	NJ2364	Netherton	NJ0361
Marypark	NJ1938	Newbold Wood	NJ0558
Maviston	NH9458	Newforres Wood	NJ0657
Meikle Balloch Hill	NJ3534	Newton nursery	NJ1663
Meikle Coire Riabhach	NJ2513	Newton of Darnaway	NH9853
Meikle Conval	NJ2937	Newton of Innes	NJ2866
Meikle Kildrummy	NH8553	North Darkland	NJ2662
Mid Mains	NJ1966		
Middlefield	NJ0360	Oldtown	NJ1367
Midwood	NJ4261	Ordiquish	NJ3357
Mill of Grange	NJ0460	Ordbreck	NH8747
Millhill	NJ3158	Orton	NJ3153
Milltown	NJ2758	Overton	NJ2745
Milltown of Laggan	NJ2834		
Milton Brodie	NJ0962	Paddockhaugh	NJ2058
Miltonduff	NJ1860	Parks of Innes	NJ2763
Miltonhill	NJ0963	Paul's Hill	NJ1140
Monadh an t-Sluich Leith	NJ2617	Penick	NH9356
		Philaxdale	NJ1667

Pitairlie	NJ2465	Stronachavie	NJ1318
Pitchroy	NJ1738	Strondow	NJ1644
Pitgaveny	NJ2465	Strypes	NJ2758
Pittendreich	NJ1961	Succoth	NJ2935
Pluscarden	NJ1456	Suie	NJ2724
Portgordon	NJ3964	Surradale	NJ1665
Portknockie	NJ4868		
Porttannachy	NJ3864	Tanzie	NJ3146
		Tapp	NJ1447
Quarrywood	NJ1864	Tarras	NJ0659
		Teindland	NJ2655
Rafford	NJ0656	Tervieside	NJ2330
Recletich	NJ2834	The Scalp	NJ3636
Redhill	NJ1661	Thief's Hill	NJ3654
Reekimlane	NJ3625	Thomshill	NJ2157
Refouble	NH9540	Tips of Corsemaul	NJ3939
Relugas	NH9948	Todholes	NJ1054
Rhinturk	NJ3632	Tom nan Clach	NH8634
Rinour	NJ1740	Tomachar	NJ2432
Rosarie	NJ3849	Tomachlaggan	NJ1522
Roseisle Forest	NJ1166	Tombreck	NJ1218
		Tomcork	NJ1349
Salterhill	NJ2067	Tomintoul	NJ1618
Sanquhar Loch	NJ0458	Tomnamoon	NJ0450
Scabbed Hill	NJ4160	Tomnavoulin	NJ2126
Scalan	NJ2419	Tormore Distillery	NJ1534
Scarffbanks	NJ2366	Torrieston	NJ1658
Scaut Hill	NJ3331	Tronach Head	NJ4768
Scotsburn	NJ2760	Troves	NJ2459
Scotstonhill	NJ2662	Tugnet	NJ3465
Seafeld	NJ0261	Tynet	NJ3861
Shaw Hill	NH9748		
Sheanspark	NJ3645	Upper Bruntlands	NJ1943
Shearleat	NH8641	Upper Dallachy	NJ3662
Shelter Stone	NJ0001	Upper Knockando	NJ1843
Sherriffmill	NJ2062	Upper Mulben	NJ3652
Sheriffston	NJ2561	Urchany	NH8748
Sluie	NJ0052	Urquhart	NJ2862
South Darkland	NJ2661		
Spey Bay	NJ3767	Wallfield	NJ2965
Spey estuary	NJ3564	Waterford Fm	NJ0259
Speymouth	NJ3564	Waukmill	NJ2362
Speyslaw	NJ3465	Well of The Lecht	NJ2315
Spynie canal	NJ2366	Wellheads	NJ3860
Spynie Palace	NJ2365	Wellhill	NJ0061
St. John's Meads	NJ0155	Wester Calcots	NJ2463
Stob Bac an Fhurain	NJ1303	Wester Delnies	NH8355
Stoneyford pond	NJ0455	Wester Elchies	NJ2542
Strath Avon	NJ1425	Wester Gaulrig	NJ1513
Strathlene	NJ4467	Wester Manbeen	NJ1960

Wester Newforres	NJ0657	Whitewreath	NJ2357
Westerfolds	NJ1967	Windyridge	NJ2367
Westertown	NJ1925	Wood of Mulderie	NJ3751
Whiteash Hill	NJ3857		
Whitefolds	NJ2425	Yellowbog	NJ1448
Whitetree	NJ1156		