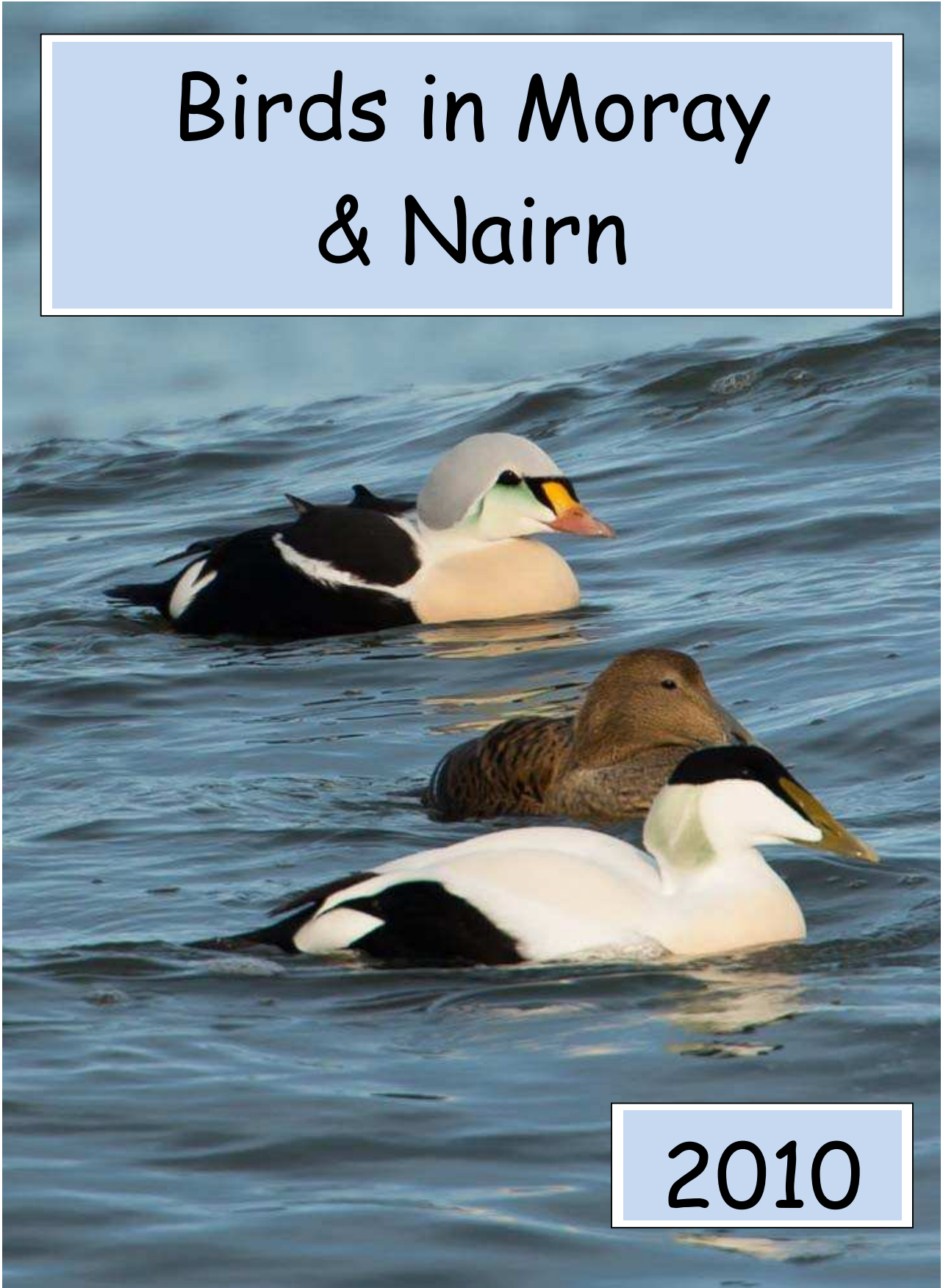


Birds in Moray & Nairn



2010

Birds in Moray & Nairn in 2010

MORAY & NAIRN BIRD REPORT

No.25 – 2010

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Compiled by Martin Cook, Duncan Gibson, Andy Jensen, and Bob Proctor.

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

Cover photograph: King Eider, Burghead February 2010 (David Devonport).

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first on-line edition of *Birds in Moray & Nairn*. This, the 25th edition, covers 2010; the 2011 report should appear before the end of 2012 which will mark a return to the usual publication schedule.

The decision to move from a paper report to an on-line publication has been taken after much thought and discussion, and it is perhaps worth setting out the reasons behind the change.

One issue is the increasing problem of financing an annual paper-based report. Printing costs have risen substantially in recent years, especially since the introduction of colour photographs. A large and populous recording area may be able to bear this additional outlay with its large print run leading to a smaller unit cost. Moray & Nairn, however, is a smaller recording area with relatively few birders, and sales are consequently limited. Under these circumstances there is clearly a limit to what can be charged for a bird report booklet, and in this area we have come close to that limit.

The second issue is more positive and relates to the accessibility of the material in this and previous bird reports. When *Birds in Moray & Nairn 2010* is joined in due course in this website by all past editions it should provide an easily accessible, freely available and valuable archive. While copies of past editions have been lodged in the SOC and other national and local libraries, this on-line resource should enable those without easy access to libraries or paper copies of earlier editions, to make use more readily of the data they contain. There is little point in observers submitting their records, and authors and editor devoting much time to compiling reports, if the end product is not readily available to all who might wish to use it.

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 an exciting new 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.

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 (not ad.M)	Ring-necked Duck
Ruddy Duck (not ad.M)	Surf Scoter (not ad.M)	Balearic Shearwater
Leach's Petrel	Red-necked Grebe	Black-necked Grebe
White Stork	Spoonbill	Bittern
Little Egret	Honey-buzzard	Hobby
Spotted Crane	Corncrake	Crane
Avocet	Little Ringed Plover	American Golden Plover
Temminck's Stint	Pectoral Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope	Grey Phalarope	Long-tailed Skua

Sabine's Gull	Mediterranean 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	Pallas's Warbler	Yellow-browed Warbler
Reed Warbler	Icterine Warbler	Lesser Whitethroat
Firecrest	Nuthatch	Rose-coloured Starling
Bluethroat	Black Redstart	Yellow Wagtail
Richard's Pipit	Common Rosefinch	Hawfinch
Lapland Bunting		

Please note the addition of Red-necked Grebe and Green Woodpecker to this list in 2011.

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.

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 2010

A.Adam (AAd), W.Anderson (WA), I.Bailey (IBai), A.Backx (ABa), A.Bentham (ABe), W.R.P.Bourne (WRPB), H.Brown (HBr), M.Brown (MB), E.Bruce (EB), A.Burgess (ABu), D.Calder (DCa), R.P.Campbell (RPC), C.Chapman (CC), R.Cherry (RC), J.Clarke (JCl), M.Coath (MCoa), S.Cohen (SCo), M.Coleman (MCo), G.Connell (GCo), M.J.H.Cook (MJHC), B.Cosnette (BC), I.R.Court (IRC), J.K.Craib (JKC), R.H.Dennis (RHD), D.G.Devonport (DGD), A.Douse (ADo), T.&T.Dunn (T&TD), R.Eades (RE), A.Edward (AE), C.S.Elder (CSE), D.England (DE), H.Farquhar (HF), J.Fenwick (JFe), M.Finn (MF), W.Fordham (WF), I.Francis (IFr), R.Fraser (RF), D.&M.Galloway (D&MG), G.George (GGe), C.A.Gervaise (CAG), C.Gibbins (CG), D.A.Gibson (DAG), P.Gordon (PG), P.Gordon Smith (PGS), N.Graham (NG), M.N.Grant (MNG), I.P.Green (IPG), K.L.Guthrie (KLG), T.Hall (TH), J.Hammond (JHa), A.Harrison (AH), E.Harwood (EH), R.F.Hewitt (RFH), P.T.Hirst (PTH), J.Hogg (JHo), R.H.Hogg (RHH), H.Holbrook (HH), J.W.Holgate (JWH), K.Horsfall (KHo), D.Hughes (DHu), L.Hunt (LH), P.Hyvonen (PH), R.Ingleston (RIn), D.C.Jardine (DCJ), R.D.Johnson (RDJ), J.Johnstone (JJne), A.Jones (AJon), C.&R.Kail (C&RK), S.J.Kerr (SJK), J.D.Law (JDL), A.J.Lawrence (AJL), J.Leestmans (JL), W.MacAlpine (WMacA), K.McArdle (KMc), S.McArdle (SMc), D.MaCaskill (DMca), J.&H.MacDonald (J&HMacD), P.Macdonald (PMc), M.Macgarvin (MMac), A.McGavin (AMcG), J.McGavin (JMcG), F.McHugh (FMc), A.McNee (AMcN), D.Masson (DMa), J.Millar (JMi), C.Mills (CMil), S.Milne (SMn), C.Mitchell (CMi), N.Moran (NM), S.Morris (SMor), W.M.Morrison (WMM), S.Neal (SN), K.Paterson (KP), I.Phillips (IP), D.Pierce (DPi), N.G.Pleasance (NGP), J.Poyner (JPoy), R.Prentice (RPr), R.Proctor (RP), D.M.Pullan (DMP), S.Reid (SRe), D.J.Rennison (DJR), P.Sales (PS), A.Saunders (ASa), L.Schofield (LSc), R.D.S.Scott (RDSS), M.Sharpe (MSh), A.Shields (ASH), L.Simpson (LSi), D.M.K.Slater (DMKS), B.W.Smith (BWS), D.A.Smith (DAS), M.Souter (MSo), D.Spencer (DSp), C.Stickings (CSt), C.J.Sugden (CJS), I.S.Suttie (ISS), W.G.Taylor (WGT), C.Taylor (CTa), K.Taylor (KT), S.Taylor (STa), A.Tolmie (ATo), A.E.Turner

(AET), P.Turner (PTu), J.Watson (JWat), Y.Watson (YW), D.Whitaker (DWh), I.Wilde (IW), V.Wotton (VW), A.Young (AY).

Apologies to anyone accidentally omitted.

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

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

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

Breeding: A total of 19 apparently occupied territories was recorded in 2010, with 17 pairs producing 86 young; of these, 84 appear to have fledged. The mean total of fledged young in 2010 is slightly higher than the mean of 4.2 fledged young for the last 10 years.

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

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Pairs	15	12	17	11	13	18	19	10	14	17	17
Young fledged	51	54	56	52	67	65	110	51	59	57	84
Mean	3.4	4.5	3.3	4.7	3.6	3.6	5.8	5.1	4.2	3.3	4.9

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
Loch Flemington	5	6	nc			Breeders			nc	49	nc	nc
Loch Loy	0	0	3	2	4	nc	nc	nc	39	43	nc	nc
Findhorn Bay	37	23	nc	nc	39	43	nc	nc	nc	13	14	14
Lossie estuary	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
Loch Spynie	61	70	64			Breeders			17	20	68	64
Cloddach	78	69	nc			Breeders			nc	68	nc	nc
Loch Oire	2	2	2			Breeders			nc	11	9	2
Loch na Bo	4	4	4			Breeders			nc	nc	nc	13
Kingston	4	nc	nc			Breeders			18	nc	nc	nc

nc = no count received

Other sites with counts of ten or more were 14 River Nairn 31 Jan and 10 Burnside of Birnie 25 Apr. Coastal records included 10 Nairn Bar 5 Dec, 3 Culbin Bar 24 Oct and 5 Buckie harbour 17 Jan.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter-spring: In Nairn District two sites were used this year: Loch Flemington (11 on 17 Feb was the largest count) and Cran Loch (5 on 17 Jan & 13 Mar). In Moray, flocks were recorded at 13 sites, all were groups of less than ten except: 47 near Loch Spynie 6 Feb (and 33 on 11 Feb), 45 Loch na Bo 12 Jan (and 22 on 4 Mar) and 29 Urquhart 17 Feb.

Spring: The largest flock during this period was 43 Cloddach quarry 8 Apr. In late spring one was seen at Loch Spynie 16 May and Findhorn Bay 23 May.

Autumn: The first flock, consisting of nine birds, was seen arriving in off the sea at Findhorn 14 Sep; this is a typical arrival date. These were followed by three other groups in September, at Findhorn Bay (7 on 18th), Strathlene (8 on 28th & 30th) and Loch Spynie (4 on 30th). In October, a further 25 flocks were recorded: six flocks arrived between 1st-19th (the largest being 53 Loch Spynie on 15th), with the main arrival from 23rd onward, when the largest group of the period was 87 West Mains (Duffus) on 31st. In November, flocks with ten or more individuals were seen at 11 sites; 163 Salterhill on 14th was the only flock exceeding 100.

Winter (December): In Nairn District, birds were recorded at two sites on 5th: 1 Culbin Bar and 8 between Delnies-Nairn. In Moray, seen at three sites in December: Bailliesland airfield (4 on 3rd), Clochan (4 on 10th, then 5 on 29th-31st) and Loch na Bo (largest count 83 on 8th). Loch na Bo now appears to be a regular wintering site.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common migrant, increasing in winter.

Winter (January-mid March): Three flocks reported from Nairn District: Gollanfield area (1000 on 21 Feb), Achnatone (1000 on 12 Mar) and Nairn-Howford bridge (30 on 28 Mar). Since 2003 the Nairn Bar has been the main area for records from Nairn District at this time of year – it is therefore unusual that no flocks were reported from here in 2010. Typically in Moray District, well scattered reports throughout the coastal area but only a small number of sites containing flocks over 1000 individuals, these included: Findhorn Bay (2500 on 24 Jan), Clochan (2400 on 16 Mar), Kellas (2000 on 19 Mar) and Miltonduff (4000 on 26 Mar).

Spring passage (max. counts): The largest flocks seen during this period were in the Kinloss/Findhorn Bay area where 6000 Kinloss 11 Apr and 5500 Findhorn Bay 16 Apr. Elsewhere numbers were much lower with the only sizeable flock being 3000 Gollanfield 11 Apr and 2300 Miltonhill 8 Apr.

Summer: a single at Cloddach quarry 13 Jun (MJHC).

Autumn: The first arrival was one skein on 14 Sep (a typical date) and involved 120 in off the sea at Findhorn. Between 16-29 Sep a total of 20 skeins were reported, with the majority at Findhorn Bay, the largest being 5000 on 18th. In October, the largest flock was c.6300 Findhorn Bay on 10th. In November, flocks over 1000 were seen at Kinloss (c.7000 on 7th), Milltown airfield (c.6000 on 18th), Findhorn Bay (c.4800 on 7th) and Roseisle distillery (c.1000 on 16th).

Winter: Typically for recent years, only two large flocks reported during December, but none exceeded 1000 individuals: 400 west over Elgin on 12th and 100 Nairn on 22nd.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Very scarce winter visitor.

For only the second time since MNBR was first published in 1985 there were no reports of White-fronted Goose; the only other year with no records was 2007.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common winter visitor.

Winter-spring: Flocks containing 500 or more birds were recorded at only six sites (four sites in 2009), maximum counts at each site were: 1000 Nairn-Howford bridge 28 Mar, 800 Philaxdale (Duffus) 23 Mar, 800 Miltonduff 26 Mar, 700 Broadley 30 Jan, 500 Loch Spynie 21 Feb and 500 Achnatone 12 Mar.

Summer: No reports from the Dava breeding area. Reports from the coastal strip appear to have increased. While some records may relate to late returning or injured Icelandic breeders, others are probably a result of an increasing population in the Lochindorb/Dava area. In 2010, 2 Cloddach quarry 23 May & 13 Jun and 4 Findhorn Bay 16 Jun, increasing to 12 by 22 Jun.

Late summer: Presumably as a result of post-breeding movements, records in August included: 50 over Nairn on 2nd, 2 Tugnet 2nd, 6 Loch Spynie 16th, 4 Bishopmill (Elgin) 19th, 57 Findhorn Bay 20th (the Nairn flock?) and 10 Kinloss 23rd.

Autumn: Difficult to assess which are local birds and which are Icelandic breeders returning in September. The only large count during October was 83 Findhorn Bay 24 Oct. In November, 500 Salterhill on 13th and 137 Findhorn Bay on 7th were the largest flocks.

Winter (max. counts only): No flocks over 500 were recorded. The largest count in this period was 220 Broadley 15 Dec. A single on the Lossie estuary 26 Dec was unusual for this site.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Scarce migrant in summer, rare in winter.

Summer and early autumn passage: Fewer were recorded than usual; 24 flying west Loch Spynie 3 Jun (RP) and 25 flying west Lossie estuary 4 Jun (CAG, DAG) were the only reports, and both may concern the same flock.

Two winter records: 1 Cloddach quarry 21 & 27 Feb (CAG, DAG) (a returning individual from 2008?) and 1 Auldearn 1 Nov (DMKS).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

A poor year.

Winter-spring: No reports during this period.

Summer: 1 Kingston 18 May (MJHC), 1 adult Lossie estuary 18 May-20 Jun (15 dates) (many obs.), 1 (and a hybrid) Findhorn Bay 20 May (RHD) and 2 Loch Spynie 27 May (ATi).

Autumn: 10 over Kingston 9 Oct (PGS) and 9 Lossie estuary 9 Oct (DMKS) may have involved the same birds.

Winter: No reports during this period.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

All birds reported were assigned to Light-bellied Brent Goose *B.b.hrota*. A poor year; reports only concerned the regular flock in the Nairn area.

Winter: The maximum count was 52 Nairn Bar 14 Feb (DJa).

Autumn passage period (Sep-Oct): No records received for this period.

Winter: The largest count was 32 Nairn Bar 5 Dec (DJa).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Numerous spring and summer visitor and breeder.

Breeding: A total of three broods was seen, at Burnside of Birnie, Cloddach quarry and Kingston, with a mean brood size of 4.7 chicks. In potential breeding areas were 'pairs' at Findhorn Bay, Balormie, Lhanbryde and Broadley (Clochan).

Best monthly counts at coastal sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Nairn/Culbin Bars	81	87	nc	7	nc	nc	nc	nc	5	35	nc	94
Findhorn Bay	16	64	56	50	10	34	138	37	nc	8	6	6
Lossie estuary	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kingston	2	nc	4	14	12	3	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc

(Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Escape.

Two present on 2 Jan then only one remaining until the end of the year at the Cooper Park, Elgin (RP.)

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Very scarce. Probable escape or feral origin.

An eclipse male on the Cooper Park pond, Elgin 12 Jun was on the River Lossie the following day (RP, MJHC). More unusual were single males at Loch na Bo 9-10 Apr (DMP, CAG) and Fochabers lake 19 May (CJS).



Mandarin, Fochabers lake 19 May 2010 (Photo: Chris Sugden).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Common winter visitor and rare breeder.

Breeding: No records received from the traditional Dava breeding area. Not far away, 8 Loch Kirkaldy 12 Apr were in potential breeding habitat.

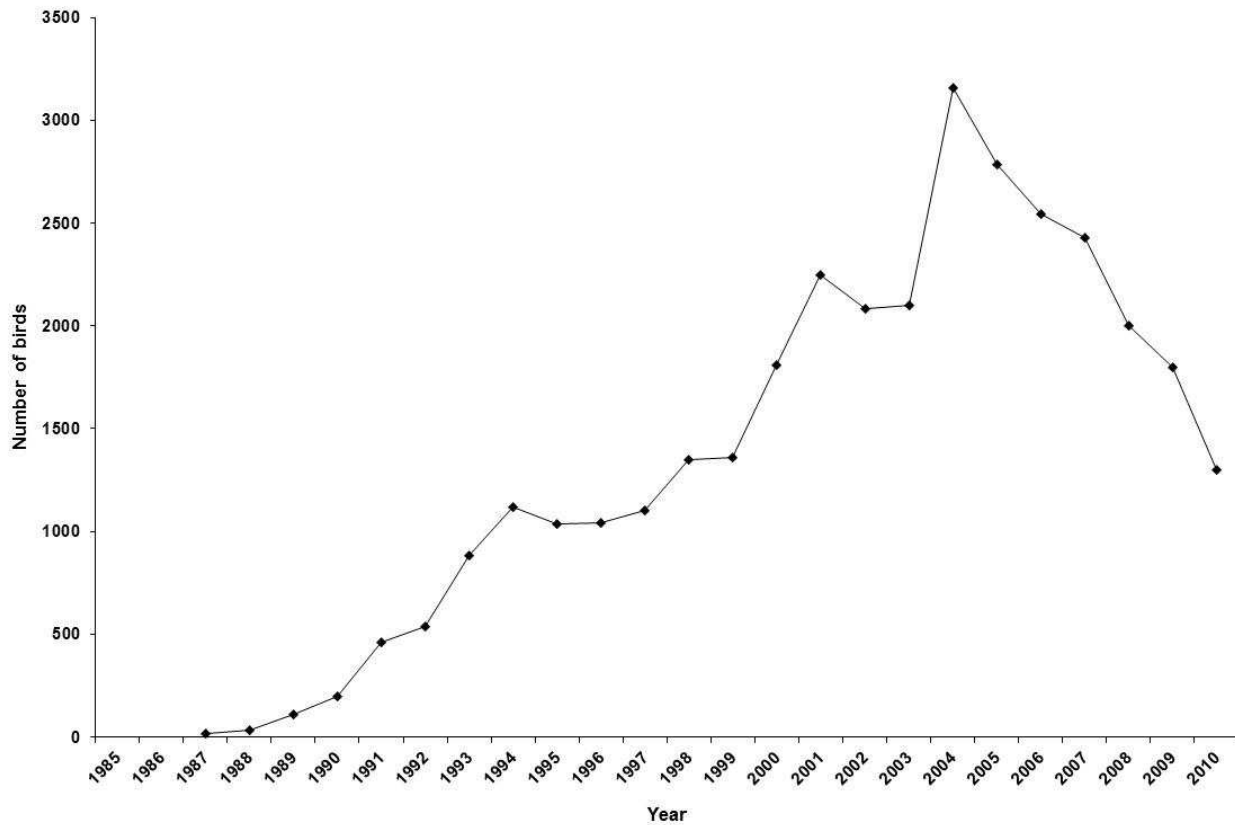
Non-breeders in summer (May-July): pairs were seen at Cunninghaugh pool 8 Apr and Findhorn Bay 11 Jul.

Winter: Monthly maximum counts at main coastal sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	594	448	nc	nc	160	484	nc	811
Findhorn Bay	1100	880	nc	nc	nc	357	nc	500
Lossie estuary	1261	569	708	159	179	960	1328	900
Kingston	360	169	25	15	18	nc	nc	100

Numbers of Wigeon using Lossie estuary fell for the sixth consecutive year from the peak of 3158 in 2004. A female was seen on the Lossie estuary 20 Dec (DAG) being attacked and killed by a Great Black-backed Gull, after which the corpse was taken by a Buzzard.

Annual maxima of Wigeon at the Lossie estuary 1985-2010:



On freshwater:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Loch Flemington	14	24	nc	44	nc	nc	160	92	nc
Loch Loy	nc	nc	6	1	nc	4	60	10	nc
Loch Spynie	2	72	6	2	8	nc	8	1	nc
Cloddach quarry	300	nc	250	15	nc	nc	350	nc	nc
Loch Oire	nc	nc	19	nc	nc	50	313	24	nc
Loch na Bo	120	nc	60	14	nc	nc	0	0	nc

A pair was seen copulating at Loch Spynie 20 Feb (RP).

(Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix**Escape.*

The regular male was reported at Kingston on four dates: 23 Jan, 13 Mar, 6 May and 16 May – but is likely to have been present there throughout winter and spring (RP, MJHC, DAG.)

Gadwall *Anas strepera**Scarce visitor.*

Seen at seven sites.

Findhorn Bay: pair present 1 May (RHD).

Birnie pool: pair present 25-26 Apr (MJHC, DAG, CAG).

Cooper Park (Elgin): adult male 3, 11 and 12 Oct (RP).

Loch Spynie: present on the loch from 4 Apr-12 May and later in the year on 13 Nov. Largest count was 3 on 20 Apr (HF). Otherwise, 1 male 4-24 Apr, 1 female 21 Apr, a pair 30 Apr and 2 males 12 May. In autumn, a pair on 13 Nov.

Lossie estuary: 1 male 6-7 Feb (RHD, CAG) and a pair 28 Apr (RP); these are the 4th-5th records for the estuary.

Loch na Bo: 1 male 21 Jan-9 Mar (MJHC, GCo, RHD, EH).

Kingston area: 1 female Tugnet 25 Jan and 2 pairs 6 May (MJHC).

Teal *Anas crecca**Scarce breeder and common winter visitor.*

Breeding: No confirmed breeding reports were received this year.

Potential breeding sites occupied during the breeding season included Loch Kirkaldy, Cunninghaugh pool, Dallachy tip pool, Loch na Bo, Kingston, Milltown (Cabrach) and Montgrew.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	286	0	nc	nc	nc	nc	7	nc	0
Findhorn Bay	270	0	2	nc	nc	nc	0	nc	105
Lossie estuary	54	nc	nc	nc	nc	29	1	nc	219
Loch Spynie	25	40	2	200	9	nc	57	120	15
Spynie Canal	350	200	3	nc	nc	nc	nc	100	nc
Cloddach quarry	6	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Loch Oire	nc	nc	9	5	nc	2	70	1	nc
Loch na Bo	50	nc	nc	4	nc	nc	nc	0	nc
Kingston/Tugnet	40	125	14	14	19	50	nc	nc	56

The 219 recorded at Lossie estuary 26 Dec was a record count for the site and followed a period of prolonged severe cold weather (RP).

Other sites holding over 50 birds were: 300 Delnies marsh 11 Oct, 275 Nairn Bar 17 Jan, 130 Cran Loch 17 Jan and 126 Loch Flemington 17 Jan.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis**Rare visitor.*

One male accompanied a group of Teal on Spynie canal between 16 Jan-12 Feb, visiting Loch Spynie on 24 Jan (DAG, RP, MJHC, RHD). It, or another male, was back on the canal from 13 Nov-31 Dec, and was seen on Loch Spynie on 15 Nov (DAG, CAG, HF).

These constitute the 19th-20th records for Moray & Nairn, though with the likely possibility of returning individuals, the total number of Green-winged Teal recorded in Moray could be substantially less than the number of records suggests.

A male showing mixed Green-winged Teal x Eurasian Teal characters was seen at the Lossie estuary 10 Jan (DAG, RP). This may indicate that some of the recent Green-winged Teal males have remained in the area and bred with local (Eurasian) Teal.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Numerous resident breeder and common winter visitor.

Breeding: The mean brood size from three broods was 9.3 chicks. All reported broods (mostly uncounted) were within the coastal strip, at Burnside of Birnie, Cloddach quarry, Cooper Park (Elgin), Dallachy tip pool, Fochabers lake, Loch Oire, Loch Spynie, Montgrew and Rashcrook (Fogwatt). Individuals or pairs seen in potential breeding areas included: Broomton (Auldearn), Loch Loy, Loch na Bo, Ben Rinnes and Chalcaidh Quarry (Tomintoul).

Best monthly flocks in regularly counted areas were:

Freshwater:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Loch Flemington	nc	23	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	25	nc	53
Loch Loy	nc	nc	nc	6	6	nc	nc	nc	20	120	115	nc
Cran Loch	20	3	nc	nc	10	nc	nc	nc	5	2	nc	nc
Loch Spynie	220	230	201	12	9	4	6	80	2	15	50	105
Cloddach quarry	70	nc	nc	25	64	56	nc	nc	nc	291	nc	nc
Loch Oire	nc	nc	6	2	2	8	11	nc	nc	22	nc	nc
Loch na Bo	100	90	5	6	5	6	18	nc	nc	3	nc	210

Other freshwater sites holding more than 50 birds were: 61 Brodie Castle pond 24 Jan and 59 Loch Oire/na Bo combined 14 Jun. Five were well inland at Blacksboat 6 Feb.

Coastal sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	270	20	nc	nc	nc	43	nc	124
Findhorn Bay	300	138	nc	nc	nc	15	nc	76
Lossie estuary	18	2	3	5	33	1	4	40
Kingston	nc	22	nc	83	15	nc	nc	nc

The only other coastal site holding more than 50 birds was the Portgordon-Strathlene coast where 103 were counted on 5 Dec, mostly at the mouth of the Gollachy Burn.

Unusual behaviour was shown by a pair sitting on Elgin town hall roof 14 Mar.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Scarce winter visitor and migrant. Has bred.

Present at five sites.

Nairn Bar: 4 on 17 Jan and 44 on 5 Dec (DJa).

Loch Loy: 3 on 10 Oct (ADo).

Findhorn Bay: present from 23 Jan-17 Mar and 11 Sep-10 Nov. Unprecedented numbers during both periods with five records in excess of 100, maximum count in each period was 156 on 14 Feb (DGD) and 124 on 10 Nov (RHD).

Loch Spynie: present 27 Jan-5 Mar, max. 14 males, 8 females on 28 Feb and 1 Mar (DAG, CAG).
 Portgordon: 1 male on 9 Jan (MJHC).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare in spring.

Present at one site.

A pair at the Birnie pool 25 Apr (CAG) was the only record.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Rare breeder and scarce migrant.

Seen at seven sites, one more than 2009, but numbers still relatively low.

Burnside of Birnie: 1 male 10 Jun.

Cloddach quarry: a pair 14 Apr.

Loch Spynie: 3(2 males, 1 female) from 5-13 Apr.

Loch Oire: 4 on 3 & 19 Oct. This was the largest count of the year.

Cunninghaugh pool: 1 male 26 Apr.

Two records from estuaries: 2 Findhorn Bay 11 Sep (RHD, AJL) and 1 female Lossie estuary 6 Sep (RP).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

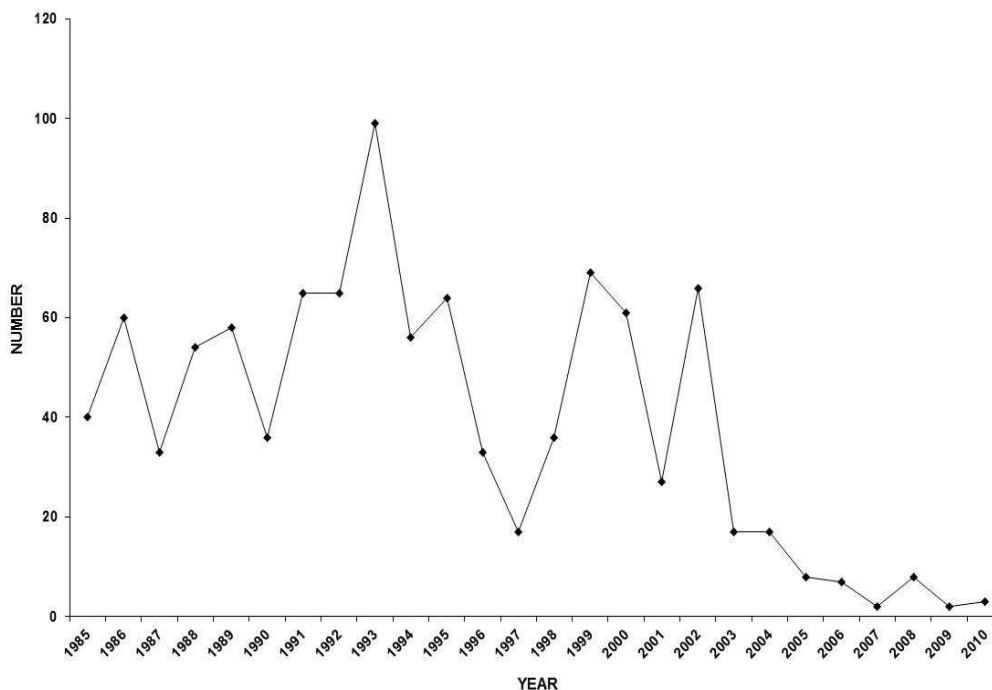
Common winter visitor and occasional breeder.

Recorded at only two sites: Loch Spynie and Loch Oire.

Loch Oire: 1 male 3 Oct (MJHC, RP).

Loch Spynie: generally only single birds between 30 Jan-27 Feb (many obs.); maximum count was 2 adult males and a first-winter male on 20 Feb (RP). Later in the year, 1 male 11-12 Dec (DAG, EH). A continuation of the low numbers recorded at the loch since 2005.

Winter maxima of Pochard at Loch Spynie since 1985 are given below:



Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligala*

Scarce breeder and common winter visitor.

Breeding: The mean brood size from three broods was 6.0 chicks. Broods were only seen at Loch Spynie (two broods) and Dallachy tip pool.

Other potential breeding sites occupied during the summer months included Loch of Boath, Burnside of Birnie, Cloddach quarry, Cooper Park (Elgin), Fochabers lake, Loch Flemington, Loch na Bo 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 Loy	nc	nc	2	3	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	4	nc	6
Loch Spynie	22	120	52	64	20	6	30	36	29	67	30	5
Cloddach quarry	86	nc	nc	45	8	12	nc	nc	nc	26	nc	nc
Cooper Park	62	46	nc	10	nc	2	nc	nc	nc	26	30	50
Loch na Bo	23	11	53	24	2	nc	26	nc	nc	7	nc	22
Loch Oire	nc	nc	2	23	10	21	26	nc	nc	14	nc	nc

Elsewhere, 34 Dallachy tip pool 5 Sep was the highest count.

Coastal records included 1 male Lossie estuary 10 Jan, 1 male Nairn Bar area 17-18 Jan and 2 Culbin Bar 5 Dec following a period of severe cold weather. Also, 3 Findhorn Bay 25 Apr and 1 Kingston 17 Aug.



Tufted Ducks, Cooper Park, Elgin 11 Jan 2010 (Photo: Martin Cook).

Scaup *Aythya marila**Scarce winter visitor.*

At the coast, regular near Nairn between 15 Jan-21 Feb, where highest counts were 37 on 17 Jan (IW) and 44 on 18 Jan (MJHC). Also, 2 Findhorn Bay 17 & 23 Feb (AJL).

Inland, 1 male Loch Spynie 24-25 Apr (many obs.) and, probably the same bird, 1 male Windyridge 1-3 May (RHD, CAG).

Eider *Somateria mollissima**Scarce breeder, common offshore.*

Breeding: As in 2009, no details of the small breeding population were received.

Regular counts from Burghead Bay:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghead Bay	98	14	49	nc	225	426	150	75

Maximum counts over 100 were 426 Burghead Bay 11 Oct, 225 Burghead 21 Sep, 195 Burghead-Hopeman 5 Dec, 110 Strathlene 20 Apr and 101 Nairn Bar 14 Feb. The three Burghead area counts are likely to refer to the same, mobile, flock.

Similar behaviour to last year involved a group of 30 inside Burghead harbour 1 Jan (MJHC).

A male with 'sails' suggestive of Northern Eider *S.m.borealis* was seen off Burghead on 6 Feb, 20 & 23 Mar (JWat, RP).

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis**Rare visitor.*

In the Burghead/Burghead Bay area, the probable 2nd winter male that was first recorded there in November 2009, remained until at least 8 Mar. On 17 Feb it was joined by a 1st winter male and the two birds were seen, often together, until 8 Mar. Thereafter, one bird (unfortunately it is uncertain which one) was seen intermittently until 6 Apr (RHD, RP et al.). A male (probably one of the Burghead birds) was at Carse of Delnies 18 May (RHD).

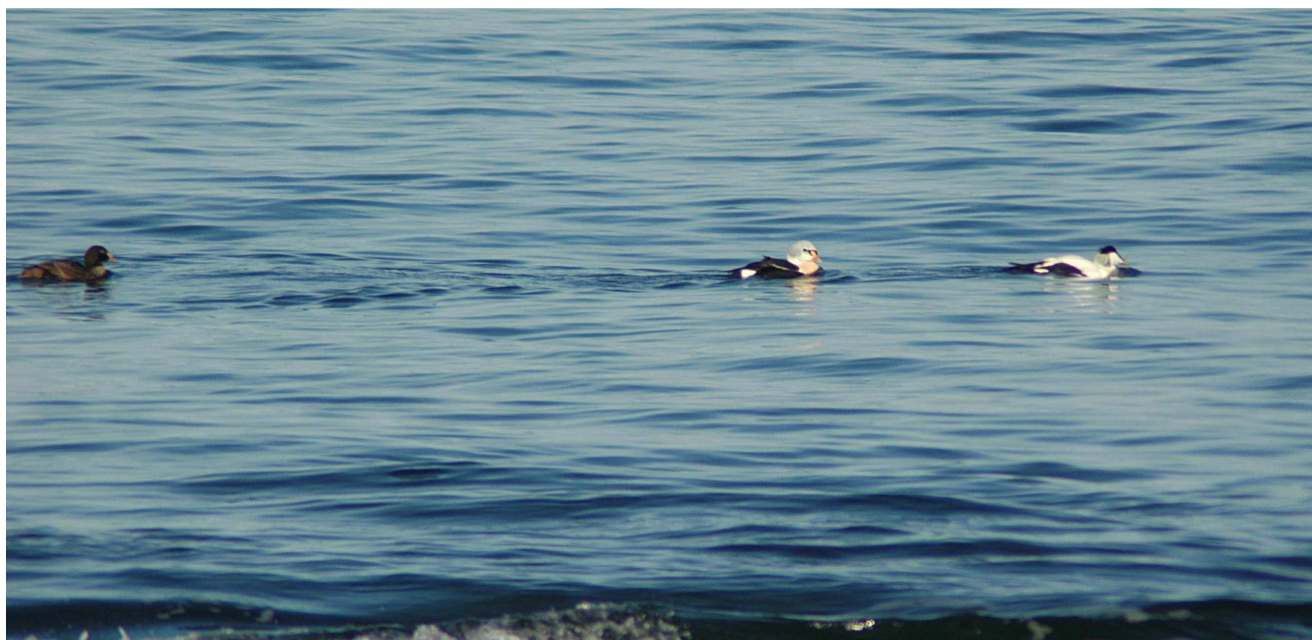
In autumn, an eclipse male was found at Burghead on 6 Oct and remained into 2011, by which time it had assumed adult, or near-adult, plumage (VW, RP et al.).



King Eiders – 1st winter male (left) and probable 2nd winter male, Burghead 19 Feb 2010 (Photo: Martin Cook).



King Eider – probable 2nd winter male, Burghead 3 Feb 2010 (Photo: David Devonport).



King Eiders – 1st winter male (left) and probable 2nd winter male, Burghead 21 Feb 2010 (Photo: Tony Backx).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis**Common winter visitor offshore.*

No coastal records in summer were reported this year.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	25	0	13	26	22	nc	73
Nairn Bar	30	78	nc	nc	223	nc	18
Culbin Bar	206	676	nc	nc	266	nc	4
Off Findhorn	nc	nc	800	nc	50	1500	nc
Burghead Bay	6	50	25	150	100	nc	21
Off Burghead	260	nc	nc	100	8	12	nc
Burghead-Hopeman	0	2	nc	nc	70	nc	18
Portgordon-Strathlene	4	3	nc	nc	0	nc	15

One inland record, of a female/immature at Loch Spynie on 24 Oct (JDL).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra**Common winter visitor, small numbers in summer.*

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	0	0	nc	nc	nc	3	nc	1
Nairn Bar	69	91	nc	nc	nc	54	nc	9
Culbin Bar	146	97	nc	nc	nc	168	nc	7
Off Findhorn	10	nc	nc	10	150	50	nc	nc
Burghead Bay	20	20	50	34	240	nc	nc	2
Burghead-Hopeman	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	nc	25
Lossiemouth	nc	nc	12	nc	7	nc	nc	1

In April, the largest gathering was 600 Burghead 3rd. A flock of 150 (all females) was off Burghead on 11th and 150 (probably the same flock) were in Burghead Bay on 14th.

Summer records included: 14 Burghead 11 May, 50 Tugnet 13 May, 1 Portknockie 4 Jun, 8 Roseisle 23 Jul and 1 flying east Lossiemouth 24 Jul.

Scoter sp: a large count of 300 Burghead Bay 8 Mar.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata**Rare, but regular, visitor.*

A single male at Burghead 1-2 May (IRC) was the only record. The majority of records since 1985 have involved several individuals; singles have only been recorded in 1987, 1988 and 2008.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca**Common winter visitor.*

Maximum counts for main areas were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn Bar	3	29	nc	9	nc	0
Culbin Bar	11	3	nc	9	nc	0
Burghead Bay	38	22	150	13	nc	26

In spring, there were 20 Burghead Bay 3 & 14 Apr, while the only large autumn count was 40 Burghead Bay 30 Sep.

The only coastal summer records was 3 flying west Lossiemouth 23 Jul (DAG).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Rare breeder and common winter visitor.

Breeding: No breeding records were received this year.

Spring records included 1 Loch of Boath 10 Apr, 6 Loch Oire/na Bo 6 May and 1 Loch Oire 18 May. Birds were also present on Loch Spynie between 1-27 May (max. 5 on 1st).

Coastal summer records included 1 male Kingston 7 Jun.

Maximum counts on most frequented lochs were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Loch Flemington	nc	0	nc	nc	nc	6	nc	nc
Loch Loy	nc	0	1	nc	nc	0	0	nc
Loch Spynie	19	67	40	50	0	16	27	2
Cloddach quarry	2	nc	8	3	nc	0	nc	nc
Loch na Bo	6	3	15	4	nc	5	nc	3
Loch Oire	nc	nc	4	6	nc	4	12	nc

At Aberlour, maximum counts from the River Spey were 8 on 24 Feb and 1 on 6 Dec. Also 1 male Glenallachie distillery 26 Dec and 2 on the River Lossie at Elgin 2 Jan. In spring, 11 Dallachy tip pool 23 Mar fell to only one by 8 Apr.

Maximum counts at most frequented coastal sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	31	0	nc	nc	0	nc	10
Nairn/Culbin Bars	8	28	nc	nc	9	nc	2
Nairn	15	nc	nc	nc	3	nc	nc
Findhorn Bay	10	16	nc	nc	0	nc	0
Burghead Bay	8	8	8	nc	2	nc	7
Burghead-Hopeman	11	15	nc	nc	nc	nc	7
Lossie estuary	14	4	1	0	0	0	2
Kingston/Tugnet	26	10	3	17	nc	nc	nc

During a period of severe cold weather, 14 Lossie estuary 10 Jan and 20 offshore between Speymouth-Porttannachy 17 Jan.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Rare winter visitor.

The adult male returned to Loch na Bo from 16 Jan-10 Apr (many obs.) and visited Loch Oire on 10 Mar (EH). This individual is presumably the same as that first seen in 2006. A male briefly visited Loch Spynie 9 Nov (AE); the arrival date for this male suggests a different individual.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Scarce local breeder and common visitor.

Breeding: A brood of six at Sluie 20 Jun (ISS) is the first breeding report received since 2007. Two on the River Findhorn 1 Jun (AJL) were in potential breeding habitat.

Coastal records in summer (May-Jun): 4 Findhorn 11 May, 1 male Lossie estuary 5 May, 1 male Kingston 18 May and a pair Spey Bay 19 Jun.

Also 7 males displaying vigorously to 3 females at Boar's Head Rock 3 Mar.

Maximum monthly counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delnies-Nairn	1	0	nc	nc	nc	4	nc	9
Nairn	8	nc	nc	nc	nc	15	nc	nc
Nairn/Culbin Bars	18	57	nc	nc	nc	19	nc	1
Findhorn Bay	2	0	nc	6	nc	1	nc	1
Burghead Bay	15	6	9	4	1	42	120	2
Off Burghead	nc	2	1	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Burghead-Hopeman	2	16	nc	nc	nc	4	nc	2
Off Lossiemouth	2	nc	nc	nc	1	nc	nc	6
Lossie estuary	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Spey Bay	nc	nc	1	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Kingston/Tugnet	1	2	6	17	nc	nc	nc	nc
Portgordon - Strathlene	1	3	nc	nc	nc	0	nc	0

On rivers in winter: 4 River Nairn 31 Jan.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Widespread but scarce breeder.

Breeding: A brood of six at Aberlour 12 Jul (AE) is the first report of confirmed breeding since 2006. Near the mouth of the River Nairn, two pairs displaying 1 Apr, followed by 9 females/juveniles 27 Sep and 2 there 9 Nov (SMc).

Seen in potential breeding areas were 1 female Loch of Boath 10 Apr, 8 River Findhorn near Forres 17 Apr, 1 female Drynachan 1 May and 1 Cloddach quarry 13 Jun.

Maximum monthly counts:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Findhorn Bay	0	0	nc	nc	20	nc	nc	14	nc	0	nc	0
Cloddach quarry	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	0	nc	nc
Loch Spynie	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lossie estuary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	13	3	0	0
Loch na Bo	nc	0	5	7	nc	nc	nc	nc	0	0	nc	nc
Speymouth	3	1	nc	31	64	56	68	116	nc	nc	nc	nc

Elsewhere, 20 Lossiemouth east beach 28 Aug.

Inland in winter were 8 River Lossie (at Elgin) 2 Jan, 1 male River Spey (Fochabers), 6 Jan, 2 Cloddach quarry 24 Jan, 1 male Blacksboat 6 Feb, a pair River Spey (Aberlour) 9 Feb and 4 Cooper Park pond (Elgin) 24 Mar.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Very common resident breeder.

The small population persists on Ben Aigan where 1-2 birds were seen in January and in November.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Although seen on Ben Rinnes in February, May and August, numbers were small – maximum 9 on 21 Feb and 6 on 22 Aug (AE, GGe).

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Scarce resident breeder.

Although Black Grouse are scarce they are fairly widespread upland breeders, with 55 occupied tetrads located in Moray during 2002-06. The number of records received in any one year therefore greatly understates the distribution. In 2010, they were reported from eight localities: 4 Aitnoh 20 Nov (KLG), 8 (7 males, 1 female) Carn Ghiubhais 16 Apr (and 1 female with 3 young there 13 Jul) (JKC), 1 female Carn Biorach 24 Apr (MJHC), 1 female with 4 young Craig Balnafuran 30 Jun (MMac), 7 males in a turnip field Elrick (Cabrach) 25 Mar (MJHC), 16 (including 5 males) Strath Avon 30 Jun (MMac) and 1 female with 1 young (date uncertain) Edinglassie (DCa). On Dava moor, two leks (of 11 and 5 males) were active in spring, and two coveys of 5-6 young were seen in late summer (per ISS).

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*

Scarce resident breeder.

Breeding: 11 active leks were known, containing a total of 19 males (RSPB).

Three other reports received, all from west Moray. In one locality 2 males were seen in May (DAG), and elsewhere a group of 3 females or immatures (possibly a brood) were found on 3 Sep (IFr). In a third location a newly moulted tail feather from a male was found on 3 Sep (IFr).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Introduced scarce breeder. Commonly released.

Quite numerous in Glen Rinnes early in the year where 26 were counted on 12 Feb, including a flock of 18 at Tomachar. Otherwise, reports of 1-3 birds were received from Bridge of Avon (Jul), Broomton (Apr), Kingston (at least one pair on the Lein in summer), Loch of Boath (Apr), Loch Oire (Mar), Scarffbanks (May) and Stonewells (May).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Common resident breeder.

At Netherton (Findhorn Bay) there were 12 on 7 Jan and a very large covey of 26 on 25 Aug (RHD) that was presumably composed of more than one family group – there were still 16 here on 12 Sep (KLG). Only very small groups elsewhere: 5 Kinloss 12 Jan, 1-2 pairs on the Lein (Kingston), 2-3 Loch Oire area 9 Mar, 6 May and 29 Nov, 3 Nairn Bar 17 Jan (and 1 there 24 Oct) and 2 Tarras in late January.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Rare summer visitor and breeder, occasionally more numerous.

A poor year with only two reports of single calling birds, at Duffus Castle on 25 Jun (DAG) and Scarffbanks on 4 Jul (HF).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common resident breeder.

An all-white male was in the Kinloss area in March and April. At Delnabo, 150 released birds were around pens on 9 Oct. A male was in Glen Gheallaidh 17 Jun. In a garden on the edge of Kingston, 9-10 females fed below a bird table at each end of the year.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Rare breeder. Common autumn and winter visitor offshore.

Summer: No reports from moorland breeding areas.

At the coast in the April-July period, the highest count was only 5 Boar's Head Rock 11 Apr.

Best monthly counts offshore in each winter period were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Delnies	25	nc	nc	nc	3	nc	2
Nairn/Culbin Bars	6	6	nc	nc	7	nc	1
Burghead Bay	7	12	2	8	4	nc	0
Spey Bay	10	5	3	1	nc	nc	nc

Elsewhere, 6 between Portgordon-Strathlene was the highest count.

Offshore passage during September was noted at Strathlene (Buckie), where 12 flew east in 1 hour on 23rd and 5 flew east on 24th, and at Lossiemouth where highest counts were 6 flying west on 16th and 5 flying west on 24th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Rare breeder. Scarce autumn and winter visitor offshore.

Upland lochs: For the fourth successive year, one pair bred - but the nest failed, for unknown reasons (IFr,MJHC).

Monthly maxima in Burghead Bay were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	11	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	6	4	1	1

(RHD, AJL et al.)

Elsewhere, 2 Nairn/Culbin Bars 17 Jan and 14 Feb (AY, DCJ).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Scarce visitor offshore.

As has been the case in some other recent years, more birds were recorded in spring than at other seasons. These included 3 off Buckie 9 Apr (RE), 3 Boar's Head Rock (Spey Bay) 11 Apr (MJHC) and 4 Burghead Bay 15 Apr (AJL). Eight other records of 1-2 birds off several coastal sites were received for April-May. At other times, 2 Burghead Bay 16 Jan (Birdguides), 1 Nairn 5 Feb (KLG), 1 Findhorn 22 Nov (RHD) and 2 Burghead Bay 5 Dec (KHo,JCl).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

Rare visitor.

For the third year in succession, this species was present off Burghead in spring. It appears that at least three different birds were involved in 2010. One in winter or immature plumage was seen on 21 Mar (RP) and 14 Apr (ASa). An adult in summer plumage was seen on many dates between 14 Apr-3 May (MJHC, DAG, RP, RHD et al.) and there were 2 adults on 2 May (CG,RP).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common breeder, very common offshore.

Breeding: No reports of breeding were received; ten on cliffs at Portknockie 10 Feb were perhaps early nest prospecting birds.

Passage: Only one count exceeded 100, when 153 passed Lossiemouth 29 Aug in one hour (RP). The only other count above 50 birds was 54 west past Strathlene 20 Apr in just 15 mins.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Very scarce migrant in late summer and autumn.

An average year, with seven birds recorded on six dates in late August/September, all singles: past Lossiemouth 29 Aug, 16 Sep and 17 Sep, past Strathlene 15 Sep and 23 Sep and off Burghead 23 Sep and 24 Sep. Annual totals since 2001 are as follows:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
57	3	3	0	23	1	38	11	0	7

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Scarce offshore in summer and autumn.

Spring: A total of nine birds off Lossiemouth on three days late in May.

Summer: In June, records were again solely from Lossiemouth, on four dates throughout the month. In July, large numbers were recorded from Findhorn and Lossiemouth from mid month, with counts of c.200 Lossiemouth 19th (DAG) and c.500 off Findhorn 29th (JPoy).

Autumn: What were presumably the same lingering feeding birds were seen off Findhorn on 8 Aug, when c.300 present (DAG). Passage was light in August, with the only other record in the month being 44 birds past Lossiemouth on 29th (RP). In September, there was a light passage in the middle of the month off Lossiemouth and Strathlene, and towards the end of the month a good passage was noted on 23rd-24th when 138 birds were logged from Burghead, Lossiemouth and Strathlene (DAG, RP, MJHC). The last of the year was one Nairn Bar 24 Oct, the latest record since one off Buckie 30 Oct 1987.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

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

One east past Strathlene on 23 Sep (MJHC) was the only record of the year, after the blank year in 2009.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

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

A good year, with 15 counts of 100 or more in the late summer/early autumn period.

In late August, over 200 passed both Strathlene and Lossiemouth in seawatches on 29th. In September, high counts centred around Lossiemouth but counts of over 100 were also recorded from Burghead, Burghead Bay, Findhorn and Strathlene. On 17th, a series of counts from Lossiemouth totalling 100 minutes produced 1084 birds (DAG, RP), the highest day passage count recorded in Moray & Nairn.

Other counts of over 250 in September were c.400 Burghead Bay on 16th, 387 off Lossiemouth on 24th and 526 in an hour passed Strathlene on the same day (MJHC) the second highest count of the year.

In the winter periods, three flew east past Lossiemouth 16 Jan (DAG) and one was off Culbin Bar 5 Dec (AY, DJ).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce resident and common winter visitor.

Thirty or more were counted at Burghead-Hopeman (35 on 14 Feb, 33 on 5 Dec), Culbin Bar (63 on 24 Oct), Delnies-Nairn (61 on 5 Dec), Portgordon-Strathlene (33 on 17 Jan, 32 on 14 Feb) and Spey Bay (40 on 18 Sep).

Inland: one was on the River Spey at Rothes 6-7 Feb (AE, RP) and another was between Rothes and Craigellachie later in the year on 9 Dec. Numbers were down on previous years at Loch Spynie where only 1-2 on most occasions, though 3 on 9 & 20 Sep. A 1st winter bird showing characteristics of the continental race *P.c.sinensis* was present on 24 Apr (RP).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Scarce breeder and common visitor, chiefly in winter.

Breeding: Numbers decreased slightly at Portknockie/Bow Fiddle Rock cliffs where 76 occupied nests were noted 25 Jun (79 in 2009) (MJHC). The first slight decrease at this site after the steady upward trend from the 0-2 nests in the mid 1980s.

Apparently Occupied Nests (AONs) at this site since 2001 have been as follows:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
31	40	43	47	49	49	73	79	79	76

Numbers remained steady at Covesea with 14 occupied nests 20 Jun (11 in 2008 and 14 in 2009) (MJHC). At Tronach Head, 60 occupied nests were counted 26 Jun, well up from the 26 occupied nests at the same site the year before (MJHC).

Counts: Approximately 300 were around the Portknockie/Bow Fiddle Rock area 6 Mar (DAG). Away from breeding areas, no substantial counts, the only other counts above 10 coming from the Portgordon-Strathlene shoreline in the winter periods: peaking at 23 on 14 Feb.

[Egret *Egretta/Ardea sp.*

Rare visitor.

An egret species was seen near Netherton, at the southern end of Findhorn Bay, on 14 Oct but the views obtained prevented specific identification (RC.)

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Rare visitor.

One was present in the area between Tugnet and Bogmoor between 10 Jan-6 Feb (DSp, MJHC, DAG). The same bird, presumably, was seen in flight near Lhanbryde on 16 Feb and at Loch Spynie on 3 Mar (DJR). There were no further reports until a 'large white heron' was flushed by a fisherman from the River Spey at Garmouth on 1 May (DAS). It, again presumed to be the same bird, reappeared between Tugnet and Bogmoor on 27 Nov (IPG) and remained there into 2011.



Great White Egret, Tugnet 26 Jan 2010 (Photo: Diana Spencer).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Heronries: Counts of occupied nests were only received from two heronries: 8 at Aberlour (AE) and 12 at Loch Spynie (RP). Although the Aberlour heronry has increased over the last ten years, the one at Loch Spynie has remained virtually unchanged over a long period:

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Loch Spynie	11-12	11	14	12	12	11	12	11	12	12
Aberlour	?	?	?	3	4	6	7	7	9	8

Most numerous on the estuaries in the post-breeding summer and early autumn period: on the Lossie estuary, 8 on 20 Jul, 9 on 14 Aug and 11 on 6 Sep, at Speymouth, 9 on 28 Jun, and in Findhorn Bay, 8 on 21 Sep. The only other count exceeding five birds was 13 Loch Loy 21 Feb. Numerous records of 1-2 birds on the coast were received, mostly on rocky shores such as Burghead, Hopeman and Portgordon. Also regular around the Nairn & Culbin Bars – maximum 3 on 24 Oct.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Scarce breeder, scarce on the estuaries in winter.

Mid-winter: On freshwater in January and December were 3 Cloddach Quarry 21 Jan (2 there 24 Jan), 3 Loch na Bo 21 Jan (1 there 9 Dec) and 1 Loch Spynie 17 Jan.

Present in spring/summer (*italics* = proved breeding) at Brodie Castle pond, Burnside of Birnie pool (2 pairs), Cloddach Quarry, Cran Loch, Cunninghaugh pool (2 pairs), *Dallachy tip pool*, *Fochabers Lake*, Loch Kirkaldy, Loch Loy (2 pairs), Loch na Bo, *Loch of Blairs*, *Loch Oire* (6 pairs with 5 visible nests 13 Jun [MJHC]) and Loch Spynie (2 pairs).

Largest post-breeding congregation in summer/autumn was on Loch Oire where 20 on 7-8 Jul, 25 on 20 Jul, 20 on 12 Aug, 22 on 19 Aug, 13 on 8 Sep and 10 on 11 Oct. Good numbers also on Loch Spynie where 14 on 25 Aug, 14 on 19 Sep and 16 on 8 Oct.

Coastal in autumn/winter: 9 Findhorn Bay 11 Jan (4 there 28 Feb, 8 on 24 Oct and 4 on 5 Dec), 1-3 Kingston on several dates in January-March and September, and 1 Lossie estuary 2-3 Jan, 10 Jan and 24 Dec.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Occasional rare breeder, and very scarce offshore in autumn and winter.

Many more records than usual in a single year. Offshore, single birds were recorded as follows: Delnies/Nairn 17 Jan (IW, RPr) and 18 Jan (RHD), Nairn Bar 17 Jan (DCJ), Burghead Bay 23 Feb (MJHC, AJL) and 2 Mar (RHD), and Lossiemouth 28 Feb (DJR), 7 Mar (MCol) and 9 Mar (DJR). On freshwater, 1 Loch Spynie 10-20 Feb (many obs.).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegina*

Very scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Single birds in Burghead Bay on 23 Feb (MJHC), 21 Mar (RP) and 2 Sep (AJL), off Nairn on 24 Jan (AJL) and off Lossiemouth on 23 Sep (DAG).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Rare breeder. Scarce offshore in winter.

Breeding: One pair raised one young.

Site 13 - One pair bred successfully at this new site – although three young achieved a good size, only one eventually fledged. This is the first successful breeding in Moray & Nairn since 2004.

Site 2 – Two birds on 19 Apr was the only record.

The table below shows: number of sites occupied by territorial pairs, total number of territorial pairs and number of young raised to fledging since 1997.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sites	4	3	3	2	3	4	2	2	2	4	1	1	0	1
Pairs	12	9	8	3	7	10	8	4	8	4	2	1	0	1
Young	2	5-6	1	3	11	6	9	7	0	0	0	0	0	1

The only other inland bird was 1 Loch Spynie 28 Jul-4 Aug (CAG, DAG et al.).

Coastal: Monthly maxima in Burghead Bay were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	19	2	3					10	8	nc	3
(19 th)	(23 rd)	(28 th)	(3 rd)					(2 nd)	(11 th)		(5 th)

(AJL, MJHC, RHD et al.)

Elsewhere, 2 Nairn Bar 17 Jan (DCJ), 1 Nairn Bar 14 Feb (DCJ) and 1 Lossiemouth 1 Feb (CAG).

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare breeder.

In the area of Moray where breeding took place in 2007-09, at least three adults were seen in August but no nest was found (RHD, RHH).



Honey-buzzard (right) with Buzzard, Moray August 2010 (Photo: Angus Hogg).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Formerly common breeder, reintroduced in Highland and North-east Scotland.

Single birds were seen at Conicavel 11 Apr (DMKS), Kinloss 27 Jul (AJL), in the Ardgye/Alves area 1-3 Sep (SRe,CAG), Roseisle 24 Sep (HH) and Sanquhar (Forres) 31 Oct (KLG).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Rare visitor.

A bird at Keirn (Cabrach) in mid December (FMc) had been ringed as a chick in Mull in June 2009. This is the third successive year in which the species has visited Moray – one at Culbin/Findhorn in January 2008 came from Fife, and one in the Inchrory/Lecht area in autumn 2009 had been wing-tagged in Co. Kerry.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Very scarce visitor, usually in spring. Has bred.

A single male was seen at Loch Spynie on 24 Apr (HF), 29 Apr (DAG), 19 May (MJHC) and 24 May (HF). It is uncertain if the same bird was involved in all these sightings. Elsewhere, a female was near Birnie on 25 Apr (CAG).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare resident breeder, very scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding: Seventeen current and former sites were checked in west Moray and Nairn. Six sites were found to be occupied by pairs in west Moray but none in Nairn. Clutch size from two known clutches was 4.5. Three pairs in west Moray were successful and fledged 10 young between them giving a mean of 3.3 young per successful pair. Two pairs failed prior to, or during, the egg-laying stage and one pair failed on small young. No reason could be established for the failures (JKC).

Autumn/winter records were 1 male Porttannachy 17 Jan (IF), 1 Hopeman 17 Feb (RHD) and 1 'ringtail' near Keith 23 Oct (KLG).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Rare resident breeder.

Reported from four potential breeding sites in spring/summer.

Otherwise, 1 Auchinhandoch, near Dufftown 2 Apr (FMc) and 1 Clochan 13 Apr (MJHC).



Goshawk, Auchinhandoch near Dufftown 2 Apr 2010 (Photo: Fiona McHugh).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Common resident breeder.

Breeding season (April-July) records included birds/pairs at Auldearn, Burghead, Kinloss, Lossiemouth and Nairn.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Groups of five or more together were 6 Tomachar (Glen Rinnes) 10 Apr and 5 Kinloss 9 & 15 Mar. Other notable reports were of a bird on a chimney in Academy St., Elgin on 20 Dec (CAG) and another feeding from a dog's bone in a garden in Aberlour on 15 Jan after heavy snow (AE).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Rare resident breeder.

Breeding: At the three usual/most recent breeding sites: i) and ii) no sign of occupancy (MJHC,RHD), iii) no information received.

Elsewhere, 1 Cromdale Hills in Jan/Feb (MMac) and 1 Tomnavoulin 3 Apr (PH).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce summer visitor and breeder.

Breeding: Several nests were badly damaged by heavy winter snowfalls. A disappointing season in west Moray and Nairn where 7 pairs nested, of which 6 successful pairs reared a total of only 11 young. Productivity was better in east Moray where there were 5 pairs of which 4 pairs were successful, rearing a total of 10 young (RHD).

First in spring, and the only March report, was 1 Easterton 27 Mar. Away from nest sites, most together at one time were 3 Tugnet 31 Jul and 3 Findhorn Bay 1 Sep. Last in autumn were single birds at Tugnet on 18 Sep and Findhorn Bay on 19 Sep.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Widespread but scarce resident breeder.

Breeding season (April-July) records included birds/pairs at Dulsie Bridge, Kinloss, Loch Kirkaldy, Loch of Boath, Nairn and Tomintoul.

Autumn/winter reports from 10 sites including 1 Nairn Bar 17 Jan.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Scarce resident breeder and migrant.

Breeding: 46 sites were checked; 11 of these were occupied by pairs, all of which laid clutches. Clutch size from four known clutches was 4.0. All 11 pairs were successful, and these raised at least 34 young between them, at a mean brood size of 2.8 per laying pair (3.1 per successful pair). Productivity was greater in west Moray and Nairn (4.0 young/laying pair) than in east Moray (2.3 young/laying pair). The recent low occupancy and patchy distribution in Moray was again apparent; breeding performance was very similar to 2009 and to that elsewhere in North-East Scotland. (BC, JKC).

Outside the breeding season, single birds were seen at Nairn/Culbin Bars 17 Jan, Dufftown 7 Feb, Kinloss 10 Feb (also 22 Mar and 7 Nov), Lochhills 12 Feb, Lingieston 13 Feb, Cunninghaugh (Spey Bay) 6 Mar, Kingston 6 Sep, Elrick (Cabrach) 27 Oct and Clovenside (Forres) 17 Nov.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Rare visitor.

Two birds, believed to be a pair, were seen in breeding habitat in west Moray on 31 Jul (RHD) – they could not be relocated subsequently. This is the 11th record for Moray & Nairn.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce resident breeder.

Breeding: Of seven formerly-occupied moorland sites checked in east Moray, only two were occupied – one by a pair that raised 1-2 young and the other by a single bird (JKC). Four lowland sites in Moray were occupied by pairs, of which two were successful.

In late summer-winter, single birds were reported from Alves (Nov), Clochan (Jan), Nether Dallachy (Jan), Findhorn Bay (Jan, Feb, Aug), Forres (Mar), Kingston (Jul), Kinloss (Oct, Nov), Loch Spynie (Dec) and Lossiemouth (Aug, Sep).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Fairly common breeder and winter visitor.

Reported in the breeding season at Loch Oire (EH), Loch na Bo (CAG) and Loch Spynie (many obs.).

In icy winter conditions at Loch Spynie, Water Rails were unusually visible as they fed in the open – good views were obtained of five birds at the edge of the marsh beside the old railway line on 3 Jan (MJHC). Elsewhere, 1 Birnie pool 25 Aug (IFr), 1 Cran Loch 17 Jan (ADo), 1 Cunninghaugh pool (Nether Dallachy) 17 Jan (IFr) and 1 Sanquhar (Forres) 4 Jan (AJL).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Breeding proved or probable at Birnie pool, Cloddach quarry, Cunninghaugh pool (Nether Dallachy), Nether Dallachy tip, Fochabers lake, Kinloss, Loch Flemington, Loch Loy, Loch Oire, Loch Spynie, Montgrew and Mosset pond (Forres).

In freezing conditions at both ends of the year, large numbers emerged onto the edge of the open ice at Loch Spynie where they appeared to be finding food among the flocks of gulls and ducks standing on the ice – the largest counts of Moorhens were 61 on 3 Jan (MJHC) and 43 on 28 Dec (CAG). Largest counts elsewhere were 25 Loch Flemington 4 Dec, 9 Loch Oire 19 Aug and 11 Oct, and 8 Cooper Park (Elgin) 13 Nov.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Scarce resident breeder and fairly common winter visitor.

Breeding proved (*italics*) or probable at Cloddach quarry, Cunninghaugh (Nether Dallachy), Nether Dallachy tip, Loch na Bo, Loch Oire and Loch Spynie.

Maximum monthly counts on main lochs were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Loch Flemington	0	0	nc	nc	1	nc	0
Loch Loy	0	0	1	8	8	8	0
Loch Spynie	2	25	24	2	0	1	4
Loch Oire/na Bo	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Cloddach quarry	9	6	nc	8	nc	4	nc

One on the estuary at Kingston on 28 Dec was unusual.

Crane *Grus grus*

Rare migrant.

On 20 May, two Cranes were found at Loch Spynie at 10.00am after which they appeared to fly and drift away to the west (RP). However, at 11.30am, two Cranes flew over Mains of Tannachy (Portgordon) (STa) and it seems very likely that these were the same birds.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Very common resident breeder, winter visitor and migrant.

Breeding: First inland were 5 Cloddach quarry 21 Jan. In the Elgin area, singles in February on 6th, 14th and 22nd, and 4 Mar - two pairs at the Community Centre on 8 Mar. On the nesting platform at Loch Spynie, 2 on 4 & 14 Mar. At nearby Scarffbanks, 6 on 4 Mar. Two's were at Lhanbryde 28 Feb, Loch Oire area 5 Mar and Broadley 6 Mar. Also at Broadley, two pairs 17 Mar. Further inland and on higher ground, in the Aberlour area there was 1 on 22 Feb, 4 on 1 Mar and 15 on 2 Mar. At Ballantruan, 1 on 4 Mar, 14 on 9 Mar and 2 on 19 Mar.

Pre-breeding flocks included 45 on the Tyock playing fields (Elgin) 9 Mar, 56 Cloddach quarry 18 Apr and 26 Cabrach 22 May.

The only breeding activity recorded was a pair nesting at the rifle range at the Lein (Kingston), but this was predated by crows on 18 May (PGS). Also one pair nested beside the Tynet Chapel door but failed (PGS). Post-breeding assemblies in July were 15 Tomintoul 2nd (10 on 23rd) and 43 near Aberlour 16th.

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

Apr: 62 Lossie estuary 19th.

May: 47 Lossie estuary 17th.

Jul: 72 Lossie estuary 18th, 37 Kingston 20th and 50 past Tronach Head 29th.

Aug: 450 Findhorn Bay 3rd, 86 Lossie estuary 14th and 42 Cullen 27th.

Sep: 95 Lossie estuary 5th and 180 Findhorn Bay 26th.

Winter maxima at the coast were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	456	599	627	480
Findhorn Bay	678	400	610	280
Burghead-Hopeman	194	148	281	172
Lossiemouth	106	47	38	76
Portgordon-Strathlene	81	56	135	124

These counts are unusually low – 1992 was the last year in which no count at the Bars or in Findhorn Bay exceeded 1000.

In early July, an aberrant bird with dark grey or black plumage in lieu of white was present in the New Elgin area (CAG, DAG).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare visitor.

One adult was feeding on the east side of Findhorn Bay on 11-12 Sep (DAG, RHD, RP, MJHC et al.). This is the seventh record for Moray & Nairn. Apart from an old record in 1887, the others were all in the period 1969-1986.



Avocet, Findhorn Bay 11 Sep 2010 (Photo: Duncan Gibson).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius**Rare summer visitor and breeder.*

Records received this year from two areas, Speymouth and the mouth of the Findhorn.

On the lower Spey shingles, first of the year were 2 on 9 Apr (DMP). One pair subsequently bred and raised two young (MJHC). At nearby Dallachy tip pool, a pair on 21 May and a single on 30 May – no birds were present on subsequent visits (MJHC).

On the Findhorn, one (possibly two) at the river mouth 20-21 May (RHD).

This is the tenth year that this species has been present in Moray & Nairn since the first record in 1996.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula**Scarce resident breeder and very common migrant.*

Breeding: At the Lein (Kingston), one pair arrived 27 Mar, clutch of four completed 24 May, three chicks hatched 17 June but only survived about a week (PGS). A pair with three chicks on Lossiemouth west beach 16 Aug (DAG).

Winter maxima at the coast were:

	Jan-Feb	Nov-Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	1	6
Findhorn Bay	13	nc
Kinloss	31	35
Burghead-Hopeman	12	1
Lossiemouth	14	10
Portgordon-Strathlene	6	18

Spring passage (April-early June):

Findhorn area: in May, peak of 156 on 1st-2nd, 45 on 11th, 35 on 16th and 61 on the 31st.

Lossiemouth: seventeen records of fluctuating numbers between 1 Apr-17 May, max. 37 on 30 Apr.

Speymouth: fluctuating numbers here also, with twelve records between 2 Apr-7 Jun, peak 90 on 26 May.

The peak passage period appeared to differ between these three locations with both Findhorn and Lossiemouth peaking at the end of Apr into early May but Speymouth not until late May.

Autumn passage (July – September):

No periods of peak passage clearly evident - counts of ten or more were 10 Kingston 20 Jul, 23 Burghead 8 Aug, and at Lossiemouth 20 on 16 Aug, 14 on 21 Aug and 42 on 10 Sep. Maximum in Findhorn Bay was 50 on 19 Sep.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus**Scarce summer visitor and breeder.*

On 5 Jun in the Cairngorms, one calling at Coire Raibert and one heard above Lairig an Laoigh (IFr).

Golden Plover *Charadrius apricaria**Common breeder, migrant and winter visitor.*

Breeding: Only two records received from the breeding grounds - one on the summit of Carn Maol (Boath) 10 Apr (LSc) and a flock of 20 on Ben Rinnes 22 Aug (AE).

In April, 140 (in breeding plumage) Netherton (Findhorn Bay) 7th and 217 Kinloss 22nd.

At the coast in summer, one in full breeding plumage Lossie estuary 8 Jul.

Inland in October, 1 Whitewreath 6th and 31 Ben Aigan 25th (GG).

Winter coastal maxima were:

	Jan	Feb	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kinloss	89	nc	nc	25	120	120
Burghead/Hopeman	4	17	nc	0	nc	5
Findhorn Bay	30	0	90	1	32	0

The only other count in excess of ten during this period was 18 near Portgordon 5 Dec.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Scarce autumn migrant and winter visitor.

A poor year with birds at the usual localities but in very low numbers. At Culbin Bar, 11 on 17 Jan and 14 Feb, and 5 on 24 Oct. At Nairn Bar, 4 on 17 Jan, 3 on 14 Feb, 8 on 14 Oct and 2 on 15 Dec. Also 2 in the Bars area on 26 Sept. Findhorn Bay held 2 on 1 Oct. Elsewhere, 1 Burghead 20 Feb. At Tugnet, one between 11-14 Apr. At Lossie estuary, one juvenile 27 Aug-13 Sep and another juvenile on 2-3 Oct.

The maximum count of only 11 is lowest for at least 25 years.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Very common migrant breeder, small numbers in winter.

Breeding: after the severe weather, early up-country were 7 Achmore (Glen Rinnes) 12 Feb. Elsewhere inland was a flock of 12 at the Haugh (Aberlour) 22 Feb, in the Ballantruan area were 4 on 9 Mar and one on 19 Mar. Fifteen Clunas reservoir 10 Apr included one on a nest with one cold egg and another sitting. Also in April, 10 Loch Kirkaldy 12th and 3 Montgrew 26th. There was an assumed pre-breeding assembly of 27 at Cabrach 11 May. At Overton, an adult with a brood of four on 11 Jun.

In the coastal fringe, three pairs Netherton 1 Mar. Ten other records in single figures received from potential breeding habitat in the coastal plain between 4 Mar-4 Jun, including display at Hardmuir 11 Apr.

A post breeding flock of 23 Loch Kirkaldy 13 Jul. Still remaining up-country were 3 Tervieside 7 Aug and a late 8 Feith Musach (Tomintoul) 26 Oct. In the lowlands, the Kingston/Tugnet area held 27 on 20 Jul, 30 on 31 Aug, 34 on 3 Sep and 37 on 22 Sep. Elsewhere, 40 Loch Oire area 1 Sep, 52 Loch Spynie 9 Sep (rising to 100 on 26 Sep), c180 Drainie 23 Sep and 90 Strathlene 24 Oct.

Mid winter numbers were extremely low with only three records exceeding ten birds - 30 Findhorn Bay 17 Jan, 12 Roseisle 17 Jan and 63 Spynie canal 8 Feb.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter maxima were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	2400	240	180	nc	210
Findhorn Bay	0	1500	60	1800	15
Lossiemouth	0	180	0	0	1

Outwith these locations there were notable counts of 700 Nairn 19 Jan and 1200 near the caravan park at Burghead 8 Feb.

Counts of 20 or more in other months were 29 Findhorn Bay 21 Jul, 23 Kingston 3 Sep and 100+ Findhorn Bay 8 Sep.

Unusually, no spring records were received.

A bird in breeding plumage on the Lossie estuary during 14-23 Jun was unusual – the date is very early for a failed breeder returning from the Arctic.



Knot in breeding plumage, Lossie estuary June 2010 (Photo: Margaret Sharpe).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Scarce migrant and fairly common but very localised winter visitor.

Monthly maxima at the two best sites were:

Winter-spring:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
Nairn/Culbin Bars	154	131	nc	56	nc
Lossiemouth	31	1	0	0	5

Late summer-autumn:

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	22	nc	92	8	nc	118
Lossiemouth	c150	60	60	39	24	38

Outwith these locations were 52 on the Lossie Forest shore opposite Boar's Head Rock area 13 Apr.

Autumn passage illustrated with returning flocks of 22 Culbin Bar 20 Jul, 22 Findhorn Bay on 21 Jul and c.150 feeding on the shoreline of Lossiemouth east beach 25 Jul.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Scarce migrant, mostly in autumn.

One spring record, of a single bird at Kingston 26 May (MJHC). In autumn, 2 Lossie estuary 11 Sep (CAG, HF, DAG) and 2 (possibly the same birds) Kingston 12 Sep (DAG). Lastly, 1 Lossie estuary 9 Oct (DAG).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea**Scarce autumn migrant.*

As in 2009, a poor year with few records: 2 juveniles Findhorn Bay 10-12 Aug (AJL, RP, RHD, DAG), 1 Kingston 3 Sep (MJHC), 1 Lossie estuary 9-12 Sep (RP, HF) and another single there 27 Sep (DAG).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima**Common winter visitor.*

Main winter site maxima were:

	Jan-Mar	Oct-Dec
Burghead-Hopeman	29	6
Lossiemouth	c120	27
Portgordon-Strathlene	28	66

During April, 6 Nairn on 7th and c.40 Lossiemouth north pier on 17th. Last in spring were 4 Hopeman 8 May and first returning were 7 Lossiemouth 14 Sep.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina**Scarce breeder, very common migrant and winter visitor.*

Breeding: No records received from potential breeding grounds.

Winter monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	1360	221	7	nc	460
Findhorn Bay	c200	1250	1100	200	85
Lossiemouth	190	17	24	21	215

A sizable flock of 200 were resting near the harbour at Nairn 31 Dec.

The timing of spring passage was not clear from the data received. However, maximum counts from late April until the end of June were: 20 Lossiemouth 30 Apr, 184 Findhorn Bay 1 May and 56 Kingston 26 May.

Autumn passage (Jul-Sep):

Findhorn Bay: 63 on 3 Aug, 26 on 26 Aug, 12 on 8 Sep and a peak of 234 on the 11 Sep.

Lossie estuary: 24 records received of which 14 were in single figures. Monthly maxima were 17 on 31 Jul, 26 on 21 Aug and 57 on 26 Sep.

Kingston/Tugnet: 40 on 11 Jul, 19 on 22 Jul, 24 on 27 Jul, 14 on 3 Sep and 6 on 22 Sep.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax**Scarce autumn migrant, rare in spring.*

During autumn migration: at Lossie estuary, 1 on 7 Aug (DAG), 1 on 30 Aug (HF), 2 (juvenile male and female) 4 Sep (RP) and 1 on 10 Sep (MJHC). In Findhorn Bay, 1 on 26 Aug (AJL) and 4 on 11-12 Sep at Netherton (RHD, KLG). At Nairn, 1 on 11 Oct (MJHC) was the latest since a single bird on 1 Nov at Lossiemouth in 1999.

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

As in 2009, a poor year with few records of this (probably) much overlooked species.

Winter-spring: 1 Kinloss 10 Feb (AJL) and one on the salt marsh on the east side of Findhorn Bay on 16 Feb (ISS).

Autumn-winter: Single birds at Kingsteps 24 Oct and 5 Dec (DCJ) and 2 Findhorn Bay 3 Dec (AJL).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Common breeder and migrant.

Breeding: 5 Loch of Boath area 10 Apr, 2 Aldunie (Cabrach) 22 May and drumming heard Feith Musach (Tomintoul) 15 Jun.

Winter-spring: At the coast there were twenty-one records received from Nairn in the west to Porttannachy in the east. Severe weather caused the appearance of birds in areas where they are seldom seen such as Tescos in Buckie, Clochan, Tyock Industrial Estate, Lossie estuary, Nairn rocky shore and a Forres garden where 2 were killed by a cat on 5 Jan. Counts exceeding ten were 14 Lossiemouth golf course 8 Jan, 15 Kingston 3 Feb and 38 Kingsteps/Nairn Bar 14 Feb.

Autumn-winter: First were 4 Kingston 20 Jul. Highest subsequent counts were 27 Kingston 2 Sep and 60 Kingsteps/Nairn Bar 24 Oct. Cold weather at the end of the year again caused problems for Snipe, forcing 6 to feed on the fringe of Lossie estuary on 27 Nov. Notable near Clochan, where Snipe are unusual, were 7 on 28 Nov and 1-2 on four other dates in late November-December. Further inland, at Aberlour, there were three at a spring in a snow covered field between 6-9 Dec.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Common resident breeder, scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding: Roding birds recorded at Sanquhar woods (Forres) 8 Apr and Newbold wood (Forres) 25 May.

Up-country at Delavorar (near Tomintoul) there were three on 15 Jun.

Winter: Woodcock were driven to more exposed locations during the severe winter weather during January and February. There were forty-four records received during these months, twenty-seven at or near the coast and another seventeen still within the coastal plain. Unfortunately some of these records highlighted the effect of the severe weather, approximately twelve were found dead around Findhorn, Culbin and the Newbold wood (Forres) areas in early Jan (ISS), others found dead at the Lein (Kingston) during Jan (PGS). Other remains were found at Cullen 10 Feb and in Lossie Forest 28 Feb (MJHC). During these months counts of live birds that exceeded three were 6 Roseisle Forest 10 Jan, 4 Tugnet also 10 Jan, 9 near Loch Spynie 11 Jan (also 6 there 17 Jan) and 4 Nairn Bar 17 Jan. Unusual locations for Woodcock included built-up areas of Elgin and Lhanbryde, Lossie estuary and Portknockie harbour.

In autumn, 2 near the old railway line outside Lossiemouth on 10 Oct.

In the second winter period, there were eleven records of one's, two's and three's during Nov-Dec. Again, freezing conditions forced Woodcock into unfamiliar habitats e.g. 1 in a Lossiemouth garden 2 Dec, 2 in a Burghead garden 3 Dec and 2 Culbin Bar 5 Dec.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Scarce migrant.

Winter: Two records of single birds, at Findhorn Bay 11 Jan (RHD) and Lossie estuary 10 Feb (CAG).

Spring: At Loch Spynie 11 flew over on 17 Apr (CAG). Good numbers in Findhorn Bay included 72 on 22 Apr (AJL), 6 on 25 Apr (RHD), 18 on 28 Apr (RP) and finally 4 on 1 May (RHD).

Autumn: On 9 Jul, a flock of c40 flew over Loch Spynie and a short while later there were 28 at the nearby Lossie estuary, presumably part of the Loch Spynie flock (DAG). Inland at Montgrew, 5 on 25 Jul (WMM). In Findhorn Bay, 2 on 8 Aug (DWh) and 25 Aug (RHD), and, in September, 4 on 5th, 1 on 11th (DAG), 6 on 12th (AJL), 5 on 13th (RHD) and 3 on 24th (DGD). Elsewhere, 1 Kingston 22 Aug (RP).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Very 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	107	107	nc	nc	84	nc	48
Findhorn Bay	40	26	43	7	18	nc	0
Burghead-Hopeman	26	100	nc	1	0	nc	c80
Lossiemouth	6	4	8	2	1	nc	7

Another poor year of low counts. Back in the winters of 1992-93, 1993-94, 1995-96 and 1996-97 maximum numbers at the Bars exceeded 1000.

Elsewhere, 64 Nairn 23 Jan and 64 there again 28 Sep.

Last in spring was 1 Lossie estuary 17 Apr and first in autumn was 1 Lossie estuary 21 Aug.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce migrant.

Spring: First on passage on 22 Apr when 1 Covesea and 5 preening and bathing at Lossie estuary. Seven in Findhorn Bay on 27-28 Apr and 2 on the river at Garmouth 30 Apr. During May, 1 Findhorn Bay 7th, 3 Hopeman 8th, 2 Burghead 11th and 1 Kingston 18th. The only June record was 2 Kingston on 7th.

Autumn: Extreme dates of passage from 8 Jul until a late single bird at Findhorn Bay 24 Oct. Twenty-two records were received during this period but numbers were small – 47 in total with 10 Findhorn Bay 24 Aug being the largest flock.

The totals recorded during autumn migration during the past ten years are listed below.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Autumn total	78	136	147	104	160	116	53	81	50	47

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Common breeder. Very common migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding: One early bird well inland at Lyne (Strath Avon) 10 Feb. Later, 1 Achnatone 28 Mar. In April, 8 Loch of Boath 10th and 1 Loch Kirkaldy 12th. In May, 12 Cabrach on 22nd.

In spring, lowland flocks of 10 or more were 10 Porttannachy 6 Mar, 43 Easter Colfield 3 Apr, 31 Cloddach quarry 18 Apr, 26 Tugnet 19 Apr and 64 Scarffbanks 22 Apr.

In late summer/autumn, fourteen records of 10 or more during July-September. Flocks of 50 or more were 51 Tugnet 2 Aug, 210 Findhorn Bay 16 Aug, 98 Buckpool 31 Aug, 150 Kingston 3 Sep, 110 Lossie estuary 10 Sep, 50 Kingston 12 Sep, 78 Lossie estuary 12 Sep and 75 Loch Spynie area 26 Sep.

Coastal winter maxima were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	319	145	167	118
Findhorn Bay	410	116	156	185
Burghead-Hopeman	1	26	96	26
Lossiemouth	113	190	12	1
Portgordon-Strathlene	4	4	103	17

Elsewhere, 150 Spynie canal/Ardivot area 8 Feb and 15 Feb.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus**Very scarce migrant.*

In Findhorn Bay, 1 on 3 Jan (RHD) and 1 on 17 Mar (PG). The January record is the first winter record in Moray & Nairn. It is possible that both records relate to the same over-wintering bird – conceivably the same as the bird at Nairn Bar on 4 Oct 2009.

Redshank *Tringa totanus**Scarce breeder, very common migrant and winter visitor.*

Breeding: The first activity noted was courtship display at Lossie estuary 17 Apr. Also a pair displaying near the Mosset Burn at Findhorn Bay 25 Apr. Confirmed breeding at Chapelton (Forres) where there was a pair with young on 21 May. At Kingston, a pair displaying and copulating 16 May and an anxious pair over the marsh in June strongly suggested the presence of chicks. The only record from up country was a single bird at Aldunie (Cabrach) 22 May.

Spring (March-early June): In the Lossiemouth area in March, 10 on 14th, 39 on 19th and 63 on 20th. During April, 35 on 3rd, 64 on 17th and a total of 308 on the 20th. At Nairn harbour, 40 on 1 Apr and 102 on 3 Apr. In Findhorn Bay, 500 on 25 Apr.

Late summer/autumn (July-September): Most records were from Lossie estuary where monthly maximum counts were 34 on 8 Jul, 39 on 14 Aug and 62 on 19 Sep. Highest counts were in Findhorn Bay where 300 on 2 Aug, 360 on 3 Aug, 300+ on 26 Aug and 256 on 8 Sep.

Winter: Monthly maxima at the coast were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars	242	158	86	176
Findhorn Bay	536	c.200	90	92
Burghead-Hopeman	15	57	10	16
Lossiemouth	7	53	88	33
Portgordon-Strathlene	39	51	54	50

Also 27 Burghead Bay 5 Dec.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia**Scarce migrant, very scarce in winter.*

Generally a poor year with only one record of more than one bird.

Winter: Two records from Findhorn Bay, on 18 Feb (RHD) and 17 Mar (PG). These records are likely to relate to a single over-wintering bird.

Spring (late March-June): 1 Cloddach quarry 4 Apr, 1 Burghead 17 Apr, 1 Lossie estuary 17 Apr, 1 Findhorn Bay 26 Apr and 1 Nether Dallachy tip 25 May.

Late summer-autumn (July-October):

Findhorn Bay: single birds (unless stated) in August on 8th, 12th and 25th (2) and in September on 5th, 12th, 19th and 28th Sep. Last was 1 on 10 Oct.

Lossie estuary: 1 on 28 Aug and 10 Sep.

Kingston/Tugnet: 1 on 20 Jul, 2 Sep and 12 Sep.

The only inland record was 1 Loch Spynie 15 Aug.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus**Very scarce migrant, occasional in winter.*

A typical year with a small number of records: 1 Burnside of Birnie 11 Jul (DAG), 1 Urquhart 16 Jul (EH), 1 Findhorn Bay 24 Aug (DWh), 1 Kingston 9 Sep (DJR), 1 Lossie estuary 11 Sep (CAG) and 1 Pittendreich 31 Oct (EH).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola**Very scarce migrant.*

One calling and behaving very actively on Lossie estuary in late afternoon and early evening of 9 Sep (DAG, HF, YW).



Wood Sandpiper, Lossie estuary 9 Sep 2010 (Photo: Duncan Gibson).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos**Summer visitor and common breeder.*

Arrival: First back, on typical dates, were single birds at Spey Bay and River Nairn on 17 Apr, and 2 Cloddach quarry 18 Apr.

Breeding: In the coastal plain, records from potential breeding habitat ranged from Findhorn Bay to Dallachy on the coast and inland from Howford bridge (Nairn) to Cloddach quarry. Breeding activity noted at Kingston where a seemingly territorial individual on 7 Jun and an anxious pair on 24 Jun. At Cloddach quarry, two birds and anxious behaviour on 13-20 Jun and 6 there 25 Jul. Up country, one displaying on pools at Lairig an Laoigh 5 Jun, 1 Glenlatterach 15 Jun and 1 near Chalcaidh quarry (Tomintoul) 8 Jul.

Late summer/autumn: 1 Loch Spynie 9 Jul. On the coast, at Kingston/Tugnet in July, minimum counts were 2 on 11th, 5 on 20th and 8 on 31st, the last record of the year. No doubt some later birds went unreported.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Common winter visitor, small numbers in summer.

Winter monthly maxima at main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Dec
Delnies - Nairn	26	0	12	25
Culbin Bar	8	0	43	0
Findhorn	12	0	0	0
Burghead-Hopeman	31	24	9	26
Lossiemouth	30	4	84	22
Portgordon-Strathlene	69	121	48	113

Also, 28 Findhorn 3 Mar.

Spring-early autumn:

April: At Nairn, 10 on 1st, 32 on the 3rd and 8 on 7th. At Tugnet, 3 on 11th and 8 on 14th.

May: 20 Nairn 2nd and 1 Hopeman 8th.

June: 1 Lossiemouth 30th.

July: no records

August: 1 Lossiemouth 1st and 7 on 8th.

September: 1 Lossie estuary 12th, 6 on 20th and 2 on 21st.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce migrant offshore in summer and autumn, rare in winter.

The annual total was of seven birds, an average year. No spring records were received this year.

In August, a single passed east off Strathlene on 28th (MJHC). In September, an adult was in Burghead Bay 21st (MJHC), four passed Lossiemouth on 23rd (DAG, RP) and a single adult with “spoons” passed Strathlene the same day (MJHC).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fairly common migrant in summer and autumn.

The annual total was 77 birds, an average year. Estimated monthly totals were:

Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
2	6	14	53	2

Spring: No records were received this year.

Summer: In June, singles off Lossiemouth 19th and 28th. July records comprised of 2 off Strathlene on 21st and 2 off Findhorn on 24th, and singles off Lossiemouth on 24th and 31st. August records were all late in the month, from Lossiemouth (5 birds on four dates), Burghead Bay (4 birds on two dates), a single bird off Burghead on 29th and 3 past Strathlene the same day.

Autumn: Peak counts were received in September, focussed on Lossiemouth with 47 birds past on nine dates, including the peak counts of the year of 11 on 7th, 9 on 16th and 9 on 24th (DAG, RP). Singles or twos were also seen from Burghead Bay and Strathlene during the month. In October, what could have been the same lingering individual was off Burghead on 10th and 14th. This is the latest record in Moray & Nairn since 2 past Lossiemouth 3 Nov 2007.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua**Scarce migrant in summer and autumn.*

The annual total was 110 individuals, allowing for duplication – the best year in Moray & Nairn since 2007. Estimated monthly totals were:

Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
5	11	16	76	2

Spring: There were no spring records, mirroring the situation with the other skuas in Moray & Nairn this year.

Summer: Both summer records were off Lossiemouth in June with five birds on two dates from mid-month. In July, ten birds on four dates were logged from Lossiemouth with the only other record being one from Tugnet (Spey Bay) on the last day of the month. In August, records centred around Lossiemouth with nine birds on seven dates, including one attacking and eating a juvenile Herring Gull on the estuary on 7th (DAG). Elsewhere, 2 off Findhorn 16th and 5 off Strathlene 29th.

Autumn: Sightings in September again focussed on Lossiemouth with 70 birds passing on eight dates, including the peak counts of the year of 16 on both 16th and 17th, and 24 on 23rd (DAG, RP). Other birds in September were singles off Findhorn on 19th and Strathlene on 23rd, with four past the latter site the following day (MJHC). Finally, in October, two birds were off Lossiemouth on 24th (DAG), the latest record in the districts since one off Roseisle 14 Nov 2002.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla**Common breeder and very common migrant.*

Breeding: 535 Apparently Occupied Nests (AON) at Covesea 20 Jun (MJHC) was an increase from 2009 and is the largest colony in Moray & Nairn, while 355 AON at Portknockie 25 Jun was a slight increase from 2009. Numbers of AON in the past 10 years at these colonies are as follows:

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Covesea	386	369	347	397	302	437	474	420	468	535
Portknockie	118	110	122	109	158	246	238	263	332	355

Passage counts offshore were poor this year, with the only count above 100 being 153 past Lossiemouth 19 Jul. Three other counts of 50 or more were from Lossiemouth and Burghead in September.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus**Very common resident breeder and winter visitor.*

Breeding: At Loch Spynie, 14 pairs nested on the platform (MJHC, RP) with first hatching noted on 25 May. No success was reported at this site. Elsewhere, 15-20 pairs were at Loch Noir, Altyre 22 Jun (JKC). There were nine flock counts in excess of 250 birds in both winter periods, around Loch Spynie, Myreside pig farm and Findhorn Bay. Counts above 500 were all at Loch Spynie with c.950 on 20 Feb (c.500 the following day) and c.500 on 19 Dec.

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

Only one individual recorded this year, an immature bird in Burghead Bay 5 Aug (AJL). No birds in the Garmouth/Spey Bay area in late spring/early summer, breaking the run of records in this area since 2005.

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

After two blank years in 2008 and 2009, two individuals were found in 2010 - a 1st winter bird at Nairn 25 Jan (MJHC), and another 1st winter bird in the southern area of Findhorn Bay 19 Sep (DP, AJL, DAG). These are the 19th-20th records for Moray & Nairn.

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

Breeding: Approximately 350 birds were visible at Tips of Corsemaul colony 21 May and some 200 birds were dispersed over the Hill of Macklea colony at Glass 21 May (IFr) although there was no indication of success at either site. At the Beinn a' Chruinnich (Lecht) colony there were approximately 500 flying adults 29 Jun, with many chicks present (IFr).

In Elgin, breeding was only reported from Elgin cemetery, with 20 pairs noted 26 May (RP). Eight nests were located, of which five held clutches of between 1-3 eggs.

Elsewhere, a pair nested on the Tynet chapel chimney in late May, a brood of three was noted at Kingston Lein although this brood later failed and four birds were possibly nesting at Bellie cemetery 29 Apr. Negative news came from Glenlatterach reservoir where there was no sign of any nests.

Flock counts in excess of 500 away from breeding areas were recorded in both winter periods. In the first winter these comprised c.750 Myreside pig farm 3 Jan, c.1000 at the same site 10 Jan, c.600 Kinloss 9 Feb (with 800+ there three days later) and c.800 Loch Spynie 20 Feb where there were c.1500 the following day (JDL) – the highest count of the year. In the second winter period, c.500 Myreside pig farm on 20 & 26 Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus**Summer visitor and fairly common breeder. Very scarce in winter.*

Wintering: Recorded in both winter periods. One on Lossie estuary 2-3 Jan was considered to be the same individual recorded in late 2010 at this site (DAG). An adult was at Nairn 25 Jan and another adult at Loch Spynie 7 Feb. An adult at Nairn golf course 21 Feb could either relate to the earlier wintering individual or an early returning bird. In the second winter period, an adult was on the Lossie estuary 20-21 Dec – conceivably a returning overwintering individual at this site.

Arrival: Other than likely wintering birds, the first report was of 1 Lossiemouth 3 Mar, with regular sightings around the Lossiemouth area thereafter in the first weeks of March, and also at Forres, Kingston, Loch Oire and Portknockie.

Breeding: No breeding data were submitted for Moray & Nairn this year.

The only counts over 50 this year were at Lossie estuary, where 76 on 28 May and 77 on 6 Jun.

A bird of the race *L.f.intermedius* was on the Lossie estuary 27-28 Mar (RP). An individual considered to be possibly of this race was at Loch na Bo 19 Oct (MJHC).

A number of probable hybrid gulls, assumed to be of Lesser Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull parentage were seen on the Lossie estuary between March and June, and again in September (see Yellow-legged Gull section). These include likely returning birds from previous years.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus**Very common resident breeder and winter visitor.*

Breeding: Most reports of breeding were in urban Elgin, with nesting noted at Academy Street, Blane Place at Bishopmill, Jehovah's Witness hall roof in Linkwood, Land Street, and Moycroft (50 birds on industrial roofs) (RP). Elsewhere, two pairs bred at Buckie high school (MJHC).

Monthly maximum counts on the Lossie estuary were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
c.1500	125	27	150	977	688	c.700	422	352	c.400	569	c.300

Counts over 1500 were noted in both winter periods - in the first winter period *c.*2000 Myreside pig farm 10 Jan, *c.*2500 Loch Spynie 20 Feb (*c.*1500 the following day) and *c.*7000 Nairn golf course 21 Feb (RP), probably the highest count ever recorded in Moray & Nairn. In the second winter period *c.*3000 were at Myreside pig farm 20 Dec with *c.*2000 there 26 Dec.

A number of probable hybrid gulls, assumed to be of Lesser Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull parentage were seen on the Lossie estuary between March and June, and again in September (see Yellow-legged Gull section). These include likely returning birds from previous years.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Rare visitor.

A confusing situation with a number of hybrid individuals resembling this species present on the Lossie estuary intermittently in March-June, and again in September. These individuals present a pitfall in trying to identify Yellow-legged Gull in the districts. This was first described in the 2007 MNBR.

A returning adult (with the twisted right leg) resembling this species was seen in April and September at the Lossie estuary (DAG, RP). What is likely to be a separate two individuals were also recorded on the Lossie estuary in March to June and September (RP), with an adult (without a twisted right leg) and a near-adult involved. This is a conservative estimate and further separate individuals may be involved.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Very scarce winter visitor.

As always with this species, duplication is impossible to discount fully as mobile individuals around the coastal strip may account for more than one sighting. A reasonable year with perhaps seven or more individuals were recorded.

All records came from the first winter period. What was presumably the regular adult was present around Loch Spynie and the Lossie estuary from 2009 until 12 Apr (DAG et al). A 2nd winter bird was at Loch Spynie 5 Feb (MJHC) and an immature (of an unspecified age) on the Lossie estuary 4 Apr (DJR) was likely to have been another different individual.

In the Lhanbryde/Urquhart/Loch Oire area, an adult and an immature bird (of an unspecified age) were recorded on a number of occasions between mid February and late March (EH).

Elsewhere, a 2nd winter was at Nairn 25 Jan (MJHC), a 3rd winter at Tippetait (near Garmouth) 28 Jan (RHD) and the final record of the year was a probable 3rd winter at Tugnet 12 Apr (DAG), perhaps the same individual as near Garmouth in late January.



Iceland Gull adult, Lossie estuary 3 Feb 2010 (Photo: David Devonport).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Very scarce winter visitor.

As with Iceland Gull, a tricky series of sightings and duplication is impossible to discount fully. A reasonable year, with probably seven individuals being responsible for these sightings.

In the first winter period, a juvenile was on the Lossie estuary between 2-4 Jan and was also recorded at Loch Spynie on 30 Jan (DAG). Around the Spey Bay/Kingston/Tugnet complex, an adult was recorded 26 Jan (CAG) and a 2nd winter on five dates between late January and early April (MJHC, RHD, RP). A 2nd winter bird (perhaps the Spey Bay individual?) was on the Lossie estuary 12 Apr (DD).

A bird of an unspecified age was at Lossiemouth west beach 14 Mar (AJL) although this may relate to one of the above birds.

In the late spring/summer months, a 3rd winter was on the Lossie estuary 15 May with a juvenile present 23 May (DAG). A 1st summer bird on 22 Jun had a distinctive misshapen lower mandible which distinguished it as a further new individual (DAG).

In late summer/early autumn, a 2nd summer was at Tugnet 2 Aug (MJHC) with a 3rd winter at the same site 18-19 Sep perhaps the same individual (DAG). It or another 3rd winter was again in Spey Bay 13 Nov (DAG).



Glaucous Gull 2nd winter, Lossie estuary 12 Apr 2010 (Photo: David Devonport).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Scarce resident breeder and common visitor.

Breeding: The only reports of breeding were of a pair on Gow's castle (Covesea) 22 Apr, three apparent pairs on Bow Fiddle Rock (Portknockie) on 25 Jun (one with a brood), a nest on a stack at Tronach Head 26 Jun (MJHC) and a pair on the Masonic Hall on James Street, Lossiemouth 3 Aug (RP).

Counts above 100 were 140 Kingston 20 Jul, 192 Lossie estuary 19 Sep, 150 on the skerries at Strathlene 24 Sep and 120 Lossie estuary 3 Oct. At the Lossie estuary, the usual late summer build up was noted.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Very scarce summer visitor and rare breeder.

Breeding: Site 3 – Disappointingly, no breeding was attempted at this site which suffers heavily from disturbance and from high tides. Birds were present from 5 May when the peak of five birds was reported (MSh). Last there were an adult with a juvenile on 16 Aug – but the juvenile was not considered to have been raised locally (DAG).

Site 4 – One on 13 & 16 May (CAG, DAG), but no further records until 1 adult on 27 Jul (MJHC).

Black Tern *Chilidonias niger*

Very scarce visitor in summer and autumn.

The second consecutive year of sightings for this graceful marsh tern. One juvenile lingered for at least 15 minutes off Lossiemouth on 15 Sep (DAG) and another juvenile flew west past Lossiemouth on 23 Sep (RP).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Very common summer visitor and occasional breeder.

Arrival: The first records of the year were 2 off Burghead 25 Mar and 2 off Nairn the following day. First arrival dates in the last ten years have been as follows:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
28 Mar	24 Mar	26 Mar	28 Mar	1 Apr	1 Apr	31 Mar	3 Apr	22 Mar	25 Mar

The main series of arrivals followed from the first week of April onwards, when birds were widely spread along the coast.

Breeding: No breeding records in Moray & Nairn again this year; the species last bred in 2005.

There were eight counts of 50 or more birds in the late summer months as birds moved into the Moray Firth to feed. Counts over 100 were *c.*200 Findhorn Bay 25 Jul and 24 Aug, and 134 Lossie estuary 2 Sep.

Juveniles began to be logged along the coast from early July onwards. Two juveniles ringed at the Sands of Forvie colony in Aberdeenshire in June 2010 were at Lossiemouth 10 Sep, and indicated the likely origin of many of these birds.

Last sighting of the year was one off Nairn harbour 12 Oct, a typical departure date.



Sandwich Terns, Lossie estuary 10 Sep 2010. Colour-ringed birds, from Sands of Forvie, can be seen (Photo: Margaret Sharpe).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer visitor and fairly common breeder.

Arrival: One on the River Spey at Fochabers 23 Apr with 2 Loch Spynie 24 Apr. Numbers at the latter site built up to 8 by 1 May. All other arrivals were into May.

Breeding: At Loch Spynie, there were 14 nests on the platforms on 31 May (MJHC). Six large young may have fledged but there were several deserted nests on the platform in mid June (CAG, DAG). About 20 adults were in the Arctic Tern colony at Garmouth viaduct – there was no evidence of breeding though a few

pairs may well have done so. Ten juveniles were noted at the mouth of the Spey in late July but it is not clear whether these birds were of local provenance.

Peak counts were c.40 Loch Spynie throughout the breeding period and 59 Tugnet 22 Jul (MJHC). Noted regularly from seawatches off Lossiemouth, the peak passage being 55 west in one hour on 17 Sep (RP).

Inland: Single adults were on the River Spey at Aberlour on three dates in May and on 4 Jul. An adult and a juvenile were there on 11 Jul – but it is not known where the juvenile was raised (AE). Two flew over Cloddach quarry on 26 Jun (DAG).

Last of the year were three off Nairn harbour 6 Oct.

Roseate Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Rare vagrant.

An adult was on the river shingles at Garmouth on 7 Jun (MJHC) and nearby, at the mouth of the Spey, the following day (CAG) – it was not seen again and there was no suggestion of breeding. The most recent records were in 2008 and 1986.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer visitor and common but local breeder.

Arrival: First returning birds were 2 off Lossie Forest 16 Apr.

Breeding: 100-150 pairs nested at RAF Kinloss but no young were reared (AJL). A minimum of 20 nests was counted on the Spey shingles at Garmouth viaduct but there were c200 adults on 24 Jun and there may have been more nests concealed among rank vegetation on the island where the colony bred. Success was poor although at least 10 young were reared (MJHC). A few pairs arrived on the foreshore west of Boar's Head Rock but no colony was established (DAG).

Last of the year were 12 Burghead Bay 9 Sep (AJL).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Very common offshore.

Once again there was no suggestion of the first breeding of this species in Moray & Nairn. At least one was on the sea off Portknockie 25 Jun in suitable habitat.

Counts were generally low in 2010, with only four reaching double figures. In the first winter period, 11 were off Nairn 25 Jan, and in September seawatches from Lossiemouth produced 10 on 15th, 58 on 23rd and 24 on 24th. 'Hundreds' of auk sp. off Burghead 24 Sep were unassigned to species and could have been Guillemot or Razorbill.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Very common offshore.

Breeding: Since the first breeding of this species in the districts in 2003, it has bred annually with 2010 being the eighth year in succession. On 25 Jun there were 26 adults ashore on the cliffs at Portknockie, with a minimum of eight occupied sites - at least one site having a chick present (MJHC). There were also 49 other auks (nearly all Razorbills) on the sea.

Away from Portknockie, the only double figure counts were in late summer/early autumn with 45 Burghead Bay 2 Aug and 12 Findhorn 11 Sep. A 30-minute seawatch from Strathlene on 23 Sep produced 140 auks, mostly flying east, the majority of which were Razorbills.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Scarce offshore, rare breeder.

Breeding: At Tronach Head, 16 were around the base of the cliffs in the early morning of 12 Apr, and three nests were located 26 Jun with a single chick in the traditional crevice 29 Jul confirming breeding success at this site (MJHC). At Portknockie there were at least two nests located 25 Jun (MJHC), with 22 birds on the sea at this site on 12 Apr.

At other times, away from breeding areas birds, were seen off Burghead, Findhorn, Lossiemouth and Strathlene with 13 records throughout the year at these sites. The majority of records were in winter/spring and late summer onwards. No counts above three were received.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Scarce offshore.

A poor year with only four birds recorded. All records were in September with one west past Lossiemouth 17th, one west and one east past Lossiemouth 23rd (RP) and one east past Strathlene 23rd (MJHC). After just one record in 2009 and five in 2008 this species has become very scarce, and/or under-recorded in the Moray & Nairn.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Very common resident breeder.

The only counts exceeding 100 were 180 Bow Fiddle Rock (Portknockie) 10 Feb and 120 on Buckie shipyard roof 17 Jan.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Scarce resident breeder, formerly common.

Breeding season: Records in the period late March-July included 2 Buckie 24 Apr, 2 males calling Dunphail 1 Jun, 2 displaying in Convent grounds Elgin 7 May, up to 5 Kinloss Jun-Jul, 1 near Loch Oire 3 Jun, 3 Macbeth's Hillock 12 Jun, 2 Moss of Barmuckity 3 May, 2 Myreside pig farm 28 May, 1 Nether Birnie 4 Apr and up to 4 Scarffbanks Mar-Apr.

Autumn/winter records from additional localities were 1 Bankhead (Brodie) 5 Dec and 6 Philaxdale (Duffus) 21 Oct.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Very common resident breeder.

Breeding: Young still in a late nest Covesea 14 Oct.

Largest flocks reported were 3000 Milltown airfield 18 Nov, 450 Clochan 5 Feb, 400 Dunphail 24 Jan increasing to 1000 by 15 Feb, 150 Howford bridge, 100 Achmatone 12 Mar, 100 Nairn 12 Mar. At Findhorn, 70 flew west in 30 minutes on 7 Jan.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common resident breeder.

Numerous in Clochan where 15 on 5 Jan and 22 on 26 Feb. No other reports exceeded ten – 8 Kinloss 17 Jan was the best.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Arrival: 1 Tazie (Ben Aigan) 25-26 Apr was the only April report.

Subsequently seen or heard at Blairs Home Farm (Altyre), Cabrach (2), Dava Way (3), Drynachan, Dunphail, Glen Gheallaidh (2), Glenlatterach, Kinloss and Sluie.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Scarce resident breeder.

The severe cold of the 2009-2010 winter clearly had a drastic effect on Barn Owls in Moray & Nairn.

Breeding: Not a single record of potentially breeding Barn Owls was received for the April-July period. The number of occupied breeding-season localities reported in each of the past 10 years has been:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
8	13	15	11	13	21	10	9	5	0

At other times of year, reports came from Archiestown, Clochan, Covesea, Duffus, Forres, Kinloss, Lower Hempriggs, Nether Blairrock, Overton, Pitgaveny and Roseisle - again, a big fall in the number of reports.

The total number of localities from which Barn Owls were reported (at any time of year) since 2003 is:

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
33	31	27	31	21	40	20	11

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident breeder.

Fewer reports than usual but there is no consistent data from which significant conclusions might be drawn. A recently fledged brood of 3 young was in a large Alder tree in Glen Gheallaidh, in the moors below Roy's Hill.

One was flying around Fochabers Lake in the afternoon of 24 May.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Scarce resident breeder.

Breeding: Confirmed by the presence of calling young at Balormie 27 Jun (MJHC), Inverchor (near Tomintoul) 28 May (MMac) and Tappoch (Roseisle) 27 Jun (MJHC).

Otherwise, 1 Findhorn Bay 9 Mar (RHD) was the only report.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Rare breeder and very scarce migrant.

Breeding: Present in breeding habitat in April-June in two south Moray localities (JKC, MJHC).

At other times, 1 Findhorn Bay 3 Jan (AJL) and 2 Scarffbanks 21 Feb (RHD).

Swift *Apus apus*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Arrival: First was 1 Loch Spynie 22 Apr (RP) – exceeded only by 19 Apr 2004. No others in 2010 until Rothes 2 May and Spynie canal 3 May.

Largest congregations of feeding birds were *c.*50 flying low over vegetation in cool, rainy weather near Spynie Palace 13 Jun, 20-30 over Elgin on several dates, 27 Kinloss 28 Jul, 25 over Lossiemouth 5 Aug, 25 Scarffbanks 26 May and 20 Rothes 24 Jul.

Last of the year, in September, were 2 Elgin 3rd, 1 Covesea lighthouse 8th, 1 Forres 10th, 1 Lossiemouth 10th and 1 Forres 19th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Very scarce visitor and occasional breeder.

The only reports were 1 Tugnet 20 Jan (PTu), 1 Lossie estuary 7 Feb (SJK), 1 Loch Spynie 6 Jun (per CAG), 1 River Lossie near Cooper Park 11 Sep (per CAG) and 1 on River Nairn near Nairn 19 Nov (per RPC). In truth we have very little idea of the status of Kingfishers in Moray & Nairn – perhaps we need more contact with ghillies and canoeists.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident breeder.

Breeding confirmed at Clochan, Kellas and Tanzie (Ben Aigan). Drumming at four other sites, and sightings reported at 13 further localities. A pure white bird, except for a red patch on the back of the crown, visited feeders at Auchenhalrig and Bogmoor during January (CSt,CC) – a similar bird was near Tugnet in June 2009.



Great Spotted Woodpecker (partial albino), Auchenhalrig January 2010 (Photo: Caroline Stickings).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Recorded from Braes of Enzie, Broomton, Clochan, Cloddach, Covesea lighthouse, Dava Way, Findhorn Bay, Golford, Grangehall, Kinloss, Lossiemouth, Muiry Wood (Forres), Nairn Bar, Nether Dallachy, Slackend and Windyridge. Largest groups were 7 Kinloss 21 Sep and 7 Nether Dallachy 28 Dec.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Scarce resident breeder.

Breeding season: April-Aug reports came from Califer Hill, Carron, Cloddymoss, Conicavel, Elgin oakwood, Glen Gheallaidh, Glenlatterach, Kinloss, Knock of Gownie, Loch Oire area, Loch Spynie, Lossie Forest and Wellheads (Clochan) where a newly fledged (almost flightless) juvenile was found on 4 Aug (JJne, MJHC).

At other seasons, Jays were seen at the following sites: Aberlour (Jan), Alves (Sep), Ardivot (Oct), Ben Aigan (Nov), Clashach Quarry (Oct), Clochan (Sep, Oct), Cloddach Quarry (Jan), College of Roseisle (Dec), Culbin Forest (Feb, Sep [in 4 localities]), Kinloss (Oct), Lakenbuie (Nov), Loch na Bo (Nov), Loch

Oire area (Jan, Sep, Dec), Loch Spynie (Mar, Oct), Roseisle Forest (Dec), Sanquhar (Forres) (Oct), Spynie Hospital (Elgin) (Oct), Tomdow (near Edinkillie) (Oct) and Whiteash Hill (Oct).
Largest groups were 7 Loch Spynie 4 Aug (RP) and 4 Sanquhar (Forres) 9-10 Oct (AJL, ISS).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident breeder.

On 18 Feb, 538 flew west over Portgordon between 1630-1700hrs – heading to roost (MJHC). Observations on subsequent days revealed westward movement through Buckie at around this time and it seems possible that the evening movement over Portgordon represents the whole Buckie population.

Counts of 50 or more elsewhere included 92 Glen Rinnes 12 Feb, 70 Loch of Boath 4 Feb, 60 Ballantruan 19 Mar, 52 Clochan 19 Jan and 50 Tomintoul 2 & 23 Jul.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common resident breeder.

Breeding: Nest building noted in Elgin from 1 Mar. 70 apparently occupied nests Knockando Parish Church 26 Mar and 10 nests near Mains of Clunas 10 Apr.

Few counts received – 2000 (which included Jackdaws) flying to roost over Fochabers 12 Feb, 250 Milltown of Edinville 9 Dec and 70 Nairn Bar 5 Dec were the only reports exceeding 50 birds.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Very common resident breeder.

Best monthly counts on the Lossie estuary were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
28	nc	79	49	54	nc	63	39	76	nc	nc	nc

Elsewhere, counts exceeding 20 were 97 Netherton (Findhorn Bay) 2 Aug (22 there 28 Apr), 63 Scarffbanks 26 Jan, 30 Nairn Bar 5 Dec, 27 Roseisle Forest 3 Apr and 21 Culbin Bar 17 Jan. One was gathering nest material in Elgin on 2 Mar.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Scarce visitor.

Hooded Crows or hybrids were seen on the Lossie estuary as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hooded	0	nc	1	1	0	nc	1	0	1	nc	nc	nc
Hybrid	2	nc	4	2	3	nc	2	6	4	nc	nc	nc

Other 'good' Hooded Crows: 2 Broomton 12 Jun, 1 Dallachy tip 21 May, 1 Findhorn 26 Sep, 2 Hardmuir 11 Feb, 1 Loch of Boath 4 Feb and 10 Apr, 1 near Loch Oire all year, 2 Macbeth's Hillock 24 Jan and 11 Apr, 2 Nairn 18 Jan (3 on 12 Mar), 2 Howford bridge 28 Mar, 2 (1 gathering nest material) Boghole Farm (Whitemire) 11 Apr, 9 Netherton (Findhorn Bay) 2 Aug (4 on 28 Apr), 1 Penick (Nairn) 23 May, 1 Roseisle Forest 3 Apr, 1 Scarffbanks 26 Jan and 1 Wellheads (Clochan) 3 Feb. Along the Nairn and Culbin Bars were 4 on 17 Jan, 6 on 14 Feb, 1 on 26 Sep, 2 on 24 Oct and 7 on 5 Dec.

Hybrids were widely recorded. Best counts were 14 Nairn/Culbin Bars 5 Dec and 10 Netherton (Findhorn Bay) 2 Aug.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Scarce visitor, formerly widespread breeder.

Breeding: At the coast, one pair nested at Tronach Head and 5 young were close to fledging on 2 May (MJHC). Another pair was at Covesea in March-April but no evidence of breeding was found (JKC, MJHC). Sightings are now frequent in the Moray uplands – the following records being only a snapshot of the situation: 2 Auchmair (Cabrach) 13 Dec, 1 Ballantruan 19 Mar, 1 Ben Rinnes 12 Feb, 1 Brig o' Brown 27 May, 3 Carn Biorach 24 Apr, 1 Cook's Cairn 23 Feb, 10 flying over Glen Rinnes towards Corryhabbie 12 Feb, 4 Lecht 15 Jun, 12 Reidh Lean (Cromdales) 2 Mar and 2 Succoth (Glen Rinnes) 12 Feb. In Nairn, 2 Loch of Boath 10 Apr. At the coast, 1 Burghead 14 Nov.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Very common resident breeder and scarce migrant.

Small numbers regular on the Nairn/Culbin Bars where 4 on 17 Jan, 3 on 14 Feb and 2 on 24 Oct.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Very common resident breeder.

Nest boxes:

	Pairs	Mean clutch	Mean fledged brood (all pairs)	Mean fledged brood (successful pairs only)
Loch Spynie	21	9.5	8.8	8.8

(RP, CAG)

An excellent year at Loch Spynie with very large clutches and excellent fledging success. This was confirmed by the results from ringing at the 'Constant Effort Site', where the number of juveniles caught per adult was 4.4, up from 1.4 in 2009 (RP).

Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common resident breeder.

First song Pitgaveny 5 Feb and Lein (Kingston) 12 Feb.

Nest boxes:

	Pairs	Mean clutch	Mean fledged brood (all pairs)	Mean fledged brood (successful pairs only)
Loch Spynie	8	7.8	6.8	7.7

(RP, CAG)

A successful year at Loch Spynie, which is also reflected in results from ringing at the 'Constant Effort Site' where the number of juveniles caught per adult was 2.0, up from 0.8 in 2009 (RP).

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Breeding: Only one nest box occupied in Lossie Forest – the clutch of 7 eggs all hatched and 7 young fledged on 30/31 May (MJHC).

Widespread in Culbin Forest where birds were heard in eight different locations along the seaward edge of the forest on 26 Sep (MJHC). In lower density and 'fringe' areas, 1 Blairs Home Farm (Altyre) 8 Jun, 1 Dunearn Burn (Darnaway) 3 Sep, 1 Loch of Boath 4 Feb and 10 Apr, 1 Loch Oire area 25 May, 1 Loch Spynie 28-29 Dec (6th record for Loch Spynie), 2 Roseisle Forest 21 Sep and 1 Speymouth Forest 8 Mar.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater**Very common resident breeder.*

First song heard Garmouth viaduct 10 Jan and Rothes Glen 28 Jan.

Nest boxes:

	Pairs	Mean clutch	Mean fledged brood (all pairs)	Mean fledged brood (successful pairs only)
Loch Spynie	2	9.0	8.5	8.5

(RP, CAG)

Largest flocks reported were 16 Loch of Boath 4 Feb and 14 Kinloss 22 Jan.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus**Rare breeder.*

As in 2009, no records were received from Loch Spynie reedbeds and it does indeed appear that the small population that has persisted there since 1998 has been lost.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis**Common breeder and migrant.*

First song Spynie canal 8 Feb and Lossiemouth east beach dunes 11 Feb.

During severe cold weather in early January, 45 were on the Lossie estuary on 3rd and this had risen to c100 by 6th (RP, DAG). Cold weather movement noted at Findhorn where 203 flew west in 30 minutes on 7 Jan (RHD). Other counts at this time included 45 Kinloss 5 Jan (and 32 on 8 Jan) and 14 Tugnet 10 Jan.

In cold weather in the second winter period, 60 Roseisle 27 Nov.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia**Summer visitor and common breeder.*Arrival: In late March, 3 Loch Spynie 24th and 20 Loch na Bo 28th. Not numerous until mid April. Large numbers fed low over the water at Loch Spynie; 200-250 were estimated on 19th & 22nd Apr and 3 May.

First arrival dates over the last 10 years have been:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2 Apr	26 Mar	25 Mar	18 Mar	20 Mar	31 Mar	29 Mar	31 Mar	21 Mar	24 Mar

As usual in recent years, the largest colony was at Quarry Pool (on River Spey, near Fochabers) where there were 770 reasonably intact holes on 27 Jul (MJHC). It is impossible to be sure with any degree of precision how many of these burrows are occupied but the colony is undoubtedly an extremely large one. Counts of apparently occupied burrows elsewhere included 80 Cloddach Quarry, 30 Clashach Quarry and 12 Milltown (Cabrach).

Counts of 20 or more birds (away from Loch Spynie and breeding colonies) were 300 Chapelton (Forres) 8 May, 60 Dallachy tip pool 6 May, 25 Burghead 17 Apr, 20 Cooper Park (Elgin) in wet and windy weather 20 Apr, 20 Nairn 24 Apr, 20 Spey Bay 22 May and 20 Kingston 3 May.

Last of the year were 2 Roseisle 21 Sep.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica**Summer visitor and very common breeder.*

Arrival: First were 3 Loch Spynie 5 Apr and 1 Tugnet 9 Apr. Five other localities saw 'firsts' during 11-14 Apr.

Arrival dates (first record of the year) over the last 10 years are as follows:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
19 Apr	24 Mar	1 Apr	3 Apr	4 Apr	2 Apr	13 Apr	5 Apr	3 Apr	5 Apr

Breeding: In the Lhanbryde barn, three pairs raised two broods each. Mean clutch size of the first broods was 4.7 eggs and of the second brood was 5.3 eggs. Remarkably, all eggs resulted in fledged young (RP). Counts exceeding 50 at autumn gatherings prior to migration were 110 Conicavel 29 Sep, 80 Kinloss 2 Sep, 60 Balnacoul 21 Sep and 50 Clochan 19 Sep. In October, 3 Muir of Lochs 3rd, 2 Kinloss 8th, 2 Clochan 8th, 4 Delnabo (Tomintoul) 9th, 3 Portknockie 13th, 2 Covesea lighthouse 14th, 10 Tazie (Ben Aigan) 16th and 1 Conicavel 17th. Last of the year was 1 Muirton 5 Nov.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

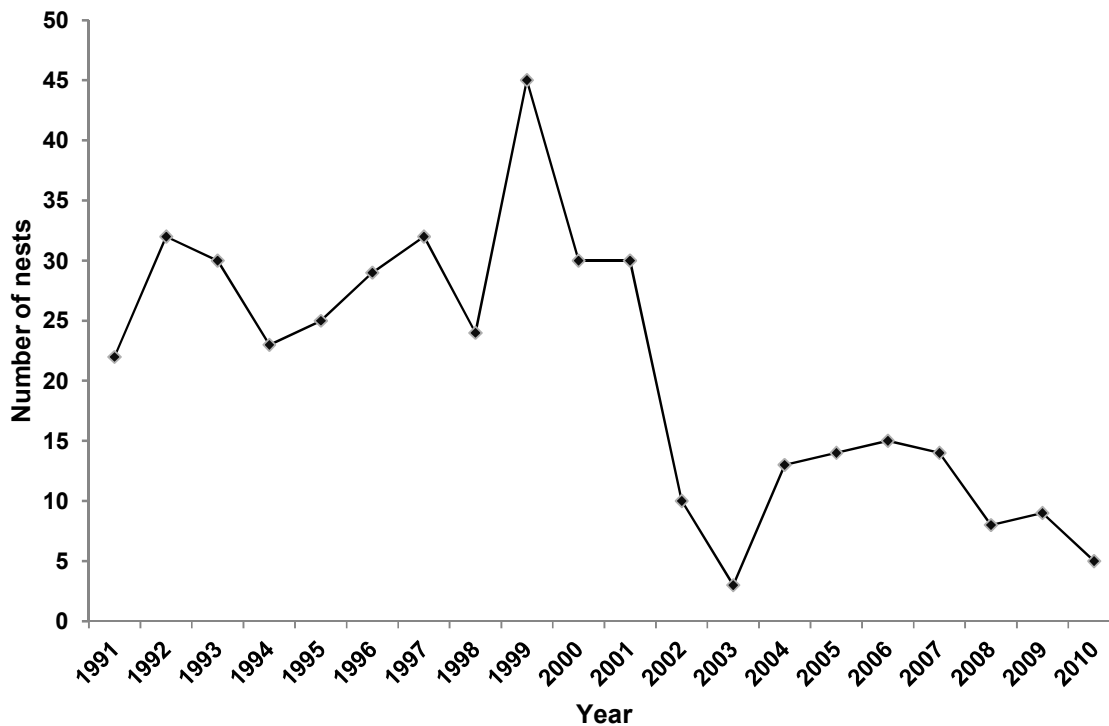
Arrival: An early return - first was 1 Burghead 11 Apr. Next were 1 Lossiemouth 13 Apr, 2 Portknockie 14 Apr, 3 Cloddach quarry 18 Apr and 1 Portgordon 19 Apr.

Arrival dates (first bird) over the last 10 years have been:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
26 Apr	22 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr	17 Apr	14 Apr	5 Apr	11 Apr

Breeding: Counts of occupied nests included 5 Buckie High School 15 Jul, 9 Delnabo Lodge (Tomintoul) 15 Jun, 4 Rothes Police Station 24 Jul and 2 Portknockie seacliffs 25 June.

The number of nests in the Buckie High School colony has fluctuated over the last 20 years as follows:



Although not consistent, the trend is undoubtedly downwards.

Largest gatherings were in late summer/autumn, prior to migration, when 260 Kinloss 2 Sep (200 there 19 & 27 Aug and still 100 on 22 Sep), 190 Clochan 26 Aug, 60 Bishopmill (Elgin) 14 Aug and 60 Waterford (Forres) 20 Sep. In Buckie, young from a very late nest fledged on 28 Sep – so 2 Conicavel 29 Sep are unlikely to have been the last birds of the year.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Very common resident breeder.

The only reports of 10 or more were 14 Forres 12 Jan, 10 Loch na Bo 24 Jan, 10 Dunphail 9 Feb and 10 Nairn 22 Nov.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus collybita*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder. Scarce migrant and rare winter visitor.

No records received for 2010. This was despite several breeding season visits to previously occupied sites, including Kellas oakwood, Glenlatterach and Cawdor Wood, where no song was heard (MJHC).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder. Scarce migrant and rare winter visitor.

Arrival: In March, singing birds were located at Loch na Bo 26th and Muiry Wood (Forres) 27th (3 there on 29th).

Subsequently, singers were found at Califer Hill, Cloddymoss (2), Culbin Forest (2), Dallachy tip (2), Dallas Dhu, Forres (2), Garmouth viaduct (2), Gladhill, Kellas oakwood, Kinloss, Lakenbuie, Lein (Kingston), Loch na Bo (4), Loch Oire, Loch Spynie, Lossie Forest (2), Manachie (Forres), Monahoudie Moss (Archiestown), Muiry Wood (Forres) (3), Mulben (2), Newbold Wood (Forres) (2), River Findhorn near Forres (2), Roseisle Forest, Sanquhar (Forres), Sluie walk, Stonehouse (Teindland) and Stoneyford (Rafford). Breeding evidence only from Lein (Kingston) where one was carrying feathers on 7 May (PGS).

Autumn: In September, 7 (5 ringed) Clochan 1st-22nd, 1 Loch Oire 13th and 1 Manachie (Forres) 16th & 19th. In October, 7 (4 ringed) Clochan 3rd-9th and 1 there 20th, 1 Dunphail 15th.

Winter: 1 Elgin (near Asda) 8-9 Dec (HBr) and 1 Loch Spynie, feeding among cut reeds, 12 Dec (DAG).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Summer visitor and very common breeder.

Arrival: The first records, in April, were singles at Newforres Wood on 10th, Muiry Wood (Forres) and Nairn on 11th, and Alves and Kinloss on 12th.

Along the 5.5km stretch of old railway line between Dufftown-Craigellachie, 40 singing birds were counted on 28 May (MJHC). Previous counts in recent years were 31 in 2007 (20 May), 19 in 2008 (10 May) and 58 in 2009 (23 May). Reasons for the wide variations, with counts being undertaken by the same observer on similar dates and in the same conditions of timing and weather, are unclear.

Results from ringing at the 'Constant Effort Site' at Loch Spynie have shown a fall in the number of juveniles caught per adult from 3.5 in 2008 to 2.1 in 2009 and 1.9 in 2010 (RP).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

January-March: 1 female Elgin 1 Jan, 1 male Kingston 12-13 Jan, 1 female Clochan 13 Feb, 1 male Loch Spynie 18 Feb and 1 Forres Jan-Mar.

Spring/summer: Singing birds (singles unless stated) were found at Aberlour (2), Altnaglander, Bellie cemetery (Fochabers) (2), Bishopmill (Elgin) (2), Boghole Farm (Brodie), Brodie Castle pond, Brodieshill, Cawdor Wood (3), Cloddymoss, Clovenside Cemetery (Forres), Cooper Park (Elgin), Dava Way (5), Dufftown-Craigellachie old railway line (7), Dunphail (2), Elgin oakwood, Forres (Grant Park and St Johns

manse garden), Glenallachie, Glenlatterach (3), Glenshiel (Whitemire), Kellas oakwood (2), Kinermony, Kingston, Loch Loy, Loch na Bo (2), Loch Oire, Loch Spynie (4), Millbuies, Moy House, Nairn, Nairn-Howford bridge (2), River Findhorn near Forres (4), Sanquhar (Forres) (3), South Lesmurdie (Elgin), Tugnet-Garmouth viaduct (2), Waterford (Forres) and Whitemire (2).

Autumn: 4 ringed Clochan 1-9 Sep, 1 Portknockie 11 & 13 Oct and 1 Covesea lighthouse 14 Oct.

Late November/December: 1 male Lossiemouth 27 Dec.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder.

Singing birds were found at Dufftown-Craigellachie old railway line, River Findhorn near Forres, Sleepieshill, Spynie canal and Tomnavoulin.

Later, 1 Loch Spynie 15 Aug and 1 Portknockie 9 Sep.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Rare visitor and occasional breeder.

1 Rafford 3-7 Jan (A&JMcG, RHD, RP). This bird, which visited garden bird tables during snowy weather, appeared to belong to one of the central Asian races, showing characteristics of *S. c. halimodendri*. This is the second winter record of Lesser Whitethroat in Moray & Nairn, after one spent the 2006-07 winter at Carsehill near Alves.





Lesser Whitethroat, Rafford 3-7 Jan 2010 (all photos: Andrew McGavin).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis**Summer visitor and common breeder.*

Arrival: First, in song on 27 Apr, were 1 Burghead and 1 Wards (Elgin).

Later reports included 6 Burghead-Cummingston 8 May and 3 Califer Hill 16 May.

Last of the year was 1 Strathlene 8-9 Sep.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia**Summer visitor and scarce breeder.*

Records of singing birds (max. at each site) were 3 Inchberry 1 Jun (AY), 5 near Keith 1 Jun (AY), 2 Muldearie 27 Apr (WMM), 4 Spynie canal 30 Apr (MJHC) and a late singer at Cullen on 8 Aug (LSi).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus**Summer visitor and common breeder.*

Arrival: First, and the only April record, were several singing Spynie canal 29 Apr. First song Lein (Kingston) 1 May.

At the 'Constant Effort Site' in the north-east fen at Loch Spynie the number of juveniles caught per adult was 1.9, down from 3.2 recorded in 2009 (RP).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus**Irruptive winter visitor, scarce in most years but occasionally common.*

Winter-spring: After a blank autumn in 2009, very few were recorded in the second half of this winter period. In Elgin, 9 near the Leisure Centre 18 Jan, 5 Bishopmill 23 Feb and 3 at the bus station 27 Feb. Elsewhere, 1 Cullen 22-27 Feb.

Autumn-winter: First was 1 Duffus 16-18 Oct and then 22 Burghead 21 Oct, followed by a rapid influx over the next few days. The pattern of occurrence in 3-day periods (largest flock reported in each main locality) was as follows:

	Burghead	Hopeman	Lossiemouth	Forres	Nairn	Kinloss	Elgin
20-22 Oct	22	30	40				
23-25 Oct		30	24	100	30	150	
26-28 Oct		42	200	100		150	100
29-31 Oct			30	200			80
1-3 Nov				60		16	
4-6 Nov							
7-9 Nov					145		10
10-12 Nov					56		25
13-15 Nov					91		
16-18 Nov				50	40		

In less favoured localities: 22 Oct – 22 Roseisle, 23 Oct – 20 Duffus, 24 Oct – 52 Culbin Bar (in 3 flocks in off the sea of which one flock landed on the bar) and 20 Cummingston, 25 Oct – 20 Scarffbanks, 30 Oct – 1 Findhorn and 50 Tarras, 1 Nov – 6 Bailliesland, 30 Dunphail and 20 Loch Spynie, 4 Nov – 60 Alves and 70 Ardye, 5 Nov – 32 Alves, 11 Nov – 3 Aberlour, 2 Conicavel and 50 Tarras, 13 Nov – 16 Mosstodloch.

Most birds had moved through by mid November. The only reports after 18 Nov were 20 Urquhart 22 Nov, 20 Tarras 22 Nov, 1 Forres 24 Nov and 2 Cothill (Nairn) 5 Dec.



Waxwing, Alves 4 Nov 2010 (Photo: Tony Backx).



Waxwings, Forres 31 Oct 2010 (Photo: Karen Guthrie).



Waxwings, Forres 29 Oct 2010 (Photo: Karen Guthrie).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Very common resident breeder.

A pair reared 2 young in a shed in a Forres garden, and a newly-fledged brood was in Kellas oakwood on 31 May. Counts included 6 Nairn-Howford bridge 28 Mar and 5 Urquhart area 9 Jun.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident breeder.

The population has been substantially reduced by very cold and snowy weather during winter 2009-10. Only 14 birds were singing along the 5.5km section of the old railway line between Craigellachie and Dufftown on 28 May, compared with 36 in May 2008 and 30 in May 2009 (MJHC).

The proportion of juveniles to adults trapped at Loch Spynie 'Constant Effort Site' was 2.5 (RP).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common resident breeder and winter visitor.

Nestboxes: Only two out of 10 boxes at Clochan were occupied. Both were successful and mean brood size at fledging was 4.0.

Flocks of 500 or more (away from roosts) were 1200 Nairn pig farm 14 Feb and 800 Cruats Farm (Portknockie) 13 Oct.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Common resident breeder.

Breeding proved on the Spey at Garmouth viaduct, the River Lossie in Elgin (under the Lossiemouth road bridge) and under Jubilee Bridge in Nairn. Best count was 6 on the River Nairn between Nairn and Howford bridge on 28 Mar and 17 Apr.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder.

One near the summit of Ben Rinnes on 22 Aug (AE) was the only record received.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Very common resident breeder, winter visitor and migrant.

Breeding: A male carrying food in Elgin cemetery on the early date of 12 Apr. Unusual behaviour at Manachie (Forres) where a brood of five young were fed in the nest by two males and a female – the young fledged successfully (ISS). 10 singing males along a 5.5km section of the old railway line between Dufftown and Craigellachie on 28 May (MJHC).

Counts of 10 or more included 21 Dunphail 1 Jan, 11 Elgin 1 Jan, 15 Covesea lighthouse 14 Oct, 15 Nairn cemetery 14 Nov, 15 Mosset Burn (Forres) 18 Nov, 25 Forres 21 Nov, 10 Kinloss 8 Dec and up to 15 in an Elgin garden in December.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Very common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter-spring: Flocks of 20 or more were 70 Forres 1 Jan, 48 Culbin Bar 17 Jan, 25 Loch of Boath 4 Feb, 20 Clochan 19 Feb, 22 flying high to the north Elgin 20 Mar and 22 Loch Spynie 5 Apr (also the last report of the spring).

Arrival: First birds of the autumn were small numbers at Dunphail on 15 Oct and Duffus on 16 Oct.

Autumn-winter: Generally only small numbers were seen – counts of 50 or more being 122 Culbin Bar 24 Oct, 100+ Loch Spynie 2 Nov and 200 Dunphail 7 Nov.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Very common breeder and migrant.

Mid winter: In January, 1 Burghead 1st, 1 Waterford (Forres) 1st, 1 Linkwood (Elgin) 4th, 1 Clochan 5th-29th, 1 Lhanbryde 6th, 1 Portgordon 9th, 2 Findhorn 10th, 2 Myreside pig farm 10th, 6 Tugnet 10th (7 there on 11th and 3 on 25th), 1 Buckie shipyard 17th, 1 Lossiemouth west beach 17th and 2 Porttannachy 19th. In December, 4 Nairn east beach in cold weather on 7th, 1 Clochan 12th & 23rd and 2 Bishopmill (Elgin) 25th. The birds on Nairn and Lossiemouth beaches were foraging among seaweed-covered rocks. In a later period of cold weather, 7 foraging at the road side Miltonhill 23 Feb.

First song of the year at Clochan 2 Feb and Kingston 7 Feb. 4 singing birds along a 5.5km section of the old railway line between Dufftown and Craigellachie 28 May (MJHC).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Very common migrant and winter visitor.

Winter-spring: As usual, small numbers during this period; 35 Findhorn 2 Jan, 22 River Findhorn near Forres 28 Feb and 24 Loch Spynie 8 Apr were the largest flocks reported.

Arrival: First were 5 Clochan 8 Oct and 1 South Darkland 9 Oct.

Autumn-winter: No large flocks reported. Counts of 20 or more included 27 Kinloss 20 Oct, 30 Forres 23 Oct and 24 Waterford (Forres) 31st.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident breeder and migrant.

Largest flocks were 30 Darnaway 10 Aug (20 there on 5 Aug), 7 Loch Kirkaldy 13 Jul and 8 Waterford (Forres) 13 Oct.

A partially albino bird was photographed in an Aberlour garden late in the year.



Mistle Thrush (partial albino), Speyside December 2010 (Photo: Shirley Milne).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Summer reports from Ballantruan, Burnside of Birnie, Cabrach, Loch Kirkaldy, River Divie and Sluie. Possible migrants in early autumn were 1 Clochan 9 Sep and 1 Lein (Kingston) 10 Sep.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident breeder and migrant.

Breeding: First full song Lein (Kingston) 10 Feb. Only five were singing in a 5.5km section of the old railway line between Craigellachie and Dufftown on 28 May (MJHC). The proportion of juveniles to adults trapped at Loch Spynie 'Constant Effort Site' was 5.7, up from 3.6 in 2009 (RP).

Often present on the Nairn/Culbin Bars where 2 on 17 Jan, 1 on 14 Feb and 6 on 24 Oct.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder. Very scarce migrant.

Breeding season: 2 singing Drynachan area 22 May (DAG) and 1 male Glen Gheallaidh 12 & 17 Jun (MJHC).

A very late migrant male was at Findhorn on 27 Oct (EB).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Summer visitor and scarce breeder. Very scarce migrant.

The only record was of a pair with two fledged young at Little Ardrone (near Keith) on 28 Jun (AY).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Scarce resident breeder and probable migrant.

The cold weather during the 2009-2010 winter took a toll on Stonechats and breeding numbers were substantially reduced. The only inland locality where birds were found was Dunearn Burn (Darnaway) where one was seen on 3 Sep. The coastal population fared a little better with birds present in the breeding season at Cullen, Findhorn, Kinloss, Kingston-Boar's Head Rock (4 pairs), Portknockie and Porttannachy-Tugnet (3 pairs).

Additional localities in autumn/winter were 1 Burghead 1 Jan, 2 Covesea lighthouse 14 Oct, 2 Hopeman 26 Oct, 1 Lossie estuary 1 Jan and 28 Feb, 1 Spynie canal 3 Jan and 3 Strathlene 13 Oct.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Summer visitor, fairly common migrant and local breeder.

Arrival: First back, at an inland breeding site, was 1 male Upper Howbog (Cabrach) 25 Mar. There were no March records at or near the coast, where passage was late with first records being 1 Brodieshill (Alves) 3 Apr and 1 Burghead 10 Apr. The only large coastal count was 22 Lossie estuary 25 Apr (RP). Of 7 birds at Findhorn on 22 Apr, 4 were probably of Greenland race (*O.o.leucorhoa*) (DMP). A poor spring passage at Kingston where 4 on 30 Apr was the maximum count.

Breeding: Birds were seen in likely breeding habitat at Auchlochan, Ben Rinnes, Cabrach and Shearleat (Drynachan). An interesting possible breeding at Lein (Kingston) where a female was seen in rocky habitat on 30 May and 6 Jun – but no male was seen (PGS).

Migrants were back at the coast from mid July when 2 Kinloss 20th. Largest groups were 3 Kinloss 12 Aug and 3 Lossie Forest shore 10 Sep. Last of the year were 1 Burghead 10 Oct, 2 Kingston 11 Oct, 1 Kinloss 12 Oct and 1 very late bird Lein (Kingston) 31 Oct.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident breeder.

First song (very briefly) Clochan 7 Jan. Newly fledged birds at Tanzie (Ben Aigan) on 24 May and 5 Jul, suggesting two broods. Also two pairs recorded raising two broods each at Forres. Highest counts of the year were 10 Covesea lighthouse 14 Oct and 7 Nairn Bar 24 Oct.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident breeder.

Flocks of 25 or more were 80 Nairn in late July, 30 Elgin 6 Aug and 25 Clochan 31 Jan.

Five at Aldunie (Cabrach) 22 May represent a very isolated colony.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Fairly common resident breeder.

Breeding: Confirmed at Clochan, Longmorn and Rafford. Birds present in the breeding season at Feddan (Brodie), Kilcluan (Lhanbryde) and in the Loch Oire area.

At other times, 22 Windyridge 8 Feb, 12 Lingieston 7 Nov, 11 Tugnet 11 Jan, 8 Gilston 19 Jan, 7 Clochan 9 Feb 1 Cruats Farm (Portknockie) 13 Oct.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Summer visitor and common breeder. Scarce in winter.

Breeding: 1 pair with young below the A96 Findhorn bridge near Forres 27 Jul.

Winter (December-February): 1 Mosset Burn near Forres 2 Jan and 1 Buckie harbour 17 Jan. Many fewer than usual, perhaps reflecting the colder winter weather.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Very common breeder and migrant.

On 2 Sep, c.170 went to roost on the St Giles Centre roof in central Elgin (RP). Other counts of 20 or more were 46 Strathlene 9 Sep and 30 Kingston 12 Sep.

Passage: A much more substantial passage than usual of 'White Wagtails' *M.a.alba* in spring. First, in April, were single birds at Netherton 7th (ISS), Lossiemouth 8th and Tugnet 11th. Most records came from Portgordon, Tugnet/Kingston and Lossiemouth, though the timing of peak numbers differed between these sites. At Tugnet, singles on 11-12 Apr, increasing to 15 on 14 Apr and still 10 on 24 Apr; thereafter, only 1 on 3 May and 6 May (MJHC, DAG, RP). At Portgordon harbour, 10 on 19 Apr, 9 on 23 Apr, falling to 3 on 24 Apr and 6 May (MJHC, RP). At Lossiemouth, mainly on the estuary, 1 on 8 Apr, 1 on 21 Apr, 2 on 25 Apr, 4 on 28 Apr and 13 on 29 Apr – in May, 6 at the west beach on 1st and 14 on the estuary on 5th-6th (RP, DAG). Additionally, elsewhere, 1 Covesea 24 Apr (RP), 14 Easter Coltfield 26 Apr (DMP), 1 Findhorn 26 Apr (DMP), 4 Burghead 27 Apr (HH) and 1 Burghead 1 May (IRC). Only one record in autumn, unusually inland where 1 Dunphail 30 Oct (RHD).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Summer visitor and common breeder.

Breeding: Singing males recorded at Cabrach, Conicavel, Delavorar (several), Drynachan area (several), Glen Gheallaidh (numerous along the glen), Mulben and Sluie.

1 Portknockie 9 Sep was a coastal migrant.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Very common breeder and migrant.

In mid winter, 2 Kinloss 5 Jan and 8 Nairn/Culbin Bars 17 Jan (and 7 on 14 Feb).

During a brief late spell of snowy weather, a large flock of 320 Meadow Pipits was in a relatively snow-free grass field at Arndilly on 30 Mar (MJHC). These birds had perhaps been forced off upland breeding sites by the weather conditions.

In the lowlands in autumn, counts of 10 or more included 15 flying east Lossie estuary 5 Sep, 16 Kinloss 20 Sep, 10 over Elgin 7 Oct, 34 Kinloss 11 Oct, 15 Burghead 11 Oct and 12 Culbin Bar 24 Oct.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Scarce breeder, fairly common in winter.

Breeding: 1 anxious adult on the shore at Covesea 25 Jul. On Lossiemouth north pier a pair were attacking a mink on 19 Jun – presumably indicative of a nest or young nearby.

Winter counts between Portgordon-Strathlene were 18 on 17 Jan, 13 on 14 Feb, 24 on 24 Oct and 12 on 6 Dec (MJHC). Elsewhere, 1 Nairn 31 Jan, 1 Nairn Bar 14 Feb, 4 Lossiemouth west beach 26 Sep, 2 Nairn Bar 24 Oct, 1 Burghead Bay 5 Dec and 1 Nairn harbour 7 Dec.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident breeder, migrant and winter visitor.

First song Kingston 10 Feb but not at Clochan until 6 Mar. On 28 May, 46 singing males were counted along c.5 km of the route of the old Dufftown-Craigellachie railway line (MJHC).

Productivity at Loch Spynie Constant Effort Site was measured at 0.4 juveniles/adult – up very slightly from 2009 (RP).

Counts of 50 or more were c200 Dallas Dhu (Forres) 25 Sep, 170 Clochan 25 Jan, 81 Cotterton 24 Jan, 70 Loch of Boath 4 Feb, 70 Nairn-Howford bridge 12 Mar and 50 Shenval (Edinville) 9 Dec.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant.

Spells of cold weather at each end of 2010 resulted in small numbers of Bramblings joining with Chaffinches at bird feeders in the gardens of many observers. Up to 5 birds visited gardens in Aberlour (Jan), Alves (Feb and Dec), Bishopmill (Dec), Bogmoor (Nov), Clochan (Jan, Mar, Nov and Dec), Conicavel (Dec), Elgin (Dec), Forres (Jan and Nov), South Darkland (Jan) and Shenval (Dec). Larger numbers were reported from gardens in Hopeman (max. 8 on 24 Dec [PTH]) and Lossiemouth (max. 15 on 19 Dec in one garden [HF] and max. 15 on 26 Dec in another [JWat]).

Flocks in the countryside included 50 Elgin oakwood 12 Jan (CAG), 17 on the marsh between Culbin Forest and Nairn Bar 5 Dec (DCJ) and 6 Loch Spynie 8 Nov (CAG). Other records included 1-2 at Covesea lighthouse (Oct), Duffus (Nov), Dunphail (Feb and Nov), Lhanbryde (Jan), Loch Oire area (Jan), Nairn (Jan) and Urquhart (Jan).



Bramblings with Goldfinches at garden Niger feeder, Clochan 11 Jan 2010 (Photo: Martin Cook).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident breeder.

First song at Kingston 20 Feb and Clochan 6 Mar.

Flock counts included 50 Cruats Farm (Portknockie) 13 Oct, 10 Forres 1 Jan and 10 Findhorn Bay 26 Sep.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident breeder.

Newly-fledged young Lein (Kingston) 12 Jun. Flocks of 10 or more were 100 around the rivermouth at Findhorn Bay 5 Dec, c.100 around gardens near Elgin station 17 Feb, 65 Drainie (Lossiemouth) 23 Sep, 34 Clochan 25 Jan, 12 Kinloss 25 Aug and 12 Hopeman 23 Dec and 11 Forres 3 Dec.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Very common resident breeder and migrant.

Flocks of 20 or more were 300 in trees along River Findhorn near Forres 3 Jan, 50 in Alders beside River Lossie in Elgin 2 Jan, 35 at Niger feeders Clochan 30 Mar, 35 Mundole 27 Dec and 30 Nairn-Howford bridge 28 Mar. First juveniles at feeders Clochan 15 May, and Tantie (Ben Aigan) 21 May where present at feeders all summer with an influx noted in late November.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Very common resident breeder.

Highest flock counts were 200 Cruats Farm (Portknockie) 13 Oct, 200 Urquhart 4 Feb (24 there 5 Mar), 36 Culbin Bar 30 Sep (24 there 24 Oct), 34 Sanquhar (Forres) 23 Oct, 25 Findhorn Bay 4 Jan, 15 Kinloss 8 Jan, 15 Rafford 8 Jan, 10 Porttannachy 17 Jan and 10 Nairn Bar 24 Oct.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Scarce resident breeder, a few on the coast in winter.

As usual in winter, present in any numbers only around Findhorn Bay and the Bars. On the marsh inside Nairn Bar, 76 on 24 Oct and 27 on 5 Dec (DCJ). At Culbin Bar, 6 on 30 Sep (ISS) and also 6 Findhorn Bay 7 Jan (AJL). Elsewhere, 1 Nairn 17 Jan (RPr) and, unusual inland in winter, 1 Aberlour 3 Jan (AE).

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Common resident breeder and migrant.

Breeding season records from Bellandy (Glen Rinnes), Cabrach, Delavorar (Tomintoul), Loch of Boath and Loch Spynie.

Winter flocks of 10 or more included 20 Loch Oire 24 Nov, 16 Dallas Dhu 14 Nov, 15 by River Findhorn near Forres 28 Feb, 15 Sanquhar (Forres) 28 Nov, 13 Dava Way (between Forres and Dallas Dhu) 3 Jan and 10 Brodie 15 Jan (eating birch seed off the snow surface).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Common resident and irruptive migrant breeder.

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*

Probable common resident breeder.

Considered by the observers to be probable Common Crossbills were 8 Bادهach (Glen Rinnes) 12 Feb (MJHC), 9 flying west Covesea lighthouse 14 Oct (RP), 11 Loch of Boath 4 Feb (LSc) and 2 Sluie 3 Aug (RHH). Probable Scottish were 2 heavy-billed birds in Deer Park (Whiteash Hill Wood) on 8 Mar – though even the possibility of Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* could not be ruled out for these (MJHC).

Most reports were (sensibly) attributed to 'crossbill sp.' – counts of 10 or more were 24 Culbin Forest 17 Mar (18 there 12 Jun), 12 Lossie Forest 9 Apr and 12 Scarffbanks 11 Dec. Other localities included Loch of Boath, Conicavel, Elgin, Kinloss, Loch Spynie, Lossiemouth cemetery, Rothes Glen and Tomachar (Glen Rinnes).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula**Common resident breeder.*

Reports of 5 or more together were 15 Conicavel 15 Jan, 13 Lein (Kingston) 14 Jan (also 8 on 6 Jan), 9 Lossiemouth east beach 9 Jan, 8 River Findhorn near Forres 1 Jan, 6 Forres 3 Jan, 8 Kinloss 8 Jan (also 6 on 11 Mar and 5 Nov), 6 Bankhead (Brodie) 5 Dec, 6 Mosset Pond (Forres) 13 Feb and 5 Linkwood (Elgin) 11-12 Jan.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes**Rare visitor.*

In Aberlour, one was seen and photographed in the grounds of Aberlour House on two occasions about two weeks apart in mid April (WA). This, the 8th record for Moray & Nairn, and follows the presence of a Hawfinch in a nearby garden in Aberlour in April 2009. The coincidence seems remarkable but two lengthy subsequent visits to the area in late April 2010 failed to relocate any Hawfinches (MJHC).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis**Common winter visitor and rare breeder.*

Summer: Records from two Cairngorm localities in June.

First coastal records in autumn were 2 Kingston 4 Oct.

Winter: Best monthly counts at regular sites on the coast were:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nairn/Culbin Bars (& E.Nairn)	56 (17 th)	0	0	nc	107 (5 th)
Lossiemouth east beach	2 (3 rd)	18 (20 th)	5 (29 th)	20 (20 th)	6 (26 th)*

* 12 on Lossiemouth west beach 24 Dec.

Elsewhere, in the lowlands, 5 Burghead 7 Jan, 2 near Urquhart 15 Jan, 4 Ben Aigan 13 Nov and 15 Carse of Ardersier 5 Dec. In the uplands in winter, 4 Cairn Gorm 18 Feb.

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponicus**Rare visitor.*

In Glen Avon, 6 Inchroly 10 Nov (AMcN).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella**Very common resident breeder.*

Territorial in the breeding season were 10 Newforres Wood (Forres) 10 Apr. Noted as still singing widely in the Moray lowlands in late July when most other species were quiet.

Early in the year, in cold weather, a large flock assembled on stubbles in Clochan – 69 on 1 Feb and 161 on 4 Feb. Later, 22 there 27 Nov. Flocks of 10 or more elsewhere were 10 in a Forres garden 2 Jan, 35 Tugnet 10 Jan, 40 Porttannachy 17 Jan (20 there 6 Mar), 28 Nairn 17 Jan, 25 Gilston 19 Jan, 11 Tippertait 28 Jan, c.100 near Urquhart 3 & 23 Feb, 40 Windyridge 8 Feb and 70 near Delnies Wood (Nairn) 2 Apr.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus**Common resident breeder.*

Present in the breeding season at Ballandy (Glen Rinnes), Burnside of Birnie, Kinloss, Lein (Kingston), Loch Spynie, Milltown (Cabrach). The proportion of juveniles to adults trapped at Loch Spynie 'Constant Effort Site' was 0.8, down very slightly from 0.9 in 2009 (RP).

Autumn/winter groups included 40 Gilston 19 Jan, 7 Kinloss 12 Feb and 10 Porttannachy 6 Mar (7 there 17 Jan). At the coast, counts on the Nairn/Culbin Bars totalled 2 on 17 Jan, 8 on 24 Oct and 4 on 5 Dec.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Scarce resident breeder.

Singing birds were heard at Brandston (2), Porttannachy, Stonewells, Stynie Glebe and Spey Bay. Although a late winter/spring flock in the Clochan area has become usual in recent years, numbers in 2010 were exceptional; there were 24 on 22 Jan and, in February, 35 on 1st, 42 on 3rd, 77 on 6th, 108 on 8th, 59 on 13th and 79 on 18th. Still 57 on 4 Mar but much smaller numbers thereafter (MJHC). Accurate counts are possible due to the birds' habit of perching in the upper bare twigs of a few prominent trees. The flock of 108 is the largest recorded in Moray & Nairn for at least 30 years. Another large flock was at Tippetait (Garmouth) where 55 were counted on 28 Jan (RHD). Small groups included 4 Brodie 10 Feb and 4 Porttannachy 17 Jan.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO 2006 REPORT**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*

1 female Loch Spynie 21-26 Nov 2006 (RP, DAG, MJHC). This record has only recently been accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee, and becomes the first record of this North American species in Moray & Nairn.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO 2008 REPORT**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

The description of the ground nesting attempt should be amended to:

Unusually, a pair nested on the ground near Cummingston. The nest was at the edge of an arable field, in the longer vegetation close to the fence-line. The nearest trees for a possible tree-nesting attempt were only young conifers, but these were about 1km away, across other arable fields. At least two eggs were laid but the nest was predated (per RP).

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO 2009 REPORT**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Add: A pair carrying food was found at Little Ardrone near Keith, indicative of breeding here (AY).

RINGING REPORT 2010

BOB PROCTOR

Numbers of birds ringed in Moray & Nairn during 2010:

	FG*	Pullus	Total		FG*	Pullus	Total
Little Ringed Plover		2	2	Treecreeper	11		11
Common Gull		53	53	Starling	4	5	9
Woodpigeon	3		3	Blackbird	47		47
Great Spot. Woodpecker	2		2	Song Thrush	8		8
Jay	3		3	Robin	63		63
Blue Tit	158	191	349	Dunnock	22		22
Great Tit	75	57	132	House Sparrow	97		97
Crested Tit		7	7	Tree Sparrow	2		2
Coal Tit	12	17	29	Chaffinch	126		126
Swallow	1	40	41	Greenfinch	60		60
House Martin	1		1	Goldfinch	53		53
Long-tailed Tit	18		18	Siskin	355		355
Chiffchaff	10		10	Bullfinch	3		3
Willow Warbler	112		112	Reed Bunting	43		43
Sedge Warbler	54	2	56				
Grasshopper Warbler	1		3				
Blackcap	9		9	TOTALS	1385	374	1759
Garden Warbler	1		1				
Whitethroat	1		1				
Goldcrest	10		10				
Wren	20		20				

*FG=full grown

Recoveries in 2010

All ringing recoveries reported for 2010 are included in this section with the more interesting ones given in full. Information was supplied by M.J.H.Cook, H.Clark, D.Gibson, R.F.Hewitt, R.Proctor and from Highland Ringing Group bulletins. 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 m= 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

MUTE SWAN

U0717	8	180192	River Lossie, Lossiemouth	
	XF	090910	Inverness	64km

A typical short movement within the Moray Firth.

WHOOPER SWAN

B6U – Caught in 2006 at Anavatn, Jokuldalsheidi, Iceland and re-sighted on 30 Oct 2010 at Wester Milton.

In early February, a flock of Whooper Swans was present at Loch na Bo, with four rings read on the 11th:

3J34 – Caught in 1994 at Geldingavatn, Iceland and mainly wintering around Lough Foyle and Lough Beg. Occasional sightings have occurred at Portmahomack and Lower Gillock, Wick. Seen at Loch na Bo 27-28 Jan 2010. This individual was reported in the 2008-09 report, having wintered in Moray.

52V – Caught in 2003 at Anavatn, Iceland. Apart from one sighting at Welney, Norfolk, all other sightings have been around the Moray Firth.

C7T – Caught in 2006 at Martin Mere and seen there in 2007. There has been only one other sighting, at Lough Neigh, Eire.

J67 – Caught in 2005 at Langavatn, Iceland. This individual was seen at Wester Calcots on 28 Jan 2010. Previous sightings have been at Connagedale (Garmouth) in December 2007, Loch na Bo 9-10 Feb 2009 and Loch Spynie 11 Feb 2009.

Another influx of colour-ringed birds occurred in November when two were seen:

S3X – Caught in 2008 at Sandvatn, Iceland. This individual was seen at Salterhill (Lossiemouth) 11 Nov 2010. There have been no previous sightings in our area.

4CN – Caught in 1995 at Skagafjordur, Iceland. This individual was seen several times between 1996-98 at Lough Neagh and once at Strangford Lough in 1996. It was also seen Iceland during the breeding season in 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2006. This individual was seen at Mains of Moyness (Auldearn). There have been no previous sightings in our area.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

1408074	Adult m	161207	Loch of Lintrathen	
	+F shot	191010	Findhorn Bay	112 km

An interesting series of collar sightings relating to three Svalbard birds on their return migration in April:

N29 – Caught on 9 Apr 2009 at Vest Stadil Fjord, Denmark. This individual was seen at Coltfoot on 19 Apr 2010. Previous sightings have only been in Denmark.

H3S – Caught on 13 Apr 2005 at Vest Stadil Fjord, Denmark. This individual was seen at Coltfoot on 20 Apr 2010. Previous sightings have been at localities on the Continent, mainly in The Netherlands and Belgium

Y52 – Caught on 17 Mar 1998 at Vest Stadil Fjord, Denmark. This individual was seen at Findhorn Bay on 23 Apr 2010.

BRENT GOOSE (LIGHT-BELLIED)

An adult female ringed in south-west Iceland on 15 May 2007 was seen at the Lossie estuary on 12 Oct 2010. This individual has mainly been seen in Ireland, although in 2008 it was seen back in south-west Iceland.

CORMORANT

A total of four colour-ringed Cormorants from colonies in north-east Scotland were seen in Moray.

5245036	1	020609	Car Craig, Fife	
	VV	290809	Lossiemouth	188 km
	XL	281009	Lossie Forest	

SHAG

A typical selection of colour-ringed individuals from the Isle of May, however, a movement from further south involved:

1407246	Adult m	280609	Brownsman, Farne Islands	
		061209	Portknockie	244 km
		240110	Portknockie	

One chick from North Sutor was found dead in Burghead Bay.

RED KITE

GC18455	1m	170606	Monadh Mor, Black Isle	
	XF	260407	Tomintoul	68 km

Another individual needlessly poisoned.

PEREGRINE

GF37644	1f	230502	Ben Aigan	
	V	170410	Laiken Quarry, Nairn	40 km
GF37781	1f	060605	Ben Aigan	
	V	300410	near Huntly	20 km

OYSTERCATCHER

FA68472	8	261295	Lossiemouth	
	X	040610	RAF Lossiemouth	2 km

FA92866	7	250197	Findhorn Bay	
	VV	090410	Nupasveit, ICELAND	1171 km

FA92866 has been seen at this Icelandic site each year since 2002.

RINGED PLOVER

A colour-ringed male from the Cuaich Burn adjacent to the A9 was seen at the Lossie estuary on 18 Dec 2010. It was also seen on the estuary in 2009.

SANDERLING

B03834	?	210909	Asenko Village, GHANA	
	VV	27-280810	Lossiemouth east beach	

B03834 was still present at Esiamia, Ghana on 6 Jun 2010! It is only the third record for Britain of a Sanderling ringed in Ghana.

(Note: this is a correction to the 2009 Ringing Report where this record was included with an incorrect date for the Lossiemouth sighting).

KITTIWAKE

ET87994	8	150602	North Sutor	
	VV	290410	Covesea	34 km

BLACK-HEADED GULL

EG09390	1	310504	Sand Holm, Orkney	
	VV	020210	Cullen	149 km

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

4227616	1	110707	Hummerholmen, Vest-Agder, NORWAY	
(J3H5)	VV	081107	Figueira da Foz, Coimbra, PORTUGAL	
	VV	011009	Tavira salt pans, Faro, PORTUGAL	
	VV	080510	Rauna, Vest-Agder, NORWAY	
	VV	220510	Lossie estuary	624km

This is the first confirmed sighting in Moray & Nairn of a Lesser Black-backed Gull of race *L. f. intermedius*.

FA83984 (Blue 550) was re-sighted at the Lossie estuary (28 May and 10 Jun 2010) having spent the winter (10 Nov to 19 Dec 2009) around Grundons landfill site in Gloucestershire.

HERRING GULL

ES006630	1	090798	Kandalakshskiy, Murmansk, RUSSIA	
(K811)	VV	191210	Lossie estuary	2082 km

GN87535	?	270310	Pitsea landfill site, Essex	
	VV	050610	Lossie estuary	

K811 returned to the Lossie estuary following sightings in 2004, 2007 and 2009.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Movements over 150 km included:

394811	1	120609	Hornoya, Vardo, NORWAY	
	VV	170410	Lossie estuary	2143 km

Several colour-ringed Great Black-backed Gulls from various Cathness colonies were seen in Moray. The majority were seen at the Lossie estuary, though individuals were also seen at the Bow Fiddle Rock, Portknockie.

WOODPIGEON

FP64145	4	080110	Keith	
	+F shot	140810	Drum Farm, Keith	2 km

SWALLOW

T236437	3m	010904	Loch of Blairs	
	V	100507	Inverarnie (Strathnairn)	
	V	100609	Inverarnie	
	X car	120510	Inverarnie	39 km

WILLOW WARBLER

BKP003	4m	200407	South Walney, Cumbria	
	V	090510	Loch Spynie CES	404 km

This individual returned for another breeding season.

SEDGE WARBLER

X731153	3	050909	Icklesham	
	V	200510	Loch Spynie CES	794 km

STARLING

CT36394	6m	280104	Bishopmill, Elgin	
	XF	200410	Bishopmill, Elgin	
CT36437	6m	260204	Bishopmill, Elgin	
	XF	160110	Miltonduff	5 km

HOUSE SPARROW

TL04051	4m	160909	Conicavel, near Forres	
	XF	170610	Conicavel, near Forres	Local

WHITE WAGTAIL (*M.a.alba*)

X455798	4m	120909	Slapton Ley NNR, Devon	
	VV	190410	Portgordon	

CHAFFINCH

An individual was found dead locally in Keith one year after ringing.

GREENFINCH

TP62140	3f	240809	Keith	
	X	100410	Roehill, Grange	5 km

TP62285	3f	271209	Keith	
	X	180710	Lyne of Skene	52 km

SISKIN

X279987	5m	250409	Bin Forest	
	X	240710	Ardoch, Whitebridge	104 km

X330681	5m	220209	Brandon, Suffolk	
	XF	280510	Mulben	612 km

LESSER REDPOLL

X482993	5	070309	Berkhamsted	
	V	060310	Dyke, Forres	679 km

COMMON CROSSBILL

NW31364	6m	270909	Fetteresso Forest	
	X car	240410	near Dufftown	62 km

GRID REFERENCES OF LOCALITIES MENTIONED IN THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS
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Aberlour	NJ2642	Bellie cemetery	NJ3561
Achnatone	NH9149	Ben Aigan	NJ3048
Achmore	NJ2631	Ben Macdui	NN9999
Ailnack	NJ1414	Ben Main	NJ3535
Aitnoch	NH9839	Ben Rinnes	NJ2435
Allaburn	NJ1961	Berryburn	NJ0545
Aldivalloch	NJ3626	Bin of Cullen	NJ4764
Aldunie	NJ3626	Binn Hill	NJ3065
Altnaglander	NJ1628	Binns	NJ3164
Altyre Woods	NJ0253	Binsness	NJ0362
Alves	NJ1362	Birchfield	NJ1614
Archiestown	NJ2344	Bishopmill	NJ2163
Ardelach	NH9545	Blackhillock	NJ2044
Ardgye	NJ1563	Blacksboat	NJ1838
Ardivot	NJ2267	Blackwater Lodge	NJ3328
Arndilly	NJ2848	Blinkbonnie	NJ3365
Arthur's Bridge	NJ2567	Boar's Head Rock	NJ2867
Auchenhalrig	NJ3761	Boat o' Brig	NJ3251
Auchindoun Castle	NJ3437	Boath	NH9155
Auchinhandoch	NJ3338	Boghole	NJ9655
Auchlochan	NJ0241	Bogmoor	NJ3562
Auchmair	NJ3828	Boldow	NJ1740
Auchnarrow	NJ2123	Bow Fiddle Rock	NJ4968
Auchroisk	NJ3351	Braes of Enzie	NJ3959
Auchtertyre	NJ1858	Braidbog	NJ4963
Auldearn	NH9155	Brandston	NJ2865
		Bridge of Avon	NJ1835
Badchean	NJ3532	Bridge of Brown	NJ1220
Badentinan	NJ2957	Bridgend	NJ3731
Bailliesland	NJ2565	Broadley	NJ3961
Ballindalloch Castle	NJ1736	Brodie Castle	NH9757
Ballnellan Burn	NJ1326	Brodieshill	NJ1059
Ballochford	NJ3633	Broom of Moy	NJ0159
Balnacoul	NJ3146	Broombank	NH9255
Balormie	NJ2167	Broomton	NH9654
Balvalley Moss	NJ3725	Brown Muir	NJ2555
Balvenie	NJ3242	Buckie	NJ4165
Banchor	NH9140	Buckpool	NJ4165
Bank Farm	NJ3929	Burghead	NJ1169
Bankhead	NH9658	Burghead Bay	NJ0867
Bardonside	NJ2154	Burgie Wood	NJ0958
Barmuckity	NJ2461	Burnside of Birnie	NJ2259
Bauds of Cullen	NJ4766	Burnside of Dipple	NJ3256
Beatshach	NJ2737	Burnside of Enzie	NJ3960
Beinn a' Chaorainn	NJ0401	Burnside of Geddes	NH8851
Beinn a' Chruinnich	NJ2313	Byres	NJ3562
Beinn Mheadhoin	NJ0201		
Bellandy	NJ2832	Cabrach	NJ3827

Cairn Ballantruan	NJ1524		
Cairn Gorm	NJ0003	Dallas	NJ1252
Cairn Lochan	NH9802	Dallas Dhu	NJ0356
Cairn Uish	NJ1750	Dallas Lodge	NJ1052
Cairneyhillock	NJ2658	Dallasbraughty	NJ0346
Calcots	NJ2563	Darnaway Castle	NH9955
Cantsford	NJ0754	Dava	NJ0038
Cardhu	NJ1843	Delmore	NJ2442
Cardnach Fm	NJ1942	Delnabo	NJ1617
Carn Allt a' Chlaiginn	NJ3230	Delnies	NH8356
Carn Daimh	NJ1824	Deskford	NJ5061
Carn Liath	NJ2515	Drainie	NJ2168
Carron	NJ2241	Drumdivan	NH8454
Catherinebraes	NJ2544	Drumfurrich	NJ2944
Caysbriggs	NJ2466	Drumin	NJ1830
Charlestown of Aberlour	NJ2642	Drummuir	NJ3844
Clackmarras	NJ2458	Drybridge	NJ4362
Clashach Cove	NJ1570	Drynachan	NH8639
Clochan	NJ4060	Dufftown	NJ3239
Clockeasy	NJ2962	Duffus	NJ1668
Cloddach	NJ1958	Duffus Castle	NJ1867
Cloddymoss	NH9860	Dulsie	NH9341
Clovenside	NJ0459	Dulsie Bridge	NH9341
Cluny Hill	NJ0458	Dunearn	NH9341
Cnoc Lochy	NJ1621	Dunphail Ho	NJ0047
Coire Raibeirt	NJ0003	Dykeside	NJ1159
Coldburn	NJ1449		
Coldhome	NJ3639	Earnhill Fm	NJ0160
Coleburn	NJ2455	Earnside	NJ1062
College of Roseisle	NJ1366	Easter Calcots	NJ2563
Coltfield	NJ1163	Easter Cloves	NJ1461
Conicavel	NH9953	Easter Gaulrig	NJ1514
Cook's Cairn	NJ3027	Easter Lawrenceton	NJ0858
Corbiewell	NJ3165	Easter Newforres	NJ0658
Covesea	NJ1870	Easterton	NJ2156
Covesea Skerries	NJ1971	Edinkillie	NJ0246
Coxton	NJ2660	Elgin	NJ2162
Coxtontower	NJ2660	Elginshill	NJ2663
Craigellachie	NJ2844		
Craigmill Lodge	NJ1052	Feakirk	NJ0344
Craigroy	NJ1250	Fèith Buidhe	NJ0909
Cran Loch	NH9459	Ferniefield	NJ3064
Croftglass	NJ2530	Findhorn Bay	NJ0462
Crofts of Dipple	NJ3259	Findochty	NJ4668
Cromdale Hills	NJ1226	Findrassie	NJ1965
Crooked Wood	NJ2762	Fochabers	NJ3458
Culbin Bar	NH9662	Fogwatt	NJ2357
Culbin Forest	NH9862	Foresterseat	NJ2562
Cullen	NJ5167	Forres	NJ0358
Cummingston	NJ1368		
Cunninghaugh	NJ3564	Garbh Uisge Mòr	NH9900

Garlinebeg	NJ1741	Kinermony	NJ2541
Garmouth	NJ3364	Kingsteps	NH9057
Garmouth viaduct	NJ3464	Kingston	NJ3365
Gateside	NJ3647	Kinloss	NJ0661
Gervally	NH9948	Kinneddar	NJ2269
Gilston	NJ2066	Kirdellbeg	NJ1741
Glack Harnes	NJ2836	Kirkhill	NJ2462
Glacks of Balloch	NJ3534	Knock of Braemoray	NJ0141
Glass	NJ4239	Knock of Gownie	NJ2942
Glen Avon	NJ1006	Kylnadrochit Lodge	NJ1419
Glen Gheallaidh	NJ1338		
Glen Latterach	NJ1951	Ladder Hills	NJ2719
Glen Lossie	NJ1347	Ladycroft	NJ2444
Glen Rinnes	NJ2834	Laggan	NJ2026
Glenallachie	NJ2741	Lecht Road	NJ2413
Glenfarclas Distillery	NJ2138	Leids Hill	NJ4126
Glenferness	NH9443	Lein	NJ3365
Glenlatterach Reservoir	NJ1952	Lethen	NH9351
Glenmullie	NJ1916	Lethenhill	NJ1058
Gollachy Burn	NJ4064	Lhanbryde	NJ2761
Gordonsward	NJ2564	Little Aitnoch	NH9640
Gownie	NJ2842	Little Pitlurg	NJ4245
		Loch Allan	NH9939
Half Davoch	NJ0451	Loch Belivat	NH9547
Hardmuir	NH9556	Loch Flemington	NH8152
Heldon Wood	NJ1257	Loch Kirkaldy	NH9641
Hill of Mackalea	NJ3638	Loch Loy	NH9358
Hill of Maud	NJ4662	Loch of Blairs	NJ0255
Hill of Mulundy	NJ1053	Loch Oire	NJ2860
Hillhead	NJ2058	Loch Park	NJ3543
Hillpark	NJ4360	Loch Spynie	NJ2366
Hills of Cromdale	NJ1226	Lochan Tùtach	NH9840
Hopeman	NJ1469	Lochbuie	NJ2153
Howford bridge	NH8753	Lochindorb	NH9736
Humbrack	NJ2556	Lochs of Bogmussach	NJ1347
Hunt Hill	NJ2346	Lochyhill	NJ0559
		Logie	NJ0150
Inchberry	NJ3155	Logieburn	NJ2656
Inchnacape	NJ2020	Longmorn	NJ2358
Innes House	NJ2764	Lossie estuary	NJ2469
Innesmill	NJ2863	Lossiemouth	NJ2370
Inveravon	NJ1837	Lower Auchenreath	NJ3763
Invererne	NJ0360	Lower Blairnain	NJ2738
Inverharroch Fm	NJ3831	Lower Bogrotten	NJ4861
		Lower Hempriggs	NJ1064
Johnstripe	NJ0447	Lyne of Knockando	NJ1745
		Lynemore	NJ1438
Keith	NJ4250		
Kellas	NJ1754	Macbeth's Hillock	NH9656
Kerrow	NH9941	Machattie's Cairn	NJ3547
Kilravock	NH8149	Mains of Kirdells	NJ1739

Mains of Moyness	NH9553	Ordiquish	NJ3357
Manachie Fm	NJ0356	Orton	NJ3153
Manbeen	NJ1959	Overton	NJ2745
Marypark	NJ1938		
Maviston	NH9458	Paddockhaugh	NJ2058
Meikle Balloch Hill	NJ3534	Parks of Innes	NJ2763
Meikle Coire Riabhach	NJ2513	Paul's Hill	NJ1140
Mid Mains	NJ1966	Penick	NH9356
Midwood	NJ4261	Philaxdale	NJ1667
Mill of Grange	NJ0460	Pitairlie	NJ2465
Millhill	NJ3158	Pitgaveny Ho	NJ2465
Milltown	NJ2758	Pittendreich	NJ1961
Milltown of Laggan	NJ2834	Pluscarden	NJ1456
Miltonduff	NJ1860	Portgordon	NJ3964
Miltonhill	NJ0963	Portknockie	NJ4868
Monadh an t-Sluich Leith	NJ2617		
Monahoudie Moss	NJ2243	Quarrywood	NJ1864
Monaughty	NJ1260		
Moniemouies	NJ2756	Rafford	NJ0656
Montgrew	NJ4551	Recletch	NJ2834
Moor of Tore	NJ1054	Redhill	NJ1661
Moss of Barmuckity	NJ2461	Refouble	NH9540
Moss of Birnie	NJ2051	Relugas	NH9948
Mosstodloch	NJ3360	Rhinturk	NJ3632
Moycroft	NJ2362	Rinour	NJ1740
Muir of Holmie	NJ4161	Rosarie	NJ3849
Muir of Miltonduff	NJ1859	Roseisle Forest	NJ1166
Muir of the Clans	NH8352		
Muirhead	NJ0863	Salterhill	NJ2067
Muirton	NJ2268	Sanquhar Loch	NJ0458
Muiry Wood	NJ0558	Scabbed Hill	NJ4160
Mulben	NJ3550	Scarffbanks	NJ2366
Muldearie Mains	NJ3950	Scaut Hill	NJ3331
Mundole	NJ0156	Scotstonhill	NJ2662
Myreside	NJ2164	Shaw Hill	NH9748
		Sheanspark	NJ3645
Nairn	NH8856	Shearleat	NH8641
Nairn Bar	NH9260	Shelter Stone	NJ0001
Nether Bellandy	NJ2833	Sherriffmill	NJ2062
Nether Birnie	NJ2059	Sheriffston	NJ2561
Nether Dallachy	NJ3663	Sluie	NJ0052
Nether Meft	NJ2764	South Darkland	NJ2661
Netherbyre	NJ1557	Spey Bay	NJ3564
Netherton	NJ0361	Speymouth	NJ3465
Newbold Wood	NJ0558	Spynie canal	NJ2366
Newforres Wood	NJ0657	Spynie Palace	NJ2365
Newton nursery	NJ1663	St. John's Meads	NJ0155
Newton of Darnaway	NH9853	Stoneyford pond	NJ0455
Newton of Innes	NJ2866	Strath Avon	NJ1425
North Darkland	NJ2662	Strathlene	NJ4467
		Stronachavie	NJ1318

Strondow	NJ1644
Strypes	NJ2758
Succoth	NJ2935
Surradale	NJ1665
Tanzie	NJ3146
Tapp	NJ1447
Tarras	NJ0659
Teindland	NJ2655
Tervieside	NJ2330
Tips of Corsemaul	NJ3939
Todholes	NJ1054
Tomachar	NJ2432
Tombreck	NJ1218
Tomcork	NJ1349
Tomintoul	NJ1618
Tomnavoulin	NJ2126
Tormore Distillery	NJ1534
Torrieston	NJ1658
Tronach Head	NJ4768
Troves	NJ2459
Tugnet	NJ3465
Tynet	NJ3861
Upper Bruntlands	NJ1943
Upper Dallachy	NJ3662
Upper Knockando	NJ1843
Upper Mulben	NJ3652
Urquhart	NJ2862
Waterford Fm	NJ0259
Wellheads	NJ3860
Wellhill	NJ0061
Wester Calcots	NJ2463
Wester Elchies	NJ2542
Wester Gaulrig	NJ1513
Wester Manbeen	NJ1960
Westerfolds	NJ1967
Westertown	NJ1925
Whiteash Hill	NJ3857
Whitefolds	NJ2425
Whitetree	NJ1156
Whitewreath	NJ2357
Yellowbog	NJ1448