

# Castle and Hightae Lochs



## Wildlife Report 2019

# Castle and Hightae Lochs L N R Wildlife 2017

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

The Pink-footed Goose roost (international importance) and Greylag Goose roost (national importance) are now defunct although feeding grounds around the area remain in use.

This report is based on the WeBS bird counts conducted each month throughout the year by Drew Davidson (DD) and Kath Davidson (KD). It is compiled by Andy Riches (AR). Additional records for birds and non-avians come from other visits and observers. This year we are including moth records for the first time which have been kindly provided by Jean Robson of the local Butterfly Conservation Moth Group. The moths are listed according to the date in which they were recorded in a light trap with the exception of a few clearly indicated casual records. Many thanks to the following: Iain Anderson (IA), Pete Antrobus (PA), Derek Bearhop (DB), Colin Bushell (CB), Kevin Findlater (KF), Darren Flint (DF), Ross Gemmell (RG), Stuart Graham (SG), Michael Granger (MG), Brian Henderson (BH), Joyce Henderson (JH), Helen Kelly (HK), Jim Logan (JL), Richard and Barbara Mearns (R&BM), John Miles (JM), Ciril Ostroznic (CO), Tristram Reid (TR), Jean Robson (JR), David Rose (DR), Freda Seddon (FSe), Paul Seddon (PSed), Paul Shimmings (PSh), Violet Sinclair (VS), Angus Sloan (AS), Anna White (AW), Dawn Wright (DW). Thanks also to those folk who kindly provided records but preferred to remain anonymous.

In addition to providing his records, Richard Mearns has provided historical information, support and advice without which this report would not exist.

A copyright claim has been received concerning a photograph which appeared in the 2013 report of a bittern, apparently at taken Castle Loch. It has not been possible to establish ownership of the photograph or where it was taken but it was used in good faith and appropriate acknowledgements will be made should it be established that it was wrongly attributed.

The descriptions of status refer to status on the reserve only.

**Species recorded in 2018 are listed in bold type.**

**In spite of the many regular contributors listed above new records are always welcome and should be sent to Andy Riches [sloch69@aol.com](mailto:sloch69@aol.com) as soon as possible after the end of the year. Thank you.**

## **MAMMALS.**

**SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE BAT:** *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

**COMMON PIPISTRELLE BAT:** *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

**DAUBENTON'S BAT:** *Present throughout the year and probably breeds.*

**NOCTULE BAT:** *Reported occasionally from Hightae Loch. Numbers reported are declining since 2002 when at least 22 were noted on 28<sup>th</sup> May. This may simply be due to lack of observers or possibly results from the clearfell in 2009. Last record 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006 (R&BM).*

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

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

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

**WOOD MOUSE:** *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

**FIELD VOLE:** *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

**BANK VOLE:** *Present throughout the year and breeds.*

**WATER VOLE:** *Present in the Castle Woodland and Valison Burn area and breeds.*

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

**RED SQUIRREL:** *Present in Castle and Dalton Road Woodlands throughout the year and has bred.*

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

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

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

**OTTER:** *Present throughout the year at both lochs and breeds.*

**BADGER:** *Regular visitor to Castle Loch woodland.*

**RED FOX:** *Regular visitor to Castle Loch woodland.*

**ROE DEER:** *Regular visitor to Castle Loch woodland.*

## **DRAGONFLIES.**

**LARGE RED DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum number recorded: 10 on wing; 4 in cop; 5 ovipositing.*

**BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum number recorded: 54 on wing; 13 in cop; 10 ovipositing.*

**COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 62 on wing; 15 in cop; 7 ovipositing.*

**AZURE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 21 on wing; 6 in cop; 5 ovipositing.*

**VARIABLE DAMSELFLY:** *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 9 on wing; 2 in cop; 3 ovipositing.*

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

**COMMON DARTER:** *Present and breeds. Maximum numbers: 2 on wing; 1 in cop; 1 ovipositing. All at Hightae Loch.*

**FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER:** *Present and breeds. Maximum numbers: 1 on wing at Castle Loch and 2 on wing at Hightae Loch.*

**COMMON HAWKER:** *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers: 1 on wing at Castle Loch, 2 on wing at Hightae Loch and 1 in cop at Hightae Loch.*

**BLACK DARTER:** *Visited and was seen apparently ovipositing in Valison Burn area in 2010. But the habitat preferences of this insect would suggest that this behaviour was an aberration. A single record of a male in 2011 (AR). No records prior or since.*

**GOLDEN-RINGED DRAGONFLY:** *Occasional visitor. Single male recorded at Castle Loch on two occasions in 2012 and a single occasion in 2013 (AR). Single record from Vendace Burn in 2014. No records this year.*

**MIGRANT HAWKER:** *First recorded in 2004. No records since 2013.*

**SOUTHERN HAWKER:** *Single insect recorded at Castle Loch on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (BH). A first for the reserve. No records this year.*

## HOVERFLIES.

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

**BACCHA ELONGATA:** *Present at both loch and breeds.*

**CHRYSOTOXUM BICINCTUM:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MELANOSTOMA SCALARE:** *Present at both lochs and breeds.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **BUTTERFLIES.**

**SMALL WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 16 at Castle Loch.*

**LARGE WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 4 at Castle Loch.*

**GREEN-VEINED WHITE:** *Maximum numbers 29 at Castle Loch.*

**ORANGE TIP:** *Maximum numbers 11 at Castle Loch.*

**PEACOCK:** *Maximum numbers 9 at Castle Loch.*

**SMALL TORTOISESHELL:** *Maximum numbers 4 at Castle Loch.*

**RED ADMIRAL:** *Maximum number 8 at Castle Loch.*

**RINGLET:** *Maximum number 22 at Castle Loch.*

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

**SMALL HEATH:** *No records this year. There have only been four records in the history of the reserve.*

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

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

**PAINTED LADY: *Maximum number 20 at Castle Loch.***

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

## MOTHS.

### **Light trap on 13<sup>th</sup> February (JR):**

**Chestnut (*Conistra vaccinia*): 1**

### **Light trap on 27<sup>th</sup> March (JR):**

**Red Chestnut (*Cerastis rubricosa*): 2**

**Hebrew Character (*Orthosia gothica*): 15**

**Clouded Drab (*Orthosia incerta*): 26**

**Common Quaker (*Orthosia cerasi*): 7**

**Chestnut (*Conistra vaccinia*): 2**

**Twin-spotted Quaker (*Anorthoa munda*): 3**

**Water Carpet (*Lampropteryx suffumata*): 1**

**Egrailed (*Ectropis crepuscularia*): 1**

### **Light trap on 25<sup>th</sup> April (JR):**

**Hebrew Character (*Orthosia gothica*): 10**

**Common Quaker (*Orthosia cerasi*): 1**

**Clouded Drab (*Orthosia incerta*): 5**

**Grey Birch (*Aethalura punctulata*): 3**

**Flame Carpet (*Xanthorhoe designate*): 2**

**Small Phoenix (*Ecliptopera silaceata*): 2**

**Pebble Hook-tip (*Drepana falcataria*): 1**

**Water Carpet (*Lampropteryx suffumata*): 5**

**Pale Prominent (*Pterostoma palpina*): 1**

**Large Twin-spot Carpet (*Xanthorhoe quadrifasiata*): 1**

**Small Square-spot (*Diarsia rubi*): 1**

**Flame Shoulder (*Ochropleura plecta*): 1**

**Small Angle Shades (*Euplexia lucipara*): 1**

**Silver-ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata*): 1**

**White Ermine (*Spilosoma lubricipeda*): 1**

### **Light trap on 5<sup>th</sup> June (JR):**

Water Carpet (*Lampropteryx suffumata*): 1  
Silver-ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata*): 1

### **Light trap on 13<sup>th</sup> June (JR):**

Cream Wave (*Scopula floslactata*): 1  
Clouded Border (*Lomaspilis marginata*): 5  
Silver-ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata*): 4  
Poplar Hawk-moth (*Laothoe populi*): 1  
Pale-shouldered Brocade (*Lacanobia thalassina*): 1  
Map-winged Swift (*Korscheltellus fusconebulosa*): 1  
Green Carpet (*Colostygia pectinataria*): 5  
Buff Ermine (*Spilosoma lutea*): 1  
(*Blastobasis lacticolella*): 1  
(*Scoparia ambigualis*): 5  
(*Udea olivalis*): 1

### **Light trap on 16<sup>th</sup> July (JR):**

Burnished Brass (*Diachrysia chrysitis*): 5  
Common Footman (*Eilema lurideola*): 2  
Double Square-spot (*Xestia Triangulum*): 4  
Straw Dot (*Rivula sericealis*): 1  
Drinker (*Euthrix potatoria*): 5  
Barred Straw (*Gandaritis pyraliata*): 4  
Silver-ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata*): 3  
Elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila elpenor*): 1  
Middle-barred Minor (*Oligia fasciuncula*): 1  
Beautiful China-mark (*Nymphula nitidulata*): 1  
(*Carcina quercana*): 1  
Blue-bordered Carpet (*Plemyria rubiginata*): 1  
Mother of Pearl (*Pleuroptya ruralis*): 3  
Common Wave (*Cabera exanthemata*): 3  
Riband Wave (*Idaea aversata*): 2  
July Highflyer (*Hydriomena furcate*): 11  
Small Rivulet (*Perizoma alchemillata*): 2  
V-Pug (*Chloroclystis v-ata*): 1  
Large Emerald (*Geometra papilionaria*): 1  
Smoky Wainscot (*Mythimna impure*): 10  
Coxcomb Prominent (*Ptilodon capucina*): 1  
Large Yellow Underwing (*Noctua pronuba*): 10  
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (*Noctua janthe*): 2  
Garden Tiger (*Arctia caja*): 1  
Dotted Clay (*Xestia baja*): 2  
Suspected (*Parastichtis suspecta*): 1

**Light trap on 20<sup>th</sup> August (JR):**

Mother of Pearl (*Pleuroptya ruralis*): 3  
Common Marbled Carpet (*Dysstroma truncate*): 2  
July Highflyer (*Hydriomena furcate*): 5  
Devon Carpet (*Lampropteryx otregiata*): 1  
Silver-ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata*): 1  
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (*Noctua janthe*): 1  
Dun-bar (*Cosmia trapezina*): 1  
Crescent (*Helotropha leucostigma*): 1  
Small Square-spot (*Diarsia rubi*): 1

**Light trap on 19<sup>th</sup> September (JR):**

Green Carpet (*Colostygia pectinataria*): 2  
Pink-barred Sallow (*Xanthia togata*): 1

**Light trap on 27<sup>th</sup> September (NMN):**

Angle Shades (*Phlogophora meticulosa*): *Present.*  
Chestnut (*Conistra vaccinia*): *Present.*  
Green Brindled Crescent (*Allophyes oxyacanthae*): *Present.*  
Garden Carpet (*Xanthorhoe fluctuate*): *Present.*  
Red Line Quaker (*Agrochola lota*): *Present.*  
Common Marbled Carpet (*Dysstroma truncate*): *Present.*  
Pink Barred Sallow (*Xanthia togata*): *Present.*  
Feathered Thorn (*Colotois pennaria*): *Present.*  
Common Wainscot (*Mythimna pallens*): *Present.*

**Light trap on 16<sup>th</sup> October (JR):**

November Moth (*Epirrita dilutata*): 8  
Feathered Thorn (*Colotois pennaria*): 1

**BUMBLE BEES.**

**BOMBUS PASCUORUM:** *Maximum number: 6 at Castle Loch.*

**BOMBUS LAPIDARIUS:** *Maximum number: 8 at Castle Loch.*

**BOMBUS PRATORUM:** *Maximum number: 6 at Castle Loch.*

**BOMBUS TERESTRIS:** *Maximum number: 21 at Castle Loch.*

**BOMBUS LUCORUM:** *Maximum number: 4 at Castle Loch.*

**BOMBUS HORTORUM:** *Maximum number: 2 at Castle Loch.*

### **AQUATIC MOLLUSCS.**

**BYTHYNIA TENTACULATA:** *more than 1000 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**ANISUS (PLANORBIS) LEUCOSTOMA:** *8 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL).*

**ANISUS (PLANORBIS) VORTEX:** *8 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**PLANORBIS CARINATUS:** *7 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**PLANORBIS PLANORBIS:** *Last recorded on 12th October 2017(JL). No records this year.*

**RADIX BALTHICA (LYMNAEA PEREGER):** *9 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**LYMNAEA STAGNALIS:** *3 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**LYMNAEA PALUSTRIS:** *1 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**PHYSA FONTINALIS:** *30 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**VIVIPARUS VIVIPARUS:** *6 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**POTAMOPYRGUS ANTIPODARUM:** *1 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**GYRAULUS ALBUS:** *Last recorded 2014 (JL). No records this year.*

**SPHAERIUM CORNEUM:** *6 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**ANODONTA ANATINA:** *1 shell and many fragments on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL).*

**PISIDIUM sp.** *6 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL).*

### **CRUSTACEANS.**

**ARGULUS FOLIACEUS:** *1 last recorded 2018 (JL) no records this year*

**ASELLUS AQUATICUS:** *48 on 5th July, Castle Loch(JL).*

**CYCLOPS sp.:** *2 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL).*

**DAPHNIA sp.:** *last records 2018 (JL) No records this year.*

**GAMMARUS PULEX:** *16 on 5<sup>th</sup> July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**GAMMARUS DUEBENI:** *10 ON 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**POLYPHEMUS PEDICULUS:** *more than 100 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL).*

## **INSECTS.**

**ACILLIUS sp.:** *last recorded 2018 (JL) No records this year.*

**ANABOLIA NERVOSA:** *last recorded 2018 (JL) No records this year.*

**GLYPHOTAELIUS PELLUCIDUS:** *last recorded 2018 (JL) No records this year.*

**GERRIS sp. 7 on 5<sup>th</sup> July, Castle Loch (JL)**

**GYRINUS sp. 2 on 5<sup>th</sup> July, Castle Loch (JL)**

**HALIPLUS SP:** *last recorded on 12th July 2017 (JL). No records this year.*

**LIMNEPHILUS sp:** *Last recorded on 12th October 2016(JL). No records this year.*

**LESSER WATER BOATMEN:** *number range 11-100 5th July, Castle Loch (JL) several different species not identified.*

**NEPA CINEREA:** *1 immature on 5<sup>th</sup> July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**NOTONECTA GLAUCA:** *17 and 1 immature 5th July, Castle Loch (JL)*

**SIALIS LUTARIA:** *Last records. 2017 (JL). No records this year.*

**PANORPA COMMUNIS:** *Regularly present adjacent to the Valison Burn during the summer (AR).*

**PANORPA GERMANICA:** *Regularly present adjacent to the Valison Burn during the summer (AR).*

**CHORTHIPPUS PARALLELUS:** *Regularly present on grassland at Castle Loch during the summer (AR).*

**OMOCESTUS VIRIDULUS:** *Regularly present on grassland at Castle Loch during the summer (AR).*

**CHORTHIPPUS BRUNNEUS:** *Regularly present on grassland at Castle Loch during the summer (AR).*

**CALOSOMA VIOLACEUS:** *Regularly present adjacent to the Valison Burn during the summer (AR).*

**STAPHYLINUS OLENS:** *Regularly present adjacent to the Valison Burn during the summer (AR).*

**NICORPHORUS HUMATOR:** *Regularly present adjacent to the Valison Burn during the summer (AR).*

**NICORPHORUS VESPILLO:** *Regularly present adjacent to the Valison Burn during the summer (AR).*

### **FLATWORMS.**

DUGESIA LUGUBRIS: *last records 2018 (JL) No records this year.*

DUGESIA POLYCHROA: *last records 2018 (JL) No records this year.*

DUGESIA TIGRINA: *(alien sp. from America) last records 2018 (JL) No records this year.*

POLYCELIS NIGRA/TENUIS: *last records 2018 (JL) No records this year.*

### **LEECHES.**

**HAEMOPSIS SANGUISUGA:** *4 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL).*

**ERPOBDELLA OCTOCULATA:** *2 on 5th July, Castle Loch (JL).*

### **BIRDS.**

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

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

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER: *Very Rare. No previous records. First record seen at Castle Loch on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008 (CB). Seen thereafter by a number of observers until the end of the month.*

**LITTLE GREBE:** *Recorded most years but no evidence of breeding at either loch this year. Maximum count: 4 at Castle Loch on 24<sup>th</sup> March (DD&KD).*

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE:** *Regular breeder. First bred at Lochmaben in 1891. Numbers now seriously diminished with, once again, a maximum of only 3 adults seen at various times during the year. No reports of young. If there really was no breeding this year then this is a very sad sign. Specific breeding observations will need to be carried out in 2020.*

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

SLAVONIAN GREBE: *Rare autumn/winter or early spring visitor. Last previous records one in October 2009 (BH) and two in November 2010.*

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

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

**GREAT CORMORANT:** *Common resident. Last breeding records 1898-1903 (Sir Hugh Gladstone). Regularly seen outside the breeding season. Maximum count: 8 on 19<sup>th</sup> March (AR).*

**EURASIAN BITTERN:** *Rare vagrant. Unconfirmed report of four on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2006 (Birdline Scotland). Possible sighting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006 when a bird took off from shallow water amongst willows but was immediately lost to view (RM). Report (via TR) of a Northumbrian birder having “good views” of 2 birds in the reeds by the yacht club on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Further possible sighting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 with a bird taking off from the reeds on the west side of Castle Loch but again being immediately lost to view (AR & DW). One seen on ice near the inflow of the Innerfield Burn on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (AR) and again on 28<sup>th</sup> (DB). Single bird reported on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (BH) and again on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (BH, JH). Two birds reported on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 (BH). Single bird reported at Castle Loch on numerous occasions between 8<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (BH). A single bird reported on 6<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (BH). Single bird reported on a number of occasions in the Castle Wood area between 11<sup>th</sup> January and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 (BH). Single bird present in reeds on Lockerbie road side on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (AR). Bird present on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (AR). No further records until this year when a single bird was seen on 4<sup>th</sup> February (DF).*

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

**GREAT WHITE EGRET:** *Rare vagrant. Not previously recorded. Single bird during WeBS count at Hightae Loch on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (DD). No records since.*

**GREY HERON:** *Regular Visitor. Maximum count: 5 on 18<sup>th</sup> June (DD&KD).*

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

**MUTE SWAN:** *Regular breeder with two pairs fledging young again this year which is probably the maximum a loch of this size can hold. The usual rise in numbers during the moulting period saw a maximum of 132 birds on 16<sup>th</sup> December (DD&KD). Rising again after last year's fall.*

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

**WHOOPEE SWAN:** *Irregular winter visitor. Only records for this year were 4 on 9<sup>th</sup> April and 10 on 30<sup>th</sup> December (both DF).*

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

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

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** *Formerly regular winter visitor in internationally important numbers. Sadly, although the surrounding fields are still used by some geese for feeding, the roost on Castle Loch has collapsed. No records this year.*

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

**GREYLAG GOOSE:** *Once a regular visitor in nationally important numbers. No resident birds recorded. Although considerable numbers of Icelandic birds continue to use their traditional*

*feeding areas around Lochmaben the single record from this year was 1 on 20<sup>th</sup> April (FSe). It was not determined if this was a local or Icelandic bird.*

SNOW GOOSE: *Rare winter vagrant and uncommon escapee from wildfowl collections. Last recorded 14<sup>th</sup> October 1990.*

BAR-HEADED GOOSE: *Asiatic introduction. Now feral. One record of 11 birds on two dates in August 2001 (PSh).*

**CANADA GOOSE: North American introduction, now a common UK resident. Occurs throughout the year and is an irregular breeder on the reserve. No reports of breeding. Maximum count: 5 on 18<sup>th</sup> June (DD&KD).**

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

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

BARNACLE GOOSE: *Occasional winter visitor. Last record was a single bird overflying on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 (BH).*

**COMMON SHELDUCK: Irregular breeder, usually one or two pairs only. Last recorded breeding 2007. Pair present on 19<sup>th</sup> December (AR).**

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

MANDARIN DUCK: *Escape from wildfowl collections. Only two previous records on the reserve when a single bird was present on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 near Lochside plantation (BH) and a single male was present on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (PSh).*

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

**EURASIAN WIGEON: Regular winter visitor, scarce in summer. Numbers continue to reduce this year with maximum counts very much lower than in recent years. They seem to be using the Kirk Loch more. Maximum count in first winter period: 23 on 20<sup>th</sup> January (DD). Maximum count during the second winter period: 78 on 17<sup>th</sup> November (DD&KD).**

AMERICAN WIGEON: *Accidental from North America or escapee from wildfowl collection. There was an unconfirmed sighting in 2003 and a single male was present between early October and Mid December 2009 (BH). A single bird was present from the 22<sup>nd</sup> January until 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 (BH). Single male at Castle Loch 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 (BH). This bird remained in the area alternating between Castle and Kirk Lochs until the end of the year being seen by numerous observers. A single male was seen in a flock of Eurasian Wigeon in the Castle Wood area on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012 (BH). A further single male was seen in Vendace Bay on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2012 (both BH). No records since.*

GADWALL: *Occasional winter visitor or during spring passage. Single summer record of two birds in 2013. Birds were regularly present during the first three months of 2015 with a maximum count of 6 on 17<sup>th</sup> February (AR). Numbers held up during the second winter period, with 6 birds*

present on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (AR). No birds were noted during the summer of 2015. One record of a single male on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (PSh) was the last received.

**COMMON TEAL:** *Regular winter visitor. Maximum count: 12 at Hightae Loch on 17<sup>th</sup> February (DD&KD). No records from Castle Loch this year.*

**GARGANEY:** *Rare summer visitor. Last previous records 15<sup>th</sup> September 1991, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and a single drake seen by numerous observers between 28<sup>th</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008. This bird was noted to have a yellow ring on the right leg (R&BM). This and the time of its arrival (rather early for a migrant) suggest that it might not have been a wild bird. A further sighting of probably the same bird on 16<sup>th</sup> April (JB & G Garner).*

**MALLARD:** *Regular throughout the year and breeds. Numbers peaked at 57 during the moult gathering in August. Two records of breeding reported.*

**NORTHERN PINTAIL:** *Irregular winter visitor. No records this year.*

**NORTHERN SHOVELER:** *Irregular visitor, winter and spring. No records this year.*

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

**COMMON POCHARD:** *Irregular winter visitor. No records this year.*

**TUFTED DUCK:** *Present throughout the year. Maximum count: 144 on 16<sup>th</sup> December (DD). Four young seen during WeBS count on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 (AR) but none reported since. Maximum count: 144 on 16<sup>th</sup> December (DD&KD).*

**GREATER SCAUP:** *Very occasional winter visitor. Single record from Castle Loch in 2010 and six in 2013. No records in 2014 and 2015. Single bird present on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (DF). No records again this year.*

**LESSER SCAUP:** *Rare transatlantic vagrant. Last recorded 26<sup>th</sup> January 2004 (IA). Bird with superficial appearance of Lesser Scaup seen by a number of observers in 2008. This appears to have been a hybrid although its exact nature has not been determined.*

**LONG-TAILED DUCK:** *Rare winter visitor. Last previous records 24<sup>th</sup> December 1994, 6<sup>th</sup> November-15<sup>th</sup> December 2002, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2003, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and 11<sup>th</sup> January-12<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Two birds present during the latter half of February 2008 and then again from 17<sup>th</sup> November until the end of the year. In 2009 a single male was present from 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and a female from 15<sup>th</sup> November until 16<sup>th</sup> December. One male bird was first seen on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 (BH) and remained until 5<sup>th</sup> being seen by a number of observers. Single at Castle Loch on 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (PSh). No records again this year.*

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

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

**COMMON GOLDENEYE:** *Regular winter visitor, sometimes remaining well into summer. Numbers lower again this year overall but with Hightae Loch being used more. Maximum count: 30 at Hightae Loch on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 22 at Castle Loch on 17<sup>th</sup> February (both DD&KD).*

**Birds left slightly later than usual with the last record being 4 on 9<sup>th</sup> April (DF). The first birds of the second winter period were 5 recorded at Castle Loch on 28<sup>th</sup> October (DF). Numbers fluctuated thereafter but the maximum count for the second winter period never exceeded five birds.**

**SMEW:** Used to be seen most winters in small numbers. Last previous records: 3 on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (BH) rising to 4 on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Last sighting: 1 on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Single redhead at Castle Loch on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010 (AR). Single female present at Castle Loch on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (BH). Single female present at Dalton Road piers on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (BH). Single female present in Innerfield Burn area 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (BH). No records since.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Was once a fairly regular visitor in winter. Has declined substantially in recent years but probably slightly under-recorded. Record of a single male at Henderland Island, Castle Loch on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012 (BH). Single female on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (PSh).

**GOOSANDER:** Regular winter visitor. Breeds locally. Once present in sub-nationally important numbers. The decrease in numbers noted in 2015 and 2016 continued this year with no count of over 100 birds. Maximum count during first winter period 11 on 17<sup>th</sup> February (DD&KD). Maximum count in second winter period was 39 on 23<sup>rd</sup> September (DF).

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

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

**MARSH HARRIER:** Scarce summer visitor. Last previous records a single on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1984 at Hightae Loch and a single at Castle Loch on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (BH). Single bird quartering over the Vendace Bay reed beds on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013 (BH).

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

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** Scarce local breeder. Last previous record one flew over Castle Loch from the west, circled and then returned west on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 (AW). Single bird present on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (CO). No records this year.

**EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK:** Resident, probably breeds in woodland on reserve. Seen regularly at both lochs by a variety of observers.

**COMMON BUZZARD:** Resident, has bred in woodland on reserve. Seen regularly at both lochs by a variety of observers. The area is traditionally used by two pairs, one based in woodland to the East and the other in Castle Wood. Two pairs seen soaring on a number of occasions by a number of observers,

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

**OSPREY:** Occasional on passage, spring and autumn. A single bird was seen in the Lochside Plantation area on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 and there was a further sighting of a single bird in the same area on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 (all BH). One at Castle Loch on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (DF). One at Castle Loch on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 (DF). No records again this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**COMMON PHEASANT:** *Resident breeder.*

WATER RAIL: *Regular winter visitor but breeding has only rarely been confirmed. There were ten records in 2013, a considerable advance on 2012 in which there were only three. Numbers dropped in 2014 with only records of single birds, although they were recorded in all seasons. Single records in all seasons of 2015 but no signs of breeding. Single records in first three seasons of 2016 with 5 birds at various locations around Castle Loch on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (PSh). No records again this year.*

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

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

**MOORHEN:** *Resident breeder, in small numbers. Maximum count: 5 on 5<sup>th</sup> August (DD&KD).*

**EURASIAN COOT:** *Winter visitor. Small numbers have bred but no records this year. Numbers down again. Maximum count: 19 on 20<sup>th</sup> January (DD&KD).*

AMERICAN COOT: *Rare American vagrant. One record 10-17<sup>th</sup> February 2004 (AW).*

**OYSTERCATCHER:** *Irregular visitor in spring and autumn, sometimes breeds in or near reserve. As in past year a pair of birds was present in the reserve during the breeding season but once again no breeding was confirmed.*

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER: *Scarce summer visitor to Scotland. One record 18<sup>th</sup> May 1996 (RM).*

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

GOLDEN PLOVER: *Occasional passage migrant. None on reserve since 8<sup>th</sup> September 1995. Large flocks still regular at Greenhill, near River Annan, where 650 on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006 (PSh).*

**NORTHERN LAPWING:** *Irregular visitor in spring and autumn, sometimes breeding on or near the reserve. Serious decline in numbers in recent years. No breeding noted since 2013. Single bird at Castle Loch on 2nd September (FSe).*

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

**DUNLIN:** *Scarce passage migrant. Seen very occasionally, last previous records 10<sup>th</sup> May 1999, 29<sup>th</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2003 with eleven birds seen on the latter date. Single bird at Henderland Island on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (BH). No records since 2013.*

**RUFF:** *Scarce passage migrant. Very occasional, last previous record several autumn dates in 1995. Three present at Castle Loch on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and one on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (both BH).*

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

**COMMON SNIBE:** *Common passage migrant and local breeder. Two at Hightae Loch on 17<sup>th</sup> February (DD&KD).*

**WOODCOCK:** *Occasional breeder and winter visitor. Last recorded roding 27<sup>th</sup> March 1990. Single records at both lochs in March 2004. Single at Castle Loch on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (BH). Two in Castle Woods on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 (BH). Single in Castle Woods on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (AR). Single near Vendace Burn on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (PSh). Single bird at Hightae Loch on 20<sup>th</sup> January (DD&KD).*

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT:** *Scarce passage migrant. Last previous record 29<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005. Single in the Sanctuary Zone at Castle Loch on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (BH).*

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

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

**CURLEW:** *Regular passage migrant. In the past there have sometimes been large numbers in spring but these are now much reduced. Breeds locally.*

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

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

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

**GREEN SANDPIPER:** *Uncommon passage migrant. Two records of single birds on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1994 and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (BH). No records since.*

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

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

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

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

LITTLE GULL: *Scarce passage migrant. Last previous record 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004. Single in gull roost on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 (BH). No records since.*

**BLACK-HEADED GULL: Common winter visitor; breeds locally. Maximum daytime count: 200+ on 28<sup>th</sup> October (DF). No winter roost count conducted this year.**

MEDITERRANEAN GULL: *Rare vagrant. Only previous records: One bird on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2003 (Birdguides). At least one bird present in Castle Loch roost between 24<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 with two birds confirmed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and three on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Two birds in the roost during the second winter period on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (all BH). A single bird seen in the roost on each occasion it was checked in 2014 with two birds present on 19<sup>th</sup> February (BH). No records since.*

COMMON GULL: *Mainly a winter visitor. No roost count this year.*

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Most birds migrate south in winter. Usually at least one or two birds present throughout the year. Maximum count: 2 on 19<sup>th</sup> May (DD&KD). No roost count this year.**

**HERRING GULL: Seen regularly in small numbers in day time. Breeds locally. No records or roost count this year.**

GLAUCOUS GULL: *Rare winter visitor. Last previous records 25<sup>th</sup> February 1974 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 1984 and first winter bird at Castle Loch 17 November 2008 (CB).*

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

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: *Scarce local resident, seen occasionally. Last previous records three seen in roost on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (AR). Two seen in roost count on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (AR). No records since.*

KITTIWAKE: *Rare visitor. Last previous record 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January 1984. Two birds passed through on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 (BH).*

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

ARCTIC TERN: *Occasional on passage. Last previous records singles on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003 and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011 (BH). Two at the Lochside Cottage area of Castle Loch on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 (BH).*

BLACK TERN: *Fairly frequent on spring and autumn passage, most often seen second week of May to first week of June, and late August to early September. Last records 7<sup>th</sup> September 1998, a single at north end of Castle Loch from 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (SG, RM) one at Castle Loch 16<sup>th</sup>*

*May 2009 (BH) and other observers. A single bird was seen near the Lockerbie road on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (BH).*

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

**COMMON GUILLEMOT:** *Rare vagrant. Last recorded 26<sup>th</sup> December 1987 (2 birds).*

**LITTLE AUK:** *Rare vagrant. Last recorded mid to late 1980s.*

**ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON:** *Common local resident in and around farms and towns. Occasional visitor to reserve.*

**STOCK DOVE:** *Resident breeder. Records from November and December.*

**WOOD PIGEON:** *Present throughout the year and in the woods at both lochs.*

**COLLARED DOVE:** *Common local resident in and around farms and towns.*

**COMMON CUCKOO:** *Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 10<sup>th</sup> May 2002.*

**BARN OWL:** *Scarce visitor, former breeder. Last previous record was a bird seen daytime flying in Castle Loch Woodland on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (BH). Single bird seen over Sanctuary Zone field on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (AR). No further records until this year when breeding was confirmed at Castle Loch on 15<sup>th</sup> July (DF). Two young in nest box and adult seen hunting by day.*

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

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

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

**COMMON SWIFT:** *Common summer visitor, breeds in Lochmaben. Recorded at the reserve on 6<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> September (both FSe).*

**COMMON KINGFISHER:** *Regular visitor, breeds locally. Often seen on the Valison Burn. Singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (AR), 24<sup>th</sup> November (FSe) and 19<sup>th</sup> December (AR).*

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

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER:** *Resident regular breeder. Records from every month of the year except June.*

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

**SAND MARTIN:** *Regular visitor in spring and summer: breeds in banks of River Annan and at Applegarthtown Wildlife Sanctuary. First records of the year 2 at Castle Loch and 30 at Hightae Loch on 24<sup>th</sup> March (DD&KD). 200 birds at Castle Loch on 4<sup>th</sup> April (DF)..*

**BARN SWALLOW:** *Summer visitor, breeds locally. First record this year 20<sup>th</sup> April and last record 28<sup>th</sup> September (both FSe).*

**HOUSE MARTIN:** *Summer visitor, breeds locally.*

**TREE PIPIT:** *Scarce summer visitor.*

**MEADOW PIPIT:** *Irregular visitor. No recent breeding records for the reserve. Last previous record 2003. Single on 3<sup>rd</sup> August (FSe).*

**YELLOW WAGTAIL:** *Rare summer visitor. Last recorded 25<sup>th</sup> September 1981.*

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

**PIED WAGTAIL:** *Irregular visitor and breeder. Confirmed breeding for the seventh consecutive year. Two adults with five young seen at Bowling Club Car Park/Victoria Park area on several occasions in June by a number of observers.*

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

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** *Irregular, rare winter visitor. Last previous record 15 by Lochmaben Kirk on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008.*

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

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

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

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

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

**COMMON STONECHAT:** *Scarce local resident. First record for the reserve a single on 19<sup>th</sup> November (FSe).*

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR:** *Occasional passage migrant. Last recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1991.*

**BLACKBIRD:** *Resident throughout the year and breeds at both sites.*

**FIELDFARE:** *Regular autumn and winter visitor.*

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

**REDWING:** *Regular autumn and winter visitor.*

**MISTLE THRUSH:** *Recorded in most years, breeds locally. No 2001 or 2002 records. A few records in 2003, 2004 and 2005. No reports for 2006, 2007 or 2008. Maximum count of 3 in 2010. Single singing in Castle Wood 2011. Single seen in Castle Wood in 2012. Three seen in boardwalk area on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 (BH). Pair present in Castle Wood in May/June 2014 but no proof of breeding found. Seen in Castle Wood on a number of occasions during, and outhwith the 2015 breeding season but no proof of breeding found. Present in Castle Wood in 2016 but no proof of breeding found. Single bird seen on 9<sup>th</sup> June (FSe).*

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER:** *Occasional summer visitor and irregular breeder. Last records on two spring dates in 1997 and a single on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (DF). No records this year.*

**SEDGE WARBLER:** *Summer visitor and regular breeder at both lochs. No breeding confirmed this year. Recorded regularly from April to July (FSe).*

**REED WARBLER:** *Summer visitor and recent breeder. No breeding confirmed this year.*

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

**GARDEN WARBLER:** *Summer visitor and breeder. No breeding confirmed this year. Recorded in April and September (FSe).*

**BLACKCAP:** *Summer visitor and breeder. No breeding confirmed this year. Recorded regularly from April to July (FSe).*

**WOOD WARBLER:** *Scarce summer visitor. Occasional in spring. Last recorded 25<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2003.*

**CHIFFCHAFF:** *Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional breeder. No confirmed breeding this year. Recorded regularly from March to September with most records from July (FSe).*

**WILLOW WARBLER:** *Summer visitor and regular breeder. First recorded this year on 20<sup>th</sup> April and then in every month until 2<sup>nd</sup> September (FSe).*

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

**GOLDCREST:** *Present throughout the year and confirmed breeder at both sites.*

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER:** *Irregular summer visitor and occasional breeder. Last previous records: single at Castle Loch 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006 (RM), three at Castle Loch on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 (MG) and single at Hightae Loch on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (JM). Two records from 9<sup>th</sup> June (both FSe).*

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

**LONG-TAILED TIT:** *Resident and breeds at Castle Loch.*

**WILLOW TIT:** *Resident and regular breeder. The Willow Tit (*Poecile montana*) is a scarce resident of Dumfries & Galloway, very close to the northern boundary of its range. Between 2011 and 2016 an annual survey was carried out at Castle Loch to monitor success and failure of breeding. Published studies have suggested that Willow Tit nest site preferences are for standing dead wood of between 2-4m in height, within an area of developed understorey and high soil water content. Because of this, locating suitable points within the narrow bands of woodland around Castle Loch is not a particularly difficult task.*

*The methodology was a simplified form of that used by Lewis et al 2009<sup>i</sup>. The woodland strips to the west, south and east of the loch were walked in the early morning on several days of suitable weather during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April. A recorded call was used at regular points 200m apart. The call was*

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

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

The maximum number of territories held at the start of the 2011 season was eight. The table below shows the results for the years 2011 to 2016. Sadly the downward trend of numbers of fledged young continued in 2016. It was not possible to conduct a full nesting survey in 2017 and 2018. In 2019 only previously recorded territories were monitored as they comprised all the suitable habitat.

Factor	Territories	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	2011	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	2012	X	X	X	X		X	X	
	2013	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	2014	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	2015		X	X	X		X	X	
	2016		X		X		X		X
	2019		X		X		X		
2	2011	X	X	X	X			X	
	2012		X						
	2013								
	2014		X		X		X	X	
	2015		X		X			X	
	2016		X		X			X	
	2019		X		X			X	
3	2011	X			X	X		X	
	2012		X						
	2013								
	2014		X		X	X		X	
	2015		X		X	X		X	
	2016		X		X			X	
	2019		X					X	
4	2011		X			X			
	2012		X						
	2013							X	
	2014		X					X	
	2015							X	
	2016		X						
	2019		X						
5	2011	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	2012	X		X		X	X	X	
	2013		X	X				X	
	2014		X	X	X			X	
	2015		X		X			X	
	2016		X					X	
	2019		X					X	

<sup>1</sup> Lewis, Alex J. G., Amar, Arjun, Daniells, Laura, Charman, Elisabeth C., Grice, Phil and Smith, Ken (2009) 'Factors

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

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

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

**EURASIAN NUTHATCH:** *Increasingly numerous resident in Dumfries and Galloway, having spread westwards from Cumbria and the Scottish Borders during the 1990s. First reserve record near the castle on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2003 (PSed). Single birds seen at a number of locations within woodland around both lochs since 2015. Two birds seen on 28<sup>th</sup> January (DF). Birds were recorded in eight months of the year, with nor reports in May, June, August or November. Still no signs of breeding.*

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

**JAY:** *Resident, and confirmed as breeder since 2017.*

**MAGPIE:** *Rare vagrant. Last recorded 24<sup>th</sup> March 1978.*

**JACKDAW:** *Resident breeder, usually supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost. No roost counts submitted this year.*

**ROOK:** *Sporadic resident breeder usually supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost. No roost counts submitted this year.*

**CARRION CROW:** *Resident breeder usually supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost. No roost counts submitted this year.*

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

**COMMON RAVEN:** *Occasional visitor. Last previous record two birds overflying 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 and one on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Two birds overflying on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013 (BH). Two over Vendace Bay on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 (BH) and a single bird overflying on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (AR). Single on 17<sup>th</sup> August (FSe).*

**COMMON STARLING:** *Winter visitor and local breeder. No regular roost counts this year but occasional visits suggest that the decline in the roost in the reeds around Vendace Bay continues.*

**ROSE-COLOURED STARLING:** *Rare Eurasian vagrant. One record late October 2003.*

**HOUSE SPARROW:** *Common resident in Lochmaben and at surrounding farms. Irregularly recorded on reserve.*

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW:** *Scarce and declining resident on local farmland. First record since 1984 was 4 on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016. No records this year.*

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

**BRAMBLING:** *Irregular winter visitor. No records again this year.*

**EUROPEAN GREENFINCH:** *Present throughout the year, probably breeds. Numbers continue to decline this year.*

**EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** *Occasional visitor. Probably breeds in some years. Maximum count: 4 birds on 20<sup>th</sup> May (DF).*

**EURASIAN SISKIN:** *Winter visitor and passage migrant. Maximum count: 75+ on 16<sup>th</sup> December (DF).*

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

**LESSER REDPOLL:** *Resident in wider vicinity, irregular on the reserve. Seven on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (BH). Single on 12<sup>th</sup> May (FSe).*

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

**EURASIAN BULLFINCH:** *Irregular. May breed occasionally.*

**YELLOWHAMMER:** *Used to be a regular resident breeder. Last previous record 2003. Single bird on 9<sup>th</sup> June (FSe).*

**COMMON REED BUNTING:** *Regular resident breeder. No breeding confirmed this year. Two birds seen on 19<sup>th</sup> February (DF).*

**CORN BUNTING:** *Rare visitor (and now extremely rare resident in D&G). Recorded 26<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> May 1978 at Castle Loch and at Hightae Loch on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1980 (all records PSh).*