

Castle and Hightae Lochs L N R Report 2009



Compiled from WeBS Data

Castle and Hightae Lochs L N R Wildlife 2009

Once again the year started wet and cold with some flooding in the sanctuary zone to the east of the Valison Burn. The weather became drier from February through to May with temperatures rarely reaching 10C until the last week. June and July were relatively cool and August was the wettest on record with considerable flooding lasting for some days. The floods cleared in September and October only to return in November; another record making month for rainfall which left the lochs and their surrounding areas severely flooded. December was cold with large parts of both lochs frozen towards the end of the month. The generally high level of the water throughout the year meant that areas of mud around the fringes of the Loch were rarely exposed and passage wader sightings have suffered accordingly. Frequent sudden rises in water levels have caused problems for some nesting birds and mammals.

The woodland to the east of Hightae Loch was clearfelled during the year and this has produced a major change in the habitat as well as causing some disturbance whilst the work was taking place. It will be interesting to see how these changes affect the wildlife in the future.

This report is based on the WeBS counts conducted each month throughout the year by Andy Riches (AR) and additional records from other visits and observers. Many thanks to the following Colin & Angie Bushell (CB), Ross Gemmell (RG), Susan Jones (SJ), Michael Granger (MG), Brian Henderson (BH), Richard and Barbara Mearns (R&BM), John Miles (JM), John Mills (JML), Tristan Reid (TR), James Towill (JT), Anna White (AW) and Dawn Wright (DW). Some old records have initials for the recorders: Iain Anderson (IA), Stuart Graham (SG), Paul Seddon (PSed), Freda Seddon (FSe).

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

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

Species recorded in 2009 are listed in bold type.

MAMMALS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BANK VOLE: *Present in the Castle Woodland and breeds.*

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

RED SQUIRREL: *Seen in woodland at both Castle and Hightae Lochs. Maximum count: 6 at Castle Loch on 18th December (RG, BH, AR).*

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

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

AMERICAN MINK: *Present throughout the year and breeds. Apparent increase in numbers this year. A number of sightings of females with young especially in the Vendace Burn area.*

OTTER: *Present throughout the year and breeds. Many sightings at both lochs by a number of observers.*

BADGER: *Often present in Hightae Woodland prior to the clearfell. Occasionally visits Castle Loch.*

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

ROE DEER: *Often present in Hightae Woodland prior to the clearfell and adjacent to the Castle Loch.*

DRAGONFLIES.

LARGE RED DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum number recorded: 18 adults, 7 pairs copulating and 4 females ovipositing at Castle Loch and 4 adults and 2 pairs copulating at Hightae Loch (AR&SJ).*

BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 120 adults, 30 pairs copulating and 23 females ovipositing at Castle Loch and 49 adults, 12 pairs copulating and 5 females ovipositing at Hightae Loch (AR&SJ).*

COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 150 adults, 30 pairs copulating and 22 females ovipositing at Castle Loch and 20 adults, 5 pairs copulating and 3 females ovipositing at Hightae Loch (AR).*

AZURE DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 40 adults, 22 pairs copulating and 21 females ovipositing at Castle Loch and 18 adults, 4 pairs copulating and 2 females ovipositing at Hightae Loch (AR&SJ).*

VARIABLE DAMSELFLY: *Present and breeds. Stronghold on the Valison Burn. Maximum numbers: 19 adults, 4 pairs copulating and 2 females ovipositing at Castle Loch. No sightings at Hightae Loch this year.*

EMERALD DAMSELFLY: *Present and probably breeds. No sightings at either loch in 2009.*

COMMON DARTER: *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers: 3 adults and 2 females ovipositing at Castle Loch. No sightings at Hightae Loch this year.*

FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER: *Present and may breed. Maximum numbers: 1 adult at Castle Loch and 3 adults at Hightae Loch (AR).*

COMMON HAWKER: *Present and probably breeds. Maximum numbers: 5 adults and 2 pairs copulating at Castle Loch and 3 adults and 2 pairs copulating at Hightae Loch (AR).*

MIGRANT HAWKER: *Present since 2004. No sightings in 2009.*

HOVERFLIES.

SCAEVA PYRASTRI: *Present and probably breeds. Seen from 18th May to 27th September at Castle Loch and 24th May to 29th August at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 9 at Castle Loch and 2 at Hightae Loch. (AR).*

HELOPHILUS PENDULUS: *Present and probably breeds. Seen from 18th May to 4th September at Castle Loch and 8th June to 19th September at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 9 at Castle Loch and 5 at Hightae Loch (AR).*

ERISTALIS TENAX: *Present and probably breeds. Seen from 5th May to 28th September at Castle Loch and 24th May to 12th September at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 9 at Castle Loch and 8 at Hightae Loch (AR).*

ERISTALIS PERTINAX: *Present and probably breeds. Seen from 5th May to 12th September at Castle Loch and 24th May to 14th September at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 8 at Castle Loch and 9 at Hightae Loch (AR).*

EPISYRPHUS BALTEATUS: *Present and may breed. Seen from 5th June to 12th September at Castle Loch and 8th June to 12th September at Hightae Loch. Maximum numbers: 9 at Castle Loch and 4 at Hightae Loch (AR).*

BUTTERFLIES.

SMALL WHITE: *Maximum numbers 4 (AR).*

LARGE WHITE: *Maximum numbers 4 (AR).*

GREEN-VEINED WHITE: *Maximum numbers 14 (AR).*

ORANGE TIP: *Maximum numbers 10 (AR).*

PEACOCK: *Maximum numbers 5 (AR).*

SMALL TORTOISESHELL: *Maximum numbers 4 (AR).*

RED ADMIRAL: *Maximum number 2 (AR).*

RINGLET: *Maximum number 1 (AR).*

PAINTED LADY: *Maximum number 200 (AR&SJ).*

COMMA: *One seen at Hightae Loch on 17th March (AW). A first record for the reserve and a rarity in the region.*

BIRDS.

RED-THROATED DIVER: Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 12th November 1972.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER: Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 21st March 1984.

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

LITTLE GREBE: Recorded most years but no evidence of breeding. Maximum count of 4 at Castle Loch (AR) and 2 at Hightae Loch (AR).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE: Regular breeder. First bred at Lochmaben in 1891. Maximum count of 12 adults with 6 young (AR) .

RED-NECKED GREBE: Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 6th April 1992.

SLAVONIAN GREBE: *Rare autumn/winter or early spring visitor. Last previous record 15th December 2004. One first seen on 13th October (BH). Seen thereafter by numerous observers until 12th November.*

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

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

GREAT CORMORANT: *Common resident. Last breeding records 1898-1903 (Sir Hugh Gladstone). Maximum count of 20 on 6th March (BH).*

EURASIAN BITTERN: *Rare vagrant. Unconfirmed report of four on 29th January 2006 (Birdline Scotland). Possible sighting on 6th 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 18th January 2008. Further possible sighting on 23rd 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).*

GREY HERON: *Regular Visitor.*

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

MUTE SWAN: *Regular breeder. Highest count 102 adults on 5th July (AR).*

BEWICK’S SWAN: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 20th January 1995.*

WHOOPER SWAN: **Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count of 9 on 6th January and 12 on 23rd October (both BH).**

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

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: *Regular winter visitor, though numbers have declined in recent years. The decline continued this year. More roost counts needed to establish situation (AR).*

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

GREYLAG GOOSE: *Regular winter visitor. 2 pairs seen regularly throughout the year by a number of observers. No signs of successful breeding. Maximum counts of Icelandic birds: 36 on 20th September and 19 on 18th December (both AR). Roost is declining markedly.*

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

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

CANADA GOOSE: *North American introduction, now a common U K resident. Occurs throughout the year and is an irregular breeder on the reserve. Maximum count: 150.*

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

BRENT GOOSE: *Rare winter visitor. Last recorded 12th January 2004.*

BARNACLE GOOSE: *Occasional winter visitor.*

COMMON SHELDUCK: *Irregular breeder, usually one or two pairs only. Last recorded breeding 2007. No signs of successful breeding on the reserve this year probably due to flooding within the sanctuary zone during the season.*

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

EURASIAN WIGEON: *Regular winter visitor, scarce in summer. Numbers higher at the Kirk Loch in the early part of the year possibly due to disturbance at Castle Loch. Maximum count of 149 on 19th January (AR).*

AMERICAN WIGEON: *Accidental from North America or escapee from wildfowl collection. Male present at Castle Loch and sometimes Kirk Loch between early October and Mid December (BH). Previous record (unconfirmed) 2003.*

GADWALL: *Occasional winter visitor or during spring passage. Maximum count of 4 on 30th March (BH).*

COMMON TEAL: *Regular winter visitor. Maximum count of 350 on 16th January (JM).*

GARGANEY: *Rare summer visitor. Last previous records 15th September 1991, 3rd June 2003 5th May 2006 and a single drake seen by numerous observers between 28th February and 30th 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 16th April (JB & G Garner).*

MALLARD: *Regular throughout the year. Numbers peaking at 420 on 5th July (AR).*

NORTHERN PINTAIL: *Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count of 36 on 23rd October (BH).*

NORTHERN SHOVELER: *Irregular visitor, winter and spring. Maximum count of 6 on 23rd October (BH).*

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

COMMON POCHARD: *Irregular winter visitor. Maximum count of 5 on 18th November (BH).*

TUFTED DUCK: Present throughout the year. Maximum count of 112 on 19th January (AR).

GREATER SCAUP: Very occasional winter visitor. Last previous record single female at Hightae Loch 16th January 2006 (RM). Single male at Castle Loch. First seen on 6th March (BH) and thereafter by various observers until the end of the month.

LESSER SCAUP: Rare transatlantic vagrant. Last recorded 26th 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 24th December 1994, 6th November-15th December 2002, 23rd January 2003, 8th and 12th December 2005 and 11th January-12th April 2006. Two birds present during the latter half of February 2008 and then again from 17th November until the end of the year. In 2009 one male present between 14th January and 28th February (BH) and a number of observers. One female first seen on 15th November (BH) and thereafter by a number of observers until 16th December.

COMMON SCOTER: Scarce visitor. Last record at Castle Loch on 13th March 2006 (RM).

VELVET SCOTER: Rare visitor. One record 18th October 2000.

COMMON GOLDENEYE: Regular winter visitor, sometimes remaining well into summer. Maximum count 32. Last birds had left by 22nd March and first arrivals seen on 9th October.

SMEW: Seen most winters in small numbers. First sighting of 3 on 14th January (BH). Seen thereafter by a number of observers. Maximum count: 4 on 5th February. Last sighting: 1 on the 28th February.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Fairly regular in winter. Probably slightly under-recorded.

GOOSANDER: Regular winter visitor. Breeds locally. Maximum count: 29 on 14th December (BH).

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

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

MARSH HARRIER: Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 20th May 1984 at Hightae Loch.

HEN HARRIER: Scarce visitor. Last recorded 2nd March 1990.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: Scarce local breeder. Last previous record one flew over Castle Loch from the west, circled and then returned west on 17th March 2008 (AW).

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

COMMON BUZZARD: Resident, has bred in woodland on reserve. Seen regularly at both lochs by a variety of observers. There appear to be 2 pairs now using the area this year. One based in woodland to the East and the other in Castle Wood (AR).

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

OSPREY: Occasional on passage, spring and autumn. Last recorded June 2009 (AR).

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

MERLIN: Scarce visitor. Last recorded 8th April 2005 (but probably under-recorded).

HOBBY: Rare summer visitor. One record 17-18th July 1982.

PEREGRINE: Occasional winter visitor. Last previous record 2004. One seen on 16th May hunting towards Hightae Loch (BH).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE: Sometimes reared and released in area. Last recorded 18th April 1997.

GREY PARTRIDGE: Declining farmland resident. Last recorded 1991.

COMMON PHEASANT: Resident breeder. Bred in Castle Wood.

WATER RAIL: Regular winter visitor but breeding has only rarely been confirmed.

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

CORN CRAKE: Former resident breeder? Last recorded 1st and 2nd August 1980 (PSH and Dugald Black).

MOORHEN: Resident breeder, in small numbers. Three young seen on a number of dates in June and July (AR).

EURASIAN COOT: Winter visitor. Small numbers breed. Maximum count 65.

AMERICAN COOT: Rare American vagrant. One record 10-17th February 2004 (AW).

OYSTERCATCHER: Irregular visitor in spring and autumn, sometimes breeds in or near reserve.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER: Scarce summer visitor to Scotland. One record 18th May 1996 (RM).

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

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

NORTHERN LAPWING: Irregular visitor in spring and autumn, sometimes breeding on or near the reserve. Serious decline in numbers in recent years.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: Rare passage migrant. One record 8th September 1999 at Hightae Loch (RM).

DUNLIN: Scarce passage migrant. Seen very occasionally, last recorded 10th May 1999, 29th April and 20th July 2003 with eleven birds seen on the latter date.

RUFF: Scarce passage migrant. Very occasional, last recorded several autumn dates in 1995.

JACK SNIPE: Scarce winter visitor. Last recorded 9th March 1986.

COMMON SNIPE: Common passage migrant and local breeder.

WOODCOCK: Occasional breeder and winter visitor. Last recorded roding 27th March 1990. Single records at both lochs in March 2004.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT: Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 29th August to 1st September 2005.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT: Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 21st October 1983.

WHIMBREL: Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 9th May 2006 (RM).

CURLEW: Regular passage migrant, sometimes in large numbers in spring. Breeds locally.

SPOTTED REDSHANK: Uncommon passage migrant. Last recorded 26th August 2001 (PSh).

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

COMMON GREENSHANK: Uncommon passage migrant. Last recorded 2nd-3rd September 2005.

GREEN SANDPIPER: Uncommon passage migrant. Last recorded 21st October 1994.

WOOD SANDPIPER: Rare passage migrant. Last record 3rd September 2005.

COMMON SANDPIPER: Uncommon passage migrant, local breeder. One at Castle Loch between 21st July and 2nd August (BH).

ARCTIC SKUA: Rare passage migrant. Last recorded 8th October 1995.

GREAT SKUA: Rare passage migrant. Last recorded 27th April 1999.

LITTLE GULL: Scarce passage migrant. Last recorded 20th March 2004.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Common winter visitor; breeds locally. Maximum daytime count 110. Winter roost irregular but building.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL: Rare vagrant. One record 15th March 2003 (Birdguides).

COMMON GULL: Mainly a winter visitor, in large numbers amongst other gulls in winter roost.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Most birds migrate south in winter. Usually at least one or two birds present throughout the year. Maximum count: 27 on 16th September (BH).

HERRING GULL: Seen regularly in small numbers, breeds locally.

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

ICELAND GULL: Rare winter visitor. One record 25th February 1974.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Scarce local resident, seen occasionally. Last previous record 4 at Castle Loch on 15th February 2006. One at Castle Loch on 23rd December 2009 (R&BM).

KITTIWAKE: Rare visitor. Last recorded 10th-15th January 1984.

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

ARCTIC TERN: Occasional on passage. Last recorded 26th September 2003.

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

SANDWICH TERN: Rare visitor. One record only 6th September 1973.

COMMON GUILLEMOT: Rare vagrant. Last recorded 26th December 1987 (2 birds).

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

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

STOCK DOVE: Resident breeder.

WOOD PIGEON: Regular breeder in the woods at both lochs.

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

COMMON CUCKOO: Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 10th May 2002.

BARN OWL: Scarce visitor, former breeder. Last previous definite record February to March 1985. One seen in Castle Loch Woodland on 6th February (RG) and thereafter by various observers. Last reported sighting on 6th July.

TAWNY OWL: Resident regular breeder.

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

SHORT-EARED OWL: Rare visitor. Last recorded 28th November 1985.

COMMON SWIFT: Common summer visitor, breeds in Lochmaben.

COMMON KINGFISHER: Regular visitor, breeds locally.

EUROPEAN GREEN WOODPECKER: Scarce resident locally. Last recorded 31st May 1984.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER: Resident regular breeder.

EURASIAN SKYLARK: Irregular visitor.

SAND MARTIN: Regular visitor in spring and summer: breeds in banks of River Annan and at Applegarthtown Wildlife Sanctuary. First sighting of 200 24th March (BH). Maximum count: 250 on 5th May (JT).

BARN SWALLOW: Summer visitor, breeds locally.

HOUSE MARTIN: Summer visitor, breeds locally.

TREE PIPIT: Scarce summer visitor.

MEADOW PIPIT: Irregular visitor. No recent breeding records for the reserve. Last recorded 2003.

YELLOW WAGTAIL: Rare summer visitor. Last recorded 25th September 1981.

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

PIED WAGTAIL: Irregular visitor and breeder. Pair with 3 young seen at Sailing Club (AR).

WHITE WAGTAIL: Last recorded 28th April 1995.

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

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

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

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

COMMON REDSTART: Scarce summer visitor and occasional breeder on the reserve. No records this year.

WHINCHAT: Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 10th May 1982.

COMMON STONECHAT: Scarce local resident. No record for the reserve.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: Occasional passage migrant. Last recorded 2nd June 1991.

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

FIELDFARE: Regular autumn and winter visitor.

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

REDWING: Regular autumn and winter visitor.

MISTLE THRUSH: Recorded in most years, breeds locally. No 2001 or 2002 records. A few records in 2003, 2004 and 2005. No reports for 2006, 2007 or 2008. Maximum count in 2009: 8 on 5th November.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER: Summer visitor and irregular breeder. Last recorded on two spring dates in 1997.

SEDGE WARBLER: Summer visitor and regular breeder at both lochs.

REED WARBLER: Summer visitor and recent breeder.

COMMON WHITETHROAT: Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 12th August 1996.

GARDEN WARBLER: Summer visitor and breeder.

BLACKCAP: Summer visitor and breeder.

WOOD WARBLER: Scarce summer visitor. Occasional in spring. Last recorded 25th July and 5th August 2003.

CHIFFCHAFF: Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional breeder.

WILLOW WARBLER: Summer visitor and regular breeder.

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

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER: Irregular summer visitor and occasional breeder. Last previous record Castle Loch 25th August 2006 (RM). Three at Castle Loch on 4th June (MG) and single at Hightae Loch on 13th May (JM).

PIED FLYCATCHER: Scarce summer visitor. Last recorded 9th August 1993.

LONG-TAILED TIT: Resident and probable regular breeder.

WILLOW TIT: Resident and regular breeder. Seen by a number of observers throughout the year. Breeding survey to be carried out in 2010 (AR & RG).

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

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

GREAT TIT: Present throughout the year and probably 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 21st April 2003 (PSed).

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

JAY: Resident and may breed on the reserve.

MAGPIE: Rare vagrant. Last recorded 24th March 1978.

JACKDAW: Resident breeder, supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost.

ROOK: Sporadic resident breeder supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost.

CARRION CROW: Resident breeder supplemented by larger numbers coming to winter roost.

HOODED CROW: Last recorded 1981.

COMMON RAVEN: Occasional visitor. Last record two birds overflying 2nd October 2008 (RG).

COMMON STARLING: Winter visitor and local breeder. The roost in the reeds around Vendace Bay is building up again. Maximum count: 5000 (AR).

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

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

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW: Scarce and declining resident on local farmland. Last recorded 1984.

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

BRAMBLING: Irregular winter visitor. No reports this year.

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH: Present throughout the year, probably breeds.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH: Occasional visitor. Probably breeds in some years.

EURASIAN SISKIN: Winter visitor and passage migrant.

EUROPEAN LINNET: Scarce resident locally. Last recorded 30th August and 29th December 2003.

LESSER REDPOLL: Resident in wider vicinity, irregular on the reserve.

COMMON CROSSBILL: Irregular visitor. Probable breeder in conifer forests in vicinity. Last recorded 27th May 2003.

EURASIAN BULLFINCH: Irregular. May breed occasionally.

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

COMMON REED BUNTING: Regular resident breeder.

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

Monthly Maxima of Waterfowl at Hightae Loch 2009

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Little Grebe	2						1	1	1	2	1	1
Great Cr Grebe												
Great Cormorant	1	4	2						1	1	1	
Grey Heron	2	1	1							1		2
Bittern												
Mute Swan		5	5	4	2	2	2	2	2			2
Whooper Swan												
Greylag Goose												
Pink-footed Goose												
Canada Goose		6	6									
Common Shelduck												
Eurasian Wigeon												
Gadwall												
Common Teal	1											
Garganey												
Mallard	7	5	8	8	3	5	14	14	12	16	3	60
Northern Pintail												
Northern Shoveler												
Common Pochard												
Tufted Duck	3	20	12			1						44
Goldeneye	9	30	29									6
Long-tailed Duck												
Smew												
Goosander		1	4									
Eurasian Coot	5	2	7	2	2	3						
Common Moorhen	3		1	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	

Annual maxima of wildfowl at Castle Loch 1980-2009

Selected species	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	
Great Cr Grebe	24	45	44	18	14	42	24		18	14	24	15	13	19	14	18	22	14	25	20	
Cormorant	4	20	nc	23	12	15	4	5	9	8	7	19	18	23	30	19	8	6	22	17	
Mute Swan	17	10	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	5	65	80	98	92	74	46	69	55	28	37	38	102	
Whooper Swan	27	6	0	0	0	5	1	14	28	2	9	13	24	0	21	33	7	47	26	41	
Bewick's Swan				5	6					0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Pink-f Goose	700	30	2500	1580	8900	6950	13400	5000	950	2000	4	16.38k	14.0k	3.0k	3.5k	100	740	500	1340	2200	
Greylag Goose	50	41	930	1.9k	2.5k	3.1k	2.85k	1017	1453	185	741	416	840	440	800	1.8k	800	230	600	500	
Canada Goose			5	4	2	6	98	34	236	159	45	134	67	0	0	9	31	30	41	79	
Shelduck			4	6	4	16	8				14	15	2	2	4	3	6	2	3	6	
Mallard	nc	250	500	268	261	1800	480			285	145	193	310	246	152	299	380	139	470	508	
Wigeon	250	200	320	144	182	280	430	300	806	388	194	755	431	90	300	50	307	184	120	396	
Gadwall	1		0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Teal	50	18	121	95	174	360	30	50	4	7	7	11	11	0	12	27	60	5	24	163	
Pintail	0	0	3	0	1	9	0	1	0	1	4	1	0	2	0	10	57	6	9	6	
Garganey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Shoveler	2	11	1	3	14	3	21	14	8	13	1	16	2	1	0	10	2	0	9	6	
Red-cr Pochard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Pochard	300	45	155	205	132	165	120	26	15	11	49	44	63	63	55	35	70	9	38	103	
Tufted Duck	150	40	71	100	34	44	260	113	83	119	170	144	141	136	120	110	104	118	111	151	
Greater Scaup						2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Long-t Duck	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Common Scoter							2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Velvet Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Goldeneye	50	45	60	47	64	90	93	130	0	119	46	57	150	132	80	50	30	26	32	103	
Smew	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	6		1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	2	
Merganser	6	32	4	18	20	5	14	0	13	5	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	
Goosander	75	125	165	69	102	141	62	120	82	110	69	52	60	18	84	43	132	105	118	101	
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	
Coot	50	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	60	262	376	172	476	614	228	500	520	176	191	160	343	
Moorhen	nc	6	6	4	6	15	10	15	16	19	12	20	6	1	7	9	2	1	8	10	

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

Annual maxima of wildfowl at Castle Loch 1980-2009 ctd