

MONTROSE BASIN COLOUR-RINGED BLACK-TAILED GODWIT MOVEMENTS

3 Winter reports (month shown)

5 Summer reports (month shown)

Symbols aligned horizontally show same bird
Arrows between symbols show same bird

O//B - OG Dundalk, EIRE
March 08 Elizabeth McKenna



O//B - RY Leighton Moss, Lancs.
Oct 08 Margaret Breaks



O//B - LG Exe Estuary, Devon.
Apr 08 Chris Marcol



O//B - YY Exe Estuary, Devon.
Mar 08 Gerry Leyman



O//B - BB Cley, Norfolk
May 08 Dave/Pat Wileman

Mount Novo de Palma,
PORTUGAL

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Montrose Basin has the most northerly regular wintering population of Black-tailed Godwits in Britain. Believed to be from the increasing Icelandic breeding population, perhaps also influenced by milder winters.

32 juveniles colour-ringed on the basin in September/October 2007. 23 of these birds resighted - 118 resightings. 8 birds wintered on the basin. 14 birds resighted away from the basin.

Birds leaving the basin for the winter head southwest. Individuals were recorded wintering in south and southwest England with 1 in Ireland and 1 as far south as Portugal. Those choosing to cross the channel run the gauntlet of hunters in the north of France. Sadly both the individuals reported from there were shot.

Juveniles do not return to Iceland in their first summer but tend to remain on or near their wintering areas. Sightings in summer suggest a high degree of wandering by Montrose birds, chiefly up and down the east coast. 6 birds summered on the basin.

The distribution of Black-tailed Godwit movements in winter and summer show that Montrose Basin is an important link in a chain of intertidal mud flat areas traditionally used by birds on passage and for overwintering and summering.

Thank you very much to SWT for permission to carry out this study and to all contributors for their records and photographs. Please send any sightings to raymond@waxwing.fsnet.co.uk. This is a joint Grampian/Tay Ringing Group project.