



Plate 111. White-billed Diver, third-calendar-year, Widewall Bay, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, 29 April to 21 May 2012. © Morris Rendall

Scottish Birds Records Committee report on rare birds in Scotland, 2012

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on behalf of the Scottish Birds Records Committee

This is the fifth annual report of the Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC), covering 2012. Previous reports have covered the periods 2005–08, 2009, 2010 and 2011 (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2010a, 2010b, 2011, 2012, McGowan *et al.* 2013).

This year's report is the last in which Great White Egret *Ardea alba*, Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* and Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* appear, as they are now considered sufficiently numerous to permit assessment of records at local level for records from 1 January 2013. Continental Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* will be assessed locally from the same date. Similarly, due to an increase in occurrences in Britain, the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) will no longer assess records of Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* and Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, and so from 1 January 2013 records of these two species will be reviewed by SBRC. A summary of these changes is given in Appendix 2.

In this report we give details of a late acceptance of an Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* in Dumfries & Galloway from 2007 which becomes Scotland's first.

In 2012, there were two Black Brants *Branta bernicla nigricans*, recorded only once previously in Scotland. Also, remarkably, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* reappears on the *Scottish List*, following its removal in 2010.

In contrast, in 2012 there were no accepted Scottish records of Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* for a third successive year, and there have been no observations of Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* since 2008, equalling the four-year blank period of 1981–84. Similarly, there were no occurrences of Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* for a second successive year; the last period with successive blank years was 1962–64.

The Northern Isles' near-monopoly of passerine species was maintained for a further year. With the exception of Water Pipit, only 24 individual songbirds on the SBRC list were seen outwith the Northern Isles in 2012 and only eight of these were on the mainland.

Format of the report

The species accounts in the report follow a standard format, which is modelled on the annual BBRC reports published in *British Birds*. Nomenclature and taxonomic sequence follow the *Scottish List* (Forrester 2013).

On the header line, after the species or subspecies name, are three numbers:

- Total number of birds in Scotland to the end of 2004, based on Forrester *et al.* (2007), with adjustments in some cases, and also including records added in this report. In some cases, older records, 'At sea' records, or records pertaining to the breeding population are explicitly excluded from the totals, following the example of Forrester *et al.* (2007). In the case of Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* and Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, numbers seen in the past were so great that totals have not been estimated.
- Total number of birds in Scotland during the period since 2004, but excluding the current year. Where appropriate, acceptances by BBRC and by local committees are included. Returning birds or repeat sightings of the same individual, insofar as these can be judged, are not counted.
- Total number in the current year (2012).

Immediately below the header line is a table of accepted Scottish records for 2012, with details. For those species assessed locally in the Northern Isles, full details of accepted Northern Isles records are not given. Instead, they are summarised as a separate table or in the text.

For all taxa, information is also provided about pre-2012 records that were not included in previous reports. These are presented in reverse chronological order. Records assessed by SBRC are listed in full, otherwise only summary information is provided.

It should be noted that records of individual birds reappearing at the same location in subsequent years are sometimes accepted locally without formal submission to SBRC; full details of these returning birds are nonetheless provided. Revised details are also provided for some pre-2012 records published previously.

For each record listed in full, the following information is provided. For additional details, see ap Rheinallt *et al.* (2010a).

- Year.
- Recording area (www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/local-recorders-network/).
- Location(s). In the case of some recording areas, individual islands or component administrative areas are also named.
- Number of birds if more than one, with age and/or sex if known.
- 'Returning' if applicable.
- Date(s). Note that the use of a date range does not necessarily imply that a bird was confirmed to be present throughout; in some cases it may have been observed only on the first and last dates given.
- 'Found dead' or 'died' if applicable.
- 'Trapped' if applicable.
- Existence of a photograph, if this formed part of the assessment process.
- Names of observers, in alphabetical order. Every effort has been made to name only those people who played a part in finding and/or identifying the bird. However, if no submission was made by these observers, the submitter of the record is also credited. All other observers are covered by the use of '*et al.*'

- Details and location of specimen if preserved in a museum, with specimen number if available.
- Additional sightings of the same bird, or a cross-reference to additional sightings in a different recording area or year. Where a bird is said to be the same, this is usually a presumption based on the judgment of the observer, local recorder and/or others.

The table of records is followed by the main text of the species account. At the end of each account, a brief summary of global breeding and wintering distribution, with mention of relevant subspecies, is given in parentheses.

Species coverage

Species coverage is unchanged from the last report. Rare subspecies of several species on the SBRC list are still assessed by BBRC, the most important being Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* and Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*. For these, the accounts in the SBRC report summarise accepted BBRC records in order to give as complete a picture as possible of the species' occurrence in Scotland.

A list of records assessed by SBRC and considered to be 'not proven' can be found in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 summarises the involvement of different committees in the assessment of the taxa on the SBRC list. Appendix 3 lists minor corrections to previous SBRC reports.

SBRC

SBRC was set up in 1984 as a subcommittee of the SOC Council. Its role is to assess records of species that are rare in Scotland but not rare enough in Britain to be assessed by BBRC. Current members are Hywel Maggs (Chairman), John Bowler, Mark Chapman, John Nadin, Martin Scott, John Sweeney and Mark Wilkinson with Chris McInerny as non-voting Secretary and Bob McGowan as non-voting Museum Consultant. Mark Wilkinson replaced Alan Lauder during the period when the records reported here were assessed.

The *Scottish List* subcommittee consists of Dave Clugston, Ron Forrester, Angus Hogg, Bob McGowan, Chris McInerny and Roger Riddington. For more information about SBRC, see ap Rheinallt *et al.* (2010a) and www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/records-committee/.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, we are grateful to all observers who submitted records of Scottish rarities during the period. Without their efforts, this report could not exist. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to those who gave permission for their excellent photographs to be reproduced here.

Next, we thank the following current and former recorders and report compilers for their assistance in compiling, checking and correcting records for this report: Paul Baxter, Mark Chapman, Paul Collin, Jon Cook, Martin Cook, Jim Dickson, Iain English, Rob Fray, Keith Gillon, Angus Hogg, Hugh Insley, Hywel Maggs, Ray Murray, David Parnaby, Scott Paterson, Chris Pendlebury, Mike Pennington, Brian Rabbits, Malcolm Ware, Stephen Welch, Jim Williams, and Val Wilson. We are particularly grateful for the co-operation of the Northern Isles recorders in helping to compile summaries for species assessed locally within their areas. Jill Harden and Jill Pilkington are thanked for facilitating the donation of the corpse of the Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* to National Museums Scotland.

We appreciate Keith Naylor's scrutiny of past SBRC reports and thank him for his continuing valuable contribution. We thank Ian Andrews for making available the database of records of scarce and rare species used during the preparation of Forrester *et al.* (2007).

Systematic list of accepted records

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

1: 0: 2

Table 1. Accepted records of Black Brant in Scotland, 2012.

2012: Outer Hebrides Àird an Rùnaire, North Uist, adult, 24 April, photo (S.E. Duffield).
Outer Hebrides Poll nan Crann ('Stinky Bay'), Benbecula, adult, 11 May, photo (P. Stronach *et al.*).

Black Brant is extremely rare in Scotland, with just one previous record, a bird present at Loch Gruinart, Islay (Argyll) from 20 October 1989 to 17 May 1990.

The second and third Scottish records (Duffield *et al.* 2012) are possibly the same individual loitering in west coast areas of Uists (Outer Hebrides), being undetected for nearly three weeks.

These observations follow up to ten wintering in England and Ireland in the past few years, so it is surprising it has taken so long for another to be located in Scotland.

(Breeds in north western Canada, Alaska and eastern Siberia, and wintering mostly on the west coast of North America from southern Alaska to California, but also some in east Asia, mainly Japan.)

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

0: 5: 0

Table 2. Additional records of Egyptian Goose in Scotland, 2011 and 2007.

2011: Dumfries & Galloway Castle & Kirk Lochs, Lochmaben, 1–3 November, photo (B.D. Henderson *et al.*).
2007: Dumfries & Galloway Dalswinton, Castle & Kirk Lochs, Lochmaben, 13 July, photo (B.D. Henderson).

Egyptian Goose was only recently added to Category C of the *Scottish List*, in 2010 (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2012). Subsequently, a number of older records have come to light, and others are expected to be forwarded to the committee.

The Dumfries & Galloway individual in 2007 predates the Orkney 2008 record and thus becomes the first for Scotland.

Both sightings are considered more likely to relate to birds from feral populations than to escapes from captivity.

(Breeds throughout Africa south of 20°N latitude, extending farther north into southern Egypt, the only part of its natural range to fall within the Western Palearctic. There are substantial naturalised populations in England concentrated in Norfolk, the Netherlands and Denmark, with smaller numbers breeding in Belgium, France and Germany.)



Plate 112. Black Brant, adult on right, Poll nan Crann ('Stinky Bay'), Benbecula, Outer Hebrides, 11 May 2012. Note the thicker white collar shown by this subspecies. © Peter Stronach

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

197: 148: 25

Table 3. Accepted records of White-billed Diver in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Highland** Mellon Udrigle, Ross & Cromarty, 16–19 April (K.D. Shaw, A.C. Steele *et al.*).
Moray & Nairn Buckie, 13 March (G. Garner, M. Harding *et al.*).
Moray & Nairn Burghead, adult, 12 April to 8 May, also sub-adult 19–23 April (F. Antley, T. Back, J. Poyner, M.J.H. Cook *et al.*).
North-east Scotland Portsoy, second-calendar-year, 17 March to 29 April, (P.A.A. Baxter *et al.*).
Orkney Water Sound, South Ronaldsay, adult, 15 January to 5 February, photo (B. Hamill *et al.*).
Orkney Mull Head, Papa Westray, adult, 27 April, photo (A.J. Leitch *et al.*).
Orkney Widewall Bay, South Ronaldsay, third-calendar-year, 29 April to 21 May, photo (J. Branscombe *et al.*).
Orkney Renwick Head, Mainland, two, adult summer 29 April, photo (K.E. Hague).
Orkney Tor Ness, North Ronaldsay, two adults, 30 April, photo (R.J. Else *et al.*).
Orkney Outshore Point, Sandwick, Mainland, adult, 30 April, photo (A. Mitchell).
Orkney Lighthouse, North Ronaldsay, adult, 6 May (M. Warren).
Orkney Evie, Eynhallow Sound, adult, 3 June, photo (A. Forsyth *et al.*).
Orkney Renwick Head, Mainland, probable adult 9 June, photo (C. Bielby *et al.*).
Orkney Howequoy Head, Mainland, adult, 11–19 June (E.J. Williams, S.J. Williams *et al.*).
Outer Hebrides Port Nis & Sgiogarstaigh (Skigersta), Lewis, up to three, 22–26 March, photo (B.A.E. Marr *et al.*).
Outer Hebrides Port Nis & Sgiogarstaigh (Skigersta), Lewis, two, 9–10 April, photo (B.A.E. Marr *et al.*).
Outer Hebrides Port Nis & Sgiogarstaigh (Skigersta), Lewis, two (possibly same as above), 23 April, photo (B.A.E. Marr *et al.*).
Shetland Bluemull Sound, adult (returning), 10 January to 6 April (B.H. Thomason *et al.*), see also McGowan *et al.* (2013).
Shetland Kirkabister, Mainland, adult (returning), 8–22 January (R.A. Haywood *et al.*), 28 April (M.S. Chapman, R.W. Tait), see also McGowan *et al.* (2013).
Shetland Sumburgh Head, Mainland, adult, summer, 28 May (D.J. Britton).
Shetland Sand of Sand, Fetlar, first-summer, 10–13 June, photo (J.A. Rowlands *et al.*).

White-billed Diver is a scarce visitor to Scotland, with ten or more birds being reported annually. Most occur in Shetland, Orkney, the Outer Hebrides and Highland, with some preferred localities being used each year in spring as presumed stop-overs between wintering and summering areas. In Shetland, a small number of wintering individuals are believed to return to the same sites in successive years and summering birds have become almost annual, with Orkney being a favoured location. There may be some overlap among these records given the birds' mobility, but clarification is problematic.

Observations are now coming from other north facing coasts in east Scotland, and these, too, could be regular spring stop-over areas. Scott & Shaw (2008) discussed the phenomenon of increasing numbers of records in north-west Scotland, and this also now applies to the north-east coast.

(Breeds in parts of Arctic Russia, Alaska and Arctic Canada; winters on the Pacific coasts of Russia and Canada as well as along the coast of Norway.)

Continental Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

2: 26: 8

Table 4. Accepted records of Continental Cormorant in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Fife** Kilconquhar Loch, adult, 7 June, photo, (D.E. Dickson).
Lothian Port Seton, adult, 4–13 February, photo (A. Brown).
Shetland Lochs of Hillwell and Spiggie, Mainland, five adults, 31 March to 20 May, photo (R. Riddington *et al.*).
Upper Forth Airthrey Loch, 25 January, photo (A. Cotton).

Continental Cormorant is a rare visitor to Scotland, with a pattern of most records along the east coast and Shetland in the first half of the year. There were only three accepted Scottish records by 2007, but since then multiple sightings annually, with a high of five simultaneously on Shetland.

The total number of individuals in Scotland becomes 36. The east coast bias is likely to be observer-led, with just one accepted west coast bird to date. The distribution of Continental Cormorant is continuing to expand on the Continent and in the UK (Balmer *et al.* 2013), so observations in Scotland are likely to become more frequent.

Claims of Continental Cormorant after 1 January 2013 will not be assessed by SBRC (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2012; Appendix 2).

(*P. c. sinensis* breeds throughout central and southern Europe and has expanded recently into parts of northern Europe; outside the breeding season it occurs both inland and on coasts through much of Europe, including England. *P. c. carbo* breeds in north-west Europe including Iceland, Norway and the British Isles.)

Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

46: 7: 1

Table 5. Accepted records of Night-heron in Scotland, 2012.

2012: Outer Hebrides Hirta, St Kilda, adult female, found dead, 16 March, skin, National Museums Scotland, NMS.Z 2013.164 (J. Pilkington).

Night-heron is a less-than-annual visitor to Scotland, with a spring peak in observations. There is a wide geographical spread but the most likely areas of occurrence are the south, the Northern Isles and the Outer Hebrides. The existence of a free-flying colony at Edinburgh Zoo (Lothian), with at least two birds still remaining in 2012, perhaps obscured trends in the past, but the number of free-flying birds in Scotland has decreased over the past decade or so.

The last three Scottish records have all been in spring from the Outer Hebrides, suggestive of overshooting from the southern Europe population.

(Holarctic with four subspecies, nominate *nycticorax* breeding in mainland Europe and into Asia, and *N. n. hoactli* in North America. Both populations move south in winter.)

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

3: 6: 1

Table 6. Accepted records of Cattle Egret in Scotland, 2012.

2012: Highland Corpach, Lochaber, 22 September (C. Mertens, K. Middlemiss).

Cattle Egret remains very rare in Scotland, with this bird nudging the total to double figures. No real pattern or trend is evident, but the last three records have been in the west, with the only east coast birds being in Angus & Dundee and Caithness.

(Occurs commonly in sub-tropical and temperate areas throughout the world, the European population being centred on the Mediterranean, extending north to central and western France, with increasing numbers of records farther north. Generally a short-distance migrant.)

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

37: 42: 1

Table 7. Accepted records of Great White Egret in Scotland, 2012.

2012: Highland Munloch Bay, Ross & Cromarty, 24 April (A. Williams *et al.*).
Shetland Vatshoull, Whalsay, (returning), 13 January 2012 (J. Dunn), see McGowan *et al.* (2013).

Great White Egret is a rare but increasingly frequent visitor to Scotland, with sightings in most areas and most months. It is likely that some duplication of records occurs as individuals move from site to site.

With breeding confirmed for the first time in England in 2012, following an increase in numbers (Pitches 2012), it is surprising that only one was seen in Scotland in 2012, down from nine in 2011. This is the lowest total since a single sighting in 1999 in Outer Hebrides.

As from 1 January 2013, records of this species in Scotland will be assessed locally rather than by SBRC (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2012; see Appendix 2).

(Occurs on all continents outwith polar regions. In Europe, nominate *alba* breeds from central Europe eastwards, wintering from Africa and the Persian Gulf to China and Korea; *A. a. egretta* breeds in the Nearctic, with northern populations wintering in the south; two other subspecies.)

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

19: 13: 2

Table 8. Accepted records of Black Kite in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Angus & Dundee** Bridge of Dun, adult or second-calendar-year, 19 August (C. McGuigan). **Lothian** Faseny Water, Lammermuir Hills, 4 June (C.N. Davison).

Black Kite is a very rare visitor to Scotland from continental Europe. Most individuals have been seen in spring, from April to June, with just a handful of sightings later in the season, though there have also been instances of summering and a single case of hybridisation with Red Kite *Milvus milvus*.

There were just two records in 2012: the Bridge of Dun sighting was the first for Angus & Dundee and the Lothian sighting was the second for that area.

(Nominate *migrans* breeds throughout most of Europe except the far north; winters in sub-Saharan Africa. Other subspecies elsewhere in the Old World.)

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

c. 325 (1968–2004): 42: 3

Table 9. Accepted records of Rough-legged Buzzard in Scotland, 2012, with an additional record for 2010.

2012: **Highland** near Forsinard, Sutherland, second-calendar-year, 25–26 April, video (J. Clarke). **Orkney** Orphir Hills, Mainland, adult female, 29 February to 2 May, photo (M. Sinclair, I. Watt *et al.*). **Shetland** Laxobiggin, Mainland, juvenile, (returning) 5 November **2011** to 23 March, photo (M.S. Chapman *et al.*), see also McGowan *et al.* (2013). **Shetland** Baltasound, Unst, adult, 27 September, photo (T. Davison, R.M.R. James, D.A. Nadin). **2010:** **Fair Isle** two, juveniles, 16 October, photo (S. Geary, M. Newell *et al.*).

Rough-legged Buzzard is a scarce passage migrant to Scotland, occurring mostly on the eastern side of the country and in the Northern Isles, with numbers tending to peak in late autumn. Birds occasionally overwinter.

Overwintering birds have become rare in recent years. The last loitering mainland Rough-legged Buzzard was one in the Lammermuir Hills (Lothian) on 16–21 February 2006, and prior to that, a summering bird on 1–25 June 2005 at Loch of Strathbeg (North-east Scotland). The last wintering mainland birds were in 2002, when at least two were at the Ythan Estuary (North-east Scotland), and one was in Caithness. The additional record for 2010 brings the revised total for that year to 11, exceeding the ten observed in 2011; the three records for 2012 represent the lowest annual total since 2007.

With upland observers becoming more numerous in the past decade due to wind farm survey work it is perhaps more evident that the decline in this species in Scotland is a real one.

As from 1 January 2013, records of this species in Scotland will be assessed locally rather than by SBRC (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2012; see Appendix 2). Identification can still be problematic and observers should also be alert to the possibility of North American vagrant Rough-legged Hawk *B. l. sanctijohannis*.

(Holarctic, with four subspecies; nominate *lagopus* breeds from Scandinavia east to Siberia and migrates south to winter in an area extending from France to central Asia. *B. l. sanctijohannis* from North America is a potential vagrant to Scotland.)

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

81: 13: 0

Table 10. Additional record of Red-footed Falcon in Scotland, 2007.

2007: **Perth & Kinross** Dalrawer, Aberfeldy, adult female, 30 May to 1 June, photo (A. Mcleod, J.S. Nadin *et al.*).

Red-footed Falcon is mainly a rare late-spring migrant to Scotland, with most sightings coming from Shetland, Orkney and North-east Scotland. Although it is not quite annual, since the late 1960s there has been at least one sighting every other year, with the exception of the three-year period 1986–88, when no birds were seen.

The 2007 sighting was unusual, being made at an inland location. This was only the second occurrence in Perth & Kinross, following the first at Kinloch Rannoch in 1947. The total for 2007 has been revised to three.

There have been no records since 2010, and the species remains much sought after in Scotland.

(Breeds from Hungary and the Czech Republic east to China, wintering in southern Africa.)

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
69: 62: 3

Table 11. Accepted records of White-rumped Sandpiper in Scotland, 2012.

- 2012: **Argyll** Gott Bay, Tiree, adult, 6–7 August, photo (J. Bowler, K. Gillon *et al.*).
Highland Brora, Sutherland, juvenile, 28–30 October, photo (D. MacAskill).
Lothian Tynninghame, adult, 1–4 August, photo (M.D. Hodgkin *et al.*).

White-rumped Sandpiper is a scarce, but annual, visitor to Scotland from North America, with most observations in autumn in the Hebrides.

The two observations on the east coast fit the broad pattern of mainland incidence, with these being the second record for Sutherland and the 15th for Lothian. The Tiree sighting was the fifth for Argyll, where all occurrences have been on Tiree or Islay.

(Breeds in North America at high latitudes, migrating to winter in Brazil, Argentina and Chile.)

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*
12: 10: 1

Table 12. Accepted records of Yellow-legged Gull in Scotland, 2012.

- 2012: **Outer Hebrides** Loch Sanndaraidh (Loch Sandary), North Uist, fourth-calendar-year, 22 March, photo (S.E. Duffield).

Yellow-legged Gull is very rare in Scotland, though found at scattered locations throughout the country, usually in groups of other large white-headed larids, often Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus graellsii*. Birds, predominately adults, have been found at all times of the year, sometimes remaining for extended periods.



Plate 113. White-rumped Sandpiper, adult, Tynninghame, Lothian, 1–4 August, 2012. © Ian Andrews

consistent with its rarity. This was the second sighting in Outer Hebrides, and one of the five most northerly in Scotland. It is possible that sub-adults are being under-recorded, and SBRC encourages observers to look out for these and submit descriptions of potential candidates.

(Nominate *michahellis* breeds mainly from south-west Europe east to the Black Sea, dispersing widely in winter as far north as Britain and the Baltic; *atlantis* breeds on the Azores, Madeira and Canaries, wandering south to north-west Africa.)

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

34: 3: 2

Table 13. Accepted records of Alpine Swift in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Lothian** Corstorphine Hill, Edinburgh, 17–18 August, photo (I. Moore *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides Butt of Lewis, Lewis, 24–25 March, photo (B.A.E. Marr *et al.*).

Alpine Swift is a very rare visitor to Scotland, seen usually between mid-April and late July. Spring occurrences probably involve overshoots from breeding grounds on the Continent, while those in summer relate to wandering non-breeders. There are very few autumn records.

The Corstorphine Hill sighting, the fourth for Lothian and second for Edinburgh, is notable for its city centre location and for being observed on two consecutive days. The occurrence on Lewis (Outer Hebrides) was on the earliest date yet recorded in Scotland.

(Ten subspecies. Breeds in southern Europe from Iberia to the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and Africa, with northern populations moving south to winter.)

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* 0: 0: 1

Table 14. Accepted records of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Shetland** Scalloway, Mainland, juvenile, 15–19 October, photo (R.M. Fray *et al.*).

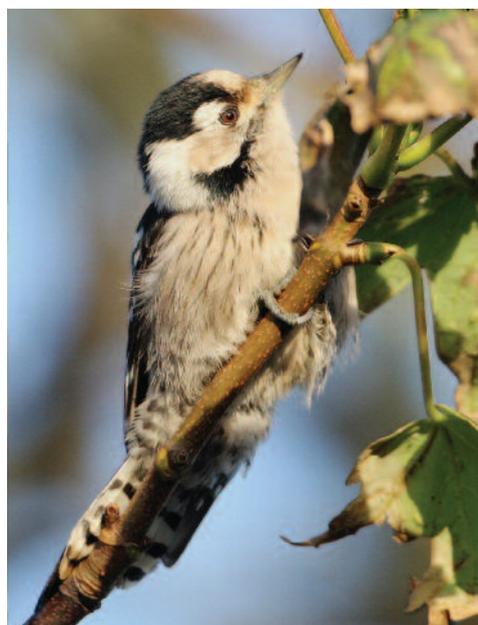


Plate 114. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, juvenile, Scalloway, Mainland, Shetland, 15–19 October 2012. © Jim Nicholson

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker is an extremely rare bird in Scotland, with just one accepted record, on Shetland in October 2012.

This species was removed from the *Scottish List* in 2010, with the words: “Given its steep decline farther south in Britain, it seems unlikely to be reinstated in the foreseeable future” (McInerney 2011, ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2012). So it is genuinely extraordinary that a sighting was made just two years later in Shetland (Fray 2013). However, it seems likely that this individual did not derive from the highly sedentary and declining British population (*D. m. comminutus*), but instead originated from northern Continental Europe. If so, the Scalloway bird would of the nominate subspecies *D. m. minor*, which would be the first occurrence for Scotland and the UK. The bird was well photographed, though not trapped, and the record is being assessed by BBRC/BOURC to establish its racial identity.

(Ten or 11 subspecies. Breeds across the Palearctic region from England and Wales to Japan. Northern populations are short-distance migrants, with those farther south being sedentary.)

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

86: 11: 1

Table 15. Accepted records of Woodchat Shrike in Scotland, 2012.

2012: Orkney Redland Firth, Mainland, 24 May (S.J. Williams).

Woodchat Shrike is a rare, almost annual, passage migrant to Scotland. Most occurrences involve juveniles seen in the Northern Isles in autumn. The Redland Firth bird is a typical spring record for this species.

(Nominate *senator* breeds from north-west Africa, Iberia, France and Belgium south to Turkey; *L. s. badius* on Mediterranean islands; and *L. s. niloticus* from Turkey to Iran. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa.)

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

286: 52: 1

Short-toed Lark is found annually in Scotland in very small numbers, mostly in spring and autumn, with almost all observations in the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally. It is very rare elsewhere, particularly on the mainland.



Plate 115. Woodlark, first-winter, Isle of Eigg, Lochaber, Highland, 27–28 October, 2012. © Bob McMillan

The single occurrence for 2012, on Fair Isle on 21 May, represents the lowest annual total since the mid-1960s. Almost 50% of sightings have been on Fair Isle (167), and this one was typical of the established pattern.

(Eight or nine subspecies. Breeds widely in dry, sandy areas from southern and eastern Europe to the Middle East and western China, with populations migrating to winter in India, the Middle East and Africa.)

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

68 (1950–2004): 18: 2

Table 16. Accepted records of Woodlark in Scotland, 2012.

2012: Fair Isle Quoy & Auld Haa, 16 October to 5 November (T. Hyndman, J.W. Moss *et al.*).

Highland Isle of Eigg, Lochaber, first-winter, 27–28 October, photo (J. Chester *et al.*).

Shetland Skaw, Unst, 14 November 2011 to 16 January, photo, see McGowan *et al.* (2013).

Woodlark is a rare bird in Scotland, mostly found in late autumn and early winter in the Northern Isles. There has been one instance of attempted breeding, in Angus & Dundee in 1993 (Forrester *et al.* 2007).

The Isle of Eigg record is notable as the second observation at this location, with the first in 2010 (ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2012), despite this species being extremely rare along the west coast. The fact that it was a first-winter indicates that two individuals were involved and, as such, a remarkable coincidence, being found by the same observer.

There has only been one mainland occurrence since 2000, in Lothian in 2008.

(Two subspecies breed from the Middle East across to Morocco, extending north as far as Finland, Norway and England north to Yorkshire, where the population is increasing. Most populations move south to wintering areas, with more northerly populations moving the farthest.)



Plates 116–117. Red-rumped Swallow, Skaw, Unst, Shetland, 25 May 2012. © Mike Pennington

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
40: 28: 6

Table 17. Accepted records of Red-rumped Swallow in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Fair Isle** Utra, 22–24 May, photo (D. Back *et al.*).
North-east Scotland Cults, 14 May (I. Broadbent).
Orkney Mirbister, Mainland, first-calendar-year, 22 October (A. Forsyth).
Shetland Skaw, Unst, two, 25 May, photo (R. Brookes, I. Waddington *et al.*).
Upper Forth/Lothian Blackness, 3–4 November (B. & H. Darvill *et al.*).

Red-rumped Swallow is observed in Scotland annually in small but increasing numbers from April through to November, mainly along the east coast and on islands. This recent increase is thought to reflect a northward expansion of the Continental breeding range.

Observations in 2012 were typically scattered through eastern and northern Scotland. The occurrence at Blackness, however, was the first for Upper Forth. Sightings of multiple birds, such as the pair on Unst (Shetland), are very rare; two previous such events were in Lothian in 1987 and 1990.

(Eleven or 12 subspecies. Breeds widely from southern and eastern Europe eastwards across the Palearctic region, and in sub-Saharan Africa. Northern populations are migratory, wintering in Africa and southern Asia. In recent years its range has expanded into more northern and western areas.)



Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
158: 30: 4

Table 18. Accepted records of Greenish Warbler in Scotland, 2012. Northern Isles records are summarised separately in the text.

2012: **Isle of May** two, 6–8th, then one 9–10 June, photo (M. Newell *et al.*).

Greenish Warbler is a rare but annual migrant to Scotland, increasingly regular over the past few decades. It is mostly seen in late August and early September, with more than 80% of sightings in the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally.

Outwith the Northern Isles and North-east Scotland, the Isle of May is the only other area with double-figure reports of this species (15). Occurrences of two birds have only been reported twice before, in Orkney and in Shetland, both in 1988, a year that yielded the third highest annual total for Scotland (14).

There were two occurrences in the Northern Isles in 2012: in Orkney a single bird was observed on 14–15 August, and one was seen in Shetland on 23–24 September.

The dates reported for 2012 are typical of the consistently narrow spread of arrival dates in both spring and autumn.

(*P. t. viridanus* breeds from the Baltic east through Russia to the Yenisei and south to Afghanistan, and winters in the Indian subcontinent and south-east Asia. There are four records in England of Two-barred Greenish Warbler *P. t. plumbeitarsus* from eastern Siberia.)

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

46: 12: 2

Table 19. Accepted records of Radde's Warbler in Scotland, 2012, with an additional record for 2010.

- 2012: Angus & Dundee** Lunan Bay, 18–21 October, photo (L. Berry, J. Cook *et al.*).
Fife Kilminning, 18–21 October, photo (K.J. Gibb, M.D. Hodgkin *et al.*).
2010: Fair Isle Quoy, 13–14 October, photo (R.J. Nason, D.N. Shaw *et al.*).

Radde's Warbler is a very rare late autumn visitor to Scotland, with the majority of occurrences in the Northern Isles, and the remainder along the east coast.

It is noteworthy that the only two sightings in Scotland during 2012 were on the mainland, and that both birds appeared on the same day in late October and departed four days later. The Fife bird was located near to an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*, with a Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* also being found at the same site, making a trio of rare warblers.

An additional record for 2010 brings the total for that year to five birds.

(Breeds from southern Siberia east to Sakhalin and North Korea; migrates to winter in southern China and south-east Asia.)



Plate 118. Subalpine Warbler, male, Mingulay, Outer Hebrides, 22 May 2012. © Adam Cross

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

60: 23: 2

Dusky Warbler is a rare but more or less annual visitor to Scotland, with the autumn migration period accounting for all records but one. Like Radde's Warbler, it occurs mainly in the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally. Nearly all other sightings have been on the east coast.

The two seen in 2012 were both in Shetland, with one at Symbister, Whalsay on 12 October and the other at Sumburgh Farm, Mainland on 20 October.

(Breeds from western Siberia to China, wintering from the Himalayas to south China; two subspecies, with European vagrants belonging to nominate *fuscatus*.)

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

194: 49: 5

Table 20. Accepted records of Subalpine Warbler (excluding the subspecies *albistriata*) in Scotland, 2012. Northern Isles records are summarised separately in the text, and include an additional record for 2011.

- 2012: Outer Hebrides** Mingulay, male, 22 May, photo (A. Cross, M. Wood).

Subalpine Warbler occurs annually in Scotland as a rare migrant, mainly in spring. The overwhelming majority of birds are seen in the Northern Isles, where records of nominate *cantillans* and birds not assigned to any subspecies, are assessed locally. Scottish claims of subspecies other than *cantillans* are assessed by BBRC.

There were two occurrences of *cantillans*, or unassigned individuals, in Shetland: one at Virkie, Mainland in May and another at Quendale, Mainland in May/June. In addition, there were two records of *albistriata*, both in May: one was on Tiree (Argyll), and the other on Fair Isle (Hudson *et al.* 2013). The Tiree sighting was the first for the recording area and, indeed, the first for south-west Scotland.

Also reported here is a late addition for 2011: a bird not assigned to race occurred at Swannay, Birsay (Orkney) on 19–24 April (J. Williams pers. comm.), increasing the total for that year to 11.

The BOURC's Taxonomic Sub-Committee is currently assessing some proposals on the taxonomy of Subalpine Warbler (BOU 2014). Currently, three subspecific taxa of Subalpine Warbler are known to have occurred in Scotland (Collinson *et al.* 2014).

(*S. c. cantillans* breeds from Iberia to Italy; *S. c. albistriata* from the Balkans to Turkey; *S. c. moltonii* in the Balearics, Corsica, Sardinia and northern Italy. Migrates to winter in the sub-Saharan Sahel.)

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

53: 6: 2

Table 21. Accepted records of Melodious Warbler in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Argyll** Totronald, Isle of Coll, male, 8 June (I. Lycett *et al.*).
Isle of May 7–9 June, photo (M. Newell, J.J. Squire *et al.*).

Melodious Warbler is a very rare spring and autumn migrant to Scotland, recorded in most years but not all: for example, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2009 were blank years. About three-quarters of occurrences have been in the Northern Isles, with almost identical totals for the three recording areas.

The occurrences for 2012 represent the first for Argyll and the seventh for the Isle of May. There have been only two other years in which Melodious Warbler has occurred *only* in recording areas outwith the Northern Isles; one was in 1997 in the Outer Hebrides, and the other was in 1913 when the first Scottish specimen was collected on the Isle of May (Forrester *et al.* 2007).

The early June dates for the birds reported here are typical for spring Melodious Warblers. The Isle of May bird lingered for a few days, fitting the general pattern of recent years.

Last year's report included a late acceptance for Orkney in 1997. Due to an oversight, that record was omitted from the total, but this has now been adjusted to 53.

(Breeds in north Africa, Iberia, France, Belgium, and south-west Germany to the north-west Balkans; migrates to winter in sub-Saharan West Africa.)

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

many: c. 209: 33

Table 22. Accepted records of Marsh Warbler in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Angus & Dundee** Windyhills/Castlesea Bay, male, 27 May, photo (K. Edwards, G. Smith).
Argyll Carnan Mor, Tiree, male, 28 May, photo (J. Bowler).
Isle of May 22–25 May, trapped, photo (M. Martin, N. Morrison).
Isle of May 29 May to 2 June, trapped, photo (M. Oskien *et al.*).
North-east Scotland Collieston, male, 9 June, photo (P.S. Crockett *et al.*).
North-east Scotland Balmedie, male, 9 June (P.A.A. Baxter, C. Gibbins *et al.*).
Outer Hebrides Mingulay, adult, 11 June, photo (A. Cross, M. Wood).

Marsh Warbler is a scarce annual migrant to Scotland with most occurrences involving singing males in late spring; very rarely, birds remain to breed. The Northern Isles account for the overwhelming majority of records and these are assessed locally.

Sightings in 2012 conformed to typical date and localities; three were on the Scottish mainland.

Table 23. Accepted records of Marsh Warbler in the Northern Isles, 2012.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	8	1	5 Jun–2 Jul	12 Sep
Orkney	6	1	30 May–30 Jun	5–6 Oct
Shetland	9	1	25 May–28 Jun	18 Sep

Numbers of Marsh Warblers recorded in the Northern Isles in 2012 (26) was almost double the total number observed in the previous two years (12 in 2010, and 15 in 2011). The



Plate 119. Marsh Warbler, adult, Mingulay, Outer Hebrides, 11 June 2012. © Adam Cross

fluctuating annual abundance of this species is related, for spring birds at least, to variation in the prevalence of easterly winds in late May and early June, which are presumed to cause birds to overshoot their breeding grounds in Fennoscandia (Forrester *et al.* 2007). Although most occurrences in 2012 involved birds that stayed for only one or two days, one bird was present from 30 May to 11 June on North Ronaldsay (Orkney).

(Breeds in Britain, France, Denmark and Fennoscandia east through Europe to Russia; winters in sub-Equatorial Africa.)

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
139: 11: 2

Table 24. Accepted records of Nightingale in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Isle of May** 30 April to 1 May, photo (M.P. Harris, M. Newell *et al.*).

Nightingale is a very rare, but almost annual, passage migrant to Scotland. Spring records predominate, and Fair Isle and Shetland account for the vast majority of sightings.

The bird on the Isle of May was the first there since 1996.

In the Northern Isles, claims are assessed locally. One late spring arrival was trapped on Fair Isle on 15 June.

(Nominate *megarhynchos* breeds from Morocco and western Europe through North Africa and southern and central Europe to the Ukraine and Turkey; *L. m. africana* from the Caucasus area and eastern Turkey to Iran; *L. m. golzii* from the Aral Sea to Mongolia. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa.)

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*
86: 30: 2

Table 25. Accepted records of Water Pipit in Scotland, 2012.

2012: **Fife** St Andrews, 9 February (A. Hogg *et al.*).
Lothian Barns Ness, 25 October 2011 until 30 March (E. Forbes *et al.*); ringed 6 March; same 20 October (K. Gillon, C. Scott) to end of year, see also McGowan *et al.* (2013).
Lothian Aberlady, 8 January, photo (K. Gillon).

Water Pipit is a rare winter visitor to Scotland, often found among seaweed on beaches with Rock Pipits *Anthus petrosus*. Its seasonal distribution features a late-autumn arrival, overwintering by a few individuals, and a secondary peak in spring. The majority of sightings to the end of 2012 were in Ayrshire and Lothian.

One apparently overwintering bird was present at the beginning of 2012, having been first noted in late 2010. Details were published by McGowan *et al.* (2013), and are repeated here for 2012.

There were two new records in 2012, both early in the year. The St Andrews sighting was the fifth for Fife while the Aberlady bird maintained the recent run of observations in Lothian.

As from 1 January 2013, records of this species in Scotland will be assessed locally rather than by SBRC (see Appendix 2).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* 366: 61: 30

Arctic Redpoll is a scarce though annual visitor to Scotland. Most sightings since 2005 have involved the race *C. h. hornemanni* (Hornemann's Redpoll), claims of which are assessed by BBRC, while many earlier occurrences referred to *C. h. exilipes* (Coeus's Redpoll). All but five of the 61 birds during 2005–11 were in the Northern Isles, with the majority occurring in autumn. Claims of Coeus's Redpoll in the Northern Isles are assessed locally.

In 2012, most Arctic Redpolls seen in Scotland were in the Northern Isles in autumn. A total of three were accepted as Coeus's Redpoll (or unassigned to race), claims of which are assessed locally within those islands.

Table 26. Accepted records of Coeus's Redpoll in the Northern Isles, 2012.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	1	-	14 Jul	-
Orkney	-	-	-	-
Shetland	-	2	-	19 Oct–9 Nov

In addition, BBRC accepted 27 records of Hornemann's Redpoll in Scotland (Hudson *et al.* 2013), all but two occurring in autumn. There was a single bird in Argyll, two in Fair Isle, four in Orkney, two in Outer Hebrides, and 18 in Shetland. This is the highest total for Scotland since 1996, when 85 were observed.

(Breeds on the Arctic tundra, with a circumpolar range divided between two subspecies: *C. h. hornemanni* on Ellesmere and Baffin Island (Canada) and in Greenland, and *C. h. exilipes* elsewhere. Winters to the south of the breeding range.)

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* many: 33: 3

Ortolan Bunting is a rare and declining, but still annual, passage migrant to Scotland. In recent years the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally, have accounted for more than 90% of occurrences.

There were only three individuals in Scotland in 2012. One was present on Fair Isle from 9–10 May, one was North Ronaldsay (Orkney) from 20–24 August, and another was on Whalsay (Shetland) on 9–19 May. The May sightings were the first since 2009. The recent general trend of declining numbers appears to be continuing.

(Breeds patchily from Algeria and Iberia north to Norway and east through Europe to Asia; winters in sub-Saharan Africa.)

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* 276: 37: 3

Table 27. Accepted records of Rustic Bunting in Scotland, 2012.

2012: Outer Hebrides Mingulay, 30 May to 8 June, photo (A. Cross, M. Wood).

Rustic Bunting is a scarce, annual vagrant in Scotland with the majority of birds appearing in the Northern Isles where claims are assessed locally. Numbers have declined in recent years.

The sighting on Mingulay was the first occurrence in Scotland outwith the Northern Isles since 2007, and the first in Outer Hebrides since 2003.

Table 28. Accepted records of Rustic Bunting in the Northern Isles, 2012.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	-	-	-	-
Orkney	1	-	23 May	-
Shetland	1	-	24–27 May	-

(Breeds from Fennoscandia to Siberia; winters mainly in Japan, Korea and China.)

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

593: 112: 25

Table 29. Accepted records of Little Bunting in Scotland, 2012, and an additional record for 2011. Northern Isles records are summarised separately in Table 30.

2012: North-east Scotland Collieston, 27 September (P.S. Crockett).

2011: Isle of May 1 October (J.J. Squire).

Little Bunting is a scarce though increasingly regular passage migrant to Scotland, mostly in the Northern Isles, where records are assessed locally. The great majority of birds are found in autumn, but there have also been a few sightings in winter and spring.

Occurrences in Scotland in 2012 correspond well to the established pattern; a single December sighting for a few days in Shetland was a notable exception to the majority of

autumn records. Just one was observed away from the Northern Isles; the Collieston (North-east Scotland) bird was only the third on the mainland since 2000.

Table 30. Accepted records of Little Bunting in the Northern Isles, 2012.

	Number of birds		Date range	
	Spr.	Aut.	Spr.	Aut.
Fair Isle	-	6	-	24 Sep–28 Oct
Orkney	-	3	-	23 Sep–18 Oct
Shetland	-	15	-	26 Sep–10 Dec

A spring occurrence on Fair Isle in last year's report was included in error, but with the addition of the Isle of May occurrence mentioned above, the total for 2011 is unchanged.

(Breeds from northern Fennoscandia to eastern Siberia; winters from north-east India and Nepal to south-east Asia.)

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Appendix 1.

List of records regarded as not proven by SBRC.

- 2012: White-billed Diver North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 27 March. Loch a' Chroisg, Ross & Cromarty, Highland, 9 October. Great White Egret Wigtown Bay, Dumfries & Galloway, 14 June. Yellow-legged Gull Talmine, Sutherland, Highland, 3 March. Caspian Gull Luthrie, Fife, 12 April. Long-tailed Skua Add Estuary, Argyll, 27 August. Red-rumped Swallow Hirta, St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, 12 June. Marsh Warbler Loch Nahinie, Ayrshire, 19–20 June. Thortonloch, Lothian, 28 September. Red-throated Pipit Scourie, Sutherland, Highland, 15 May. Little Bunting Foveran, North-east Scotland, 28 September.
- 2011: Marsh Warbler Kineff, North-east Scotland, 5 November.
- 2009: Yellow-legged Gull Castle Loch, Dumfries & Galloway, 5 April.
- 2000: Caspian Gull/Yellow-legged Gull Hogganfield Loch, Clyde, 19–26 June.

Appendix 2.

Summary of assessment of records by the Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) and other committees, 2011–2013. All species and subspecies assessed by SBRC are included, with two exceptions. First, any species or subspecies not on the *Scottish List* is automatically assessed by SBRC if it is not assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Second, some species assessed by SBRC have additional rare subspecies assessed by BBRC but not shown here.

2011	2012	2013	
■	■	■	Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>
■	■	■	Black Brant <i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>
■	■	■	Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>
■	■	■	White-billed Diver <i>Gavia adamsii</i>
■	■	■	Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>
■	■	■	Great Shearwater <i>Puffinus gravis</i>
■	■	■	Wilson's Petrel <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>
■	■	□	Continental Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>
■	■	■	Night-heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
■	■	■	Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
■	■	□	Great White Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>
■	■	■	Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>
■	■	■	Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
■	■	■	Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>
■	■	■	Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>
■	■	□	Rough-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo lagopus</i>
■	■	■	Red-footed Falcon <i>Falco vespertinus</i>
■	■	■	Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
■	■	■	Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
■	■	■	White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
■	■	■	Continental Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>
■	■	■	Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>
■	■	■	Caspian Gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>

■	■	■	White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
■	■	■	Franz Josef Land Little Auk <i>Alle alle polaris</i>
■	■	■	Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>
■	■	■	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
■	■	■	Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator</i>
■	■	■	Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
■	■	■	Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>
■	■	■	Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis daurica</i>
■	■	■	Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>
■	■	■	Greenish Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
■	■	■	Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>
■	■	■	Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
■	■	■	Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>
■	■	■	Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> (except <i>S. c. albistriata</i>)
■	■	■	Eastern Subalpine Warbler <i>Sylvia cantillans albistriata</i>
■	■	■	Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
■	■	■	Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>
■	■	■	Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
■	■	■	Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
■	■	■	Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>
■	■	■	Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
■	■	■	Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>
■	■	□	Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
■	■	■	Serín <i>Serinus serinus</i>
■	■	■	Arctic Redpoll <i>Carduelis hornemanni</i> (except <i>C. h. hornemanni</i>)
■	■	■	Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll <i>Carduelis hornemanni hornemanni</i>
□	■	■	Scottish Crossbill <i>Loxia scotica</i>
■	■	■	Parrot Crossbill <i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>
■	■	■	Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
■	■	■	Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
■	■	■	Rustic Bunting <i>Emberiza rustica</i>
■	■	■	Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>

■ = BBRC ■ = SBRC ■ = SBRC except Northern Isles (Fair Isle, Orkney and Shetland) ■ = SBRC except Outer Hebrides ■ = SBRC outside core range (see www.the-soc.org.uk/identification-of-scottish-and-parrot-crossbills/) □ = local assessment

Appendix 3.

Corrections to previous SBRC reports:

2011: Purple Heron, Mountcastle Quarry, Fife, 10–18 April.

Arctic Redpoll, The Bell, Borders, also seen in neighbouring Lothian.

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