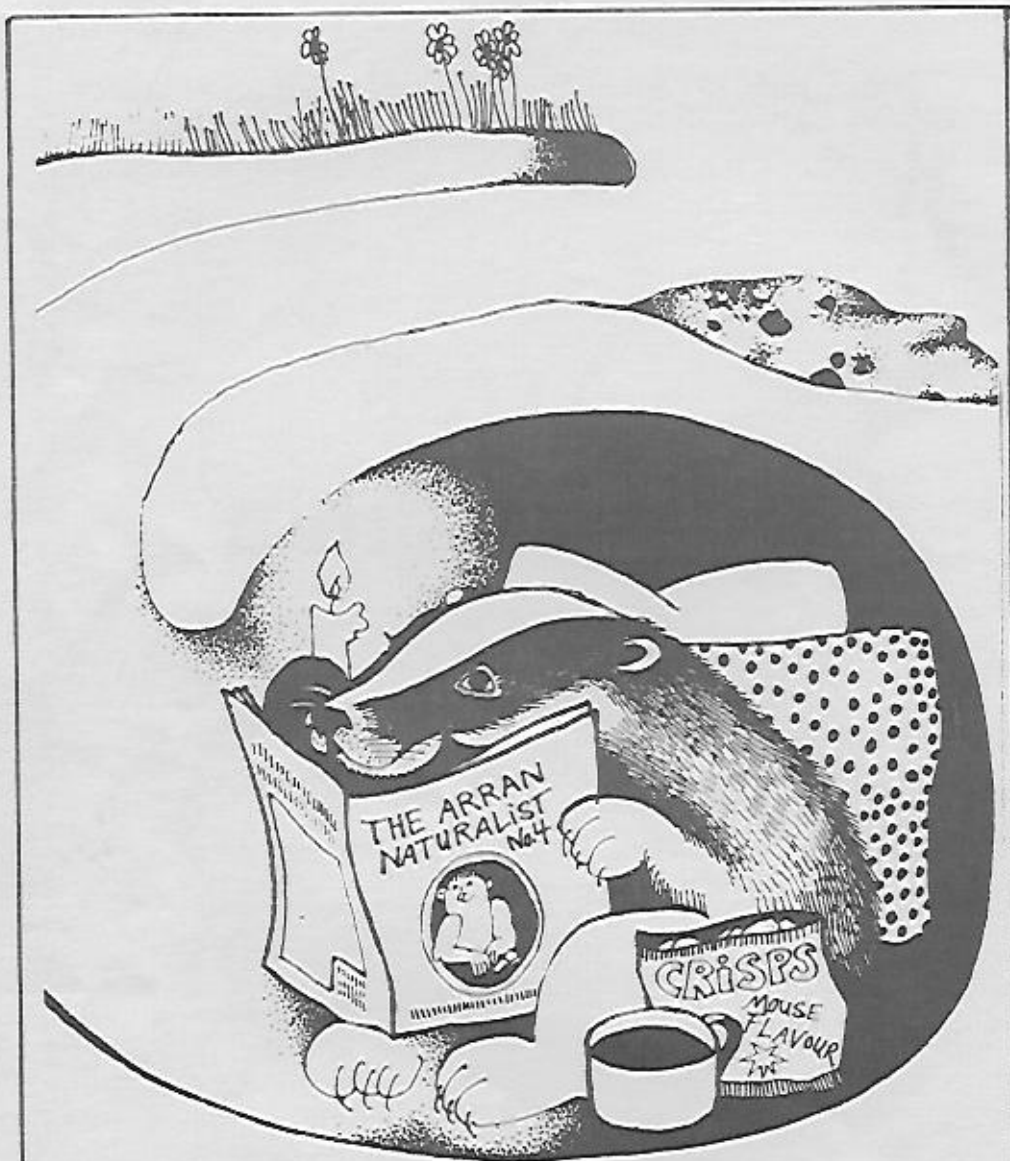


Arran
Bird Report
1980





THE ARRAN NATURALIST

PRICE : 65p

Published annually to raise funds for the Isle of Arran Natural History Society. Its seventy pages contain much to delight anyone curious about the island's wildlife, folklore and ancient history. Your interest and support would be most welcomed.



ARRAN BIRD REPORT 1980

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Compiled by Margaret H. Dunn.

RED-THROATED DIVER: Breeding success of pairs at usual sites not known except 2 young at one site 11 June; 4 Machrie 4 August; Peak 7 Largybeg 20-21 December.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER: Pair North Sannox 5 June.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER: Winter-Spring. 2 Whiting Bay 26 January; 1 Corrie 23 April; 1 Lochranza, 3 Machrie 26 April; 2 Largybeg 27 April; 1 Kilpatrick 4 May; 1 Whiting Bay 15 December.

LITTLE GREBE: 1 Brodick 22 January; 3 wintered Lochranza.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE: 3 possibles Pirmill 2 September.

FULMAR: New colony Holy Isle about 20 pairs; but small numbers young reared usual nests.

MANX SHEARWATER: 3 between Arran and Ailsa Craig 8 July.

STORM PETREL: 1 between Arran and Ailsa Craig 8 July.

GANNET: Usual numbers round Arran seen most months, although more in summer.

CORMORANT: 3 pairs possibly nested Holy Isle.

SHAG: 10 pairs possibly nested Holy Isle. With young 8 July.

GREY HERON: Nested Brodick, Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Lagg, Merkland. Good success Lamlash, but fewer nests overall.

MUTE SWAN: Lochranza pair reared no young. Moved round island autumn and winter. 2 immature wintered Brodick.

GREYLAG GOOSE: 250 Blanacoole 9 November, 200 on 22 March 50 → W Cleiteadh, 16 → W Ross 7 December; 1 Wineport 16 April: Last 44 → N Corrie 24 April.

SHELDUCK: 4 pairs, 14 fledged young. Smaller number of pairs reared young, but success comparatively good.

WIGEON: 20 Machrie 27 January; 12 Cleiteadh 2 November; 12 Lamlash 16 March. Peak 30 Lamlash 17 February.

TEAL: 15 Machrie 2 March, 7 on 28 September; 18 Cleiteadh 2 December; Peak 51 Cleiteadh 7 December.

MALLARD: Sample female with 10 young; female with 11 young 4 May Machrie reared only 1 young 12 June. Predators Mink, Heron, Gulls. Peak 26 Cleiteadh 2 November.

EIDER: good numbers with young. Peak 200, Newton 16 Laggan 26 April.

KING EIDER: Attempted breeding with female Eider Lochranza 5-26 April. (stayed longer in 1979 and mating seen with female eider).

GOLDENEYE: 7 sub adult Merkland 10 January, 9 on 23 January; 5 Kerr's Port 10 February; 7 Lochranza 2 March; Peak 10 Merkland 12 February.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Increase. 4 pairs, 22 young. Peak 60 Whiting Bay 13-14 September.

GOOSANDER: None seen, but 9 Lochranza 26 June 1979 and 2 Brodick 10 Oct.

HEN HARRIER: 9 known pairs. Male dead Lamlash 21 February. Winter: Female Machrie, Female Blackwaterfoot 27 January; Male Corriegills 31 January.

SPARROWHAWK: Fairly good numbers. 7 known pairs. Winter: Female Kings Cross 20-21 December; Glen Cloy December; Glenashdale 19 March.

BUZZARD: Most common bird of prey. Many sightings. 30 pairs with 9 young.

- GOLDEN EAGLE:** Pair reared 2 young N.Arran. 2 immature Central Arran did not breed.
- OSPREY:** 1 Glen Scorrodale 17-18 May.
- KESTREL:** Good numbers.
- RED-FOOTED FALCON:** Female Boguillie 2 November. 1st record for Arran (Subject to acceptance by rarities committee).
- MERLIN:** 2 pairs did not appear to breed. Several winter records. Male dead Blackwaterfoot 30 October, ringed Iceland as young 11.7.77.
- PEREGRINE:** 5 pairs reared 11 young.
- RED GROUSE:** Rather scarce Brodick to Lochranza but good clutches 8 to 9 eggs. 4 pairs Glen Catacol, 30 Beinn Bhreac 17 February.
- PTARMIGAN:** 2 Goatfell 21 May; Female 5 young Beinn Bharrain 10 July; 2 North Goatfell 3 November.
- PHEASANT:** Good numbers with young.
- CORNCRAKE:** No reports 1980, but 1 calling Brodick 17 May - 30 June, 1979 until crop cut; 1 calling Torbeg 1-8 June 1979 until crop cut.
- MOORHEN:** Not common. 1 Brodick 25 January; a few Lamlash 3 May.
- OYSTERCATCHER:** Many nests with eggs. Peak 150 Machrie 29 July.
- RINGED PLOVER:** Fewer nests. Fewer wintered. Peak 57 Whiting Bay 20 January and 21 December.
- GOLDEN PLOVER:** 12 Glen Catacol 17 February; 4 Loch Tanna 8 July; Peak 36 Cleiteadh 7 December.
- LAPWING:** Low numbers nested. Peak 100 Shiskine 2 March.
- SANDERLING:** 2 Blackwaterfoot 18 September.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** None 1980, but 1 Lamlash 18 September 1979.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER:** 6 Blackwaterfoot 27 January; 3 on 22 March.
- DUNLIN:** 3 Machrie 4 May and 8 September; 2 Lamlash 17 May; 1 Brodick 18 September; 1 Blackwaterfoot 28 September. 1 wintered Whiting Bay.
- JACK SNIBE:** 1 Claulands hills 16 March.
- SNIBE:** Fair numbers.
- WOODCOCK:** Roding Kingscross, Glen Catacol, Glen Cloy, Glen Rosa, Glen Sherraig. Nest, 4 eggs, deserted Dippen.
- WHIMBREL:** None seen 1980. 3 Cleiteadh 20 May 1979.
- CURLEW:** A few pairs nested. Peak 130 Machrie 29 July. Winter total for island 1000+.
- REDSHANK:** Summer 1 Blackwaterfoot 6 July; Peak 20 Cordon 22-26 August.
- GREENSHANK:** None seen 1980, yet many singles 1979, also 2 Whiting Bay 30 July and probably same 2 Lamlash 23 August.
- GREEN SANDPIPER:** None seen 1980 but 1 Blackwaterfoot 1-3 September is first record for island.
- COMMON SANDPIPER:** Many pairs with nests and young.
- TURNSTONE:** Peak 15 Whiting Bay 20 January; Last 15 in summer plumage Machrie 4 May.
- ARCTIC SKUA:** None seen 1980 but 2 half mile off Arran 20 May 1979 harrying gulls behind boat.
- GREAT SKUA:** 1 Brodick/Ardrossan crossing 12 August; 1 Drumadoon → N 10 July.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL:** Usual small numbers. Peak 80 Blackwaterfoot 2 March.
- COMMON GULL:** Good numbers nested. Peak 300 Cleiteadh 7 December.

- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Hundreds nested Holy Isle, some Pladda, and many parts island.
- HERRING GULL:** Most common gull. Hundreds nested Pladda, Holy Isle and many parts island. Peak 700 Cleiteadh 7 December.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Approximately 30 pairs nested Holy Isle.
- KITTIWAKE:** Passage 500 Whiting Bay 7-30 September; 200 Machrie 28 September; Peak 1000 Brodick 17 September.
- SANDWICH TERN:** Passage. 1st Machrie 4 May. 7 immature with adults 5 August - 18 September, Whiting Bay, Brodick and Lamlash.
- ROSEATE TERN:** 1 Sannox 19 September. Very scarce passage migrant.
- COMMON TERN:** 16 'Comic' Terns Machrie 14 May; 3 Catacol 18 May.
- ARCTIC TERN:** 16 'Comic' Terns Machrie 14 May; 5 Pladda 17 May did not stay to breed. 20 bred Machrie, feeding young 10 July; None left 29 July.
- GUILLEMOT:** Occasionally seen on Brodick/Ardrossan crossing, also on journey to Ailsa Craig. 1 oiled Kingscross 4 January.
- RAZORBILL:** Occasionally seen round island.
- BLACK GUILLEMOT:** Breeding. 4 pairs Pladda 17 May; 1 Catacol, 1 Newton 22 May. Usually nest Dippen and Blackwaterfoot. Possibly 8 pairs. A few seen in winter Pirate's Cove, Wineport and Whiting Bay.
- ROCK DOVE:** Numbers possibly down.
- WOODPIGEON:** Quite common. Peak 200 Kingscross 24 January.
- COLLARED DOVE:** Several Auchencairn, Cleates farm, Lamlash, Brodick, Shiskine, Whiting Bay. No change.
- †TURTLE DOVE:** None 1980. 1 Lamlash 17-24 May 1979 is 1st Arran record!
- CUCKOO:** Late arrival. 1st Glen Shurig 21 April. Minimum 11 heard.
- BARN OWL:** Few sightings. Only 3 seen.
- SHORT-EARED OWL:** 1 Glen Cloy 23 April; Pair Lamlash 7 & 8 July. Very few.
- NIGHTJAR:** 9 churring Brodick June, July.
- SWIFT:** Passage. 2 → N Boguillie 23rd June; 2 Holy Isle summit 9th July; 1 Kingscross 24 July-28 September; 1 Brodick → S 8 September.
- SKYLARK:** 3 with 1 young Loch Nuis 10 July; Singing in May Loch Garbad, Kingscross, Machrie, Torbeg, and Ross. Peak 60 Machrie 27 January.
- SAND MARTIN:** 28 occupied nests Auchareoch, Dougarie and Sannox.
- SWALLOW:** Good numbers nested. Arrived 1st Corrie 15 April; more by 5 May; Peak 50 Largybeg 31 August (Mixed House Martins) Last 2 Brodick 7 October.
- HOUSE MARTIN:** Good numbers nests. Late arrival 1st Kildonan 1 May; 25 Kingscross 30 & 31 August; Peak 50 Largybeg (mixed Swallows) 31 August; Last 2 Lamlash 7 November.
- TREE PIPIT:** Pair Ross 20 April. Total 7 seen - Lamlash, Glen Rosa, Glen Cloy, Corrie, Machrie.
- MEADOW PIPIT:** Plenty seen. Pair Loch Garbad reared 2 young 11 May; 6 North Glen Sannox 2 July; Several Holy Isle and Pladda. Peak 64 Kingscross 16 February.
- ROCK PIPIT:** Plenty round shores with young.
- GREY WAGTAIL:** Only 2 breeding pairs. 8 winter sightings.
- PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL:** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*. Common breeding bird including Holy Isle and Pladda. Peak 24 Cleiteadh 2 November. *M.a.alba*. Passage 4 Lamlash 16 September.
- DIPPER:** Scarce. 1 Glenashdale 18 May; 1 Clauchan Glen 26 October; 1 Cnocan burn 23 January and 27 October. Total 3 seen.

WREN: Recovering!

DUNNOCK: Fair numbers. Several Winter seashore.

ROBIN: Very common. Pair nested in polythene coal bag Glen Cloy. 6 eggs
25 April.

BLACK REDSTART: Male Brodick golf course 27 October.

REDSTART: None seen this year.

WHINCHAT: 3 singing Ross 4 May; 1 Bennan 5 May; Pair Torbeg carrying nest
material 14 May; Pair and 1 young Machrie 29 July. Possibly 9+ pairs.

STONECHAT: 7 pairs breeding is same as 1979. Very scarce winter. Male Machrie
27 January.

WHEATEAR: 1st 2 Ross 20 April; 14 pairs in breeding territory. Autumn: 6
Whiting Bay 14 September; 7 Lamlash 16-18 September. Peak 12 Clauchlands
17 September. Last 3 Machrie and 2 Blackwaterfoot 28 September.

RING OUZEL: 1 A'Chir Ridge in May.

BLACKBIRD: Many with young. No change.

FIELDFARE: 75 Shannochie 2 November; 100 Torbeg 9 November.

SONG THRUSH: Sample. 3 singing Kingscross 5 June. Fairly common.

REDWING: More than Fieldfares. 90 Kingscross 29 October; 125 Shannochie
2 November.

MISTLE THRUSH: Pairs Auchareoch, Kingscross, Lamlash; 4 Glen Cloy singing
25 April; Peak 25 Kingscross 7 September.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER: 1 singing Torbeg 14 May.

SEDGE WARBLER: Only 11 singing compared with 26 pairs 1979.

WHITETHROAT: Arrived 1st Kingscross 10 May; 22 pairs in breeding territory
is slightly down on 32 pairs 1979.

GARDEN WARBLER: Good year with 9 singing in broadleaved woodland or
gardens. Arrived 1st Kingscross 17 May.

BLACKCAP: Singing Brodick 19 May; Monamore Forestry 21 May; Merkland
23 May. Winter Male Kingscross 6 November; Female Lamlash 8 November.

WOOD WARBLER: A few heard Brodick and Merkland Wood.

CHIFFCHAFF: Arrived 1st Whiting Bay 7 April; Fair numbers in wooded areas.
last Kingscross 9 September.

WILLOW WARBLER: Arrived 1st Lamlash 13 April; Very common. Many nests
and pairs with young. Last Lamlash 16 September.

GOLDCREST: Slight increase. Most in forestry.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER: Arrived 1st Brodick 19 May; 6 pairs and 5 young
seen Kingscross and Sannox. Last 19 September.

PIED ~~TREE~~ FLYCATCHER: Male singing Merkland 25 April-27 May, 1980. Male
singing Merkland 1979, 8-15 June is 1st Arran record.

LONG-TAILED TIT: Several family parties of approximately 12.

†WILLOW TIT: None seen 1980 but 1 singing Kingscross 12 May 1979 is 1st Arran
record.

COAL TIT: Good breeding success. Most common in forestry.

BLUE TIT: With young Kingscross 22 May is sample. Fairly common.

GREAT TIT: Not so common.

TREE CREEPER: 1 wintered Kingscross. Pair Merkland 25 April. 1 Clauchlands
5 May are only records.

GOLDEN ORIOLE: None 1980 but female or immature. Lochranza 7 June 1979.

†RED-BACKED SHRIKE: 1 Corloch 26 April is 1st Arran record.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE: Pair seen 8 June in same place and same date as in 1979.

(Location withheld).

JACKDAW: Good numbers nested. Total wintered 2000.

CARRION CROW: Usual numbers.

HOODED CROW: Usual numbers. Peak 60 Glenree 27 January (Mixed Carrion, Hooded and Hybrids).

RAVEN: Nest, 3 young Holy Isle; 3 Ross 20 April; pair Bennan 11 July; 2 Glen Ormidale 25 October; 2 Boguillie 19 March.

STARLING: No change. Groups of 50 in winter.

HOUSE SPARROW: Very local.

CHAFFINCH: Good breeding success. Peak 200 Machrie 27 January.

BRAMBLING: 1 or 2 with chaffinches Machrie 27 January.

GREENFINCH: Pair with 1 young Torbeg 12 June is only breeding observed. Singles and pairs seen Brodick, Whiting Bay, Kingscross. Peak 45 Glen Cloy 3 November.

GOLDFINCH: Below average numbers. Heard Lamlash May; pair The Guerry 5 May; 1 singing Kingscross 16 July; Winter: 12, Kingscross 31 March.

SISKIN: Increasing in afforested areas. Winter peak: 30 Merkland 3 November.

LINNET: Good numbers with young. Peak 100 Kingscross 30 September; 50 Cleiteadh 7 September.

TWITE: 1 Blackwaterfoot 10 July.

REDPOLL: Breeding in good numbers Glen Rosa, Auchencairn, Kingscross, Auchareoch to Glenashdale forestry, Sannox, Brodick, Peak 20 Kingscross 26 August.

CROSSBILL: 1 Glenashdale 22 March; 12 between Kilmory and Glenashdale, in 2 families 21 May is 1st breeding record.

BULLFINCH: More seen and heard. Peak 14 Merkland 3 November.

SNOW BUNTING: 1 Male Ben Bhreac 24 November only one seen. 20 Benlister 3 February 1979.

YELLOWHAMMER: Breeding 10 pairs all in southend island. 7 Kilmory 9 November.

1980 ADDENDA (by W.Anderson)

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE: 8 end November

CORNCRAKE: Calling Shiskine end June.

Note: \longrightarrow direction of flight.

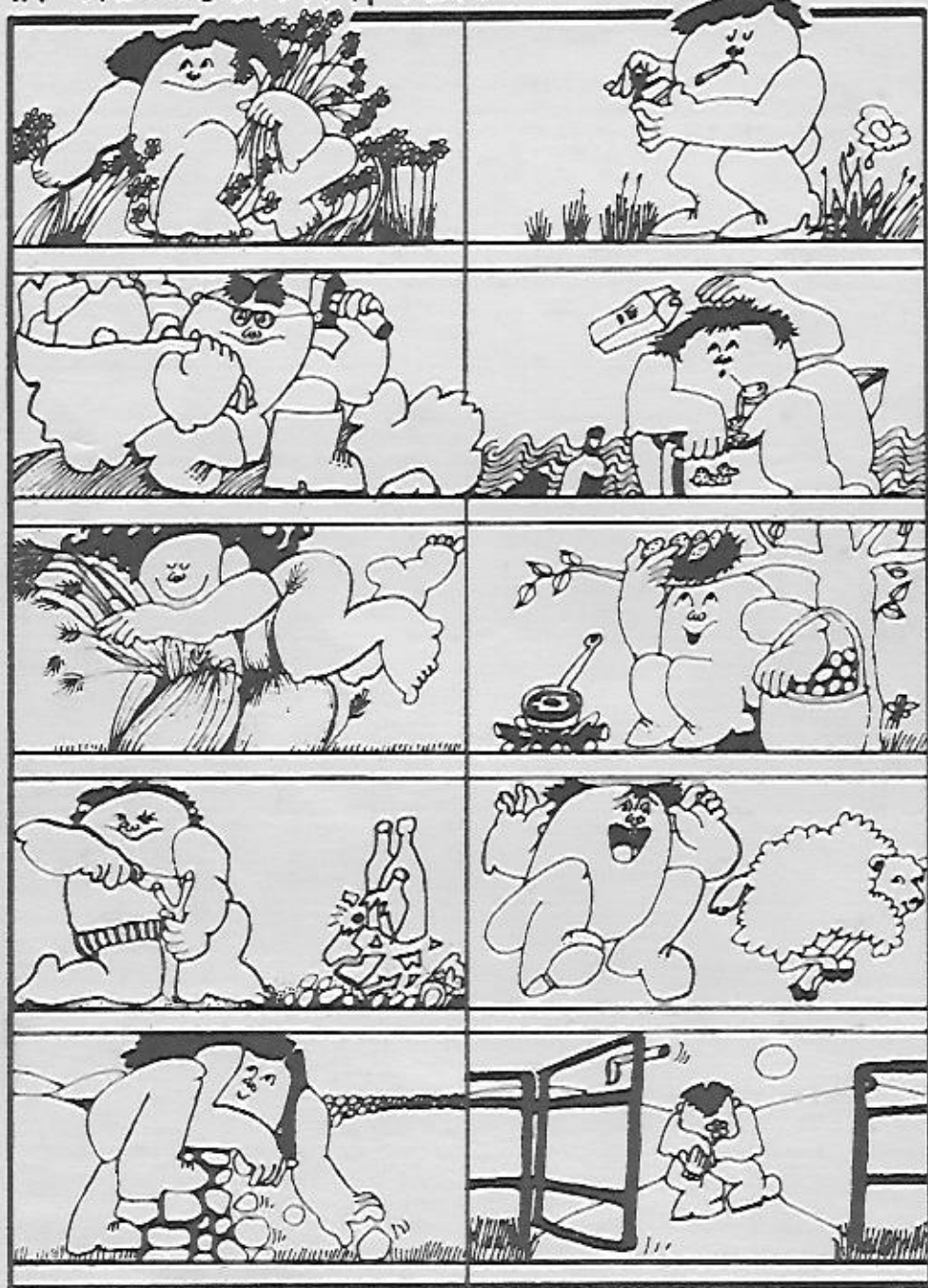
†Since there was no Arran Bird Report published in 1979 a few interesting records have been included. A total 131 species were seen in 1980.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the 1980 report with special thanks to Ian Puckrin and Angus Maciver who sent detailed reports. Apologies to anyone omitted.

LIST OF OBSERVERS: M.Bailey, J.Basford, F.Chorley, J.Clerk, Mrs.S.Docker, A.Dunn, M.Dunn, D.J.Ellis, J.Gibson, R.H.Hogg, I.Hopkins, Mrs.J.Howe, S.Lambie, Miss S.Lansdale, J.Lough, A.Maciver, N.Marshall, D.McNicol, Mrs.I.McNicol, D.Morgan, A.Nicol, M.Nind, R.Nisbet, P.Ormerod, Mrs.J.Ormerod, Miss S.Paul, J.Phillips, I.Puckrin, D.Robertson, Mrs.C.Robertson, A.Ross, Mrs.P.Sillars, Miss S.Sillars, Mrs.G.Small, V.Small, B.Spence, D.Tapson, H.Walker, Mrs.R.Walker, G.Watson, J.Williams, C.Bailey, I & S.Martin, S.King.

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