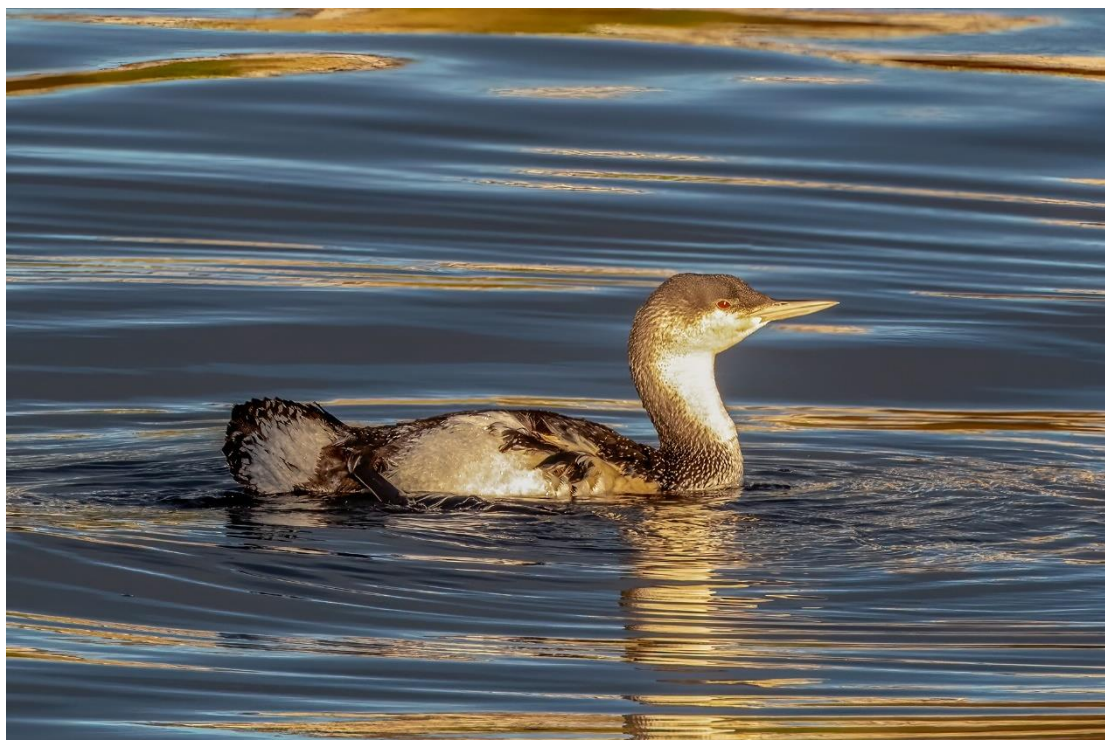


Caithness Bird Report 2022



Red-throated Diver, Wick

Ken Crossan

The **Glossy Ibis** seen in December 2021 at Milton, Reay remained until 07.04; 80 **Wood Pigeons** at Calder on 01.01; 440 **Common Gulls** at Lythmore on 01.01; 70 **Redwings** at Dorrery on 01.01; 140 **Twite** at Calder and 150 at Dunnet Bay on 01.01; 26 **Great Cormorants** at Loch Watten on 01.01; 5 **Greater Scaup**, 12 **Gadwall**, 275 **Eurasian Wigeons** and a **Woodcock** at St John's Pool/Loch on 02.01; 180 **Golden Plovers** at Westerloch on 02.01; a **Woodcock** at Newlands of Forse on 02.01; 83 **Ruddy Turnstones** on Thurso Beach on 02.01; 100+ **Little Auks** and two **Grey Phalaropes** recorded in Dunnet Bay on 04.01; a **Magpie** at Newport on 04.01; a **Little Auk** at Dunnet Bay on 05.01; **Woodcock** at St John's on 06.01; 40 **Chaffinches** at Olgrinmore on 06.01 and 60 at Helshetter on 07.01; 300 **Common Starlings** at St John's Pool/Loch on 07.01; 2, **Northern Shovelers** at the Loch of Mey on 08.01; 5 **Bramblings** at Hillside, Killimster on 08.01 was the maximum there for spring with the last spring record of one on 23.03; a **Mistle Thrush** at Auchorn, Lyth on 09.01; c.250 **Linnets** at Dunnet Bay on 09.01; a first winter **Glaucous Gull** at Sandside from 09.01 to 02.04; a **Great White Egret** at Loch Watten from 09.01 to 17.01; 153 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** at Mey on 10.01; 10 **Long-tailed Tits** at Lybster on 11.01; 250+ **Common Gulls** at Westerloch on 15.01; a first winter **Glaucous Gull** at Scrabster from 16.01 to 02.02 and one at Dunnet Bay on 16.01 and 31.01; a **Long-eared Owl** flying north at Calder on 17.01; 27 **Great Cormorants** at Loch Watten on 17.01; the first **Great Skua** of the season was recorded at Wick on 17.01; 380 **Common Gulls** at Newlands of Forse on 18.01; a **Common Shelduck** at St John's Pool on 19.01 was the first for the season; a **Woodcock** at Newlands of Forse and one at Reay on 21.01; c.100 **Skylarks** at Shebster on 21.01; a **Bohemian Waxwing** at Wick on 21.01; 50 **Purple Sandpipers** at Thurso East on 22.01; a **Magpie** at Dunnet on 22.01, away from its core range around Dunbeath; 86 **Common Redshanks** at Thurso Bay on 22.01; a Kumlien-type **Iceland Gull** at Scrabster on 22.01; 60 **Pied Wagtails** at Thurso Harbour on 22.01; 61 **Common Teal** at Loch Heilen on 22.01; wintering flocks of **Eurasian Curlew** in January included 78 birds at Thurso East on 22.01, 78

at Loch of Wester on 23.01, 66 in Sinclair's Bay on 24.1, 62 at St John's Pool/Loch on 27.01, 247 in Dunnet on 30.01, 197 at Loch of Mey on 30.01 and 78 at Crosskirk on 31.01; 20 **Yellowhammers**, St John's Pool, 23.01; a **Woodcock** at Todholes on 23.01; 47 **Mute Swans** at Loch Scarmclate on 23.01; 400 **Eurasian Wigeon**, 500 **Tufted Ducks** and 150 **Mallards** at Loch Watten on 23.01; a male **Ring-necked Duck** at Loch Watten on 23.01; c.120 **Fieldfares** at Loch More on 23.01 and c.190 at Loch Scarmclate on 30.01; a **Brent Goose** at Sandside Bay on 23.01 and presumably the same individual remained to 09.03; 231 **Common Gulls** at Sinclair's Bay on 24.01; 106 **Shags** and 38 **Great Northern Divers** in Sinclair's Bay on 24.01; a **Woodcock** at Broubster on 24.01; 812 **Common Starlings** at Sinclair's Bay on 24.01; 86 **Common Ringed Plovers** at Sandside Bay on 25.01; **Woodcock** at Skiall and Ruther on 29.01; 400 **Pink-footed Geese** at Skitten on 29.01; 193 **Dunlin** at Thurso on 30.01; a **Short-eared Owl** at Dunnet on 30.01; 9 **Ruff** at St John's Loch and 12 at the Loch of Mey on 30.01; 400 **Pink-footed Geese** on 31.01; 134 **Eurasian Oystercatchers** at Crosskirk on 31.01; a **Barnacle Goose** at Reay on 31.01; 50 **Purple Sandpipers** at Crosskirk on 31.01.

c.100, **Fieldfares** at Brawlbin on 01.02; 450+ **Pink-footed Geese** at Lyth on 02.02; 12 **Ptarmigan** seen on the Scarabens in early February; 14 **Siskins** at Hillside, Killimster on 04.02; 11 **Brambling** at Knockglass on 04.02; 12 **Snow Buntings** at Brims on 04.04 and 14 at Dunnet Bay on 19.02; 4 **Yellowhammers** at Hillside, Killimster on 05.02, 5 on 12.02; 8 **Mistle Thrushes** at Baillie Hill on 05.02; 41 **Purple Sandpipers** at South Head, Wick on 05.02; a **Woodcock** at Newlands of Forse on 05.02, one at St John's Pool/Loch on 08.02, one at Brawlbin on 16.02 and one at Newlands of Forse on 24.02 and 28.02; 150 **Skylarks** at East Mey on 06.02; a **Merlin** at Altnabreac on 07.02, the first of several recorded in the county in February; a **Merlin** at East Mey on 09.02; the maximum spring count for **Siskin** at Reay was 50+ on 09.02; 60 **Twite** at Nybster and 20+ **Yellowhammers** at Charleston on 13.02; a **Short-eared Owl** at Weydale on 13.02; 1,000+ **Common Starlings** at Waterloo, Wick on 15.02, c.300 at Newlands of Forse on 16.02; ; 86 **Eurasian Curlew** at Thurso East on 19.02; 600 **Pink-footed Geese** at Killimster and 1,517 at Gillock on 19.02; 197 **Northern Lapwings** at Loch Heilen on 19.02; 400+ **Skylarks** at Gillock on 19.02; 13 **Little Grebes** at Loch Scarmclate on 19.02; a **Merlin** and 120+ **Skylarks** at Loch Scarmclate on 19.02; a **Glaucous Gull** at Loch Watten on 19.02; 28 **Hooded Crows** at Newlands of Forse on 19.02; 67 **Purple Sandpipers** at roost, Scrabster Harbour on 19.02; **Skylarks** singing at Gelshfield on 20.02 and at Noss Head on 27.02; 730 **Tufted Ducks** and 230 **Common Goldeneyes** at Loch Watten on 20.02; 4 **Brent Geese** at Scrabster on 22.02; 60 **Chaffinches** at Hillside, Killimster on 23.02; ,300 **Pink-footed Geese** at Achscrabster on 24.02; 41 **Purple Sandpipers** at Castlehill on 24.02; a **Todd's Canada Goose** at Skitten on 24.02; a "Nordic" **Jackdaw** at Hillside, Killimster at 25.02; a **Barnacle Goose** at Lyth on 25.02; 164 **Eurasian Oystercatchers** at Sandside Bay on 25.02; a **Peregrine** at Myrelandhorn on 25.02; 350 to 400 **Fieldfares** at Achow on 24.02; a colour-ringed **Black-headed Gull** of Norwegian origin was at Thurso Boating Pond on 25.02; a **Duncock** singing at Thurso on 25.02; a **Barnacle Goose** at Killimster on 26.02; a **Magpie** at St John's on 26.02 and one at John O'Groats on 27.02; a **Merlin** at Taldale on 27.02; c.1,000 **Twite** at Halcro on 28.02; 250+ **Common Gulls** at Quoys of Reiss on 29.02.

A **Woodcock** at Brawlbin on 01.03, 3 at Shebster on 04.03, 1 at St John's on 07.03 and 2 at Shebster on 12.03; c.300 **Common Starlings** at Brawlbin on 01.03; a **Pied Avocet** at Wester River on 02.03, 03.03, a first for the county; 2 **Common Shelducks** at Wester River on 03.03; **Skylarks** singing at Baillie Hill on 07.03; 8 **Mistle Thrushes** at Baillie Hill on 07.03; 188 **Whooper Swans** at Biggins on 07.03; 27 **Fieldfare** at Quoybrae on 08.03; 320 **Western Jackdaws** at Sandside Farm on 08.03; a maximum spring count of 280 **Greylag Geese** at Sandside Farm on

09.03; 150 **Whooper Swans** at Skitten on 10.03; a **Merlin** at Westerdale on 10.03; 100+ **Fieldfares** at Achow on 10.03; a **Golden Eagle** at Newlands of Forse on 11.03; a **Brent Goose** (*s/s hrota*) at Sandside Bay on 12.03 and 26.03; **Rock Pipits** displaying, Thurso, 13.03; 2 **Redwings** at Hillside, Killimster on 13.03; a female **Gadwall** at Loch Watten on 16.03; 3 **Grey Wagtails** at Burnside, Thurso on 16.03; **Northern Lapwings** displaying on 17.03; 11 **Common Scoters** at Dunnet Bay on 17.03, 10 on 22.03; 20 **Twite** at Auchorn, Lyth on 18.03; a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Westfield and another (*s/s intermedius*) at Wester River on 18.03; a **Magpie** present in Dunnet Forest on 18.03; a **Chiffchaff** at Hillside, Killimster on 19.03; 88 **Common Redshanks** at Thurso Bay on 19.03; a female **Smew** at Loch Watten on 19.03; the wintering **Northern Pintails** at the Loch of Mey peaked at 30 birds on 19.03; 136 **Greylag Geese** at Broubster on 20.03; 6 **Linnet**s and 30 **Twite** at Auchorn, Lyth on 0.03; a **Common Greenshank** at Keiss Beach on 21.03, the first for this season; a **Sand Martin** at Dunbeath on 21.03, the first for this season; 3,500 **Pink-footed Geese** at Lythmore on 22.03; a **Barnacle Goose** and 117 **Whooper Swans** at Greenland Mains on 22.03; a **Common Cuckoo** at Barrock on 22.03, the first for this season; a female **Smew** at Loch Watten on 22.03; a **Northern Wheatear** at Dunnet Head on 22.03, first for this season; 53 **Purple Sandpipers** at Dunnet Bay on 22.03; a **Short-eared Owl** at Achentoot on 23.03; a **Common Redpoll** at Dunnet Bay on 24.03; 80 dead **Pink-footed Geese** at Scrabster Loch and 6 sick birds at St John's Pool on 24.03, the first casualties of HPAI (bird flu); 850 **Pink-footed Geese** at Skitten on 24.03; 150 **Long-tailed Ducks** in Dunnet Bay on 24.03; a **Northern Wheatear** at Reiss on 24.03; a **Red Kite** flying north at Brackside, Reay on 24.03; 3 **Greenfinches** singing at St John's Pool/Loch on 26.03, an indication of perhaps a better future for the species; a roost count of c.10,000 **Pink-footed Geese** and 1,650 **Greylag Geese** in Caithness on 26.03; a **Northern Goshawk** at Broubster Forest on 26.03; a drake **Garganey** at the Westfield Marsh from 26.03 to 28.03; 2 **Sandwich Terns** at St John's Pool on 26.03 and 2 at Dunnet Bay on the same date, the first for this season; an **Osprey** near Halkirk on 26.03, the first record for the season; **Rookery** count 54 AON, Skinnet on 26.03; a **White Wagtail** at Sandside and another at Noss Head on 27.03; 3 **Hawfinches** at Wick on 27.03; a **Ross's Goose** flying north with c.80 **Pink-footed Geese** at Lieurary on 27.03; a **Merlin** at Dunbeath on 27.03; 6 **Gadwall** at Loch of Wester on 28.03; a **Barn Swallow** at St John's Pool on 28.03, first for this season; a **Merlin** at Talaheel on 30.03.

A **Whimbrel** at Murkle on 02.04, the first for this season; a **Long-eared Owl** at Broubster Forest on 05.04; 240 **Barnacle Geese** flying north, Achreamie on 07.04; c.955 **European Golden Plovers** at Westerdale on 05.04; 2 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Wester Olrig Marsh on 05.04; 40 **Dunlins** was the maximum spring count at Sandside Bay on 07.04; a **Whinchat** at Badbea on 10.04; a **Common Snipe** displaying at St John's Pool on 10.04, at Borlum on 17.04 and at Broubster on 22.04; a **Willow Warbler** at St John's Pool on 11.04 was the first for this season; 2 **Arctic Skuas** at Dunnet Head on 12.04, first of this season; 5 **Grey Wagtails** at Latheronwheel on 14.04; a **Hawfinch** at Reay on 14.04; **Rookery** counts, 418 AON, Thurso on 14.04, 243 AON, Braal on 18.04; a **Common Crane** flying north at Castletown on 15.04; 76 **Sand Martins** at Loch of Wester on 15.04; 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (*s/s graellsii*) at Loch of Wester on 15.04; 19 **Northern Wheatears** at Holborn Head and 5 at Crosskirk on 15.04; a **Red Kite** at Dalmore on 16.04; a **Blackcap** singing at Reay on 17.04; a **Common Sandpiper** at Loch Hempriggs, 17.04, the first record for this season; 2 pairs of **Northern Shovelers** and a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Thuster Pools on 17.04; 27 **White Wagtails** at Dunnet Bay on 17.04 were the maximum spring count; a **Common Cuckoo** at Castletown on 17.04, one at Reay on 23.04, one at Lyth on 29.04 and one at Camster on 30.04; a **Marsh Harrier** flying north-west, Dunnet Bay on 18.04; 5 **White-tailed Eagles** (sub-adults) at Dorrery on 18.04; 137 **Common Ringed Plovers** at Dunnet Bay on 18.04; 2 **Common Redpolls** (*s/s rostrata*) at Dunnet Bay on 18.04, 5 (*s/s flammea*) on 19.04; a **Common Tern** at Dunnet Bay on 19.04, first of this season; a pair of **Mandarin Ducks**

at Ham Pool on 20.04; a **Stock Dove** at Castlehill on 21.04; a male **Ring Ousel** at Beinn Freiceadain on 20.04; 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at Dunnet Bay on 21.04; <100 **Siskins** at Broubster Forest on 22.04; a **Ring Ousel** at RSPB Dunnet Head on 23.04; a **Spotted Redshank** at the Loch of Mey on 24.04; a male **Garganey** at St John's Pool from 23.04 to 09.05; 8 **Goosanders** at Braemore on 24.04; 2 **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Loch of Wester on 24.04; a **Short-eared Owl** at Canisbay on 25.04; a **Brambling** at St John's Pool on 26.04 was last of the season; a **Grasshopper Warbler** at St John's Loch on 26.04 was the first for this season; a **Greenshank** at Wester River on 26.04; 280 **Whimbrels** at Claredon, 27.04; 6 **Bean Geese** flying east, Brims, 27.04; 483+ **Long-tailed Ducks** at Dunnet Bay on 27.04; a **Whinchat** at Brims on 27.04; 2 **Spotted Flycatchers** at Newlands of Forse on 28.04; a **Magpie** at Duncansby on 28.04; 2 **House Martins** at Wick on 29.04 were the first for this season; 10 **Common Shelducks** and 7 **Northern Shovelers** at Loch of Wester and 12 **Whimbrel** and 5 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Westerloch on 29.04.

A **Sedge Warbler** singing at Dunnet on 02.05, the first for this season; 2 **Stock Doves** at Castletown on 03.05; a male **Garganey** at Loch of Wester on 05.05, 21.05; 8 **Purple Sandpipers** at Ackergill on 05.05; 2 **Sedge Warblers** at Dunnet Bay on 07.05; a **Magpie** at Dunbeath Mains on 07.05; a **Magpie** at Reay on 08.05 and 20.05; 2 **Iceland Gulls** at East Murkle on 08.05; a **Long-eared Owl** at John O'Groats Quarry on 08.05; a **Merlin** at Tachar on 09.05; a **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Sandside on 11.05; the first **Common Swift** at Thurso on 11.05; 70 **Dunlins** at Dunnet Bay on 12.05; 2 **Turnstones** at Castlehill on 12.05; 2 **Common Redpolls** at Lyth from 12.05 to 25.05; 70+ pairs of **Sandwich Terns** on eggs at St John's Pool on 13.05; **Wood Sandpiper** present at Torran Water on 13.05; 7 **Gadwall** at Loch of Wester on 15.05; a **Marsh Warbler** singing Thurso Riverside on 15.05; a **Red Knot** at Loch of Wester on 15.05; an **American Wigeon** at Loch of Wester on 15.05; a **Short-eared Owl** at Drumhollistan on 15.05; a **Greater Whitethroat** at Wick on 16.05; a singing **Quail** at Westfield on 16.05; 15 active nests for **Kittiwakes** at west end of Clett Rock, Holborn Head on 16.05; 100+ **Goldfinches** at Thurdistoft on 17.05; 29 **Siskins** at Hillside, Killimster on 17.05; a male **Bluethroat** at Keiss on 17.05, 18.05; a **Common Crane** at Lochside, Reay on 17.07, 18.05 and probably the same bird seen at Reisgill on 25.05; a **Common Redstart** at John O'Groats Quarry on 18.05; 2 **Greater Whitethroats** at Freswick and 1 at Ben Dorrery on 18.05; a **Ring Ousel** at Duncansby on 19.05; a **Common Redpoll** at Skirza on 19.05; a **Greater Whitethroat** at Wick on 19.05; a **Tree Pipit** at Skirza on 19.05; a **Honey Buzzard** at Garbh Loch on 19.05; a **Marsh Harrier** at Broubster Leans on 20.05; a **Magpie** at Ramscaigs on 20.05; 14 male **Gadwall** at St John's Pool on 20.05; 2 **Wood Sandpipers** at St John's Pool on 21.05, 22.05 and one on 24.05; a **Garden Warbler** at the Biel of Duncansby on 21.05 and one singing at Sibster, Halkirk on 24.05; a **Common Redstart**, a **Greater Whitethroat** and 2 **Common Redpolls** at the Biel of Duncansby on 21.05; a **Bee-eater** at Skirza on 21.05; newly fledged **House Sparrows** at Thurso and Wick on 21.05; a **Marsh Harrier** flying south at Killimster on 22.05; 100 pairs of **Common Gulls** at Stainland sub-station and 10+ pairs on roof of farm buildings at Georgemas on 24.05; a **Golden Eagle** at Rumster on 24.05; a "**Blue**" **Fulmar** mid Pentland Firth on 24.05; 60+ **Sanderling** at Dunnet Bay on 28.05; singing **Quail** at Reay and Sandside on 28.05, 29.05 were probably derived from birds bred in captivity; newly fledged **Common Starlings** at Thurso and Wick on 29.05; a pair of **Common Shelducks** with one young at St John's Pool on 29.05; 70+ pairs of **Sandwich Terns** with young at St John's Pool on 30.05; **Northern Shoveler** probably bred at St John's Pool (maximum 3 pairs on 14.05); **Little Grebes** bred at Loch Watenan, Loch Toftingal, Ham Pool, Broubster Leans and Sandside quarry; **Water Rail** bred at RSPB Broubster Leans and a male

Spotted Crane singing there. 2,245 **Common Guillemots** and 410 **Razorbills** at RSPB Dunnet Head pre-breeding.

250 pairs of **Black-headed Gulls** with chicks (750 birds in total) at St John's Pool on 01.06; a second summer **Mediterranean Gull** at St John's Pool from 03.03 to 05.06; a **Redwing** at Newlands of Forse on 03.06; a pair of **Common Shelducks** with 15 yg, Sandside Bay on 04.06; 3 **Little Gulls** at St John's Pool on 04.06; a **Magpie** at Dunbeath on 05.06; a **Corncrake** singing at Newtonhill on 05.06, one at Sibmister Road on 08.06, one at Rumster on 25.06 and one at East Mey on 27.06, 30.06; 2 **Brent Geese** (s/s *hrota*) at Keiss on 06.06; a female **Gadwall** with 8 yg at St John's Pool on 06.06; 30.06; 2 x first year **Little Gulls** at Wester River on 07.06; a **Greater Whitethroat** singing at Reay from 07.06 to 12.06; 28 **Hooded Crows** at Newlands of Forse on 07.06; a **Red Kite** at Broubster on 10.06; a pair of **Common Shelducks** with 8 yg at Ackergill on 10.06; **Tree Sparrows** bred Lyth, newly fledged on 11.06; 6 **Canada Geese** flying south at Wick on 11.06; 2 **Goosanders** at Langwell Strath on 11.06; 5 pairs of **Mistle Thrushes** at Langwell on 11.06; a **Common Redstart** singing in Langwell Strath on 11.06; 2+ **Tree Sparrows** at Ramsraigs on 11.06; newly fledged **Dunnock** at Wick on 12.06; 5 **Little Gulls** at Wester River on 13.06, 4 on 14.06; 60+ **Common Scoters** at Dunnet Bay on 15.06; a **Turnstone** at Berriedale on 15.06; a **Magpie** at Wick on 15.06; a **Quail** at Loch Scarmclate on 16.06; a **Tree Pipit** at Newtonhill on 16.06; a **Long-tailed Duck** at Scrabster on 16.06, last record of this season; 4 **Little Gulls** at Loch of Wester on 19.06; 223 **Manx Shearwaters** flying west/1.5 hrs at Harrow Harbour on 20.06; a **Golden Eagle** and a **Jay** at Loch More on 20.06; 3 female **Mallards** with 5, 6 and 9 yg, Loch of Wester, 21.06; **Little Tern** present from Pentland Ferry on 21.06; 3 **Greater Whitethroats** at Watten on 23.06; 2 **Greater Whitethroats** north of Lyth on 22.06; 1 pair of **Common Gulls** with one well-grown young at old mart site, Thurso on 22.06; a **Treecreeper** and a **Spotted Flycatcher** at Langwell on 25.06; a female **Red-breasted Merganser** with 5 yg at Loch Rangag on 27.06; 43 **Siskins** at Hillside, Killimster on 28.06; 3 female **Mallards** with 8, 7 and 3 yg, Loch of Wester, 29.06; a moulting flock of 57 **Common Eiders** at Thurso Bay on 30.06; 60 **Common Scoters** at Dunnet Bay on 30.06; a poor breeding season for **Sandwich Terns** at St John's Pool due to bird flu with 15 to 20 chicks fledged and survived; 193 AOS for **Fulmars** at Dunnet Head RSPB with 0.26 chicks fledging per nest; 700 to 800 juvenile **Common Starlings** at a roost in Wick June/July 2022.

A female **Red-breasted Merganser** and 6 yg at Loch More on 01.07; 8 **Little Terns** on Reiss on 01.07; 25 **Great Northern Divers** at Dunnet Bay on 01.07; a **Quail** at Sibmister Road on 03.07, one at Keiss on 09.07 and one at Newtonhill on 18.07; a juvenile **Common Cuckoo** being fed by **Reed Bunting** at Calder on 08.07; a **Turnstone** at South Head, Wick on 09.07; a **Red-breasted Goose** on Stroma on 13.07; <50 moulting **Common Eiders** on Stroma on 12.07; 5 pairs of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** on Stroma on 12.07, 17.07; a **Woodchat Shrike** at Newtonhill on 16.07; 60+ **Long-tailed Tits** at Reay on 16.07; 100+ pairs **Common Gulls** with young on Stroma on 17.07; 300+ **Arctic Terns** on Stroma on 17.07; a **Ring Ousel** singing on west cliffs at Stroma on 17.07; <100 **Rock Pipits** (D,FF) on Stroma on 17.07; 50+ pairs **Great Black-backed Gulls** with yg on Stroma on 17.07, also 6+ dead yg and 4 dead adults; 60+ **Black Guillemot** and 260+ **Puffins** at Stroma on 17.07; a colony of **Kittiwakes** at south-west Stroma on 17.07, with 53 nests with well-grown yg; a **Common Swift** flying north on Stroma on 17.07; 12 **Black-tailed Godwits** at St John's Pool on 18.07; a **Short-eared Owl** at Loch of Mey on 19.07; 2 **Common Swifts** at Killimster on 22.07; 25 **Black-headed Gull** chicks fledged at St John's Pool on 23.07; a female **Red Grouse** with 4 yg at Brawlbin on 24.07; a **Green Sandpiper** at Loch Caluim on 24.09; an **Osprey** flying south at Killimster on 27.07; a female **Red-breasted Merganser** with 4 yg at Loch Stemster on 27.07; 28 **Common Swifts** at Thurso on 28.07; bird

flu hit the **Kittiwakes** at Berriedale with 100+ nests, but only 50+ yg on 31.07, over 100 carcasses found below the colony; a **Jay** at Watten on 31.07; 1.40 yg/nest fledged for **Kittiwakes** at Dunnet Head RSPB. 204 individual **Puffins** at RSPB Dunnet Head.

An **Osprey**, a female **Eurasian Wigeon** and 6 yg and a female **Tufted Duck** with 5 yg at Loch of Wester on 01.08; 32 **Pied Wagtails** at Knockglass on 02.08; a Red Kite at Latheron on 04.08; 30 Long-tailed Tits at Skiall Wood on 06.08; 14 **Sooty Shearwaters**/20mins flying east at Dounreay on 07.08; 50 **Manx Shearwaters**/20 mins flying east at Dounreay on 07.08; 2 **Magpies** at Latheron at 08.08; a Red Knot at Sandside Bay on 11.08, 2 on 29.08; 2 Quail singing at Pennyland on 12.08 (2 recorded at Reay on 10.08 were probably birds released from captivity); a **Grey Plover** calling overhead at St John's Pool on 13.08; a juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** at Dunnet Bay on 13.08, 20.08 and 25.08; a **Green Sandpiper** at Hilliclay on 15.08; 6 dead **Northern Gannets** at Thurso Beach on 17.08; a **Common Cuckoo** at Loch of Mey on 18.08; 62 **Manx Shearwaters** at Wick on 18.08; a "**Blue**" **Fulmar** at Wick on 18.08; 5 **Turnstones** at Castlehill on 18.08; a **Sedge Warbler** at Thurso Riverside on 19.08, 20.08 and a **Grasshopper Warbler** at Blingery on 23.08, the last records for this season; 40+ **Common Eiders** at Thurso Bay on 19.08, 63 at Dunnet Bay on 28.08; a second summer **Little Gull** at Wester River on 20.08; a **Red Knot** at Dunnet Bay on 20.08, 3 on 25.08; a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** at East Gills, Scrabster and an adult flying north at Nybster on 20.08; 13 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Wester River on 20.08; 4 **Grey Wagtails** at Newlands of Forse on 21.08, 22.08; 11 **Common Swifts** at Thurso on 22.08, last record for this season; a **Green Sandpiper** at St John's Pool on 23.08; a **Wood Sandpiper** at Crosskirk on 26.08; a **Magpie** at Wick on 26.08; 52 **Manx Shearwaters** at South Head, Wick on 31.08.

A **Common Rosefinch** at Hilliclay on 02.09; a **Sooty Shearwater** and 29 **Manx Shearwaters** at South Head, Wick on 02.09; a juvenile **Barred Warbler** at Killimster on 02.09; 11 **Sooty Shearwaters** and 82 **Manx Shearwaters** at South Head, Wick on 03.09; a **Cory's Shearwater** and a **Great Shearwater** flying north at Nybster on 03.09; a **Chiffchaff** at Hillside, Killimster on 03.09; a **Tree Pipit** at Freswick on 03.09; 3 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Wester River on 03.09; a **Pied Flycatcher** at Duncansby on 03.09, 06.09; 281 **Manx Shearwaters**/7.5 hrs north at Nybster on 03.09, 74 at North Head, Wick on 04.09, 45 north/3 hrs at Nybster on 04.09, 466 at North Head, Wick on 18.09 and 295 there on 19.09; 43 **Sooty Shearwaters** north at North Head, Wick on 04.09, 20 on 18.09 and 44 on 19.09; 5 **Great Shearwaters** flying north at North Head, Wick on 04.09; a **Great Shearwater**, 2 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 12 **Manx Shearwaters** and a "**Blue**" **Fulmar** flying north at South Head, Wick on 04.09; 2 juvenile **Common Shelducks** at Loch of Wester on 04.09, 07.09; a **Cory's Shearwater** flying north at North Head, Wick on 06.09; a **Great Shearwater** flying north at North Head, Wick on 06.09; 3 **Manx Shearwaters** at South Head, Wick on 06.09; a **Little Stint** at Castlehill from 06.09 to 07.09; 2 **Common Redstarts** at Brims on 07.09; a **Red Knot** at Dunnet Bay on 07.09; 4 **Red Knot** at Wester River on 07.09; **Curlew Sandpiper** at Dunnet Bay, reached a maximum of 8 on 07.09; a juvenile **Long-tailed Skua** flying north at Wick on 07.09; a **Common Sandpiper** at Sandside Bay on 08.09; a **Spotted Flycatcher** at Noss Head on 08.09; a **Pied Flycatcher** at John O'Groats Quarry on 08.09, 09.09, 2 at Noss Head, 3 at Skirza and 2 at Auchengill on 08.09; a female **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at John O'Groats Quarry from 08.09 to 09.09; a **Yellow-browed Warbler** at John O'Groats on 08.09; a **Wryneck** at John O'Groats Quarry on 08.09, 2 on 09.09; a **Lesser Whitethroat** at John O'Groats on 08.09, one at Noss Head on 08.09 and one at Wick on 10.09; a **Common Redstart** at Duncansby Head, 8 at Skirza, 4 at Noss Head, 2 at Westerloch and one at John O'Groats Quarry on 08.09; a **Merlin** at John O'Groats Quarry on 08.09; a first winter female **Red-backed Shrike** at John O'Groats Quarry on 08.09; 4 **Garden Warblers** at Skirza on 08.09; a **Tree Pipit** and 5 **Song Thrushes** at John O'Groats Quarry on 09.09; a **Red-backed Shrike** at Skirza on 09.09; 8 **Whinchats** at John O'Groats on 09.09; 550 **Dunlins** at Dunnet Bay on 09.09; 2 **Sand**

Martin at ND27 on 09.09, last record for this season; 70 **Common Teal** at St John's Pool on 10.09; a **Common Redstart** at Wick on 10.09; 2 **Jays** at Helshetter on 10.09; 3 **Common Terns** at Thurso Bay on 10.09; a **Wryneck** at Warth Hill on 10.09; a **Northern Wheatear** at Thurso on 11.09; 3 **Curlew Sandpipers** at Castlehill on 12.09; 50 **Sanderlings** at Dunnet Bay from 13.09 to 23.11; a **Grey Wagtail** at Hillside, Killimster on 13.09, 22.09, 23.09; a colour-ringed **Common Ringed Plover** at Dunnet Bay on 13.09, ringed in Norway in early September 2022; 160 **Dunlins** at Dunnet Bay on 13.09; 8 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and a juvenile **Little Stint** at Castlehill on 13.09; a second winter **Glaucous Gull** at Castlehill on 14.09; a **Red Kite** flying south at Dunbeath on 15.09; a **Honey Buzzard** flying north-east at Hilliclay on 09.09; c.70 **Barn Swallows** at Newlands of Forse on 16.09; a **Long-tailed Skua** at Wick on 18.09; a **Great Shearwater** flying north at North Head, Wick on 18.09; 10,800 **Razorbills** flying north at North Head, Wick on 18.09; 972 **Northern Gannets** north at North Head, Wick on 19.09; 322 **Common Starlings** at Sandside on 20.09 250 **Common Teal** at St John's Pool/Loch on 21.09; a **Hoopoe** at Hill of Forss on 23.09; a **Grey Plover** at Loch of Mey on 23.09; 2 **House Martins** at Nybster on 24.09, last record for this season; an **Osprey** flying south at Braal on 25.09, last record for this season; an **Iceland Gull** at East Gills, Scrabster at 25.09; 15 **Pied Wagtail** at Thurso on 25.09; 4 **Redwings** at Ravenshill on 26.09; a **European Storm Petrel** at Dunnet Bay on 26.09; a **Long-tailed Duck** at Dunnet Bay on 27.09, the first for this season; 8 **Ruff** at Loch of Wester on 27.09.

10 **Robins** at Latheronwheel on 05.10; a **Coal Tit** at Latheronwheel on 05.10 thought to belong to the nominate subspecies; 3 **Brent Geese** (s/s *hrota*) flying west at Scrabster on 06.10; 9 **Barnacle Geese** flying south-west at St John's Pool on 06.10 and 8 there on 07.10; 2 **Redwings** at Hillside, Killimster on 07.10; a **Brent Goose** at Dunnet Bay on 07.10, 2 on 31.10; a **Sandwich Tern** at Dunnet Bay on 07.10; 3 **White Wagtails** at Sandside on 08.10; a **Brent Goose** at Loch Watten on 08.10; a **Cattle Egret** at East Murkle from 08.10 to 10.10; 30 **Barnacle Geese** at Mey on 09.10; a pair of **Barn Swallows** with 4 newly fledged yg at Thurso Riverside on 09.10; a **Greater Whitethroat** at East Murkle on 10.10; an immature **Mediterranean Gull** at Thurso on 11.10; an adult **Mediterranean Gull** at Lochside, Castletown on 12.10; 96 **Shags** at Thurso Bay on 11.10; 2 male **Long-tailed Ducks** at Scrabster on 11.10; a **Magpie** at Wick on 13.10; an adult and juvenile **Arctic Terns** at Dunnet Head on 13.10; a **Magpie** at Dunbeath on 14.10; 200+ **Whooper Swans** at Quoynee and 700 at Loch Watten on 15.10; 30+ **Tree Sparrows** at Gillock on 15.10; c.440 **Common Starlings** at Nybster on 16.10; a **Grey Phalarope** and 5 **Great Skuas** at Nybster on 17.10; 5 **Little Auks** flying north at Nybster on 17.10; 2 **Hawfinches** flying north-west at Hilliclay on 20.10; a **Long-eared Owl** at Noss Head (flew in from the sea) on 20.10; a **Yellow Wagtail** sp at Skirza on 20.10; a **Siberian Chiffchaff** at John O'Groats Quarry on 20.10; a **Fieldfare** at Nybster on 21.10; an **Arctic Skua** at Nybster on 20.10; **Turtle Dove** at Nybster from 21.10 to 25.10; a **Pallas's Warbler** at Freswick on 22.10; a **Siberian Chiffchaff** at Freswick on 22.10; a **Snow Goose** flying south at East Murkle on 22.10; a melanistic **Collared Dove** at Brough on 22.10; a **Purple Sandpiper** at Nybster on 22.10, first for this season; 350 **Long-tailed Ducks** at Dunnet Bay on 23.10; a **Willow Warbler** at Freswick on 23.10; 7 dead **Northern Gannets** at Nybster on 23.10; a **Barnacle Goose** at Nybster on 23.10; a female **Blackcap** at Hillside, Killimster on 22.10, a male and female on 23.10 and a male and two females on 05.11; 2 **Yellow-browed Warblers** at John O'Groats and two at Freswick on 23.10; a **Black Redstart** at Duncansby Head on 23.10; a second year **Mediterranean Gull** at Castlehill on 23.10; a **Merlin** at Nybster from 23.10 to 13.11; a **Northern Wheatear** (s/s *leucorrhoa*) at Keiss on 24.10; a **Woodcock** at John O'Groats Quarry on 24.10; a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Loch of Mey on 25.10; a **Long-eared Owl** at Thurso on 25.10; 160 **Goldfinches** at Freswick on 25.10; c.650 **Common Starlings** at Freswick on 25.10; a **Bohemian Waxwing** flying south-west over Loch of Wester on 26.10; 3 **Blackcaps** at Lybster on 27.10; a **Bohemian Waxwing** at Reay

on 27.10; 104 **Common Ringed Plovers** at Sandside Bay on 28.10; 2 **Fieldfares** at Hillside, Killimster on 30.10; a male **Kingfisher** at Waas from 30.10 to 11.12; 50+ **Common Crossbills** at Camster on 31.10; 5 **Greater Scaup** at St John's Loch on 31.10.

2 **Grey Plovers** at Dunnet Bay on 01.11; 2 **Blackcaps** at Lybster on 01.11, 1 on 02.11; a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** at Wick on 01.11, 02.11; 60 **Ruddy Turnstones** at Reay on 04.11; a **Ring Ousel** east of Wattern on 05.11; 11 **Little Auks** flying north at Nybster on 06.11; 160 **Eurasian Curlews** at Loch of Mey at 07.11; a **Bohemian Waxwing** at Reay on 07.11, 08.11; 4 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Sibster, Halkirk on 08.11; 3 **Magpies** at Borgue on 08.11; a juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** at Sandside on 09.11; 30+ **Long-tailed Tits** at Sibster on 10.11; 1,000 **Linnets** at Glengolly on 11.11; <100 **Redwings** at Larel on 11.11; a **Manx Shearwater** in the Pentland Firth on 12.11; c.60 **Twite** at Dunnet Bay on 12.11; a **Greenshank** at Sandside Bay on 12.11; 201 **Shags** at Thurso Bay on 12.11; 25 **Greenfinches** at Sandside on 12.11, 21 on 26.11; **Eurasian Wigeon** and 20 **Gadwall** at St John's Loch on 12.11; 81 **Eurasian Curlews** at Thurso East on 12.11; c.800 **Northern Lapwings** at Loch Calder on 12.11, 16.11 and 19.11; c.160 **Redwings** at Drumhollistan on 13.11; a **Blackcap** at Wick Riverside on 13.11; 54 **Mute Swans** and 57 **Coots** at Loch Scarmclate on 13.11; 30 **Chaffinches** at Oldhall on 13.11; 150 **Common Redshanks** at Thurso Bay on 14.11; 500 **Common Gulls** at Dunnet Bay on 14.11; a **Magpie** at Dunbeath on 15.11; 33 **Little Auks** flying south at Nybster on 15.11; a **Barn Swallow** at Hoy on 17.11; 300+ **Redwings** at Harpsdale on 17.11; a big fall of **Blackbirds** in late November, with 35 at St John's Pool/Loch on 18.11, 20 at Poolhoy on 20.11, 20+ at Greenland on 20.11, 37 at Newlands of Forse on 20.11, 53 at Nybster on 26.11 and 34 at Freswick on 27.11; 250 **Northern Lapwings** at the Brawlbin Inlet on 19.11; 22 **Common Scoters** and a **Little Auk** at Sinclair's Bay on 19.11; c.300 **Common Starlings** at Newlands of Forse on 19.11; 6 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Thurso and 17 at Sibster, Halkirk on 19.11; 2,250+ **Pink-footed Geese** at Loch Calder on 19.11; 21 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Sibster, Halkirk and 2 at St John's Pool on 20.11; 87 **Chaffinches** at Helshetter on 20.11; 110 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** at Broubster on 20.11; 2 **Woodcocks** at St John's Pool on 20.11; a **Long-eared Owl** at Lochshell, Wick on 20.11; 2 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Wick on 21.11; 109 **Common Goldeneyes** and a **Slavonian Grebe** at Loch Watten on 21.11; a **Peregrine** at Lynegar on 21.11; an **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** at Westerloch on 22.11; a **Mistle Thrush** at Hillside, Killimster on 22.11; 100 **Dunlin** at Dunnet Bay on 23.11; 100 **Shags** at Sandside Bay on 24.11; 3 **Northern Bullfinches** at Sibster, Halkirk on 24.11; 2 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Thurso from 25.11 to 02.12; a **Great Crested Grebe** at Harrow Harbour on 25.11; 300+ **Shags** at Thurso Bay on 25.11; 170 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, 850 **Greytag Geese** and 1,300 **Pink-footed Geese** at roosts on 26.11; c.600 **Common Starlings** at Nybster on 26.11; c.290 **Jackdaws** at Nybster on 26.11; a **Grey Plover** at Sandside Bay on 26.11, 04.12; a **Woodcock** at Loch of Mey on 26.11; 2 **Woodcocks** at Broubster on 26.11; a **Blackcap** at Nybster on 26.11; a **Hawfinch** at East Gills, Scrabster on 26.11; 4 **Woodcocks** at Strathmore on 27.11; several male **Red Grouse** on territory at Strathmore on 27.11; a **Merlin** at Freswick on 27.11; a **Woodcock** at Newlands of Forse on 28.11; 2 **Magpies** at Dunbeath on 28.11; 6 **Fieldfares** at Hillside, Killimster on 28.11; a **Bean Goose** (*s/s rossicus*) at Loch Winless on 29.11; 5 **Common Shelducks** at Dunnet Bay on 29.11; 200+ **Golden Plovers** at Newlands of Forse on 29.11; 20 **Common Pochards** at Loch Scarmclate on 29.11; 7 **Velvet Scoters** at Sinclair's Bay on 29.11; c.40 **Great Northern Divers** at Dunnet Bay on 29.11.

A **Barn Owl** at Ulbster on 01.12; 10 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Halkirk on 02.12; 14 **Snow Buntings** at Dunnet Bay on 03.12; 3 **Woodcock** at Forss and one at St John's on 03.12; 280+ at Lyth on 03.12; 200 **Golden Plovers** at Loch Calder on 04.12; a **Woodcock** at Newlands of Forse on 04.12, 18.12; an **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** at Westerloch from 05.12 to 14.12; a **Bittern sp.** flying along Thurso River towards Loch More on 06.12; 5 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Wick on 06.12; 800 **Linnets** at Wick on 07.12; a **Merlin** at Ruther on 07.12; a **Long-eared Owl** at Hill of

Wester on 07.12; a **Great Grey Shrike** at Rumster on 08.12; a **Tree Sparrow** at East Gills, Scrabster on 09.12; 2 **Woodcocks** and a **Long-eared Owl** at Shebster on 10.12; 119 **Common Redshanks** at Thurso Bay on 10.12; a **Siberian Chiffchaff** at Thurso Riverside on 10.12; 39 **Purple Sandpipers** on roost at Scrabster Harbour on 10.12; 300 **Common Starlings** at Bardnaclavan on 10.12; 100+ **Redwings** at Bilbster on 10.12; 70 **Eurasian Curlews** at Harrow Harbour on 11.12; a **White-tailed Eagle** at Loch of Wester on 11.12; c.130 **Chaffinches** at Nybster on 11.12; 17 **Bramblings** at Oldhall on 11.12; a **Grey Wagtail** at Hillside, Killimster on 11.12; 3 **Lapland Buntings** at Keiss on 11.12; 2 **Blackcaps** at Thurso on 11.12, 3 on 16.12; 140 **Shags** at Thurso Bay on 11.12; 130 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** at Loch of Mey on 11.12; 4 **Northern Shovelers** and 5 **Slavonian Grebes** at Loch Watten on 11.12; 255 **Northern Lapwings** on Loch Scarmclate on 11.12; a **Great Crested Grebe** at Loch Watten on 11.12; 2 female **Smews** at Loch Watten on 11.12, 12.12, 14.12; 28 **Hooded Crows** at Newlands of Forse on 12.12; a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** at Wick on 13.12, 22.12, 30.12; a **Jack Snipe** at Nybster on 13.12; a **Siberian Chiffchaff** at Reay on 13.12; a **Ring-necked Duck** at Loch Watten on 14.12; a first winter **Glaucous Gull** at Castlehill on 15.12; 3,000 **Common Starlings** at ND27 on 15.12; 2 **Yellowhammers** at Hillside, Killimster on 16.12; 100+ **Fieldfares** at Tister on 17.12; a **Woodcock** at Latheronwheel on 18.12; <280 **Common Gulls** and c.200 **Jackdaws** at Newlands of Forse on 19.12; 2 **Woodcock** at Thuster on 20.12; 220 **Jackdaws** at Ruther on 21.12.

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Species List

The species sequence follows that used in the "Birds of the World interactive" of Lynx Publications and Birdlife International. The sequence is based on the latest assessment of how birds are related to one another.

Not all submitted records have been included. Those involving rare breeding birds have been omitted for obvious reasons. In the case of common species, many of which are widespread

in the county, the less significant records have also been omitted; these however have been logged elsewhere.

The breeding codes given are the standard BTO ones:

S Singing male.

B nest building

A Agitated behaviour.

DD Distraction-display or injury feigning.

FF Adult carrying food or faecal sac.

AOT Apparently Occupied Territory.

AON Apparently Occupied Nest.

AOS Apparently Occupied Site.

Notes on localities

Many records marked as garden in Thurso, Wick and Reay refer to the garden of the contributor.

Thurso and Wick Riversides refer to the lower part of the rivers, in Thurso from the harbour to the cemetery and in Wick from the harbour to the camp site.

Birdtrack

Many of the contributors now put records directly onto "Birdtrack". For 2022 this came to 16,649 records for Caithness alone. I have extracted those records I consider important for the county and included them in the species list. With the commoner species I have actually given the totals from "Birdtrack" for Caithness at the beginning of the species account.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Scarce visitor; some records may refer to escaped birds as it is often kept in captivity.

1 S, East Murkle, 22.10.2022 (RS).

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Scarce visitor. Previously considered escaped birds from captivity, but some records obviously refer to natural occurring birds from Arctic Canada.

1 N, Lieurary, 27.03.2022 (RH); with c.80 Pink-footed Geese; photographed.



Ross's Goose, Lieurary, 27/03/2022

Rob Hughes

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Common resident and migrant

231 records on "Birdtrack". Calling overhead, 0730 hrs, 1700 hrs, Thurso, 02.01.2022 (SAMM); 182, Sandside Farm, 03.01.2022 (HW); calling overhead, 0730 hrs, 2200 hrs, Thurso, 08.01.2022 (SAMM); c.120, Newlands of Forse, 11.01, 162 on 31.01.2022 (PM); 300, roost, St John's Pool, 18.01, 375 on 19.01, 420 on 23.01, 500 on 27.01.2022 (JS); c.50, Broubster Leans, 24.01.2022 (DJ); 191, Loch Hempriggs, 24.01.2022 (PMM); 234, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 136, Loch of Mey, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 80, Bardnaheigh, Shebster, 30.01, 390 on 21.03.2022 (EM); 150+, Lyth, 02.02.2022 (DM); calling overhead, 05.15 hrs, Thurso, 03.02.2022 (SAMM); 150, Broubster Leans, 21.02.2022 (DJ); 100+, Broubster, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 90+, Thusater, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 300, St John's Loch, 20.02.2022 (JS); 130, Shebster, 01.03.2022 (EM); 100+, Bardnaheigh, Shebster, 04.03.2022 (SAMM); calling overhead, Thurso, 0615 to 0630 hrs, 11.03.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair (T), Loch Stemster, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 20+, Loch Calder, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 100+, Lyth, 08.03.2022 (DM); 280, maximum spring count for Sandside Farm, 09.03.2022 (EM); 136, Broubster Leans, 20.03.2022 (DAO); 112, Loch Olginney, 23.03.2022 (DAO); 5 dead, 10 dying, St John's Pool, 24.03.2022 (JS); 76, West Brims, 26.03.2022 (SAMM); 90, Loch Calder, 26.03.2022 (DAO); 150, Baillie, 26.03.2022 (EM); 69, Broubster, 26.03.2022 (EM); 20, Loch Rangag, 27.03.2022 (SAMM); 30, Ramsraigs, 27.03.2022 (SAMM); 1,650, Caithness, 26.03.2022 (SAMM); 91, Knockglass, 29.03.2022 (EM); c.43, Loch Rangag, 30.03.2022 (PM); 8, Loch Stemster, 02.04.2022 (PM); 60 E, 0835 hrs, Thurso, 12.04.2022 (SAMM); 6 pairs, Brawlbin Inlet, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair + 6 birds, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 20, Scarfskerry, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair, Holborn Head, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair, Loch Achbuligan, 18.05.2022 (EM); c.23 (c.7 yg),

Loch Rangag, 01.06.2022 (PM); c.16, Loch Stemster, 01.06.2022 (PM); 6 W, RSPB Dunnet Head, 02.06.2022 (DJ); 14 NE, Thurso, 09.06.2022 (SAMM); 300+, Stroma (north pier, lighthouse, south coast), 12.07.2022 (SAMM); 300+ adults + yg, off south-east corner, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 44, Loch Hempriggs, 24.07.2022 (PMM); 8, Loch Stemster, 31.07.2022 (SAMM); 4 pairs bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 12 NE, Thurso, 04.08.2022 (SAMM); 13 W, Thurso, 11.09.2022 (SAMM); 300, Loch of Mey, 23.09.2022 (JS); 35, Newlands of Forse, 28.09.2022 (PM); 49, Loch of Mey, 08.10.2022 (SE); 25, Broubster Leans, 10.10.2022 (DJ); c.280, Newlands of Forse, 10.10, c.174 on 25.10.2022 (PM); 900 (roost), Loch Watten, 13.10.2022 (SAMM); 200, Stemster Mains, Halkirk, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 20+, Lybster, Forss, 21.10.2022 (SAMM); c.140, Loch Stemster, 22.10.2022 (PM); 38, Lyth, 29.10.2022 (DM); 60, Loch Watten, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 30+, Reiss, 16.11.2022 (SAMM); 50, Greenland, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 200+, Forss, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); c.130, Broubster Leans, 20.11.2022 (Michael Thornton); 500, Loch of Mey, 21.11.2022 (JS); 63, Nybster, 23.11.2022 (RH); 350+, Reiss, 26.11.2022 (DM); November roost count 850 birds, 26.11/27.11.2022 (SAMM et al); 72, Broubster, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 20, Shebster, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 51, Greenland, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 46, Freswick, 27.11.2022 (RH); 50, Ramsraigs, 28.11.2022 (SAMM); 110+, Shebster, 29.11.2022 (SAMM); 60, Huna, 30.11.2022 (SAMM); mixed flock 130+ with Pinkfeet, Reiss, 30.11.2022 (DM); 29 E, Thurso, 06.12.2022 (SAMM); 50+, Bilbster, 10.12.2022 (SAMM); c.350, Newlands of Forse, 10.12.2022 (PM); 200+, St John's Pool/Loch, 11.12.2022 (JS); 60, Nybster, 11.12.2022 (RH); 24E, Lyth, 25.12.2022 (DM).



Greenland White-fronted Geese

Karen Munro

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*

Winter migrant, two small populations, one centred around Loch of Mey and the other around Broubster.

54, West Mey, 08.01.2022 (JS); 126, Loch of Mey, 09.01.2022 (JS); 153, Mey, 10.01.2022 (JS); c.40 NW, Broubster Leans, 24.01.2022 (DJ); 43, Hallam, 05.02.2022 (DAO); 28, Hallam, 06.02.2022 (TP); 110, Loch of Mey, 13.02.2022 (JS); 85+, Loch of Mey, 16.02.2022 (SE); 13, Lythmore, 05.03.2022 (DAO); 85, Loch of Mey, 07.03.2022 (JS); 1, Castletown, 16.03.2022 (RH); 1, Loch of Mey, 24.03.2022 (JS); >100 N, Broubster Leans, 26.03.2022 (DJ); 291, Caithness, 26.03.2022 (SAMM); 15 NE Shebster, 05.04.2022 (RH); 17, Baillie Hill, 18.04.2022 (DAO); 18 crossing Dunnet Bay east towards Mey, 06.10.2022 (PH); c.30, Forss, week up to

23.10.2022 (RS); 25, ND27, 25.10.2022 (JS); 15 S, Loch Heilen, 03.11.2022 (D O-E); 68, Yellow Moss, Shebster, 07.11.2022 (DAO); 60, Loch of Mey, 07.11.2022 (JS); 62, Broubster Leans, 16.11.2022 (MT); 78 (minimal count, up to 110 birds present), Broubster Leans, 20.11.2022 (MT); 100, Loch of Mey, 21.11.2022 (JS); November roost count 170 birds, 26.11/27.11.2022 (SAMM et al); 60+, Forss, 26.11.2022 (SAMM); 70, Broubster, 27.11, 29.11.2022 (SAMM); 90, Loch of Mey (dusk), 27.11.2022 (ML); 130, Loch of Mey, 11.12.2022 (SE).

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Scarce visitor, two subspecies, rossicus (tundra) and nominate fabalis (taiga), sometimes considered separate species, but here treated as subspecies.

6 E, Brims, 27.04.2022 (PH); 1 s/s tundra, Loch Winless, 29.11.2022 (RH, NO).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Common migrant

140 records on "Birdtrack". Calling overhead, 0730 hrs, 1700 hrs, Thurso, 02.01.2022 (SAMM); calling overhead, 0730 hrs, 2200 hrs, Thurso, 08.01.2022 (SAMM); 30 E, Thurso Bay, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 82 N, Wick, 22.01.2022 (DM); 292, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 500, Phillips Mains, 25.01.2022 (JS); 300 SE/E, 0800 hrs, Thurso Bay, 28.01.2022 (SAMM); c.500, Whiterow, Wick, 28.01.2022 (PM); 400, Skitten, 29.01.2022 (PMM); 117, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 400, Whitebridge, 31.01.2022 (WB); 450+, Lyth, 02.02.2022 (DM); calling overhead, 0515 hrs, Thurso, 03.02.2022 (SAMM); 100+, Loch Hempriggs, 10.02.2022 (PM); 350+, Lyth, 12.02.2022 (DM); 800, Achnavast, 13.02.2022 (DAO); 600, Loch Killimster, 19.02.2022 (PMM); 1,517, Gillock, 19.02.2022 (RH); 35, St John's Loch, 20.02.2022 (JS); 564, Loch Hempriggs, 20.02.2022 (PMM); 1,300, Achscrabster, 24.02.2022 (EM); c.400, Killimster, 24.02.2022 (PMM); c.268, Newlands of Forse, 27.02.2022 (PM); 1,100, Oust, 05.03.2022 (DAO); 150+, Lyth, 06.03, 250+ on 08.03.2022 (DM); 80 W, Thurso, 1755 hrs, 07.03.2022 (SAMM); calling overhead, Thurso, 1900 hrs, 10.03.2022 (SAMM); calling overhead, 0615 to 0630 hrs, Thurso, 11.03.2022 (SAMM); 43 E, Thurso, 0845 hrs, 11.03.2022 (SAMM); 60 E, Thurso Bay, 13.03.2022 (SAMM); 43 E, Newtonhill, 16.03.2022 (SAMM); 1,000+, Stirkoke, 16.03.2022 (SAMM); calling overhead, 0600 hrs, Thurso, 18.03.2022 (SAMM); c.700, Newlands of Forse, 18.03.2022 (PM); 487+, Lyth, 19.03.2022 (DM); 300 SE, Sandside Bay, 19.03.2022 (HW); 363, Broubster Leans, 20.03.2022 (DAO); 357, Loch of Wester, 20.03.2022 (PMM); 619, Loch Hempriggs, 20.03.2022 (PMM); calling overhead, 1900 hrs, Thurso, 21.03, 0645 hrs, 22.03, 0540 hrs, 23.03, 0535 hrs, 25.03.2022 (SAMM); 3,500, Lythmore, 22.03.2022 (DAO); 600+ NE, Loch of Mey, 23.03.2022 (DW); 300, Skitten, 23.03.2022 (SAMM); 450, maximum count for spring Sandside Farm, 23.03.2022 (EM); 90 E, 1300 hrs, Thurso, 23.03.2022 (SAMM); 850, Skitten, 24.03.2022 (PMM); 80 dead (bird flu), Scrabster Loch, 24.03.2022 (SAMM); 6 sick birds, St John's Pool, 24.03.2022 (JS); calling overhead, moving west, 1930 hrs, Thurso, 25.03.2022 (SAMM); 120 N, Forss, 25.03.2022 (DAO); 1,200, West Brims, 26.03.2022 (SAMM); 60, Lynegar, 26.03.2022 (SAMM); 2,490, Loch Calder, 26.03.2022 (DAO); 1,050, Loch Olginney, 26.03.2022 (DAO); c.10,000, Caithness, 26.03.2022 (SAMM); c.80 N, Lieurary, 27.03.2022 (RH); c.1,000, Hempriggs, 31.03.2002 (PM); c.800 on 05.04, 06.04.2022, Newlands of Forse (PM); 252, Lyth, 09.04.2022 (DM); 250 N, St John's Pool, 10.04.2022 (JS); calling overhead, 0555 hrs, Thurso, 12.04.2022 (SAMM); 577, Upper Dounreay, 12.04.2022 (EM); 41 E/NE, 1230 hrs, Thurso, 13.04.2022 (SAMM); 224+, 12Quoys of Reiss, 13.04.2022 (DM); 121 W/N, 0830 hrs, Thurso, 14.04.2022 (SAMM); 110 E, 1000hrs,

Thurso, 16.04.2022 (SAMM); calling overhead, 0550hrs, Thurso, 18.04.2022 (SAMM); 60, Bardnaclavan, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); 70 NW, 1200 hrs, Thurso, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); 140 NW/N, 1350 hrs, Thurso, 20.04.2022 (SAMM); 170 S/SE, Bardnaclavan, 20.04.2022 (SAMM); calling overhead, 0535 hrs, Thurso, 21.04, calling overhead, 0535 hrs, 23.04, calling overhead, 0515 hrs, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 100 E/SE, Thurso, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 5, Scarfskerry, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 100, W/NW, 1045 hrs, 16, W/NW, 1250 hrs, Thurso, 26.04.2022 (SAMM); 35N, Broubster, 27.04.2022 (DJ); 1, St John's Pool, 08.06.2022 (JS); 1, Sandside Farm, 15.05.2022 (HW); 3, Wick, 07.08 to 11.08.2022 (DM); 1, Loch Watten, 20.08.2022 (RH); 100 SW, St John's Pool, 13.09.2022 (JS); 68 (skeins of 32 and 36) S/SW, Hilliclay, 13.09.2022 (PH); c.80 SE, East Gills, Scrabster, 13.09.2022 (KM); c.100 S, Brough, 13.09.2022 (TL); calling overhead, 0535 hrs, Thurso, 24.09.2022 (SAMM); 241, Dunnet Bay, 24.09.2022 (RH); 37 E, 0745 hrs, Thurso, 13.10.2022 (SAMM); calling overhead, 1930 hrs, Thurso, 14.10.2022 (SAMM); 40 NW, Loch Watten, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 50, Stemster Mains, Halkirk, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 23, Stemster Mains, Halkirk, 24.10.2022 (TH); c.200 E, Reay, 07.11.2022 (EM); 3,995, Loch Calder, 12.11, 2,250+ on 19.11.2022 (MT); 300+, stubble, Mount Pleasant, Thurso, 16.11.2022 (SAMM); 200+, Bilbster, 16.11.2022 (SAMM); 165 S/SE, 0900 hrs, Sibster, Halkirk, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 70 E, 0745 hrs, Thurso Bay, 22.11.2022 (SAMM); November roost count 1,300 birds, 26.11/27.11 (SAMM et al); 50, Reiss, 26.11.2022 (DM); 160, Shebster, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); mixed flock 130+ with Greylags, Reiss, 30.11.2022 (DM); 300+, Carsgoe, 17.12.2022 (SAMM); 5, Lyth, 17.12.2022 (DM); 300+, ND27, 27.12.2022 (JS).

Grey Geese *Anser sp*

100+, Milton, Wick, 08.02.2022 (SAMM); 200+, Glengolly, 04.03.2022 (SAMM); 362, off sea, Wick, 14.04.2022 (DM); 20 S, Lyth, 13.09.2022 (DM); 300+, Quoynee, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 100+, Lyth, 12.11.2022 (DM).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Scarce migrant, both s/s hrota and nominate bernicla occur, the former more often.

1, Sandside, 23.01.2022 (HW); 1, Sandside, 18.02.2022 (HW); 1 *hrota*, with Greylags, Sandside Farm, 21.02 to 09.03.2022 (EM); 4, Scrabster, 22.02.2022 (Anne Wheatcroft); 1, *hrota*, Sandside, 12.03.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Fresgoe, Sandside, 26.03.2022 (HW); 2 *hrota*, Keiss, 06.06.2022; 3 *hrota* W, Scrabster, 06.10.2022 (KM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 07.10, 2 on 31.10.2022 (JS); 1 *hrota*, Sandside Bay, 08.10.2022 (EM, HW).



Brent Goose, Sandside, 08/10/2022

Eric Maughan

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Scarce migrant

1, Reay, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Lyth, 25.02.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Killimster, 26.02.2022 (PMM); 1, Greenland Mains, 22.03.2022 (PMM); 240 N, Achreamie, 07.04.2022 (DAO); 9 SW, St John's Pool, 06.10.2022 (JS); 8 S, St John's Pool, 07.10.2022 (JS); 30, Mey, 09.10.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Nybster, 23.10.2022 (RH, NO).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Scarce visitor, mostly feral birds, but some individuals refer to genuine wild North American birds.

1*, Skitten, 24.02.2022 (PMM); 1 with Greylags, Sandside Farm, 24.03.2022 (EM); 1, Fresgoe, Sandside, 26.03.2022 (HW); 12 W, RSPB Dunnet Head, 02.06.2022 (DJ); 10, Ulbster, 09.06.2022 (PM); 6 S, Wick, 11.06.2022 (PMM); 5, St John's Pool, 11.06, 12.06.2022 (JS).

*Todd's Canada Goose with 400 Pink-footed Geese. Presumably the same individual which was recorded in winter in Highland Region.



Canada Geese, St John's Pool, 11/06/2022

Julian Smith



Canada Goose with Greylags, Sandside Farm, 24/03/2022

Eric Maughan

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

This beautiful small goose is commonly kept in wildfowl collections and known escapes are occasionally seen.

1, Stroma, 03.07.2022, photographed (DD).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Local resident

74 records on "Birdtrack". 47, Loch Scarmclate, 23.01.2022 (KM); 19, Loch of Wester, 23.01.2022 (PMM); 13, Loch Heilen, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 10, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 26, Loch of Wester, 20.02.2022 (PMM); 2, Loch Shurrery, 02.03.2022 (JKM); 6, Loch Watten, 20.03.2022 (SAMM); 22, Loch Scarmclate, 20.03.2022 (SAMM); 24, Loch of Wester, 20.03.2022 (PMM); 4 pairs, 4 juveniles, Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair + 4 yg, Borgie Farm pond, Castletown, 25.05.2022 (DAO); 2 pairs + 2 yg, 4 yg, St John's Loch, 21.07.2022 (JS); 2, Thurso Harbour, 06.08, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 2, Thurso Riverside, 08.08.2022 (SAMM); 2 pairs + 1 yg, 4 yg + 7 other adults, St John's Loch, 11.09.2022 (JS); 8 adults + 6 yg, Loch Watten, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 54, Loch Scarmclate, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 48, Loch Scarmclate, 11.12.2022 (KM).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus Cygnus*

Common passage and winter migrant

153 records on "Birdtrack". 50, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01.2022 (JS); c.100, Loch of Wester, 21.01.2022 (PM); 4, Broubster, 21.01.2022 (EM); 4, Loch Achbuligan, 21.01.2022 (EM); 35, Loch Heilen, 22.01.2022 (RH); 88, Loch of Wester, 23.01.2022 (PMM); 94, Sinclair's Bay (probably Loch of Wester), 24.01.2022 (RAF); 33, Loch Heilen, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 52, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 60+, Loch of Wester, 02.02.2022 (DM); 3, Broubster Leans, 09.02.2022 (DJ); 10, Loch Scarmclate, 20.02.2022 (KM); 8, Loch Killimster, 19.02.2022 (PMM); 136, Inkstack, 19.02, 170 on 19.03.2022 (RH); 14, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 7, Broubster Leans, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); c.70, Skitten, 20.02.2022 (DD); c.50, Killimster, 21.02.2022 (DD); c.60, Skitten, 22.02.2022 (DD); 20, Loch Watten, 25.02.2022 (WB); 40 N, Reay, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 26 S, Thurso, 01.03.2022 (SAMM); c.80, Biggins, 02.03, 03.03.2022 (SAMM); 70, Loch of Wester, 03.03.2022 (EM); 22, Westfield, 03.03.2022 (EM); 5, Old Wick, 06.03.2022 (DD); 188, Biggins, 07.03.2022 (PMM); c.150, Skitten, 10.03.2022 (DD); 66, Loch of Mey, 19.03.2022 (SE); 8, Broubster Leans, 20.03.2022 (DAO); 76, Loch of Wester, 20.03.2022 (PMM); 117, Greenland Mains, 22.03.2022 (PMM); 37, Biggins, 23.03.2022 (SAMM); 71, Skitten, 23.03.2022 (SAMM); 66, Loch Heilen, 26.03.2022 (NO); 124, Loch of Wester, 26.03.2022 (NR); 100, Loch Winless, 01.04.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 8, St John's Pool, 13.04.2022 (JS); 1 collared bird (Polish origin), Brawlbin, from 19.04.2022, not present on 27.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 sick?, Isauld, 17.05.2020 (SAMM); 1, Loch Achbuligan, 18.05.2022 (EM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 15.06.2022 (NO); 1, Loch Heilen, 07.07.2022 (Rhodri Evetts); 3, Geise, 29.09.2022 (Eileen Laybourne); up to 58, St John's Loch, 29.09.2022 (JS); c.20, Loch Heilen, 01.10.2022 (RS); 22 adults, Lochshell, Wick, 08.10.2022 (DM); 220+ adults, Quoys of Reiss, 08.10.2022 (DM); 71, Loch of Mey, 08.10.2022 (SE); 39, Quoys of Reiss, 10.10.2022 (DD); 56+ adults, Lyth, 11.10.2022 (DM); 10, Larel, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 6 adults + 1 juv, Loch Watten, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 200+, Quoynee, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 74, Stemster Mains, Halkirk, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 180+ (18+ juvs), Quoys of Reiss, 15.10.2022 (DM); 27, Lyth, 19.10.2022 (DM); 80+ (20+ juveniles), Quoys of Reiss, 19.10.2022 (DM); 17 (2yg, 1 yg), Aimster, 22.10.2022; 124+ (18+ juveniles), Quoys of Reiss, 22.10.2022 (DM); 38 (15 yg), Stemster Mains, Halkirk, 24.10.2022 (TH); 100, St John's Loch, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 150 SW, St John's Pool/Loch, 03.11.2022 (JS); 3 adults, Quoys of Reiss, 05.11.2022 (DM); 120, St John's Pool/Loch, 05.11.2022 (JS); 23, Killimster, 06.11.2022 (DD); 4 pairs + 5, 3, 3, 2 yg, Newlands of Forse,

06.11.2022 (PM); 85+ (7 juveniles), Lyth, 12.11.2022 (DM); 171 (10 juveniles), St John's Loch, 12.11.2022 (JS); 71, Loch of Mey, 12.11.2022 (SE); 2, Loch Watten; 42, Loch Scarmclate, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 2, Reiss, 16.11.2022 (SAMM); 11 (3 juvs), Loch Calder, 19.11.2022 (SAMM); 21 (10 juveniles), Poolhoy, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 2 adults, 4 juveniles, Loch Calder (north end), 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 15 (7 yg), Westfield, 26.11.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair + 5 yg, Loch Calder (south end), 26.11.2022 (SAMM); 2 adults, 1 juv, Reiss, 26.11.2022 (DM); 7 (3 yg), Lochend, Barrock, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 16+, Broubster Leans, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 65, Loch of Mey, 27.11.2022 (ML); 2 adults, Brabster, 30.11.2022 (DM); 100+, Loch of Wester, 05.12.2022 (SAMM); 22 (8 yg), Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 50, Loch of Mey, 11.12.2022 (SE); 18, Westfield Marsh, 11.12.2022 (DAO).

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Local summer migrant

62 records on "Birdtrack". 1, St John's Pool, 19.01, 2 on 26.01.2022 (JS); 2, John O'Groats, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 2, Thurso Bay, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Sandside Bay, 19.02, 3 from 03.03 to 08.03, 2 on 24.03, 5 on 07.04, 7 on 07.07.2022 (EM); 2, St John's Loch, 20.02.2022 (JS); 3, Sandside, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 5, St John's Pool, 01.03.2022 (JS); 1 m, 1 f, Wester River, 03.03.2022 (SAMM, PMM); 4, Sandside Bay, 19.03, 16.04.2022 (HW); 5, Loch of Wester, 20.03.2022 (PMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 17.04, 15.05.2022 (PMM); 7, Loch of Wester, 19.04, 9 on 26.04, 10 on 29.04.2022 (PMM); 3, Sandside Bay, 15.05.2022 (HW); 1 pair + 1 yg, St John's Pool, 29.05, 2 pairs + 1 yg, 30.05, 01.06.2022 (JS); 1 pair + 15 yg, 04.06, 15.06, Sandside, 13 yg on 13.07.2022 (JKM); 2, Harrow Harbour, 15.05.2022 (DD); 1 pair + 8 yg, Ackergill, 10.06.2022 (Ken Crossan); 6, Loch of Wester, 19.06.2022 (PMM); 2 juveniles, Loch of Wester, 04.09, 3 on 07.09.2022 (PMM); 1, St John's Pool, 01.10.2022 (JS); 1, Harrow Harbour, 25.11.2022 (ML); 5, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS).



Common Shelduck and young, Sinclair's Bay

Ken Crossan

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Feral

1 pair, Ham Pool, 20.04.2022 (Catherine Fisher).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Scarce visitor

1 m, Lieurary Marsh Westfield, 26.03, 28.03.2022 (PH, RH); 1 m, St John's Pool, 23.04 to 09.05.2022 (JS); 1 m, Loch of Wester, 05.05, 21.05.2022 (PMM).



Garganey drake St John's Pool 23/04/2022

Julian Smith

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Local winter and summer migrant

2, Loch of Mey, 08.01, 30.01.2022 (NO, RAF); 1, St John's Pool, 11.04, 2 on 13.04, 1 on 16.04, 19.04.2022 (JS); 2 pairs, Thuster Pools, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 2, Ham Pool, 18.04.2022 (PM); 3 mm, 1 f, St John's Pool, 20.04.2022 (JS); 1, Loch of Mey, 23.04.2022 (NO); 7, Loch of Wester, 29.04.2022 (PMM); 4 mm, 2 ff, St John's Pool, 03.05, 3 pairs on 14.05 with one pair probably breeding, 1 pair + 4 mm on 24.05.2022 (JS); 1 m, Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, St John's Pool, 14.11.2022 (JS); 5, Loch Scarmclate, 29.11.2022 (RH); 4, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Winter and summer migrant

12, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01.2022 (JS); 5, Ham Pool, 13.02.2022 (JS); 1, St John's Loch, 20.02.2022 (JS); 1 f, Loch Watten, 16.03.2022 (PMM); 6, Loch of Wester, 28.03.2022 (PMM); 7, St John's Pool, 04.04, 12 (8 mm, 4 ff) on 03.05, 06.05, 14.05, 24.05.2022 (JS); 1 m, 1 f, St John's Loch, 13.05.2022; 7, Loch of Wester, 15.05, 5 on 19.06, 6 on 24.07.2022 (PMM); 14 mm, St John's Pool, 20.05.2022 (JS); 10 mm, St John's Pool, 06.06.2022 (JS); 1 f + br 8, St John's

Pool, 06.06, 08.07.2022 (JS); 1 f + br 7, St John's Pool, 15.06, 16.06.2022, down to 2 or 3 yg on 20.06.2022, then one on 12.07.2022 (JS); 1 f + 1 juvenile, St John's Pool, 04.08.2022 (JS); 3 juveniles, St John's Pool, 31.08.2022 (JS); 20, St John's Loch, 12.11.2022 (JS); 8, St John's Loch, 04.12.2022 (JS); 4, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).



Pair of Gadwall St John's Loch 13.05.2022

Chris Jones

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Common passage and winter migrant; local summer migrant

209 records on "Birdtrack". 275, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01.2022 (JS); 100, Wick Riverside, 05.01.2022 (WB); 207, Thurso East, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 150, Loch Heilen, 22.01.2022 (RH); 5, Loch More, 23.01.2022 (RH); 25, Loch Scarmclate, 23.01.2022 (KM); 400, Loch Watten, 23.01.2022 (SAMM); 103, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 139, John O'Groats, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 92, Crosskirk, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 45, Loch Heilen, 19.02.2022 (RH); 135, Loch of Wester, 20.02.2022 (PMM); 264, Wick Riverside, 29.02.2022 (EM); 129, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 78, Thurso East, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 500, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 80, Loch Hempriggs, 20.02.2022 (PMM); 1 pair, Wester River, 03.03.2022 (SAMM); 126, Thurso East, 19.03.2022 (SAMM); 75, Loch of Wester, 20.03.2022 (PMM); 43, Westfield Marsh, 20.03.2022 (DAO); 20+, Keiss, 22.03.2022 (DW); 3, Loch Thormaids, 26.03.2022 (EM); c.15, Loch Watanan, 12.04.2022 (PM); 10 pairs, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 6+, Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 f + 3 yg, Scrabster Loch, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 f + 6 yg, Loch of Wester, 01.08.2022 (PMM); 5 pairs bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 99, St John's Pool/Loch, 09.09, 306 on 28.09, 150 on 01.10, 200 on 02.10.2022 (JS); 14 W, Sandside Head, 14.09.2022 (EM); 26, Thurso East, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); 4, Loch Watten, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); c.64, Nybster, 19.10, 68 on 20.10.2022 (RH); c.35, Wick Riverside, 24.10.2022 (JO); 70, Thurso East, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 120, St John's Loch, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 190, Thurso East, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 340, St John's Loch, 12.11.2022 (JS); 46, Loch of Mey, 12.11.2022 (SE); 50, Loch Watten, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 70, Loch Watten, 21.11.2022 (MT); 150, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 112, Loch Calder,

11.12.2022 (DAO); 113, Thurso East, 10.12.2022 (SAMM); 120, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 22, Harrow Harbour, 11.12.2022 (SE); 112, Loch Calder, 11.12.2022 (DAO); 25, Freswick, 27.11.2022 (RH); 15, Harrow Harbour, 25.11.2022 (JS).

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*

Scarce visitor

1, Loch of Wester, 15.05.2022 (PMM).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident and passage and winter migrant

241 records on "Birdtrack". 90, Thurso Riverside, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 40, Loch Heilen, 22.01.2022 (RH); 72, Loch of Wester, 23.01.2022 (PMM); 150, Loch Watten, 23.01.2022 (SAMM); 41, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 29, Loch Heilen, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 43, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 80, Crosskirk, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 46, Sandside Bay, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 44, Thurso Riverside, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 50, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 40, Loch of Wester, 20.02.2022 (PMM); 38, St John's Pool/Loch, 20.02.2022 (JS); 33, Brawlbin, 02.03.2022 (RC); 1, Loch Thormaids, 26.03.2022 (EM); 12 mm, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 f + 8 yg, St John's Pool, 09.05.2022 (JS); 1 f + 12 yg, Thurso Riverside, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 ff + 13, 6 yg, Thurso Riverside, 22.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 pairs, Loch Rangag, 24.05.2022 (TW); 1 f + 2 x ½ gr yg, 1 f + 8 newly hatched yg, Thurso Riverside, 09.06.2022 (SAMM); 3 ff + 5, 6, 9 yg, Loch of Wester, 21.06.2022 (PMM); 3 ff + 8, 7, 3 yg, Loch of Wester, 29.06 (PMM); 1 f + 12 yg, Thurso Bay, 01.07.2022 (SAMM); 9 pairs bred, Broubster Leans (DJ); 122, Loch of Wester, 24.07.2022 (PMM); 4 ff, 4 very small yg, Sandside quarry, 22.08.2022 (HW); 50, Loch of Wester, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 f + 3 yg, Sandside quarry, 29.08.2022 (JKM); 17, Newlands of Forse, 04.09.2022 (PM); 90, Thurso Riverside, 11.09.2022 (SAMM); c.80, Ham, 17.09.2022 (PM); 30, St John's Pool/Loch, 01.10, 40 on 06.10.2022 (JS); 62, Loch Scarmclate, 08.10.2022 (KM); 73, Thurso Riverside, 10.10.2022 (SAMM); 98, Thurso, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); 120, Loch Watten, 13.10.2022 (SAMM); c.60, Wick Riverside, 24.10.2022 (JO); 82, Thurso, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 50, Loch Watten, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 30, St John's Pool, 14.11.2022 (JS); 80, Loch Watten, 21.11.2022 (MT); 29, Freswick, 27.11.2022 (RH); 20, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 45, Loch Calder, 11.12.2022 (DAO); 74, Thurso Riverside, 10.12.2022 (SAMM); 60, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 45, Loch Calder, 11.12.2022 (DAO).

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Passage and winter migrant

Present, Loch of Mey, 08.01.2022 (NO); 11, Loch of Mey, 26.01.2022 (JS); 15, Loch of Mey, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 27, Loch of Mey, 16.02, 30 on 19.03.2022 (SE); 18, Wick, 22.03.2022 (DW); 30, Loch of Mey, 24.03, 24 on 26.03.2022 (JS); 4, Loch of Wester, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 1 pair, Loch of Mey, 20.04.2022 (JS); 1 male, 2 females, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, St John's Pool, 03.05.2022 (JS); 7, Loch Scarmclate, 18.09.2022 (RH, NO); 4, Loch of Mey, 08.10, 12.11, 22 on 11.12.2022 (SE); 5, Loch of Mey, 23.09, 29.10.2022 (JS); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 29.11.2022 (RH).

Teal *Anas crecca*

Common resident, passage and winter migrant

156 records on "Birdtrack". 50, St John's Pool/Loch, 13.01, 19.01.2022 (JS); 61, Loch Heilen, 22.01.2022 (RH); 50, Dirlot, 23.01.2022 (NO); 44, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 87, Crosskirk, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 40, St John's Loch, 20.02.2022 (JS); 44, Loch of Wester, 20.02.2022 (PMM); 43, Loch of Mey, 19.03.2022 (SE); 18, Broubster Leans, 20.03.2022 (DAO); 3 pairs, Wick Riverside, 25.03.2022 (DM); 4 mm, 1 pair, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 7 pairs bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 1 f + br 4, St John's Pool, 23.07.2022 (JS); 70, St John's Pool, 10.09.2022 (JS); 250, St John's Pool/Loch, 21.09, 130 on 28.09.2022 (JS); 64, Loch Scarmclate, 60, Loch Watten, 10, Loch Scarmclate, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 120, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 52, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 47, Loch Scarmclate, 11.12.2022 (KM); 60, St John's Pool/Loch, 11.12.2022 (JS).

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Local winter and passage migrant. Numbers have declined.

1, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01.2022 (JS); 2 mm, Loch Hempriggs, 24.01.2022 (PMM); 1, Loch Rangag, 10.03.2022 (PM); 1, St John's Pool, 26.04 to 04.05.2022 (JS); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 11.09.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 18.09.2022 (RH); 12, St John's Pool/Loch, 09.11.2022 (JS); 20, Loch Scarmclate, 29.11.2022 (RH); 11 to 12, St John's Loch, 11.11, 6 on 12.11.2022 (JS); 3, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Scarce visitor

1 male, Loch Watten, 23.01.2022 (SAMM, RH); 1, Loch Watten, 14.12.2022 (RH).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Local breeder; common passage and winter migrant

189 records on "Birdtrack". 120, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01.2022 (JS); 500, Loch Watten, 23.01.2022 (SAMM); 87, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 155, St John's Pool/Loch, 08.02, 120 on 16.03.2022 (JS); 730, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 172, Loch Watten, 20.03.2022 (SAMM); 47, Loch Hempriggs, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 2 pairs, Scrabster Loch, 2 mm, 1 f, Coghill Loch, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 7 adults + yg, Loch Watenan, 23.06, 13 yg on 28.06.2022 (PM); 4 pairs bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 18+ yg, St John's Pool/Loch, 06.07.2022 (JS); 8 yg, Loch Watenan, 07.07.2022 (PM); 1 f + 5 yg, Loch of Wester, 01.08.2022 (PMM); 2 ff + 4, 4 yg, Loch of Wester, 07.09.2022 (SAMM); 14, Loch Rangag, 29.09.2022 (PM); 70, St John's Pool/Loch, 06.10.2022 (JS); 17, Loch Stemster, 15.10.2022 (PM); c.30, Loch Rangag, 25.10.2022 (PM); 700, Loch Watten, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 60, St John's Loch, 09.11, 120 on 12.11, 160 on 18.11.2022 (JS); 63, Loch Watten, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 100+, Loch Scarmclate, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 20, Brawlbin Inlet, 19.11.2022 (SAMM); 27, Brawlbin Inlet, 20.11.22 (SAMM); 17, Loch Rangag, 28.11.2022 (SAMM); 29, Loch Calder, 11.12.2022 (DAO); 400, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).

Hybrid Ring-necked x Tufted Duck, St John's Pool, 09.11 to 29.11.2022 (JS, RH, NO).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce migrant

5, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01, 4 on 09.01.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Watten, 09.01.2022 (RH); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 14.01 to 10.02.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Heilen, 19.02.2022 (RH); 1, Loch Watten,

19.03.2022 (RH); 2, Loch Hempriggs, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 1 m, St John's Loch, 23.04.2022 (JS); 1 f, St John's Pool/Loch, 04.05.2022 (JS); 1 m, St John's Pool/Loch, 06.07 to 08.07.2022 (JS); 1 f, Loch Watten, 11.10.2022 (AA); 2, Thurso, 12.10.2022 (AA); 5, St John's Loch, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 1 m, 4 ff/juveniles, St John's Loch, 12.11.2022 (JS); 2, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 29.11.2022 (RH); present St John's Loch, 06.12.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Watten, 14.12.2022 (RH); 3, St John's Loch, 22.12, 27.12.2022 (JS).

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Widespread summer migrant along coast; winter migrant; numbers have declined

126 records on "Birdtrack". 20, Thurso Bay, 15.01.2022 (HW); 15, Duncansby Ness, 23.01.2022 (WB); 16, Dunnet Bay, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 32, Harrow Harbour, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 5 mm, 3 ff, Scrabster Harbour, 04.03.2022 (SAMM); 18, Scrabster Harbour, 09.03.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 8, Sandside Bay, 14.03.2022 (EM); 14, Thurso Bay, 19.03.2022 (SAMM); 18, Sandside Bay, 19.03.2022 (HW); 18, Sandside, 14.04.2022 (HW, JKM); 7, Thurso Bay, 13.05.2022 (SAMM); 8 mm, 1 f, Sandside Bay, 18.05.2022 (EM); 18, Thurso Bay, 21.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 mm, 3 ff, Harrow Harbour, 22.05.2022 (DD); 2 mm, John O'Groats, 22.05.2022 (DD); 1 f + 3 yg, Sandside, 04.06.2022 (JKM); 4 ff + 6 yg, Sandside, 13.06.2022 (JKM); br 2, 3 in ND27, 16.06.2022 (JS); 7 incl 1 yg, Castlehill, 25.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 57 moulting flock, Thurso Bay, 30.06.2022 (SAMM); 2 mm, 2 ff, Gills Harbour, 03.07.2022 (DD); 9 mm, 11 ff, Stroma, 03.07.2022 (DD); small groups (5 to 10 birds) of moulting birds, Stroma, 12.07.2022 (SAMM); 5 mm, 2 ff, 7 yg, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 14, Thurso Bay, 08.08, 40+ on 19.08.2022 (SAMM); 63, Dunnet Bay, 28.08.2022 (RH, NO); 4 ff, Sandside Bay, 14.09.2022 (EM); 36, Scrabster Harbour, 27.09.2022 (SAMM); 12, Keiss, 24.10.2022 (JO); 23, Thurso Bay, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 19, Scrabster Harbour, 04.11.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Thurso Bay, 10.12.2022 (SAMM).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce migrant

4, Ackergill, 22.02.2022 (Anne Wheatcroft); 1, North Head, Wick, 19.09.2022 (PS, RH); 2, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 7, Ackergill, 29.11.2022 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 06.12.2022 (JS).

Common Scoter *Melanitta niger*

Local summer migrant, breeding on the more remote lochs but numbers have declined, more common as a passage and winter migrant

2, Dunnet Bay, 05.01.2022 (JS); 11, Dunnet Bay, 17.03.2022 (PMM); 13, Thurso Bay, 23.03.2022 (DW); 15, Dunnet Bay, 22.03, c.35 on 15.04, 53 on 20.05, 60+ on 15.06.2022 (RH, NO, JO); 5, John O'Groats, 19.04.2022 (JO); 9, Gills Bay, 30.04, 06.05.2022 (Joan Bingley, Pauline Mackenzie Lloyd, S Morton); 60, Dunnet Bay, 30.06.2022 (PMM); 16, Nybster, 20.10.2022 (JO); 2, Sandside Bay, 04.11.2022 (D O-E); 1, St John's Loch, 12.11.2022 (JS); 7 S, Nybster, 15.11.2022 (RH); 22, Sinclair's Bay, 19.11.2022 (PMM); 30, Dunnet Bay, 25.11.2022 (JS); 3, Dunnet Bay, 21.12, 22.12.2022 (JS).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Passage and winter migrant

15, Dunnet Bay, 04.01, 05.01.2022 (JS); 15, Thurso Bay, 15.01.2022 (HW); 6, Thurso Bay, 20.01.2022 (SAMM); 24, Dunnet Bay, 22.01.2022 (NO); 2, Loch of Wester, 23.01.2022 (PMM); 4, Sandside Bay, 23.01.2022 (HW); 22, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Loch Hempriggs, 24.01.2022 (PMM); 34, Dunnet Bay, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Loch Watten, 19.02.2022 (RH); 19, Keiss, 19.02.2022 (RH); 1, Loch of Wester, 20.02, 20.03.2022 (PMM); 10, Thurso Bay, 26.02.2022 (SAMM); 150, Dunnet Bay, 24.03.2022 (JS); 124, Dunnet Bay, 27.03.2022 (NO); 178, Dunnet Bay, 14.04, 210 on 18.04, 483+ on 27.04, 450 on 01.05.2022 (RH, NO, JS); 235, Dunnet Bay, 21.04.2022 (PMM); 1, Thurso Bay, 13.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Scrabster, 16.06.2022 (J Perry); 1, Dunnet Bay, 27.09.2022 (PMM); 2 mm, Thurso Bay, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); 350, Dunnet Bay, 23.10.2022 (JS); 16, Sandside Bay, 26.10.2022 (HW); 150, Dunnet Bay, 01.11, 250 on 14.11, 100 on 29.11.2022 (D O-E, JS); 8, Thurso Bay, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 11, Sandside Bay, 12.11.2022 (HW); 2 S, Nybster, 15.11.2022 (RH); 3, Thurso Bay, 10.12, 6 on 11.12.2022 (SAMM).



Long-tailed Ducks, Thurso Bay, 16/03/2022

Alison MacPartline

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Common winter migrant

103 records on "Birdtrack". 81, St John's Pool/Loch, 13.01.2022 (JS); 71, Loch Heilen, 22.01.2022 (RH, NO); 60, Loch Watten, 23.01.2022 (SAMM); 107, Loch of Wester, 23.01.2022 (PMM); 2, Wick Riverside, 29.01.2022 (EM); 35, Loch Heilen, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 75, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 7 mm, 1 f, Wick Riverside, 12.02.20; 73, Loch Heilen, 19.02.2022 (RH); 230, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 65, Loch of Wester, 20.02.2022 (PMM); 25, St John's Loch, 20.02.2022 (JS); 40, St John's Pool/Loch, 16.03.2022 (JS); 94, Loch Watten, 20.03.2022 (SAMM); 116, Loch of Wester, 20.03.2022 (PMM); last winter record for Wick Riverside: 4 mm on 25.03.2022 (DM); 2, Loch Thormaid, 26.03.2022 (EM); 1 female, Loch Saorach, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, St John's Loch, 12.05, 3 on 17.06.2022 (JS); 3, Castlehill, 25.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 01.07.2022 (JS); 1, St John's Pool, 02.08.2022 (JS); 4, Loch Watten, 13.10.2022 (SAMM); 66, St John's Loch, 12.11, 60 on 18.11.2022 (JS); 54, Loch Watten; 3, Loch Scarmclate, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 109, Loch Watten, 21.11.2022 (MT); first winter record for Wick Riverside: 2 mm on 05.12.2022 (DM); 75, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Scarce migrant

1 f, Loch Watten, 19.03.2022 (RH); 1 f, Loch Watten, 22.03.2022 (PMM); 2 ff, Loch Watten, 11.12, 12.12, 14.12.2022 (SAMM, KM, RH, PMM).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Local summer migrant; passage and winter migrant

1, Wick Riverside, 03.01, 08.01, 12.01, 21.01.2022 (DB); 2, Loch Watten, 09.01.2022 (RH); 1 male, Thurso Riverside, 20.01.2022 (SAMM); 2 mm, Loch of Wester, 23.01.2022 (PMM); 1 pair, Wick Riverside, 29.01.2022 (EM); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 30.01.2022 (NO); 1, Sandside, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 2 ff/juvs, Thurso Riverside, 05.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 female, Thurso Riverside, 19.02, 25.02, 26.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, Wick Riverside, 26.02, 28.02.2022 (DM); 1 male, Thurso Riverside, 12.04.2022 (SAMM); 8, Braemore, 24.04.2022 (RH); 2, Langwell, 24.04.2022 (RH); 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 12.05.2022 (SAMM); 5, Wick Riverside, 16.05, 9 on 19.05, 5 on 28.08, 10 on 31.08.2022 (DB); 1 m, Thurso Riverside, 22.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 m, 2 f, Thurso Riverside, 31.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 09.06.2022 (SAMM); 2 (1 f), Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 2, Wick Riverside, 15.06.2022 (DD); 1, Wick Harbour, 24.06.2022 (DD); 1 f, Thurso Bay, 09.07.2022 (SAMM); 2 mm (eclipse), 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 20.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 m (eclipse), 4 juvs/ff, Thurso Riverside, 06.09, 10.09.2022 (SAMM); 4, Thurso Riverside, 11.09, 2 on 14.09.2022 (SAMM); 11, Thurso Riverside, 16.09, 2 on 20.09.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 25.09.2022 (SAMM); 3 ff/juvs, Thurso Riverside, 26.09.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 10.10.2022 (SAMM); 2 ff, Thurso Riverside, 16.10.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, Harrow Harbour, 25.11.2022 (JS); 1, Wick, 03.12.2022 (Ken Crossan).



Male Goosander, Harrow Harbour, 25/11/2022

Julian Smith

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Local summer migrant; passage and winter migrant

67 records on "Birdtrack" including from Nybster, Sandside Bay, Dunnet Bay, Loch Watten, St John's Pool/Loch, Loch of Mey, Loch Stemster, Loch Rangag, Thurso Bay, Wick Riverside, Keiss, Loch Heilen, Sinclair's Bay.

3, Keiss, 09.01.2022 (RH); 6, Loch of Mey, 15.01.2022 (JS); 1, Dunnet Bay, 22.01.2022 (NO); 3, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 5, Loch of Mey, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Loch of Mey, 16.02.2022 (SE); 1 pair, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 2, St John's Loch, 20.02.2022 (JS); 5, St John's Pool/Loch, 01.03.2022 (JS); 2, Sandside Bay, 19.03.2022 (HW); 1 m, Sandside Bay, 24.03.2022 (EM); 3, Sandside Bay, 16.04.2022 (HW); 8, Dunnet Bay, 17.04, 6 on 20.05.2022 (JO, RH); 1 f, Loch of Mey, 23.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Sandside, 21.05.2022 (JKM); 8, Victoria Walk, Thurso, 13.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 f + 5 yg, Loch Rangag, 27.06.2022; 1 f + 6 yg, Loch More, 01.07.2022 (J & K Campbell); 1 f + 4 juvs, Loch Stemster, 27.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 25.09, 13.10, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, 1 f, Thurso Riverside, 14.10.2022 (SAMM); 5, Sandside Bay, 28.10, 2 on 12.11, 4 on 04.12.2022 (HW); 1, St John's Loch, 12.11.2022 (JS); 2 mm, 3 ff, Sandside Bay, 26.11.2022 (EM); 7, Wick, 03.12.2022 (Ken Crossan); 2 mm, 2 ff, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).



Red-breasted Mergansers, Wick, 03/12/2022

Ken Crossan

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scotica*

Resident, has declined

17 records on "Birdtrack". 4, near Loch Meadie, 01.01.2022 (DD); 1, near Achscorriclate, 01.01.2022 (DD); 1, Brawlbin, 01.02, 2 on 16.02, 3 on 02.03, 2 on 03.03.2022 (RC); 2, Loch of Mey, 13.02.2022 (JS); 5, Loch of Mey, 07.03.2022 (JS); 2, upper strath, Helshetter, 27.03.2022 (JKM); 3, Beinn Ratha, 27.03.2022 (HW); 3, Loch Caluim, 01.04.2022 (RH); present Braemore, 24.04.2022 (RH); present Westerdale, 29.04.2022 (Colin Leslie); present Loch Stemster, 30.04.2022 (Colin Leslie); 1, Dunnet Head, 21.05.2022 (JS); 1 individual present, Broubster Leans (DJ); 1 pair + 4 yg, Brawlbin, 24.07.2022 (SAMM); 3, Brawlbin, 01.09.2022 (DAO); several

males territorial calling at dawn, Strathmore, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 2, Scotscladder, 11.12.2022 (DAO).

Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta*

Local resident

12, Scaraben, 1st week February 2022 (per Kevin Davidson); 2, Scarabens, 24.04.2022 (RH, NO).



Ptarmigan Scarabens early February 2022

per Kevin Davidson

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident

122 records on "Birdtrack". 7yg birds, Newlands of Forse, 24.06.2022(PM); 1 f + 5 yg, Skiall Wood, 05.08.2022 (DAO); 1 yg, Latheronwheel, 22.08.2022 (PM); 18, Brawlbin, 11.12.2022 (DB).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Uncommon summer migrant

1 (S), Westfield, 16.05.2022 (PH); 1 (S), Reay, 28.05.2022, but bred locally, in captivity; 1 (S), Sandside Bay, 29.05.2022 (Mary Galloway); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 16.06.2022 (JS); 1 (S), Sibmister Road, 03.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Keiss, 09.07.2022 (RH); 1 (S) Newtonhill, 18.07.2022 (SAMM); 2 (S), Reay, 10.08.2022 (PH); 2 (S), Pennyland, Thurso, 12.08.2022 (David

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Introduced

1, Lyth, 11.06.2022 (DM).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Resident; summer migrant

86 records on "Birdtrack". 2, Wick Riverside, 08.01.2022 (DB); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 09.01.2022 (NO); present Loch Watten, 09.01.2022 (RH); 3, Loch of Wester, 23.01.2022 (PMM); 4, Loch Scarmclate, 23.01.2022 (KM); 6, Loch Scarmclate, 30.01, 13 on 19.02.2022 (NO); 1, Ham Pool, 09.02, 13.02.2022 (JS); 1, Wick Riverside, 16.02.2022 (DB); 4, Loch Watenan, 31.03, 6 on 17.05.2022 (PM); 1 pair breeding Ham Pool, 27.04.2022 (JS); 5, Loch Watenan, 15.05.2022 (PMM); 3, St John's Pool, 03.06.2022 (JS); 1 pair + 5 yg, Loch Watenan, 24.07.2022 (PM); 2 pairs bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 3 ads + br 2,3, Loch Toftingal, 12.08.2022 (NL); 1 + 4 yg, Sandside quarry, 29.08.2022 (JKM); 6, Loch Scarmclate, 08.10.2022 (KM); 3, Loch Watten, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 2, Loch Watten, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 4, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 1, Wick Riverside, 21.12.2022 (WM); 2, Ham Pool, 27.12.2022 (JS).



Little Grebe, Wick Riverside, 21/12/2022

Will Manson

Slavonian Grebe

1, Loch Watten, 09.01, 2 on 30.01.2022 (RH); 4, Loch Watten, 19.02.2022 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 14.04.2022 (RH); 1, Wester Olrig marsh, 12.10.2022 (AA); 1, Loch Watten, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 2, John O'Groats, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 1, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 1, Loch Calder, 12.11.2022 (MT); 3, Loch Watten, 21.11.2022 (MT, PMM); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 29.11.2022 (RH); 2, Loch Calder, 04.12, 7 on 11.12.2022 (JS, SM); 5, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch Calder, 11.12, 2 on 31.12.2022 (DAO, JS).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Scarce migrant

1, Harrow Harbour, 25.11.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM, KM, RH).



Great Crested Grebe, Harrow Harbour, 25/11/2022

Julian Smith

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Resident

107 records on "Birdtrack". 59, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 45, John O'Groats, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 90, Bardnaheigh, Shebster, 03.02.2022 (DAO); 21, Keiss Beach, 22.03.2022 (DW); 203, Holborn Head, 15.04.2022 (JP); up to 50 birds, especially west cliffs, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 53, Sandside Head, 12.09.2022 (EM); 40, Lythmore, 11.12.2022 (DAO).



Rock Dove and Wood Pigeon, Reay, 16/05/2022

Eric Maughan

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Resident

307 records on "Birdtrack". 63, Newlands of Forse, 26.01.2022 (PM); c.35, Wick Riverside, 19.04.2022 (JO); c.120, Newlands of Forse, 24.08.2022 (PM); c.260, Nybster, 25.10.2022 (JO).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Scarce migrant

1, Castlehill, 21.04.2022 (RH); 2, Castletown, 03.05.2022 (RH).

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Resident

197 records on "Birdtrack". 80, Calder, 01.01.2022 (DAO); 45, St John's Pool, 19.01.2022 (JS); 30, Sandside Farm, 09.03.2022 (EM); c.50, Newlands of Forse, 20.03.2022 (PM); 50, Reay, 04.11.2022 (D O-E); 30, Forss, 11.12.2022 (DAO).

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce migrant

1 juvenile, Nybster, 21.10 to 25.10.2022 (JO, RH).



Juvenile Turtle Dove, Nybster, 24/10/2022

Joe O'Hanlon

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident

88 records on "Birdtrack". 10, Lyth, 01.01.2022 (DM); 13, St John's, 13.02.2022 (JS); 1 melanistic bird, Brough, 22.10.2022 (DG); 18, Lyth, 22.10, 05.11, 28.11.2022 (DM); 10, St John's Pool, 20.11.2022 (JS); 22, Lyth, 03.12, 17.12, 24 on 25.12.2022 (DM).

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Summer migrant

45 records on "Birdtrack". 1 (S), Barrock, 22.03.2022 (Anthony Adlard); 1, Castletown, 17.04.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Reay, 23.04.2022 (HW); 1 (S), Lyth, 29.04.2022 (DM); 1 (S), Camster, 30.04.2022 (PD); 1 (S), Bowertower, 01.05 (DD); 2 (S), Broubster Leans, 06.05.2022 (DJ); 1 (S), Brackside, Reay, 07.05.2022 (JKM); 1 (S), Helshetter, 07.05.2022 (JKM); 1 (S), Reay, 08.05.2022 (EM); 1 (S), Newtonhill, 11.05.2022 (SAMM); singing males recorded Murza, Bowertower, Scarmclate in May 2022 (DD); 1 (S), Lyth, 19.05.2022 (DM); 3 (S), Broubster Forest, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Dorrery road, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Braehead, Reay, 20.05.2022 (per SAMM); 1 (S), Loch More, 02.06.2022 (DD); 1 (S), Newtonhill, 05.06, 16.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Brackside, Reay, 05.06.2022 (JKM); 1 (S), Broubster Leans (DJ); 1 juvenile fed by Reed Bunting, Calder, 08.07.2022 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 1, St John's Pool, 02.08.2022 (JS); 1, Loch of Mey, 13.08.2022 (JS).

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Summer migrant

1, Thurso, 11.05.2022 (PH); 12, Thurso, 15.05.2022 (SAMM); 3, Wick, 15.05.2022 (DM); 6, Halkirk, 16.05.2022 (DAO); 1, Dunbeath, 18.05.2022 (PD); 1, Wick Riverside, 19.05.2022 (DB); 1, Dunnet Bay, 20.05.2022 (RH); 2, Watten, 27.05.2022 (DD); 2, Scrabster, 04.06.2022 (Chris Taylor); 1, Castletown, 04.06.222 (RH); 8, Sir John's Square, Thurso, 14.06.2022 (SAMM); 3, Durness St, Thurso, 17.06.2022 (SAMM); 3, Wick, 20.06.2022 (DD); 3 pairs breeding, Wick, 23.06.2022, first fledged 07.07.2022 (DM); 3, Duncansby Head, 23.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1 adult, 3 juveniles, Halkirk, 26.06.2022 (DAO); 1, Wick Riverside, 04.07.2022 (DB); present Newtonhill, 16.07.2022 (NO); 1 N, White House, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 2, Killimster, 22.07.2022 (PMM); 3, Mid-Calder, 24.07.2022 (SAMM); 28, Thurso, 28.07, 12 on 31.07.2022 (SAMM); 7, Thurso, 08.08.2022 (SAMM); last at breeding site, Wick, 14.08.2022 (DM); calling Thurso Riverside, 17.08.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 20.08.2022 (SAMM); 1, Stainland, 21.08.2022 (Dr Tom Charman); 11, Thurso, 22.08.2022 (SAMM).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Summer and winter migrant; resident?

2, Loch Scarmclate, 09.01, 1 on 30.01.2022 (NO); 2, St John's Pool/Loch, 14.01.2022 (JS); 1, Ham Pool, 16.03.2022 (PS); 1, recorded at 23.15 hrs, Castletown, 16.03.2022 (RH, NO); 1 (S), Brawlbin Inlet, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 2, ND27, 27.07.2022 (JS); 1, Ham Pool, 20.08.2022 (RH); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 18.09.2022 (JS); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 18.09.2022 (RH); 1, Loch of Mey, 08.10.2022 (SE); 1, Nybster, 06.11.2022 (NO); 1, Loch of Mey,

07.11.2022 (JS); 1, Skirza, 11.11.2022 (photographed; present probably for a few weeks) (Janet Aykroyd); 2, Loch Scarmclate, 29.11.2022 (RH).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Summer migrant, formerly very common but now scarce

1 (S), Newtonhill, 05.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Sibmister Road, 08.06.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Rumster, 25.06.2022 (DAO); 1 (S), East Mey, 27.06, 30.06.2022 (Dr Keith Nicholson).

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

Summer and passage migrant

1 m (S), Broubster Leans (DJ).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident

51 records on "Birdtrack" including from St John's Pool/Loch, Loch Scarmclate, Loch Watten, Ham Pool, Loch Watenan.

4, Loch Scarmclate, 30.01.2022 (NO); 3, Ham Pool, 02.04.2022 (PM); 5, St John's Pool, 13.07, 21.07, 23.08, 6 on 14.08.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Watenan, 24.08, 07.09, 13.09, 29.09.2022 (PM); 2, St John's Loch, 12.11.2022 (JS).

Coot *Fulica atra*

Resident and winter migrant, has declined

38 records on "Birdtrack". 20+, Loch Watten, 23.01.2022 (SAMM); 9, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair (N), Ham Pool, 27.04.2022 (JS); 1 adult + 1 chick, Ham Pool, 20.06.2022 (JS); 16, Loch Scarmclate, 08.10.2022 (KM); 57, Loch Scarmclate, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 23, Loch Scarmclate, 11.12.2022 (KM).

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Scarce migrant

1 N, Castletown, 15.04.2022 (JO); 1, Lochside, Reay, 17.05, 18.05.2022 (SAMM, EM, RH); 1, Reisgill, 25.05.2022, photographed (Elizabeth Sinclair).



Common Crane, Loch Achbuligan, 18.05.2022

Eric Maughan

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Scarce migrant, one record.

1, Wester River, 02.03, 03.03.2022 (NR, SAMM, PMM, JS, EM).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Resident; passage and winter migrant

360 records on "Birdtrack". 39, Sandside Bay, 01.01.2022 (HW); 40, Dunnet Bay, 05.01.2022 (JS); 64, Thurso East, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 32, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 32, Loch Heilen, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 134, Crosskirk, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 12, Thurso Beach, 11.02.2022 (SAMM); 63, Thurso Bay, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 48, Keiss, 19.02.2022 (NO); 164, maximum spring count, Sandside Bay, 25.02.2022 (EM); 30, Loch Watten, 25.02.2022 (WB); 90, Sandside, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 30, St John's Pool/Loch, 01.03.2022 (JS); 67, Dunnet Bay, 12.03, 83 on 15.03.2022 (RH, NO); 103, Thurso Bay, 19.03.2022 (SAMM); 43, Loch Heilen, 19.03.2022 (RH); 47, Dunnet Bay, 22.03.2022 (NO); 52+, Thurso Bay, 23.03, c.35 on 16.04.2022 (DW, JO); c.80, Dunnet Bay, 17.04, c.30 on 20.04.2022 (JO); 60, Sandside Bay, 11.05, 72 on 13.05.2022 (HW); 2 pairs breeding St John's Pool, 01.05, one pair with 4 yg, 29.05.2022, other pair, young predated (JS); 3 nests + eggs, Knockglass, 14.05.2022 (DAO); 1 pair bred Broubster Leans (JS); 68, Sandside Bay, 15.05.2022 (HW); 1 nest + 3 eggs, Sandside Beach, 18.05.2022 (EM); 1 AON, Fresgoe House, Sandside, 26.05 with three eggs on 22.07.2022 (JKM); 1 pair (DD), second site, Sandside, 02.06, with 1 yg on 02.07.2022 (JKM); 2 breeding pairs, old mart site, Ormlie Hill,

Thurso, 22.06.2022 (SAMM); 50+ pairs, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 40+, Thurso Harbour, flying up river, 08.08.2022 (SAMM); 100, Dunnet Bay, 12.08.2022 (JS); 70, Sandside Bay, 15.08.2022 (HW); 70, Harrow Harbour, 30.08.2022 (JS); 40, Dunnet Bay, 13.09.2022 (NO); 18, Thurso Beach, including colour-ringed individual (white on right leg, orange on left), 17.09.2022 (SAMM); 24, Harrow Harbour, 08.10.2022 (SE); 93, Thurso Bay, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); 53, Thurso Bay, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 50, Dunnet Bay, 23.11.2022 (JS); 109, Thurso Bay, 10.12.2022 (SAMM).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Scarce migrant

1, calling overhead, St John's Pool, 13.08.2022 (JS); 1, Loch of Mey, 23.09.2022 (JS); 2, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 1, Sandside Bay, 26.11, 04.12.2022 (EM); 3, East Murkle, 14.12.2022 (RH).



Grey Plover, Sandside Beach, 26/11/2022

Eric Maughan

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Summer migrant; common passage migrant

45 records on "Birdtrack". 35 S, Harrow Harbour, 10.01.2022 (JS); 180, Westerloch, 02.01.2022 (PMM); 20 to 40, Shebster, 24.02, 20 on 28.02.2022 (EM); 156, Quoys of Reiss, 26.02.2022 (DM); c.120, Dunnet Bay, 26.03.2022 (NO); 160+, Castletown, 29.03.2022 (RH); c.70, East Murkle, 02.04.2022 (RH); c.955, Westerdale, 05.04.2022 (RH); 1, Dorrery, 11.04.2022 (NL); 200, West Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 1, Sandside Bay, 10.09.2022 (HW); 100+, Brawlbin, 21.09.2022 (SAMM); 53, Nybster, 24.10.2022 (RH); 150, St John's Loch, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); c.40, Loch Stemster, 05.11.2022 (PM); 70, Brawlbin Inlet, 19.11.2022 (SAMM); c.140, Wick Riverside, 19.11.2022 (RH); c.60, Newlands of Forse, 22.11.2022 (PM); 200+, Newlands of Forse, 29.11.2022 (PM); 200, Loch Calder, 04.12.2022 (JS).

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Resident; summer and passage migrant

260 records on "Birdtrack". 30, St John's Pool/Loch, 07.01.2022 (JS); 20, Helshetter, 07.01.2022 (HW); 11, Loch of Mey, 08.01.2022 (NO); 83, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 25, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 200, Loch of Mey, 16.02.2022 (JS); 197, Loch Heilen, 19.02.2022 (RH); 111, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 61, Loch Scarmclate, 20.02.2022 (KM); c.60, Shebster, 21.02.2022 (EM); 60, Westfield, 24.02.2022 (EM); 150, Loch Watten, 25.02.2022 (WB); c.100, Bardnaheigh, 01.03.2022 (EM); 12+, Lyth, 06.03.2022 (DM); 14 (T, D), East Murkle, 17.03.2022 (SAMM); 70, Borrowston, Forss, 19.03.2022 (DAO); 72, Broubster Leans, 20.03.2022 (DAO); 32, Loch Hempriggs, 20.03.2022 (PMM); 1(D), St John's Pool/Loch, 25.03.2022 (JS); 6 (D), Broubster Leans, 26.03.2022 (EM); c.25, Loch Stemster, 02.04.2022 (PM); 1 pair on eggs, St John's Pool, 26.05, 1 pair with 4 yg, 31.05.2022 (JS); 2 adults, 2 juvs, Reiss, 28.05.2022 (DM); 8 pairs, Holborn Head, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 2 juveniles, Ulbster, 28.06.2022 (PM); 11 pairs bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 53, Loch Hempriggs, 24.07.2022 (PMM); 28, Loch Stemster, 31.07.2022 (SAMM); 99, St John's Pool/Loch, 10.08, 150 on 15.08.2022 (JS); 175, Loch of Mey, 13.08.2022 (JS); 82, Brawlbin, 01.09.2022 (DAO); c.80, Newlands of Forse, 05.09, rising to c.110 on 18.09, 19.09 to c.100 on 25.12.2022 (PM); 70+, Osclay, 09.09.2022 (PM); c.50, Loch Stemster, 09.09.2022 (PM); 162, Brawlbin, 10.09.2022 (DAO); 100+, Brawlbin, 21.09.2022 (SAMM); 122, Loch Scarmclate, 08.10.2022 (KM); 111, Loch of Mey, 08.10.2022 (SE); c.110, Nybster, 23.10.2022 (JO); 164, Shebster, 29.10.2022 (EM); c.80, Loch Stemster, 05.11.2022 (PM); 85, Nybster, 06.11.2022 (NO); 120, Loch of Mey, 07.11.2022 (JS); 85, Sandside Bay, 11.11.2022 (HW); 58, Harrow Harbour, 12.11.2022 (SE); 120, Loch of Mey, 12.11.2022 (SE); c.800, Loch Calder, 12.11, 16.11, 19.11.2022 (MT); 210, Loch Scarmclate, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 250, Brawlbin Inlet, 19.11, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 200+, Loch Calder (north end), 26.11.2022 (SAMM); 1,000, Loch Calder, 04.12.2022 (JS); 250, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 255, Loch Scarmclate, 11.12.2022 (KM); 90, Harrow Harbour, 11.12.2022 (SE); 40, Loch of Mey, 11.12.2022 (SE); 98, Sandside Bay, 16.12.2022 (HW).

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Resident; passage and winter migrant

111 records on "Birdtrack". 87, Sandside Bay, 01.01.2022 (HW); 30+, Quoys of Reiss, 01.01.2022 (DM); 44, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 86, Sandside, 25.01.2022 (SAMM); 55, maximum spring count, Sandside Beach, 04.02.2022 (EM); 14, Thurso Beach, 11.02.2022 (SAMM); 29, Thurso Beach, 18.02.2022 (SAMM); 18, Thurso Beach, 23.02.2022 (SAMM); 20, Rattar Farm, 31.03.2022 (JS); c.60, Dunnet Bay, 15.04, 72 on 17.04, 128 on 18.04, 137 on 18.04, 112 on 08.05.2022 (JO, RH); 38, Sandside Bay, 15.05, 30 on 15.06.2022 (HW); 1 (DD), Burnside, Thurso, 20.05.2022 (SAMM); 65, Sandside Bay, 22.05.2022 (HW); 1, Loch More, 02.06.2022 (DD); 1 pair + nest with 3 eggs, Sandside, 02.06, adult + 3 well-grown yg on 14.08.2022 (JKM); 2 pairs, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 11, Thurso Beach, 21.07, 13 on 23.07, 27 on 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 adult + 1 yg, Fresgoe, Sandside, 22.07.2022 (JKM); 1 (A), Auchengill, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 35, Dunnet Bay, 12.08.2022 (JS); 30+, Thurso Beach, 18.08, 19.08, 19.09, 30.09.2022 (SAMM); 30, Sandside Bay, 15.08, 65 on 20.08, 29.08.2022 (HW); 71, Sandside (roost), 28.08.2022 (JKM); 82, Sandside Bay, 20.09, 99 on 01.10, 104 on 28.10.2022 (HW); 33, Thurso Beach, 10.10.2022 (SAMM); 46, Thurso Bay, 13.10.2022 (SAMM); 70, Dunnet

Bay, 01.11, 73 on 12.11.2022 (D O-E, NO); 31, Thurso Beach, 09.11, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 98, Sandside Bay, 12.11.2022 (HW); 30+, Thurso Beach, 12.11.2022 (JF); 33, Thurso Beach, 19.11.2022 (SAMM); 44, Sandside Beach, 26.11.2022 (EM); 12, Freswick, 27.11.2022 (RH); 16, Thurso Beach, 10.12.2022 (SAMM); 78, Sandside Bay, 10.12.2022 (HW); 36, Thurso Beach, 31.12.2022 (SAMM).

One colour-ringed Makkevik, Norway in early September 2022 (c.04.09) seen in Dunnet Bay on 13.09.2022 (RH).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage migrant

1, Murkle, 02.04.2022 (David Pottinger); 1, Sandside Head, 14.04.2022 (HW); 5, Dunnet Bay, 18.04, 1 on 19.04.2022 (RH, NO); 280+, Claredon, 27.04.2022 (RH); 16, Dunnet Bay, 30.04.2022 (NO); present, Broubster Leans, 27.04.2022 (DJ); 12, Westerloch, 29.04.2022 (PMM); 25, Dunnet Bay, 01.05, 2 on 02.05.2022 (NO, RH); 3, St John's Pool, 02.05, 03.05.2022 (JS); 20, Harrow Harbour, 06.05.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 27, Dunnet Bay, 07.05, 4 on 08.05.2022 (RH); 8, Sandside Bay, 09.05, 4 on 11.05, 1 on 13.05, 17.05.2022 (HW, EM); 50, Rattar, 11.05.2022 (JS); 2, Castletown, 24.07.2022 (NO); 1 overhead, Thurso, 30.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 S, Thurso, 08.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 overhead, Reay, 27.08.2022 (JKM).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Resident

305 records on "Birdtrack". 63, Sandside, 03.01.2022 (HW); 50, Wick Riverside, 08.01.2022 (DB); 52, Reiss, 15.01.2022 (DM); 78, Thurso East, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 22, Dunnet Bay, 22.01.2022 (NO); 40, Duncansby, 23.01.2022 (WB); 78, Loch of Wester, 23.01.2022 (PMM); 66, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 62, St John's Pool/Loch, 27.01.2022 (JS); 23, Loch Heilen, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 40, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 247, Dunnet Bay, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 197, Loch of Mey, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 78, Crosskirk, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 25, Pennyland, Thurso, 09.02.2022 (SAMM); 60, Sandside Farm, 15.02.2022 (JKM); 86, Thurso East, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 17, Loch Heilen, 19.02.2022 (RH, NO); 76, maximum spring count, Sandside Farm, 27.02.2022 (EM); 28, Loch Hempriggs, 20.02.2022 (PMM); 18, Pennyland, 26.02.2022 (SAMM); 50+, Sandside, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 40, Sandside Beach, 06.03.2022 (EM); 47, Loch Hempriggs, 20.03.2022 (PMM); 1 (D), Broubster Leans, 26.03.2022 (EM); 1 (D), Reiss, 13.04.2022 (DM); 3 (D), St John's Pool, 26.05.2022 (JS); 1 (D), Holborn Head, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 42, Sandside Bay, 15.06.2022 (HW); 12 pairs bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 1 juvenile on road, Calder, 08.07.2022 (Dr Lucy Mitchell); 6+, mid island, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair + 2 large yg, Oust, 02.08.2022 (DAO); 27, Ackergill, 10.08.2022 (DB); 14, Burnside, Thurso, 19.08.2022 (SAMM); 42, Sandside Bay, 08.10.2022 (HW); 81, East Murkle, 10.10.2022 (SAMM); 16, Thurso, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); c.50, Duncansby Head, 16.10.2022 (NO); 46, Sandside Farm, 02.11.2022 (EM); 120, Loch of Mey, 07.11.2022 (JS); 81, Thurso East, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 48, Sandside Bay, 12.11.2022 (HW); 39, Nybster, 12.11.2022 (RH, NO); 76, Thurso East, 10.12.2022 (SAMM); 70, Harrow Harbour, 11.12.2022 (JS); 65, Reay, 13.12.2022 (HW).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Passage migrant, more common in autumn

2, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, Sandside Bay, 11.05.2022 (HW); 1, Sandside Beach, 08.09.2022 (EM); 6, Dunnet Bay, 12.09.2022 (Tony Laidler); 8, Castlehill, 13.09.2022 (PMM); 1, Thurso Beach, 16.09, 17.09.2022 (SAMM); 2, Sandside Bay, 17.09.2022 (HW); 1, Sandside, 19.09.2022 (JKM); 2, Sandside, 24.09.2022 (JKM); 1, Ackergill, 01.10.2022 (DB); 6, Dunnet Bay, 07.10.2022 (JS); 1 to 3, Sandside Bay, 01.10 to 04.12.2022 (HW, DO-E); 1 to 4, Dunnet Bay, 01.11 to 06.12.2022 (JS, RH, D O-E).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Passage migrant

2, Wester Olig marsh, 05.04.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Dunnet Bay, 17.04.2022 (JO); 1, Loch of Wester, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 1, Thuster Pools, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 5, Westerloch, 29.04.2022 (PMM); 1 to 4, St John's Pool, 12.05 to 30.08, 12 on 18.07.2022 (JS); 2, Ackergill, 10.08.2022 (DB); 1, Loch of Mey, 13.08.2022 (JS); 13, Wester River, 20.08.2022 (PMM); 3, Westerloch, 03.09.2022 (PMM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 12.09.2022 (Tony Laidler); 1, Murkle, 13.10.2022 (RH, NO).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Passage and winter migrant

100 records on "Birdtrack". 83, Thurso Beach, 02.01.2022 (SAMM); 40, John O'Groats, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 45, Dunnet, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 30, Skirza, 13.02.2022 (SAMM); 17, Harrow Harbour, 16.02.2022 (SE); 47, Thurso Beach, 23.02.2022 (SAMM); 40+, Thurso Beach, 01.03.2022; 33, Wick Riverside, 06.03.2022 (DD); 32, Dunnet Bay, 13.03.2022 (NO); 30, Castlehill, 17.03.2022 (SAMM); 75, Thurso Beach, 19.03.2022 (SAMM); 21, Harrow Harbour, 19.03.2022 (SE); 30, Dunnet Bay, 22.03.2022 (NO); 67, Sandside, 07.04.2022 (EM); 14, Ackergill, 05.05.2022 (DB); 2, Dunnet Beach, 12.05.2022 (PMM, JS); 5, Thurso Beach, 13.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Castlehill, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Berriedale, 15.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1, South Head, Wick, 09.07.2022 (BW); 1, Dunnet Beach, 13.07.2022 (JS); 5, Castlehill, 18.08.2022 (PMM); 10, Burnside, Thurso, 18.08, 15 on 19.08.2022 (SAMM); 10, Sandside Bay, 20.08.2022 (HW); 10, Dunnet Bay, 26.08.2022 (RH); 3, Thurso Beach, 25.09.2022 (SAMM); 23, Sandside Bay, 08.10.2022 (HW); 32, Thurso Bay, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); 45, Noss Head, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 60, Reay, 04.11.2022 (D O-E); 48, Scrabster Harbour roost, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 21, Harrow Harbour, 12.11.2022 (SE); 47, Sandside Bay, 12.11.2022 (HW); 38, Sandside Bay, 24.11.2022 (HW); 24, Thurso Beach, 08.12.2022 (SAMM); 39, Sandside Bay, 10.12.2022 (HW).



Turnstones, South Head, Wick

Ken Crossan

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Passage migrant

1, Loch of Wester, 15.05.2022 (PMM); 1, Sandside, 11.08.2022 (JKM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 20.08, 3 on 25.08.2022 (NO); 2, Sandside Bay, 29.08.2022 (HW); 1, Dunnet Bay, 07.09.2022 (NO); 4 Wester River, 07.09.2022 (PMM).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Winter and passage migrant

2, St John's Pool/Loch, 07.01.2022 (JS); 1, Mey, 10.01.2022 (JS); 1, Loch of Mey, 15.01.2022 (JS); 5, St John's Pool/Loch, 26.01, 2 on 27.01.2022 (JS); 9, St John's Loch, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 12, Loch of Mey, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Loch of Mey, 16.02, 4 on 24.03, 9 on 26.03.2022 (JS); 1, Lieurary, 27.03.2022 (RH); 2, Loch of Mey, 23.04.2022 (NO); 1 juvenile, St John's Pool, 04.08.2022 (JS); 1, Loch of Mey, 13.08.2022 (JS); 8, Loch of Wester, 27.09.2022 (PMM).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Passage migrant

Max. 8, Dunnet Bay, 07.09.2022 (1 to 8 birds from 01.09 to 13.09) (RH, NO, SL, PMM); 1, Thurso Beach, 19.09.2022 (SAMM); present ND27, 23.10.2022 (JS).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Passage migrant

A bird at Castlehill from 07.09 to 13.09.2002 was thought to be a hybrid Temminck's (SL, RH, NO, PMM). However, SBRC's decision was that the bird was an unusual Dunlin! Other thoughts were that it may have been a Dunlin x Baird's Sandpiper (see image below).



Calidris sp with Common Ringed Plover, Castlehill, 07/09/2022

Sam Langlois

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Passage and winter migrant

52 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 14, Thurso, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 2, Sandside, 20.03.2022 (EM); 16, Dunnet Bay, 22.03.2022 (NO); 14, Sandside Bay, 15.05, 15 on 15.06.2022 (HW); 29, Dunnet Bay, 08.05, 60+ on 28.05.2022 (RH); 1, Sandside, 18.05.2022 (EM); 4, Sandside, 28.05.2022 (JKM); 15, Freswick, 06.06.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 14, Sandside, 10.08, 15 on 15.08.2022 (JKM, HW); 35, Dunnet Bay, 20.08.2022 (RH); 19, Sandside (Reay Burn mouth roost), 28.08.2022 (JKM); 21, Sandside, 08.09.2022 (EM); 14, Sandside Bay, 10.09.2022 (HW); 50, Dunnet Beach, 13.09, 14.11, 23.11.2022 (NO, JS); 36, Sandside, 14.09.2022 (EM); 4, Thurso Beach, 17.09, 29.09, 10 on 30.09.2022 (SAMM); 7, Sandside, 19.09.2022 (JKM); 19, Thurso Beach, 13.10.2022 (SAMM); 12, Thurso Beach, 03.12.2022 (SAMM); 5, Thurso Beach, 10.12, 2 on 12.12.2022 (SAMM).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Summer migrant; passage and winter migrant

193, Thurso, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 40, maximum spring count, Sandside, 07.04.2022 (EM); 70, Dunnet Bay, 12.05.2022 (RH, NO); 12, Loch of Wester, 15.05, 12 on 19.06, 5 on 24.07.2022 (PMM); 43, Sandside Bay, 22.05.2022 (HW); 2 pairs, Holborn Head, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 2 pairs, flock of 23, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 3, Thurso Beach, 19.08.2022 (SAMM); 16, Sandside (Reay Burn mouth roost), 28.08.2022 (JKM); 6, Sandside, 08.09.2022 (EM); 550, Mid-Sands, Dunnet Bay, 09.09.2022 (JS); 160, Castlehill, 13.09.2022 (PMM, NO); 4, Thurso Beach, 17.09, 5 on 19.09.2022 (SAMM); 30, Thurso Beach, 01.10.2022 (SAMM); 2, Brawlbin Inlet, 19.11.2022 (SAMM); 100, Dunnet Bay, 23.11.2022 (JS); 25, Sandside, 26.11, 10 on 04.12, 16.12.2022 (HW).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Winter migrant

62 records on "Birdtrack". 6, Sandside Bay, 01.01.2022 (HW); 12, Dunnet Bay, 05.01.2022 (JS); 22, Keiss, 09.01.2022; 50, Thurso East, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 15, Duncansby Head, 23.01.2022 (WB); 9, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 50, Harrow Harbour, 26.01.2022 (JS); 14, Castlehill, 26.01.2022 (SAMM); 11, John O'Groats, 20.01.2022 (RAF); 36, Harrow Harbour, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 36, Dunnet Bay, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 50, Crosskirk, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 41, South Head, Wick, 05.02.2022 (PMM); 32, Dunnet Bay, 06.02.2022 (NO); 5, Skirza, 13.02.2022 (SAMM); 20, Harrow Harbour, 16.02.2022 (SE); 67, roost, Scrabster Harbour, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 41, Castlehill, 24.02.2022 (PMM); 8, Sandside, 06.03.2022 (EM); 29, Dunnet Bay, 13.03, 32 on 15.03.2022 (NO, RH); 30, Castlehill, 17.03.2022 (SAMM); 25, Thurso Bay, 19.03.2022 (SAMM); 53, Dunnet Bay, 22.03.2022 (NO); 37, East Murkle, 02.04.2022 (RH); 16, Dunnet Bay, 30.04.2022 (NO); 8, Ackergill, 05.05.2022 (DB); 1, Nybster, 22.10.2022 (RH); 10, Noss Head, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 10, Scrabster Harbour roost, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 14, Sandside Bay, 24.11.2022 (HW); 39, Scrabster Harbour (roost), 10.12.2022 (KM); 26, Nybster, 12.12.2022 (RH); 17, Sandside Bay, 16.12.2022 (HW).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon passage migrant

1 juvenile, Castlehill, 06.09, 07.09, 13.09.2022 (RS, PMM).



Little Stint, Castlehill, 08/09/2022

Ruth Storm

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Scarce winter migrant

1, Nybster, 13.12.2022 (RH).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Passage and winter migrant

1, St John's Pool/Loch, 02.01.2022 (JS); 1, Newlands of Forse, 02.01.2022 (PM); 1, St John's, 06.01.2022 (JS); 1, Newlands of Forse, 21.01.2022 (PM); 1, Reay, 21.01.2022 (EM); 1, Todholes, 23.01.2022 (SAMM); 1, Broubster Leans, flew to Broubster Forest, 24.01.2022 (DJ); 1, Skiall, 29.01.2022 (DAO); 1, Ruther, 29.01.2022 (DAO); 1, Newlands of Forse, 05.02.2022 (PM); 1, St John's Pool/Loch, 08.02.2022 (JS); 1, Brawlbin, 16.02.2022 (RC); 1, Newlands of Forse, 24.02, 28.02.2022 (PM); 1, Brawlbin, 01.03.2022 (RC); 3, Yellow Moss, Shebster, 04.03.2022 (DAO); 1, St John's, 07.03.2022 (JS); 2, Bardnaheigh, Shebster, 12.03.2022 (DAO); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 24.10.2022 (RH); 2, St John's Pool, 20.11.2022 (JS); 1, Loch of Mey, 26.11.2022 (JS); 2, Broubster, 26.11.2022 (SAMM); 4, Strathmore, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Newlands of Forse, 28.11.2022 (PM); 1, St John's, 03.12.2022 (JS); 3, Forss, 03.12.2022 (DAO); 1, Newlands of Forse, 04.12, 18.12.2022 (PM); 2, South Shebster, 10.12.2022 (DAO); 1, Latheronwheel, 18.12.2022 (PD); 2, Thuster, 20.12.2022 (DAO).

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Common resident and migrant

102 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Bowertower, 19.02.2022 (DD); 2, Dunnet Forest, 01.03.2022 (DD); 2 (D), St John's Pool, 10.04.2022 (JS); 1 (D), Borlum, 17.04.2022 (JKM); 1 chipping, Broubster, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 (D), Brawlbin, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 (D), Broubster, 23.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, Halcro, 12.05, 24.05.2022 (DD); 1 (D), 1 (chipping), Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (D), Forse House, 05.06.2022 (Gary Aitken); 2 (D), Holborn Head, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 5 pairs (chipping), Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 16 (D), Broubster Leans (DJ); 1, St John's Pool, 01.08 to 05.08.2022 (JS); 20, St John's Pool, 23.10.2022 (JS); 8, Nybster, 23.10.2022 (JO); 15, Wick Riverside, 13.11.2022 (DB); 17, Loch Watten, 21.11.2022 (MT); 1, Waas, 25.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Camster, December 2022 (PD); 2, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Scarce passage migrant

2, Dunnet Bay, 04.01.2022 (JS); 1, Nybster, 17.10.2022 (RH, NO).

Common Sandpiper *hypoleucos*

Summer migrant

1, Loch Hempriggs, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 1, Forss, 21.04.2022 (DAO); 1, St John's Pool, 24.04 to 28.04.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Rangag, 24.04.2022 (PM); 1, Latheronwheel, 25.04.2022 (PD); 1, Braal Castle, 27.04.2022 (PH); 2, Loch Stemster, 30.04, 20.06.2022 (Colin Leslie, PM); 1, Langwell, 07.05.2022 (RH); 1, Broubster, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 15.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Sandside Burn, 21.05.2022 (EM); 1, Latheron, 21.05.2022 (DB); 1, Thurso Riverside, 22.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Latheronwheel, 23.05, 25.05.2022 (PD); 1, Broubster, 30.05.2022 (DJ); 2 (D), St John's Pool, 29.05.2022 (JS); 1, St John's Pool, 30.05 to 19.06.2022, second bird on eggs? (JS); 1, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch Watenan, 23.06.2022 (PM); 2, Thurso Riverside, 24.07.2022 (SAMM); 1, Sandside Burn mouth, 04.06, 15.06, 16.06.2022 (JKM); 1 pair bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 1, Dunnet Bay, 25.08, 07.09.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Sandside Beach, 08.09.2022 (EM).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce passage migrant

1, Loch Caluim, 24.07.2022 (RH); 1, Hilliclay, 15.08.2022 (PH); 1, St John's Pool, 23.08.2022 (JS).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Scarce migrant

1, Loch of Mey, 23.04, 24.04.2022 (RH, NO, SAMM).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Summer migrant; passage migrant

1, Keiss Beach, 21.03.2022 (DW); 2, Loch of Mey, 23.03, 1 on 24.03.2022 (JS); 1, St John's Pool, 12.04.2022 (JS); 1 overhead, Reay, 14.04.2022 (JKM); 1, Sandside, 15.04.2022 (JKM); 1, (D), Loch Saorach, 22.04.2022 (SMM); 1, Wester River, 26.04.2022 (PMM); 1, Loch Stemster, 30.04.2022 (Colin Leslie); present Torran Water, 13.05.2022 (RH); 2 pairs bred Brouster Leans (DJ); 1, Sandside Bay, 15.06.2022 (HW); 5 juveniles, St John's Pool, 02.08.2022 (JS); 1, Sandside Bay, 20.08.2022 (HW); 1, Harrow Harbour, 19.09.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Sandside Bay, 12.11.2022 (HW).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Scarce summer and passage migrant

Present Torran Water, 13.05.2022 (RH); 2, St John's Pool, 21.05, 22.05, 1 on 24.05.2022 (JS); 1, Crosskirk, 26.08.2022 (DAO).



Wood Sandpiper, St John's Pool, 22.05.2022

Julian Smith

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Resident, passage and winter migrant

210 records on "Birdtrack" including from Sandside Bay, Dunnet Bay, Harrow Harbour, Wick Riverside, John O'Groats, Castletown, Duncansby Ness/Head, Sinclair's Bay, Brough, Thurso

Riverside, Thurso Bay, Loch Heilen, Holborn Head, Crosskirk, St John's Pool/Loch, Loch of Mey, Keiss, Brawlbin, Dunnet Head, Westfield Marsh, Loch Caluim, East Murkle, Loch Stemster, Newlands of Forse, Loch Rangag, Freswick, Nybster, Noss Head, South Head (Wick). 36, Sandside Bay, 01.01.2022 (HW); 50, Thurso Beach, 02.01.2022 (SAMM); 75, Dunnet Bay, 05.01.2022 (JS); 12, Harrow Harbour, 07.01.2022 (JS); 86, Thurso Bay, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 5, Duncansby Ness, 23.01.2022 (WB); 20, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 65, John O'Groats, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 39, Crosskirk, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 50, Loch of Mey, 13.02.2022 (JS); 51, roost, Scrabster Harbour, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 88, Thurso Bay, 19.03.2022 (SAMM); 1, Westfield Marsh, 20.03.2022 (DAO); 22+, Keiss, 21.03.2022 (DW); 3 (D), Loch of Mey, 26.03.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Caluim, 01.04.2022 (RH); 26, maximum spring count, Sandside, 09.04.2022 (EM); 1 (D), Brawlbin, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 2 pairs, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair, St John's Pool, 30.04, seen mating on 04.05, pair + 1 yg, 04.06.2022 (JS); 1 (S), Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 3 pairs (A), Holborn Head, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 8 pairs bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 18, St John's Pool, 14.07.2022 (JS); 1 pair, flock of 15, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 14, Thurso Beach, 17.09, 30 on 19.09, 40 on 30.09.2022 (SAMM); c.60, Dunnet Bay, 18.07.2022 (RH); 3 juveniles, St John's Pool, 03.08.2022 (JS); 35, Sandside Bay, 15.08.2022 (HW); 80, Thurso Bay, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); 58, Sandside Bay, 26.10, 45 on 28.10, 63 on 11.11.2022 (HW); 51, Thurso Bay, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 150, Dunnet Bay, 14.11.2022 (JS); 119, Thurso Bay, 10.12.2022 (SAMM).

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Summer and passage migrant

1, Wick, 17.01.2022 (DM); 1, Thurso Bay, 09.02.2022 (SAMM); 1, off Dunnet Head, 05.04.2022 (SL); 1, Brims, 07.04.2022 (DAO); 1, Thurso Bay, 14.04.2022 (JP); 1, Holborn Head, 16.04.2022 (RH); 1, Thurso Bay, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); present, RSPB Dunnet Head, 02.06, 11.06.2022 (DJ); 9, Stroma, 03.07.2022 (DD); 2 dead, 5 pairs (T, A), Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 2 N in one hr, Auchengill, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 3, North Head, Wick, 18.08.2022 (RH); 12 in 7.5 hrs sea-watching, Nybster, 03.09.2022 (RH); 9 N, North Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (PS, RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 26.09, 30.09.2022 (JS); 5, Nybster, 17.10.2022 (RH).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Summer and passage migrant

2, Dunnet Head, 12.04.2022 (John Pemberton); 1, Dunnet Bay, 18.04.2022 (RH, NO); 5, Dunnet Bay, 18.05.2022 (RH, NO); 2, Biel, Duncansby, 04.06.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Dunnet Head, 23.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1, Mey, 24.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1, Holborn Head, 24.06, 18.08.2022 (TW); 2, ND3668 (Tofts), 04.07.2022 (ML); 1, Langwell Strath, 06.07.2022 (ML); 4, Dunnet Head, 08.07, 09.07.2022 (ML, BW); 1, dark morph, Stroma, 12.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 (1 dark) S in one hr, Auchengill, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair (1 dark, 1 pale), Loch More, 09.08.2022 (NL); 2, North Head, Wick, 18.08.2022 (RH, NO); 1, John O'Groats, 03.09.2022 (Philip Townsend); 11 N in 7.5 hrs, Nybster, 03.09.2022 (RH, NO); 7 N in 3 hrs, Nybster, 18.09.2022 (RH, NO, PS); 18 N in 5 hrs, North Head, Wick, 18.09.2022 (PS); 6 N in 4.5 hrs, North Head, Wick, 19.09.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Dunnet Bay, 26.09.2022 (JS); 1, Nybster, 20.10.2022 (RH, NO).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Scarce migrant

1 juvenile N, Wick, 07.09.2022 (B/G); 1, Wick, 18.09.2022 (PS).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Winter migrant

100+, Dunnet Bay, 04.01, 1 on 05.01.2022 (RH, JS, PMM); 1, Loch of Mey, 08.01.2022 (NO); 1, Dunnet Bay, 11.01, 2 on 12.01.2022 (RH); 1 dead, Dunnet Beach, 22.01.2022 (NO); 1, Thurso, 22.02.2022 (B/G); 5 N, Nybster, 17.10.2022 (RH); 1, North Head, Wick, 26.10.2022 (George Dunbar); 2, Dunnet Bay, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 11 N, Nybster, 06.11, 1 on 11.11.2022 (RH); 33 S, Nybster, 15.11, 9 on 17.11, 2 on 19.11.2022 (RH); 1, Sinclair's Bay, 19.11.2022 (PMM); 2, Nybster, 21.11, 16 on 22.11, 1 on 25.11.2022 (RH); 1, John O'Groats, 25.11.2022 (DB); 1, Dunnet Bay, 26.11.2022 (John Bell); 1, Latheronwheel Harbour, 27.11.2022 (ML); 1, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 1, Nybster, 29.11.2022 (RH); 1, Thurso Bay, 11.12.2022 (SMM); 16 N, Nybster, 13.12.2022 (RH).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Pelagic

116 records on "Birdtrack". 20, Clett Rock, Holborn Head, 13.03.2022 (SMM); 200+, Holborn Head, 27.03.2022 (TW); 230+, Clett Rock, Holborn Head, 16.05.2022 (SMM); 100, cliffs north of Berriedale, 18.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); several hundreds, seaface of Clett and adjacent cliff, Holborn Head, 26.06.2022 (SMM); 200+, west cliffs, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SMM); 2,245 individuals, RSPB Dunnet Head (DJ); 4 dead birds, bird flu? Thurso Beach, 24.09.2022 (SMM).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Pelagic

127 records on "Birdtrack". 100, Dunnet Head, 16.03.2022 (JS); 25+, Holborn Head, 27.03.2022 (TW); c.30, Holborn Head, 16.04.2022 (JO); 30, Berriedale, 15.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 100, cliffs north of Dunbeath, 19.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 100, Latheron, 19.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); small groups, Stroma, especially Back Berry, 12.07.2022 (SMM); 410 individuals, RSPB Dunnet Head (DJ); 10,800 N, North Head, Wick, 18.09.2022 (PS); 28,740 N (9,000/hr), 19.09.2022 (PS, RH); 7, Nybster, 12.11.2022 (NO); 1, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS).

Black Guillemot *Cephus grille*

Resident

117 records on "Birdtrack". Maximum counts at various sites on Caithness coast: 4, Scrabster, 22.01.2022; 1, Wick River Harbour Basin, 16.02, 08.07, 20.08, 24.09.2022 (DM); 2, Thurso Bay, 19.02.2022 (SMM); 4, Holborn Head, 13.03.2022 (SMM); 40, Holborn Head, 15.04.2022 (JP); 7, Latheronwheel, May 2022 (PD); 10, Scrabster, 24.05, 24.06.2022 (TW); 50, coast north of Berriedale, 18.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 60+, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SMM); 8, Auchengill, 07.08.2022 (SMM); 7, Noss Head, 10.09.2022 (Tony Laidler); 7, Harrow Harbour, 29.10.2022 (JS); 2, Thurso Bay, 10.12.2022 (SMM); 21, Nybster, 21.11, 10 on 13.12.2022 (RH, NO).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Pelagic

52 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunnet Head, 26.03.2022 (JS); 1, Holborn Head, 04.04, 40+ on 21.05.2022 (TW); 10+, off Clett Rock, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 20, Dunnet Head, 25.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 50, Duncansby Head, 09.07.2022 (BW); 150+, off shore, Stroma, 12.07.2022 (SAMM); 260+, off shore, se and s Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 204 individuals, RSPB Dunnet Head (DJ); 180+, Holborn Head, 02.08.2022 (TW); 1, North Head, Wick, 18.09.2022 (PSD, RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 1, ND27, 15.12.2022 (JS).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Pelagic

128 records on "Birdtrack". 2, Dunnet Bay, 03.01, 04.01, 6 on 12.01.2022 (RH, NO); 2, Harrow Harbour, 10.01.2022 (JS); 150, Dunnet Bay, 24.03, 300 on 26.03.2022 (JS); c.200, East Murkle, 02.04.2022 (RH); 450+, Dunnet Bay, 15.04, 18.04.2022 (JO); 1550+, from Holborn Head, 18.04.2022 (JO); 15 active nests, west end Clett Rock, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 85+, Holborn Head, 21.05.2022 (TW); 100+ nests, Berriedale Castle, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 150 pairs (no chicks seen), Berriedale, 14.06.2022 (JS); over 100 carcasses on shore (bird flu), Berriedale (per Anson Macauslan); 400, Berriedale, 15.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 200, cliffs north of Berriedale, 18.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 200, cliffs north of Dunbeath, 19.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 100, Latheron, 19.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 200, Duncansby Head, 23.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 200, Dunnet Head, 25.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 100+, west cliffs, no sign of breeding; breeding colony in south-west corner, Stroma, 12.07.2022 (SAMM); 53 active nests with well-gr yg, south-west corner, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 250 AON, 1.40 fledged/pair, RSPB Dunnet Head (DJ); 50+ juvs, colony at Berriedale Castle, nos. much reduced through bird flu, 31.07.2022 (SAMM); 1,000 N, North Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (JS); 100 N, Nybster, 04.09.2022 (JS); 6,240/hr, North Head, Wick, 18.09.2022 (PS); 741, Nybster, 18.09.2022 (RH); 1,920/Hr, North Head, Wick, 19.09.2022 (PS, RH); 100, Dunnet Bay, 26.09.2022 (JS); 25, Duncansby Head, 30.10.2022 (D O-E); 30 E, Barrock coast, 16.11, 4 on 15.12.2022 (JS); 3, Brough, 11.12.2022 (JS); 3, Nybster, 13.12.2022 (RH).

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Pelagic, scarce migrant

1 juvenile, Scrabster, 20.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 adult N, Nybster, 20.08.2022 (RH).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Resident

220 records on "Birdtrack". 77, Greenland, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 60, Dunnet Bay, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 200, St John's Pool/Loch, 16.03.2022 (JS); 237, Dunnet Bay, 22.03.2022 (RH, NO); 530, St John's Pool/Loch, 01.04.2022 (JS); 1,200 at roost, St John's Pool, 20.04.2022 (JS); first eggs laid, St John's Pool, 22.04.2022 (JS); 250 pairs + chicks (750 birds), St John's Pool, 01.06.2022 (JS); 8 (3 young), Loch Watenan, 13.07.2022 (PM); 25 chicks fledged, St John's Pool, 23.07.2022 (JS); 107, Dunnet Bay, 10.10.2022 (RH, NO); c.60, Thurso, 22.10.2022 (JO); c.120,

Freswick, 25.10.2022 (JO); 70, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (DO-E); 40, Noss Head, 01.11.2022 (DO-E); 100, Dunnet Bay, 14.11.2022 (JS);

1 with Norwegian ring, Thurso Boating Pond, 25.02.2022 (SAMM); 3 juveniles begging for food from adult, Thurso Riverside, 18.07.2022 (SAMM).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Scrace migrant

1, Dunnet Bay, 13.03.2022 (RH, NO); 1 adult, St John's Pool, 13.05, 14.05.2022 (JS); 1 x 1st yr, St John's Pool, 20.05, 24.05, 26.05, 27.05.2022 (JS); 2 x 1st yr, St John's Pool, 29.05 to 02.06.2022 (JS); 3, St John's Pool, 04.06.2022 (JS); 2 x 1st yr, Wester River, 07.06.2022 (PMM); 5, Loch of Wester, 13.06, 4 on 14.06, 4 on 19.06.2022 (PMM); 1 x 2nd summer, Wester River, 20.08 (PMM); 1, from Holborn Head, 21.08.2022 (TW); 2, Nybster, 15.11.2022 (RH); 1 adult winter, Nybster, 17.11.2022 (RH); 1 adult + 1 x 1st w, Nybster, 19.11.2022 (RH); 1, John O'Groats, 20.11.2022 (RH); 1, Wick Harbour, 21.11.2022 (RH).



Little Gull, St John's Pool, 14.05.2022

Julian Smith

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Scarce migrant

1 x 2nd summer, St John's Pool, 03.06, 04.06, 05.06.2022 (JS, RH); 1 juvenile, Dunnet Bay, 13.08, 20.08, 25.08.2022 (SL, RH, JS); 1 adult, Lochside, Castletown, 12.10.2022 (AA); 1 x 2nd yr, Castlehill, 23.10.2022 (JS); 1 immature, Sandside Bay, 09.11.2022 (PH); 1 immature, roost, Thurso, 11.10.2022 (SAMM, PH).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Resident

305 records on "Birdtrack". 440, Lythmore, 01.01.2022 (DAO); 200, St John's Pool/Loch, 07.01.2022 (JS); 380, Newlands of Forse, 18.01.2022 (PM); 250+, Westerloch, 15.01.2022 (DM); 231, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 87, John O'Groats, 29.01.2022 (RAF); 43, Geenland, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 145, Lochan Buidhe, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 250+, Quoys of Reiss, 29.02.2022 (DM); 6 pairs, St John's Pool, 16.03.2022 (JS); 2 pairs, old mart site, Thurso, 12.04.2022 (SAMM); 100+, Stainland Sub-station, 24.05, 26.05.2022 (SAMM); 10+ pairs, roof of Sibster Farm, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair + 1 well-gr yg, old mart site, Ormlie Hill, Thurso, 22.06.2022 (SAMM); 100+ pairs + yg, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 100+, Reiss, 30.07, 06.08, 13.08.2022 (DM); 250+, Reiss, 10.09.2022 (DM); 420+, Reiss, 29.10.2022 (DM); 100, Noss Head, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 60, Loch Scarmclate, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 500, Dunnet Bay, 14.11.2022 (JS); 280 max, Newlands of Forse, 19.12.2022 (PM).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Resident

458 records on "Birdtrack". 170, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 225, John O'Groats, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 78, island roost, Wick Riverside, 29.01.2022 (EM); 105, Dunnet Bay, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 372, Thurso/Murkle Bays, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 136, Dunnet Bay, 22.03.2022 (NO); c.60, Thurso, 16.04.2022 (JO); 3 chicks, chimney stack, Sinclair St, Thurso, 09.06.2022 (SAMM); 200, cliffs north of Berriedale, 18.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 100, cliffs north of Dunbeath, 19.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 50+ large yg, Holborn Head (Clett Rock and adjacent cliffs), 26.06.2022 (SAMM); 45+, Loch Rangag, 27.06.2022 (TW); 100+ pairs + yg, Stroma, 12.07, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 3 chicks, roof of house, Wick, 06.06.2022; another 8+ nests with average of 3 chicks each within 200 m of house (DM); 110, Newlands of Forse, 25.08, 68 on 05.09.2022 (PM); 106, Dunnet Bay, 13.09.2022 (NO); 100, St John's Pool/Loch, 06.10.2022 (JS); 224, Dunnet Bay, 10.10.2022 (NO); c.120, Thurso, 22.10.2022 (JO).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Winter migrant

1 to 3 birds, 03.01 to 08.05, Scrabster Harbour, Thurso Beach/Harbour/Riverside, Wick Harbour/Riverside and Dunnet Bay with maximum of three birds at Scrabster Harbour. 1 x 1st yr, Thurso Riverside, 20.01.2022 (SAMM); 1, Kumlien-type, Scrabster, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); dead 2nd yr, Thurso East, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 1 x 1st w, Thurso Beach, 02.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 x 1st w, Thurso Riverside, 03.02.2022 (SAMM); 2 x 1st w, Scrabster Harbour, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Sandside Bay, 19.02.2022 (per RH); 1, Victoria Walk, Thurso, 23.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 x 1st w, Holborn Head, 13.03.2022 (SAMM); 2, Thurso Beach, 1, Scrabster, 19.03.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch Watten, 19.03.2022 (RH); 1, Holborn Head, 15.04.2022 (JP); 1, Murkle Bay, 16.04.2022 (SL); 1 x 2nd yr, Thurso Riverside, 17.04.2022 (SAMM); 2, East Murkle, 08.05.2022 (RH); 1, East Gills, Scrabster, 25.09.2022 (KM); 1 juvenile, Dunnet Bay, 10.10.2022 (SL); 1 juvenile S, Nybster, 02.12.2022 (RH); present Scrabster, 27.12.2022 (B/G).



Iceland Gull

Karen Munro

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Local summer migrant; passage migrant

1, Westfield, 18.03.2022 (EM); 1 (s/s *intermedius*), Wester River, 18.03.2022 (PMM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 26.03.2022 (RH, NO); 2, Loch Rangag, 31.03.2022 (PM); 1, Lyth, 02.04, 09.04, 2 on 06.05 to 12.05.2022 (DM); 2 (s/s *graellsii*), Loch of Wester, 15.04.2022 (PMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 4, Lower Milton, Wick, 21.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, Granton Mains, 21.04.2022 (SAMM); 2 (s/s *graellsii*), Dunnet Bay, 21.04.2022 (PMM); 2, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 6, Loch of Mey, 27.04.2022 (JS); 1, Thurso, 13.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 15.05.2022 (PMM); 1, Alterwall, 29.05.2022 (SAMM); 5 pairs, Stroma, 12.07, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 17.08.2022 (RH); 1, Loch Watanan, 24.07.2022 (PMM); 1, Lyth, 27.08.2022 (DM); present Thurso, 03.09.2022 (Philip Townsend); 1, Loch of Mey, 25.10.2022 (JS).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Winter migrant

1 x 1stw, Sandside, 09.01, 16.01, 22.01, 23.01, 19.02, 02.03, 26.03, 02.04.2022 (JKM, HW, Elaine Charlson, BW); 1 x 1stw, Scrabster Harbour, 16.01, 17.01, 18.01, 23.01, 25.01, 02.02.2022 (RH, NO); 1 x 1stw, Dunnet Bay, 16.01, 31.01.2022 (NO, JS); 1, Loch Watten, 19.02.2022 (RH, NO); 1 x 2nd yr, Loch Olginney, 28.04.2022 (PH); 1 x 2nd yr, Dunnet Bay, 18.05.2022 (RH); 1, Keiss, 09.07.2022 (RH); 1 x 2nd winter, Castlehill, 14.09.2022 (PMM); 1, white-winged gull, probably this species, East Gills, Scrabster, 28.11.2022 (KM); 1, Lieurary Marsh, 08.12.2022 (JS); 1 x 1st winter, Castlehill, 15.12.2022 (PMM).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Resident

242 records on "Birdtrack". 19, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 23, John O'Groats, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 25, Sandside Bay, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 18, Dunnet Bay, 17.04.2022 (NO); 1 pair, Holborn Head. 6 pairs, Clett Rock, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair + nest with well-gr yg, Holborn Head, several nests on Clett, 26.06.2022 (SAMM); 50+ pairs + yg, 6+ dead yg, 4 dead adults, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 25, Sandside Bay, 28.10.2022 (HW); 20, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (D O-E).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Summer migrant

Present Pentland Ferry, 21.06.2022 (Dave Thomas); 8, Reiss, 01.07.2022 (DAO).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer migrant

140 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunnet Bay, 19.04.2022 (RH); 20, St John's Pool, 28.04.2022 (JS); 6, Wick Riverside, 29.04.2022 (DB); 2 flying inland, 1 flying to shore, Thurso, 09.05.2022; 2, Thurso Riverside, 10.05, 22.05.2022 (SAMM); birds flying to and from over Thurso between bay and inland, 22.05.2022 (SAMM); 1+ pairs, roof of Sibster Farm, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); c.20 pairs nesting, St John's Pool, 24.05, 01.06.2022 (JS); 11, Loch of Wester, 24.07.2022 (PMM); 3 adults, 5 juvs, Burnside, Thurso, 18.08, 10 adults, 8 juvs on 19.08.2022 (SAMM); 1, St John's Pool, 05.09.2022 (JS); 3, Thurso Bay, 10.09.2022 (SAMM).

"Comic" Tern

2, Dunbeath, 03.10.2022 (John Poyser).

[Roseate Tern 5, Thurso, 13.05.2022 (Richard Burston)].

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer migrant

47 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunnet Bay, 30.04.2022 (RH, NO); 2, St John's Pool, 01.05.2022 (JS); 5+, Dunnet Bay, 01.05.2022 (RH, NO); 75, St John's Pool, 11.05.2022 (JS); 8, Loch of Wester, 15.05, 12 on 19.06, 2 on 24.07.2022 (PMM); 4, Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 50 pairs on eggs, St John's Pool, 01.06, with 25 juveniles on 12.07.2022; probably 40 to 50 birds fledged (JS); 10 adults in air, 1 well-gr chick, old mart site, Ormlie Hill, Thurso, 22.06.2022; 200+, lighthouse, Stroma, 12.07.2022 (SAMM); 300+, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 10 (incl juveniles), Sandside, 09.08, 14 on 11.08.2022 (JKM); 3, Dunnet Bay, 26.09.2022 (JS); adult and juvenile, Dunnet Bay, 13.10.2022 (AA).

Sandwich Tern *Thalassius sandvicensis*

Summer migrant

74 records on "Birdtrack". 2, St John's Pool, 26.03.2022 (JS, RH); 2, Dunnet Bay, 26.03.2022 (NO, RH); 2, Thurso Bay, 13.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, Sandside, 14.04.2022 (JKM); 5+, Sandside, 15.04.2022 (JKM); 3, Sandside Bay, 16.04.2022 (HW); 80, St John's Pool, with first pair on eggs,

26.04.2022 (JS); 120, St John's Pool, 28.04, 100 on 30.04.2022 with first death from bird flu (JS); 100, St John's Pool, 04.05, 70 pairs on eggs with c.10 deaths, 09.05.2022 (JS); 2, Thurso, 06.05.2022 (DJ); 1, Thurso Bay, 10.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 12.05.2022 (SAMM); 200 birds at roost, 70+ pairs on eggs, St John's Pool, 13.05.2002 (JS); 70 pairs + chicks, St John's Pool, 30.05, fledging 29.06.2022; however a poor breeding season with dead chicks, with approximately 15 to 20 chicks fledged and survived (JS); 2, Loch of Wester, 15.05.2022 (PMM); 2, Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, St John's Pool, 04.08.2022 (JS); 3, Dunnet Bay, 09.08, 1 on 07.10.2022 (JS).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Summer migrant; winter migrant

88 records on "Birdtrack" including from Sandside Bay, Dunnet Bay/Head, Sinclair's Bay, Nybster, Noss Head, Wick (North Head), John O'Groats, Harrow Harbour, Loch Watten, Thurso Bay, Brough, Loch Heilen, Brawlbin Inlet.

2, Dunnet Bay, 22.01, 22.03.2022 (NO); 3, Ackergill, 22.02.2022 (Anne Wheatcroft); 5, Dunnet Bay, 27.03, 7 on 14.04.2022 (NO, RH); 1, Sandside Bay, 16.04.2022 (HW); 2, Loch of Wester, 17.04.2022 (PMM); 1, Latheronwheel, 25.04.2022 (PD); 1m, Thurso Bay, 14.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Bay, 01.07.2022 (SAMM); 2 flying high NE, Sandside Head, 27.08.2022 (JKM); 20, Dunnet Bay, 22.09.2022 (JS); 1, Sandside Bay, 08.10.2022 (HW); 6, John O'Groats, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 1, Thurso Bay, 11.10, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 10, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 1, Thurso Bay, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Summer migrant; passage and winter migrant

1, Sandside Bay, 18.01.2022 (JKM); 2, Thurso Bay, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 1, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Ackergill, 22.02.2022 (Anne Wheatcroft); 1, Thurso Bay, 23.03.2022 (DW); 1, Dunnet Bay, 27.03.2022 (BW); 2, Loch Caluim, 15.04.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Holborn Head (Bay), 15.04.2022 (JP); 1, Sandside Bay, 16.04.2022 (HW); 2, Sandside Bay, 18.04.2022 (JKM); 1, Loch More, 28.04.2022 (RH, NO); 2, Loch Stemster, 30.04.2022 (Colin Leslie); 1, Loch Rangag, 14.05.2022 (PD); 2, Sandside Bay, 15.05.2022 (HW); 1, Dunnet Bay, 18.05.2022 (RH, NO); 2, Loch Rangag, 24.05, 27.06.2022 (TW); 1, Loch Stemster, 16.06, 2 on 20.06.2022 (PM); 1, Sandside Bay, 30.07.2022 (JKM); 2, Wick River Basin, 13.08.2022 (DM); 1, Loch Rangag, 23.08.2022 (PM); 1, Castlehill, 07.11.2022 (PM); 1, Thurso Bay, 12.11.2022 (JF); 1 S, Nybster, 15.11.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Thurso Bay, 10.12.2022 (SAMM).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Migrant

145 records on "Birdtrack". 3, Thurso Bay, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 14, Dunnet Bay, 22.01, 30.01.2022 (NO, RAF); 38, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Thurso Bay, 25.01.2022 (SAMM); 9, Dunnet Bay, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 3, Scrabster Harbour, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 1, Wick Harbour, 10.03.2022 (DD); 1, Thurso Bay, 12.03.2022 (SAMM); 4, Dunnet Bay, 13.03.2022; 1, Scrabster Harbour, 13.03.2022 (SAMM); 1, Sandside Bay, 19.03.2022 (HW); 1, Sandside Bay, 24.03.2022 (EM); c.18, Dunnet Bay, 27.03.2022 (NO); 1, Sandside Bay, 14.04.2022 (JKM); 20+, Dunnet Bay, 01.05.2022 (NO); 1, Thurso Harbour, 10.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Bay, 12.05.2022 (SAMM, AMcB); 2, Dunnet Bay, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Bay, 20.05.2022 (SAMM); 3, Thurso Bay,

22.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Bay, 30.05.2022 (SAMM); 3, Thurso Bay, 30.06.2022 (SAMM); 25, Dunnet Bay, 01.07.2022 (JS); 1, Thurso Bay, 06.08.2022 (SAMM); 2, probably this species, Sandside Bay, 14.08.2022 (JKM); 1, Thurso Bay, 11.10, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 2, Sandside Bay, 12.11, 1 on 13.11.2022 (HW); 1, Sandside Bay, 26.11.2022 (EM); c.40, Dunnet Bay, 29.11.2022 (JS); 5, Scrabster Harbour, 10.12.2022 (SAMM).



Great Northern Diver, Thurso Harbour, 12/05/2022

Alison MacPartline

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Pelagic

1 S, Skirza, 19.05.2022 (MB); 2, Dunnet Bay, 19.06.2022 (RH); 2, from Holborn Head, 02.08.2022 (TW); 1, Dunnet Bay, 26.09.2022 (PMM).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Pelagic

155 records on "Birdtrack". 300, Brough, 15.01, 200 on 27.01.2022 (JS); 450+, Holborn Head, 24.06.2022 (TW); <100, Stroma, small and large chicks, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 33 chicks, geo on Sandside Head, 07.08.2022 (JKM); 193 AOS, 0.26 fledged/nest, RSPB Dunnet Head (DJ); 952, Nybster, 13.12.2022 (RH).

1 blue morph, Pentland Firth (midway), 24.05.2022 (DAO); 1 blue morph, Wick, 18.08.2022 (RH, NO); 1 blue morph, South Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (PMM).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Pelagic; scarce migrant

1 N, Nybster, 03.09.2022 (RH, NO); 1 N, North Head, Wick, 06.09.2022 (PS, PH)..

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

Pelagic; scarce migrant

1 N, Nybster, 03.09.2022 (RH); 5 N, North Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (PS, RH, PMM); 1N, North Head, Wick, 06.09.2022 (PS, PH); 1 N, North Head, Wick, 18.09.2022 (PS).

One large shearwater N, Nybster, 20.09.2022, probably this species (RH).



Great Shearwater Peter Stronach

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Pelagic

14 E, Dounreay, 07.08.2022 (PH); 7, North Head, Wick, 18.08.2022 (RH); 1, Nybster, 20.08.2022 (RH); 1, Holborn Head, 21.08.2022 (TW); 6, Pentland Firth, 28.08.2022; 1, South Head, Wick, 02.09.2022 (PMM); 11, South Head, Wick, 03.09.2022 (PMM); 17/7.5 hrs, Nybster, 03.09.2022 (RH); 16, Nybster, 04.09.2022 (RH, JS); 43, North Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (PS, RH, NO, JS); 2, South Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (PMM); 3 N, North Head, Wick, 06.09.2022 (PS, PH); 1, Holborn Head, 13.09.2022 (RH); 1, Nybster, 17.09, 2 on 18.09.2022 (RH); 20, North Head, Wick, 18.09.2022 (PS); 44, North Head, Wick, 19.09.2022 (PS, RH); 1 N, Nybster, 17.10.2022 (RH).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Pelagic

1, Dunnet Bay, 24.03.2022 (RH); 1, Brough, 11.05.2022 (JS); present Pentland Firth from Hamnavoe, 04.06.2022 (Chris Taylor); 5, Stroma (north end), 11.06.2022 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 19.06.2022 (RH); 223 W/1.5 hrs, Harrow Harbour, 20.06.2022 (JS); 6, Dunnet Bay, 13.07, 20.07.2022 (JS); 1, Holborn Head, 02.08.2022 (TW); 50 E/20 mins, Dounreay, 07.08.2022 (PH); 62, North Head, Wick, 18.08.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Holborn Head, 18.08, 2 on 21.08.2022 (TW); 52, South Head, Wick, 31.08.2022 (PMM); 29, South Head, Wick, 02.09 (PMM); 82, South Head, Wick, 03.09.2022 (PMM); 281/7.5 hrs, Nybster, 03.09, 28 on 04.09.2022 (RH, JS); 74, North Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (PS, RH, NO, JS); 45/3 hrs, Nybster, 04.09.2022 (RH); 12, South Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (PMM); 4, Scrabster, 04.09.2022 (Philip Townsend); 11 N, North Head, Wick, 06.09.2022 (PH); 3, South Head, Wick, 06.09.2022 (PMM); 16, Nybster, 17.09.2022 (RH); 466, North Head, Wick, 18.09.2022 (PS, RH); 295, North Head, Wick, 19.09.2022 (PS, RH); 1, Nybster, 20.10.2022 (JO, RH); 1, Pentland Firth, 12.11.2022 (DAO).

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

s/s *mauretanicus* 1 N, Nybster, 03.09.2022 (RH, NO); 3 N, North Head, Wick, 04.09.2022 (PS, RH, NO, JS).



Balearic Shearwater

Rob Hughes?

Northern Gannet *Morus bassana*

Pelagic

137 records on "Birdtrack". 3 ad N in one hour, Auchengill, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 6 dead adults, Thurso Beach, 17.08.2022 (SAMM); 972, North Head, Wick, 19.09.2022 (PS, RH); 7 dead, Nybster, 23.10.2022 (JO).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Resident

156 records on "Birdtrack". 26, Loch Watten, 01.01, 27 on 17.01.2022 (PMM); 12, Loch Watten, 23.01.2022 (SAMM); 6, Thurso Harbour, 19.02.2022 (SAMM); 30 on cliffs north of Berriedale, 18.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 2, Stroma, 12.07.2022 (SAMM); 1, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 16, Dunnet Bay, 17.08.2022 (RH); 5, Thurso Bay, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); 35, Dunnet Head, 30.10.2022 (D O-E); 18, Duncansby Head, 30.10.2022 (D O-E); 15, John O'Groats, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 10, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 15, Noss Head, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 10, Gills Bay, 03.11.2022 (D O-E); 6, Thurso East, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch Watten, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 1 juv (dead), Thurso Beach, 17.11.2022 (SAMM); 7, Loch Calder, 19.11.2022 (MT); 7 flying from roost, Holborn Head, 24.11.2022 (SAMM); 6, Thurso Harbour, 10.12.2022 (SAMM); 12, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Resident

164 records on "Birdtrack". 150, Brough, 15.01.2022 (JS); 106, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 35, Holborn Head, 15.04.2022 (JP); 1, Thurso Riverside, 13.05.2022 (SAMM); 30, Sandside Head (Clett Rock), 18.05.2022 (EM); 50, Latheronwheel, 25.05.2022 (PD); nest + yg, Clett Rock, Holborn Head, 26.06.2022 (SAMM); 40+, south coast of Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 200+, Holborn Head, 02.08, 30+ on 18.08.2022 (TW); 40+, Auchengill, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 71, Sandside Bay, 20.08.2022 (HW); 96, Thurso Bay, 11.10.2022 (SAMM); 40, John O'Groats, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 201, Thurso Bay, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 100, Sandside Bay, 24.11.2022 (HW); 300+, Thurso Bay, 25.11.2022 (SAMM); 140, Thurso Bay, 11.12.2022 (SAMM).

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

1 *Botaurus* sp (presumably this species), flying up Thurso River towards Loch More, 06.12.2022 (JS).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Resident

135 records on "Birdtrack". 1 juvenile, Thurso Riverside, 01.01.2022 (SAMM); 5, Loch of Mey, 08.01.2022 (NO); 1, Loch Watten, 12.01.2022 (EM); 1 juvenile, Thurso East, 22.01.2022 (SAMM); 5, Loch Scarmclate, 23.01.2022 (KM); 5, Loch of Mey, 26.01, 13.08.2022 (JS); 2, Harrow Harbour, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 7, Dunnet, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 4, Loch Watten, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 adult, Shebster (flew into forestry), 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 2, Sandside Bay, 25.02.2022 (EM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 26.02, 11.03, 12.03.2022 (SAMM); 2, Sandside Farm, 27.02.2022 (EM); 1, Brawlbin, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, flying from Thurso River in direction of Clayock, seen from Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch More, 02.06.2022 (DD); 1, Puldagon, 20.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 flying to river, Sordale, 25.07.2022 (SAMM); 2, Dunbeath Strath, 31.07.2022 (SAMM); 1, Lybster, 31.07.2022 (SAMM); 5, roost, St John's Pool, 19.08.2022 (JS); 1, Broubster Leans, 22.08.2022 (DJ); present, Broubster leans, 08.09.2022 (DJ); 1, Thurso Riverside, 26.09.2022 (SAMM); 4, Loch of Mey, 08.10.2022 (SE); 1 juvenile, Thurso Riverside, 10.10.2022 (SAMM); 1 adult, Thurso Riverside, 11.10, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 1 juvenile, Thurso Riverside, 12.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 24.11, 25.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Brawlbin, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Broubster, 29.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso, 01.12.2022 (SAMM); 6, Loch Watten, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 1, Wick Riverside, 30.12.2022 (DM).

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Scarce migrant

1, Loch Watten, 09.01, 10.01, 11.01, 12.01, 17.01.2022 (RH, PMM, EM).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Scarce migrant, three records

1, East Murkle, 08.10 to 10.10.2022 (RS, PH, SAMM), photographed. Third Caithness record.



Cattle Egret, East Murkle, 08.10.2022

Ruth Storm

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

1, Milton, Reay, from December 2021 into new year, to 07.04.2022 (EM, DAO, HW, RH, NO, BW, RW); 1 S, Duncansby Head, 21.05.2022 (Birdguide).



Glossy Ibis, Milton, Reay, 21.01.2022

Rob Hughes

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Summer migrant

1 near Halkirk, 26.03.2022 (KM); 1, Loch Caluim, 01.04.2022 (RH); 1 m at nest platform, Stemster, 09.04, 2 at platform on 10.04.2022 (TH); 1, Dorrery platform, 10.04.2022 (NL); 1 pair, nest, Brawlbin, 18.04, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair, Dorrery platform, 20.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 on nest, Brawlbin, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); female on nest, Brawlbin, 23.04, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 4, Broubster leans, 27.04.2022 (DJ, Steph Elliot); 1, Loch of Wester, 02.05.2022 (WM); 1 pair W, Beinn Ratha Bheag, Reay, 2nd pair? W, Helshetter Wood, 07.05.2022 (JKM); 1, Loch Rangag, 11.05.2022 (Alaistair Whyte); 1 m, Dorrery, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso, 15.05.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Ben Dorrery, 18.05.2022 (AMcB); 1 over Dunnet, 20.05.2022 (JS); 1, Wick Riverside, 14.06.2022 (WM); 1, St John's Pool, 16.06.2022 (JS); 1 pair + 2 yg, Stemster Platform, 16.06.2022 (JS); 1 on nest, Brawlbin, 1 feeding on nest Dorrery platform, 22.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Castletown, 28.06.2022 (RH); 2, Loch More, 12.07.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 2 juvs (m, f), Dorrery platform, 20.07.2022, flying 23.07.2022 (NL); 1 pair + juv, Brawlbin nest, then three birds in air with male still sitting in tree; then another male flying up Loch Calder carrying fish, lost sight over plantation in the north-west of loch, 24.07.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 24.07.2022 (PMM); 1 S, Killimster, 27.07.2022 (PMM); 1, Loch of Wester, 01.08.2022 (PMM); 1, Rumster, 09.08.2022 (PD); 1, Stemster Mains, 15.08.2022 (DD); 1, Loch Watten, 20.08.2022 (RH); 1, Loch More, 30.08.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1 W, Sandside Bay, 10.09.2022 (HW); 1 S, Braal, 25.09.2022 (DAO).

NL recorded Ospreys hunting regularly at Loch Calder, Loch More and along the Thurso River between 10.04.2022 and 14.08.2022. Individuals identified included a female with a blue/white ring AV1 (ringed as a chick in South Inverness on 26.06.2016) on 12.05.2022 and another with a blue/white ring FP3 (ringed as a chick on 04.07.2015) on 14.08.2022.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Scarce migrant

1, Garbh Loch (ND033474), 19.05.2022 (Andrew Tiffany); 1 NE, Hilliclay, 09.09.2022 (PH).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce migrant

1, NW, Dunnet Bay, 18.04.2022 (RH, JO); 1 f, Broubster, 20.05.2022 (Steph Elliott); 1 SE, Killimster, 22.05.2022 (PMM).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Resident

1 to 2 birds at various locations throughout the year: Westerdale, Yellow Moss (Shebster), Nybster, St John's Pool/Loch, Lyth, Watten, Broubster, Gillock, Calder, Loch of Mey, Ulbster (Loch Watenan), Newlands of Forse, Rangag, Dunnet Head, Braemore, Loch Caluim, Brawlbin, Backlass, Scarmclate, Shurrery, Dunnet eg 1 m, Brawlbin, 17.01.2022 (NL); 1 f, west of Loch Eileanach, 20.01.2022 (NL); 1 f, Scotsclader, 26.01.2022 (NL); 1 f, Broubster, 26.01.2022 (NL);

2 ff, Loch Meadhoin, 27.01.2022 (NL); 1 ringtail, Upper Smerral, 30.01.2022 (PD); 1 m, Camster, 31.01.2022 (PD); 1 m, Lochside, Loch Calder, 01.02.2022 (NL); 1 ringtail, Broubster Leans, 09.02.2022 (DJ); 1 f, Dorrery, 27.02.2022 (NL); 1 f, Shurrery, 02.03.2022 (JKM); 1 immat m, Broubster Leans, 03.03.2022 (Claire Foot); 1 f, Broubster, 04.03.2022 (SAMM); 2, Strathmore, 02.06.2022 (DD); 1 m, Giar Hill (ND3670), 04.06, 08.06.2022 (ML); 1 m, 1 f, Brawlbin, nesting? 22.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 AOT, Broubster Leans (DJ); 1 f, Loch of Wester, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Loch More, 07.08.2022 (NL); 1 f, Broubster, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, Broubster Leans, 20.08.2022 (Jonathan Walker); 1 f, Broubster Leans, 22.08.2022 (Jonathan Walker); 1 ringtail, Broubster Leans, 24.08.2022 (DJ); 1 ringtail, Brackside, 01.09.2022 (JKM); 1 m, Camster, 26.10.2022 (PD); 1 f, Loch Watten, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Granton Mains, 14.11.2022 (DD); 1 f, Shebster Wood, confrontation with Sparrowhawk, 26.11.2022 (EM); 1 f, Broubster, 27.11.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Puldagon, 13.12.2022 (SAMM); 1 ringtail, Blood Moss, 17.12.2022 (PD).



Hen Harrier mobbed by Sparrowhawk, Shebster, 26/11/2022

Eric Maughan

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetus*

Resident

2, Dorrery/Freiceadain, 27.02.2022 (NL); 1, Newland of Forse, 11.03.2022 (PM); 1 juvenile, Beinn Freiceadain/Ben Dorrery, 17.04.2022 (NL); 1 juvenile, Torran, 10.05.2022; 1, Rumster Forest, 24.05.2022 (Jayne Kelly); 1, Loch More, 20.06.2022 (RH); 2, Langwell Strath, 06.07.2022 (ML).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Resident; passage migrant

76 records on "Birdtrack", ones and twos. 1, Thurso, 23.01.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, Reay, 28.01, 20.02.2022 (EM); 1, Halcro, 28.02.2022 (DJ); 1 f, Lyth, 23.04.2022 (DM); 1 m, Reay (garden), 29.03.2022 (JKM); 1, Reay (garden), 04.04, 06.04.2022 (JKM); 1 pair, Reay (garden), 12.04.2022 (JKM); 1 female, Broubster Forest, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 male, Brawlbin,

22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 male, Broubster, 23.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, Thurso, 26.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Newtonhill, 11.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Reay (garden), 22.05.2022 (JKM); 1 m, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 killed Collared Dove, Dorrery (garden), 28.06.2022 (NL); 1 carrying prey item, Thurso (garden), 29.07.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso (garden), 30.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair fledged 5 yg, Skiall Wood, 01.08.2022 (DAO); 1, Puldagon, 03.08.2022 (SAMM); 1, Sandside, 05.08.2022 (JKM); 1 f, 1 juv m, Lyth, 11.08.2022 (DM); 1 juv, Reay, 17.08.2022 (EM); 1 m, Thurso Riverside, 19.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Lyth, 27.08.2022 (DM); 7 on east Caithness coast, including three at Westerloch (subsea bushes), 08.09.2022 (PS); 1 f, Helshetter Wood, 10.09.2022 (JKM); 1 f, Reay (garden), 13.09.2022 (JKM); 1 m, Oldhall, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 1, attacking Hen Harrier, Shebster Wood, 26.11.2022 (EM); 1, Bilbster, 11.12.2022 (SAMM); 1, Dorrery (garden), 27.12.2022 (NL).

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Scarce migrant

1, Broubster Forest (near Loch Saorach), 26.03.2022 (EM).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Resident

1, Broubster, 01.01.2022 (DAO); 1, Reay, 05.01.2022 (HW); 1 crossing Thurso Bay towards Dunnet, 15.01.2022 (KM); 1, Loch More, 23.01.2022 (RH); 1 juvenile, Dunnet Forest, 08.02.2022 (AMcB); 1, Loch Watten, 25.02.2022 (WB); 3, Dorrery, 26.02.2022, one mobbed by Peregrine) (NL); 1, Broubster Leans, February 2022 (per DJ); 1, Broubster, 08.03.2022 (David Sutherland); 1 NE, Hilliclay, 24.03.2022 (PH); 1, Loch Watten, 26.03.2022 (SAMM); 1, Sandside, 27.03.2022 (RH, NO); 2, Dorrery Estate, 01.04.2022 (RH); 2, Borgue, 08.04.2022 (DAO); 3, Broubster Forest, 13.04.2022 (Hugh Panton); 2, Broubster, 17.04.2022 (David Kingston); 5 sub-adults, Dorrery, 18.04.2022 (NL); 2, Drumhollistan, 03.05.2022 (DAO); 1 adult, Loch More, 22.05, 24.06.2022 (NL); two pairs attempted breeding, Caithness (SAMM); 1, RSPB Dunnet Head, 24.05.2022 (DJ); 1 S, Wick, 01.08.2022 (DM); 1, Dunnet Head, 14.08.2022 (SL); 2, Loch Caluim, 16.08.2022 (NL); 1 adult, Westfield, 20.08.2022 (PH); 1 SW, Loch of Wester, 14.09.2022 (RH); 2 immatures N, Brackside, Reay, 17.09.2022 (JKM); 1, Lambsdale Leans, 01.10.2022 (NL); 1 adult, Lybster, tracked by six buzzards, 18.10.2022 (PD); 1, Loch Calder, 16.11, 19.11.2022 (MT); 1, Loch of Wester, 11.12.2022 (PMM); 2, Loch More, 17.12.2022 (NL).



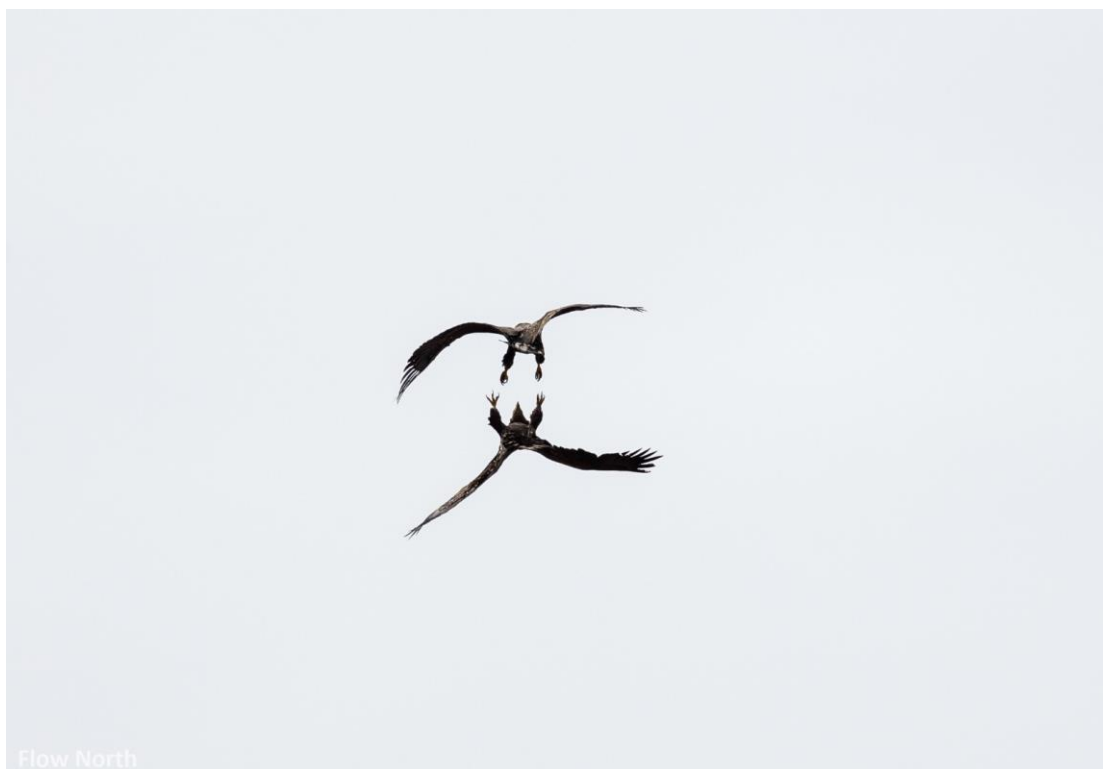
White-tailed Eagle mobbed by Peregrine, 24/02/2022

Niall Laybourne



Five sub-adult White-tailed Eagles, 19/04/2022

Niall Laybourne



Two young White-tailed Eagles, talon-grappling, 19/04/2022

Niall Laybourne

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Scarce migrant

1 N, Brackside, Reay, 24.03.2022 (JKM); 1, Dalmore, 16.04.2022 (TH); 1, Broubster, 10.06.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Latheron, 04.08.2022 (Matthew Reiss); 1 S, Dunbeath, 15.09.2022 (RH).

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Resident

161 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Lyth, 01.01, 2 on 15.01.2022 (DM); 5, Baillie Hill, 02.01.2022 (DAO); 3, Loch of Mey, 08.01.2022 (NO); 5, Lyth, 06.03.2022 (DM); 2 (D), Lyth, 19.03.20 (DM); 3, Dunbeath, 21.03.2022 (DW); 3, Braemore, 24.04.2022 (RH); 1, Lyth, 19.05.202 (DM); 7, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 1, Newtonhill, 20.07.2022 (SAMM); 3, St John's Pool/Loch, 23.08.2022 (JS); 1, Oldhall, 15.10.2022 (SAMM); 5 (family group?), Lyth, 19.10.2022 (DM); 2, Reiss, 12.11.2022 (DM); 1, Stemster House, Halkirk, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Clayock, 10.12.2022 (SAMM); 2, Lyth, 25.12.2022 (DM).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Resident

1, Borrowston, Forss, 05.01.2022 (DAO); 1, Wick, 15.01.2022 (WB); 1, Janetstown, 1, Shebster, 17.01.2022 (KM); 1, Dunnet Forest, 17.01.2022 (JS); 1 hunting between Brawlbin and Dorrery, 20.01.2022 (NL); 1 between Loch Dhu and Loch Meadie, 20.01.2022 (NL); 1, Forss, 25.01.2022 (EM); 1, Bardnaheigh, Shebster, 28.01.2022 (DAO); 1, Watten, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 1, Greenland, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 1, St John's Pool, 03.02.2022 (JS); 1, Isauld Farm, 09.02, 15.02, 02.03.2022 (EM, Evan Sutherland); 1, St John's Loch, 16.02.2022 (JS); 1, Drumhollistan, 16.02.2022 (EM);

1, Brawlbin, 17.02.2022 (RC); 1, St John's Pool, 18.02.2022 (JS); 1, near Bower School, 20.02.2022 (DD); 1, Forss, 22.02.2022 (EM); 1, Thurso Business Park, 02.03.2022 (EM); 1, Yellow Moss, Shebster, 04.03.2022 (DAO); 1, St John's Pool, 14.03.2022 (JS); 1, Balmore, 15.03.2022 (EM); 2, Watten, 21.03.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Castletown, 19.04.2022 (JO); 1 (FF), St John's, 23.05.2022 (JS); 1, Braehead, Reay, 20.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch Heilen, 20.09.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Spittal, 02.10.2022 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 23.10, 25.10, 06.11.2022 (JO, RH, NO); 1, St John's Pool, 30.08, 01.09, 12.09, 25.10, 24.11, 28.11, 04.12, 2022 (JS); 1, Janetstown, 03.12.2022 (DAO); 1, Hill of Wester, 07.12.2022 (SAMM); 2, Skiall, 08.11.2022 (DAO); 1, Ulbster, 01.12.2022 (PMM); 1, Stainland, 18.12.2022 (SAMM); 1, Whitefield, Reiss, 20.12.2022 (DD); 1, Skiall Wood, 21.12.2022 (DAO).



Barn Owl, 17.01.2022

Karen Munro

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Resident, passage migrant

1, North Calder, 17.01.2022 (KM); 1, Broubster Forest (Saorach), 05.04.2022 (DAO); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.05.2022 (RH); 1, flew in off sea, Noss Head, mobbed by Peregrine, 20.10.2022 (PS); 1, plantation west of Thurso, 25.10.2022 (KM); 1, Lochshell, Wick, 20.11.2022

(Glyn Salisbury); 1 calling from plantation, Hill of Wester, 07.12.2022 (SAMM); 1, South Shebster, 10.12.2022 (DAO).



Long-eared Owl, 17.01.2022

Karen Munro

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Summer and winter migrant

1 pair, West Calder, 24.01.2022 (NL); 1, Dunnet, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 1, West Calder, 31.01.2022 (NL); 1, Weydale, 13.02.2022 (A McB); 1, West Calder, 24.02, 28.02.2022 (NL); 1, Lochside, Loch Calder, 24.02.2022 (NL); 1, Canisbay, 25.04.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Drumhollistan, 15.05.2022 (HW); 1, Loch of Mey, 19.07.2022 (RH).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Resident

28 records on "Birdtrack". Dunnet Forest, Banniskirk, Lynegar, Newlands of Forse, Skiall, Broubster Leans, Braal, Forse House, Castletown, John O'Groats, Shebster. 1, Janetstown, 1, Loch Calder (south), 17.01.2022 (KM); 1, Balmore, 20.01.2022 (EM); 1, Forss, 31.01.2022 (EM); 1, Reay, 16.02.2022 (Evan Sutherland); 6, Halkirk, 16.05.2022 (DAO); 3 yg calling, Forse House, 06.06.2022 (Gary Aitken); 1 adult, 3 juveniles, Duncansby Head, 23.06.2022 (Dr Celia

Helliwell); 2 yg calling, Braal, 28.06.2022 (DAO); 1 calling from plantation, Hill of Wester, 07.12.2022 (SAMM).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce migrant

1 m, Waas, 30.10 to 11.12.2022, disappeared when hard frost set in (Bridget Holt, SAMM, RH).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Scarce migrant

1, Hill of Forss, 23.09.2022 (Mathew Reiss).

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Scarce migrant

1, Skirza, 21.05.2022 (RH, Robert Duncan).



Bee-eater, Skirza, 21.05.2022

Rob Hughes

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Scarce migrant

1, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09, 2 on 09.09.2022 (RH, NO, PH); 1, Warth Hill, 10.09.2022 (David Bremner).



Wryneck, Warth Hill, 08.09.2022

David Bremner

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Resident; migrant

1, Dunnet Forest, 30.01.2022 (JS); 1, Helshetter Wood, 26.03, 27.03.2022 (JKM); 1, Broubster Forest, 26.03.2022 (DJ); 1, Brawlbin, 23.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch More, 28.04.2022 (RH); 1, Latheronwheel, 28.04.2022 (PD); 1, Langwell, 07.05.2022 (RH); 1, Loch More, 20.06.2022 (RH); 1, Brough, 12.07, 15.07.2022 (DG, JS); 1, Newlands of Forse, 09.08.2022 (PM); 1, Skiall Wood, 02.09.2022 (DAO); 1, Dunnet Forest, 10.09, 28.09.2022 (JS); 1, Latheronwheel, 05.10.2022 (Dr Gavin Woodbridge); 1, Wick, 01.11, 02.11.2022 (DM); 1, Wick, 13.12.2022 (WB); 1, Wick Riverside, 22.12.2022 (DB); 1, Wick, 30.12.2022 (WM).

2 woodpeckers, Wick, 02.04.2022 (Theodora Hunt), listed under Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, a Scottish rarity requiring acceptance by SBRC, only four Scottish records, the most recent: one, Scalloway, Shetland, 15.10 to 19.10.2012.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident; winter migrant

80 records on "Birdtrack", the majority in the non-breeding season, 03.01 to 18.04; 01.09 to 27.12; with records from Wick, Dunnet Bay, Loch Hempriggs, Sinclair's Bay, Crosskirk, Scrabster, Brawlbin, St John's Pool, Skiall, Ravenshill, Noss Head, Oust, Brims, Reaster, Holborn Head, Rumster, Calder, Freswick, Biel of Duncansby, Borgue, Dunbeath, Nybster, John O'Groats, Newlands of Forse, Duncansby, Keiss, Mey, Latheronwheel *eg* 1, Broubster Leans, 21.01.2022 (EM); 1, Granton Mains, 03.02.2022 (SAMM); 1, Forss, 12.02.2022 (EM); 1, Reay,

21.02.2022 (EM); 1, Lochend, 24.02.2022 (EM); 1, Bower, 24.02.2022 (EM); 1 m, Broubster, 04.03.2022 (SAMM); 2, Skirza, 13.02.2022 (SAMM); 2, Balbeg, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 1, Brawlbin, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 male, Broubster, 04.03.2022; 1, Holborn Head, 13.03.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair (D), St John's Pool, 14.03.2022 (JS); 1, Harpsdale, 18.03.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair, Geodh Sheumais, Sandside Head, 23.03.2022 (JKM); 1 pair (A), west of Brawlbin, 26.03.2022 (NL); 1, Bower, 13.04.2022 (DM); 1 pair nesting on pylon, Skiall Wood, 21.04.2022 (DAO); 1, Dunbeath, 09.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (A), Biel Dam, 04.06.2022 (ML); 1, Upper Geiselittle, 05.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Newport, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Holborn Head, 26.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Loch Caluim, 21.08.2022 (NL); 1, Westerdale, 19.10.2022 (DJ); 1, Smerral, 28.11.2022 (SAMM); 1, Spittal Hill, 09.12.2022 (SAMM); 1, Claredon, 09.12.2022 (SAMM).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Summer and winter migrant

1, Altnabreac, 07.02.2022 (RH); 1, East Mey, 09.02.2022 (JS); 1, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02.2022 (NO); 1, Taldale, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 1, Westerdale, 10.03.2022 (David Sutherland); 1, Dunbeath, 27.03.2022 (BW); 1, Brawlbin, 29.03.2022 (NL); 1, Talaheel (NC9548), 30.03.2022 (D O-E); 1, Tacher, 09.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09.2022 (PH); 1, Nybster, 23.10, 07.11, 13.11.2022 (JO, RH); 1, Freswick, 27.11.2022 (RH); 1, Ruther, 07.12.2022 (DAO); 1 f, near Loch Caluim, 31.12.2022 (NL).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Resident; passage and winter migrant

1, St John's Pool/Loch, 20.01.2022 (JS); 1, Dunnet Bay, 01.02.2022 (JS); 1, Myrelandhorn, 25.02.2022 (PMM); 1, Dorrery, 26.02.2022 (NL); 1, Brawlbin, 01.03.2022 (RC); 1, St John's Pool, 07.03.2022 (JS); fresh kill (Fulmar), Holborn Head, 13.03.2022 (SAMM); 1, Wick, 22.03.2022 (DW); 1, Dunnet Bay, 02.04.2022 (NO); 1, Achnatoot, 10.04.2022 (SM); 1, Dunnet Head, 12.04, 17.04.2022 (JP, JS); 1, Dunnet Bay, 02.05.2022 (RH); present Dunnet Head, 28.05.2022 (Adam Perry); 1, Dunnet, 13.09.2022 (Tony Laidler); 1, Nybster, 17.09, 17.10.2022 (RH); 1, Latheronwheel, 05.10.2022 (Dr Gavin Woodbridge); 1, Noss Head, 20.10.2022 (PS); 1, Lynegar, 21.11.2022 (PMM).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Scarce migrant

1 x 1st w f, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Skirza, 09.09.2022 (PH).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Winter migrant

1, Rumster, 08.12.2022 (Rhodri Evetts).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Scarce migrant

1, Newtonhill, 16.07.2022 (TH); considered NOT PROVEN by SBRC.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Local resident

1, Loch More, 20.06.2022 (RH); 1, Watten, 31.07.2022 (DAO); 2, Helshetter Wood, 10.09.2022 (JKM).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Local resident

1, Newport, 04.01.2022 (RH); 1, Dunnet, 22.01.2022 (B/G); 1, St John's, 26.02.2022 (JS); 1, John O'Groats, 27.02.2022 (AM); present Dunnet Forest, 18.03.2022 (JS); 1, Berriedale, 04.04.2022 (TW); 1, John O'Groats, 19.04.2022 (JO); 1, Duncansby, 28.04.2022 (Birdtrack); 1, Reay (garden), 08.05.2022 (EM); 1, Dunbeath Mains, 07.05.2022 (DD); 1, Ramscaigs, 20.05.2022 (PMM); 1, Reay, 20.05.2022 (PH); 1, Dunbeath, 05.06.2022 (Bob McMillan); 1, Wick, 15.06.2022 (Birdguide); 2, Latheron, 08.08.2022 (per SAMM); 1, Wick, 26.08, 13.10.2022 (DB); 1, Dunbeath, 14.10, 05.11.2022 (DAO, D O-E); 3, Borgue, 08.11.2022 (SAMM); 2, Dunbeath, 28.11.2022 (SAMM).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Resident

540 records on "Birdtrack". 320, Sandside Farm, 08.03.2022 (EM); 16 individuals, Broubster Leans (DJ); 45+, Wick (garden), 13.07.2022 (DM); 24, Broubster Leans, 08.09.2022 (DJ); c.290, Nybster, 26.11.2022 (RH); c.200, Newlands of Forse, 19.12.2022 (PM); 220, Ruther, 21.12.2022 (DAO).

1 "Nordic", Killimster, 25.02.2022 (PMM); 1 "Nordic", Loch of Mey, 26.03.2022 (JS).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Resident

224 records on "Birdtrack". 110, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 45, Crosskirk, 31.01.2022 (RAF); 54 AON, Skinnet, 26.03.2022 (DAO); 418 AON, Thurso, 14.04.2022 (SAMM); 243 AON, Braal, 18.04.2022 (DAO); 600, Shebster, 17.07.2022 (DAO); c.100, Murkle, 04.08.2022 (Michael Coleman); 140, Ruther, 21.12.2022 (DAO).

Crow *Corvus corone*

Resident

Carrion Crow (nominate *corone*) 168 records on "Birdtrack". 10, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 14+, Wick Parish, 22.03.2022 (DW); 10, north of Lyth, 22.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1 AOT, Broubster Leans (DJ); c.20, Nybster, 20.10.2022 (JO).

Hooded Crow (s/s *cornix*) 509 records on "Birdtrack". 28, Newlands of Forse, 19.02, 07.06, 12.12.2022 (PM); 2, Wick, 30.12.2022 (DM).

Hybrid Crows

21 records on "Birdtrack". Mixed pair feeding 3 yg, Reay, 13.06.2022 (JKM); family groups of 4, 3 hybrids, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Resident

134 records on “Birdtrack” with records from Tornameal, Brawlbin, Forss, Crosskirk, Brough, Braemore, Berriedale, Dunbeath, Drumhollistan, Holborn Head, Mey, Ackergill, John O’Groats, Sandside, Dunnet Bay, Talaheal, Keiss, Loch Scarmclate, Newlands of Forse, Achreamie, Shebster, Auchengill, Latheronwheel, Freswick, Loch Heilen, Nybster, St John’s Pool, Loch Calder, Reay, Dunnet Bay, Thurso, Broubster, Duncansby Head, Dunnet Head, Lyth, Sinclair’s Bay, Loch More, Dirlot.

1, Shebster Wood, 21.01.2022 (EM); 1, Sandside, 21.01.2022 (EM); 5, Dirlot, 23.01.2022 (NO); 4, Loch More, 23.01.2022 (RH); 1 pair, Sandside Head, 25.02.2022 (EM); 9, Castletown, 29.03.2022 (RH); 5, St John’s Pool, 04.04, 13 on 09.04.2022 (flock feeding on dead Greylags, which died from bird flu) (JS); nest + 4 large yg, Berriedale, 17.04.2022 (DAO); 1 pair, Newtonhill (forestry block), carrying stick, 21.04.2022 (SAMM); nest with 4 yg, South Head, Wick, 18.05.2022 (KC); 2, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); 3 pairs + 2 yg, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 6, Newlands of Forse, 14.07.2022 (PM); 6 (family group), Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 4, Achreamie, 19.12.2022 (DAO).



Raven’s Nest, South Head, Wick

Ken Crossan

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Resident; passage migrant

36 records on "Birdtrack". 10, Dunnet Forest, 30.01.2022 (JS); 20, Dunnet Forest, 10.09.2022 (JS); 4, Latheronwheel, 05.10.2022 (Dr, Gavin Woodbridge).

1, Latheronwheel Strath, 06.11.2022, thought to be continental s/s nominate *ater* (George Gay).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident

153 records on "Birdtrack", 1 (S), Reay, 02.03.2022 (EM); 10, Thurso, 23.03.2022 (DW); 2 juveniles, Newlands of Forse, 20.06.2022 (PM); 8, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 9, Latheronwheel, 05.10.2022 (Dr Gavin Woodbridge).

Great Tit *Parus major*

Resident

153 records on "Birdtrack". Widespread, but no significant records.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Resident

162 records on "Birdtrack". c.100, Shebster, 21.01.2022 (EM); 150, East Mey, 06.02.2022 (JS); 400+, Gillock, 19.02.2022 (RH); 120+, Loch Scarmclate, 19.02.2022 (RH); singing, Gelshfield, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Noss Head, 27.02.2022 (WB); 15 (S), Baillie Hill, 07.03.2022 (DAO); singing Reay, 08.03.2022 (EM); singing Holborn Head, 13.03.2022 (SAMM); ++ (S), Holborn Head, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 20, north of Berriedale, 18.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 10, north of Dunbeath, 19.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 10, Loch Rangag, 19.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 10, Duncansby Head, 23.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 24 bred Broubster Leans (DJ); 15 W, St John's Pool, 17.09.2022 (JS); 8, Scrabster Farm, 23.09.2022 (SAMM); c.55, Nybster, 23.10.2022 (JO);

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Summer migrant

76 records on "Birdtrack". 1 (S), Dunnet (garden), 02.05.2022 (SE); 2, Dunnet Bay, 07.05.2022 (RH); present Sibster, Halkirk, 07.05.2022 (RH); 1, Ham Pool, 07.05.2022 (RH); 3 (S), Newtonhill, 11.05, 19.05, 05.06.2022 (SAMM); 2 (S), Brawlbin, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 5 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Reay, 15.05.2022 (JKM); 3 (S), Scrabster Braes, 20.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 22.05.2022 (SAMM); +++ (S), Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); 4 (S), Thurso Riverside, 09.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Newtonhill, 14.07, 2 (S) on 20.07, 1 (S) on 27.07.2022 (SAMM); 12 pairs, Broubster Leans (DJ); 6, Thurso Riverside, 02.08.2022 (SAMM); 2, Lambsdale Leans, 04.08, 11.08.2022 (NL); 2 juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 05.08.2022 (SAMM); 2, Newtonhill, 03.08.2022 (SAMM); 2, Newlands of Forse, 13.08.2022 (PM); 2, St John's Pool, 15.08, 23.08.2022 (JS); 1, Thurso Riverside, 19.08, 20.08.2022 (SAMM).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Scarce spring migrant

1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05.2022 (SAMM, RH).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Summer migrant

1, St John's Loch, 26.04, 27.04.2022 (JS); 1, Achentoot, 30.04.2022 (SM); 1, Sibster, Halkirk, 07.05.2022 (RH, NO); 1 (S), Newtonhill, 11.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 (S), Newtonhill, 19.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Duncansby, 19.05.2022 (MB); 1 (S), Newtonhill, 05.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Broubster Leans (DJ); 1, Corsback, 18.07.2022 (JS); 1, Blingery, 23.08.2022 (SAMM).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer migrant

57 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunbeath, 21.03.2022 (DW); 1, Scrabster Braes, 15.04.2022 (KM); 76, Loch of Wester, 15.04.2022 (PMM); 2, Dunnet Bay, 16.04.2022 (JO, RH); 25, Sandside Bay, 18.04.2022 (HW); 4, Dunbeath, 20.04.2022 (PD); c.20, Newlands of Forse, 24.04.2022 (PM); 20+, Thurso Riverside, 25.04.2022 (SAMM); 25, St John's Pool/Loch, 04.05, 09.05, 30 on 26.05.2022 (JS); 2, Thurso, 06.05.2022 (DJ); 6, Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 13 new nest holes, several flying birds, Scrabster Beach, 20.05.2022 (SAMM); 20+, East Gills, Scrabster, 20.08.2022 (SAMM); 2, ND27, 09.09.2022 (JS).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Summer migrant

274 records on "Birdtrack". 1, near St John's Pool, 28.03.2022 (J Richmond); 1, Hillside, Killimster, 14.04.2022 (PMM); 1, Reiss, 21.04.2022 (WM); 2, Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 2, Lybster, 28.04.2022 (PD); 1, Thurso, 30.04.2022 (Elizabeth Masden); 2, Stanstill, 01.05.2022 (DD); 20, St John's Pool/Loch, 04.05.2022 (JS); 2, Lyth, 07.05.2022 (DM); 3, Thurso, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Holborn Head, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 26, Newlands of Forse, 12.07.2022 (PM); 1 adult + 4 fledged yg, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM, DD); 3 pairs nesting, St John's Pool, 22.07.2022 (JS); 30, Crossroads, Dunnet, 27.07.2022 (JS); c.100, Newlands of Forse, 31.07.2022 (PM); 30, Knockglass, 02.08.2022 (DAO); 6+, Thurso Riverside, 20.08.2022 (SAMM); 8 on wires, Thurso Harbour, 21.08, 9 on 08.09, 10 on 10.09.2022 (SAMM); 12 S, Lyth, 20.08.2022 (DM); 12+, Thurso Riverside, 21.08, 30+ on 22.08, 3 on 06.09, 4 on 12.09, 6 on 13.09, 20 on 14.09, 3 on 15.09, 4 on 16.09, 2 on 19.09, 20 on 20.09.2022; c.70, Newlands of Forse, 16.09, c.60 on 22.09.2022 (PM); 30, St John's Pool, 17.09, 35 on 18.09.2022; 1, Newtonhill, 18.09, 22.09.2022 (SAMM); 40, Thurso Riverside, 21.09, 10 on 24.09.2022 (SAMM); left Lyth breeding, 23.09.2022 (DM); 1, Puldagon, 28.09.2022 (SAMM); c.30 S, Dunbeath, 03.10.2022 (JP); 2 adults + 4 newly fledged yg, Thurso Riverside, 09.10, 1 juv on 10.10.2022 (SAMM); 3, Nybster, 23.10.2022 (JO, RH); 1, Ousdale, 08.11.2022 (DAO); 1, Nybster, 09.11.2022 (RH); 1, Hoy, 17.11.2022 (MT).

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Summer migrant

2, Wick Harbour, 29.04.2022 (DB); 1, St John's, 30.04.2022 (JS); 4, Dunnet Bay, 30.04.2022 (NO); 8, Wick, 02.05.2022 (DM); 1, Thurso, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 pairs, Bungalow Reay,

15.05.2022, both pairs bred, single brooded, first brood fledged August, second one on 16.09.2022 (JKM); 2, Loch of Wester, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); c.20, Ben Dorrery, 18.05.2022 (AMcB); nest, house, Newtonhill, 19.05.2022 (SAMM); 30 nests, Brae House, Reay, 20.05.2022 (per SAMM); 5, Pennyland, Thurso, 22.05.2022 (SAMM); 3, Halcro, 24.05.2022 (DD); 4, Victoria Walk, breeding on cliffs?, Thurso, 27.05, 30.05.2022 (SAMM); 3.5 nests, Scrabster, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 4 nests, bungalow, Dorrery road, 22.06.2022 (SAMM); 2 nests, bungalow, Canisbay, 22.06.2022 (SAMM); 5 nests, Scrabster, 26.06.2022 (SAMM); first fledged Wick, 04.07.2022 (DM); 2, Dunbeath Strath, 31.07.2022 (SAMM); 43 occupied nests, Mingulay, Gerston, Halkirk, 29.06.2022 (DAO); 2, Brawlbin, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 25, Watten, 14.08.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Thurso Riverside, 19.08.2022 (SAMM); 2, East Gills, Scrabster, 20.08.2022 (SAMM); 15, Thurso Harbour, 22.08.2022 (SAMM); last seen Wick, 09.09.2022 (DM); present Ackergill, 10.09.2022 (DB); 2, Thurso Riverside, 12.09.2022 (SAMM); 2, St John's Pool/Loch, 24.09.2022 (JS); 2, Nybster, 24.09.2022 (RH, NO).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce migrant

1, John O'Groats, 08.09, 2 on 23.10.2022 (RH, PH); 2, Freswick, 23.10.2022 (RH).

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Scarce migrant

1, Freswick, 22.10.2022 (RH, NO).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Summer migrant

141 records on "Birdtrack". 1, St John's Pool, 11.04.2022 (JS); 1, Castletown, 14.04.2022 (RH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 15.04.2022 (JO); 6, Thurso Riverside, 16.04.2022 (JO); 3, St John's Pool, 16.04.2022 (JS); 1 (S), Reay, 16.04.2022 (JKM, PH); 2 (S), Thurso Riverside, 17.04.2022 (SAMM); <50 (S), Broubster Forest, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); 2 (S), north end Loch Calder, 20.04.2022 (SAMM); 7, Dunnet Bay, 21.04, 8 on 07.05.2022 (RH); <100, Broubster Forest, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Shebster, 23.04, 27.04.2022 (SAMM); 3 (S), Newtonhill, 27.04.2022 (SAMM); 7, Dunnet Forest, 09.05.2022 (JS); 4 (S), Newtonhill, 11.05.2022 (SAMM); 3 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05.2022 (SAMM); <100 (S), Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); 6, Watten, 21.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1 (S), juveniles calling, Newtonhill, 14.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Newtonhill, 27.07.2022 (SAMM); 4 pairs, Broubster Leans (DJ); 2 juvs, Lyth, 30.07.2022 (DM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 02.08.2022 (SAMM); 3 juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 05.08.2022 (SAMM); 2 juvs, Newtonhill, 03.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 juv, Thurso (garden), 06.08.2022 (SAMM); 2 juveniles, Thurso Riverside, 19.08, 20.08.2022 (SAMM); 3 juveniles, Newtonhill, 3 juveniles, Blingery, 23.08.2022 (SAMM); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Wick (garden), 09.09.2022 (DM); 1, Nybster, 24.09.2022 (RH); 1, Nybster, 08.10.2022 (NO); 1, Freswick, 23.10.2022 (RH).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Summer migrant; passage and winter migrant

Widespread in breeding season with records from Dunnet Forest, Thurso Riverside, Reay, St John's, Langwell, Berriedale, Newlands of Forse, Skiall Wood, Dunbeath.

1, possibly Siberian, Castlehill, 03.01.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Hillside, Killimster, 19.03.2022 (PMM); 1 (S), Reay, 14.03.2022 (EM); 1 (S), Castletown, 16.03.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Murrayfield, Castletown, 24.03.2022 (NO); 2, Dunnet Forest, 09.04.2022 (JS); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 17.04.2022 (SMM); 1, Wick (garden), 18.04.2022 (DM); 1 (S), Broubster Forest, 22.04.2022 (SMM); 1 (S), Shebster, 23.04, 27.04.2022 (SMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05.2022 (SMM); 2 (S), Thurso Riverside, 22.05, 1 (S) on 09.06.2022 (SMM); 2 calling, Sandside, 29.08.2022 (JKM); 1, Hillside, Killimster, 03.09.2022 (PMM); 1 calling, Reay, 18.09.2022 (JKM); 1, Dunbeath, 03.10.2022 (John Poyser); 1, Freswick, 27.11.2022 (RH); 1, Nybster, 03.12.2022 (NO); 1, Thurso (garden), 07.12.2022 (SMM).

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis*

Scarce migrant

1, John O'Groats Quarry, 20.10.2022 (PS); 1, Freswick, 22.10.2022 (RH, JO); 1, Thurso Boating Pond, 10.12.2022 (SMM); 1, Reay, 13.12.2022 (EM).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident; migrant

14 records on "Birdtrack". 10, Lybster, 11.01.2022 (PD); 3, Lybster, 13.02.2022 (PD); 1, Reay, 25.02, 2 on 17.03, 1 on 22.03.2022 (EM); 2, Banniskirk, 22.03.2022 (DAO); 1 pair, Achvarasdal, 26.03.2022 (KM); 3, Harpsdale, 08.04.2022 (Greg Latham); 5, Dunbeath Strath, 01.06.2022 (DB); 60+, Reay, 16.07.2022 (PH); 30, Skiall Wood, 06.08.2022 (DAO); 45, Reay, 28.08.2022 (HW); 7, Lybster, 27.10.2022 (PD); 5 or 6, Achvarasdal, 27.10.2022 (KM); 6, Reay, 07.11.2022 (EM); 30+, Sibster, Halkirk, 10.11.2022 (RH); 1, Olrig, 16.11.2022 (AM); 4, Newtonhill, 17.11.2022 (SMM).



Blackcap male and two females, East Gills, Scrabster

Karen Munro

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Summer migrant; winter migrant

Records from Reay, Dunnet Bay, Castletown, Skiall Wood, Langwell, Berriedale, Thurso, Thurso Riverside, Wick Riverside, Nybster, Dunnet Forest, St John's, Sibster Walk, Newlands of Forse, Keiss, East Murkle, Freswick, John O'Groats, Corsback, Forse House, East Gills, Scrabster House and Latheronwheel.

1 (S), Reay, 17.04.2022 (PH); 1, Dunnet Bay, 18.04, 2 on 19.04, 20.04.2022 (JO); 1, Castletown, 20.04.2022 (JO); 1 f, trapped and ringed, Skiall Wood, 23.04.2022 (DAO); 3, Langwell, 24.04.2022 (RH, NO); 10, Dunnet Bay, 01.05.2022 (RH, NO); 3 (S), Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 (S), Thurso Riverside, 09.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Scrabster House, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 3 (S), Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Latheronwheel, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 02.08.2022 (SAMM); 1 f, Killimster, 22.10.2022 (PMM); 1 m, 1 f, Killimster, 23.10.2022 (PMM); 8, Nybster, 23.10.2022 (RH, NO); 2 mm, 1 f, Lybster, 27.10.2022 (PD); 1 m, 1 f, Lybster, 01.11, 1 f on 02.11.2022 (PD); 1 m, 2 ff, Killimster, 05.11.2022 (PMM); 1, Wick Riverside, 13.11.2022 (DB); 1, Nybster, 26.11.2022 (RH, NO); 2 mm, Castle St, Thurso, 11.12.2022; 1 f on 12.12.2022; then 2 mm, 1 f on 16.12.2022 (JF).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Summer and passage migrant

1, Biel of Duncansby, 21.05.2022 (RH, NO); 1 (S), Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (Blackcap mimicry?) (SAMM); 4, Skirza, 08.09.2022 (PS).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Scarce migrant

1 juvenile, Killimster, 02.09.2022 (PMM).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Passage and winter migrants

1, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09.2022 (PS, RH, NO); 1, Noss Head, 08.09.2022 (PS); 1, Wick, 10.09.2022 (Tony Laidler).

Greater Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Summer and passage migrant

1, Wick Riverside, 16.05.2022 (DB); 2, Freswick, 18.05.2022 (RH); 1, Ben Dorrery, 18.05.2022 (AMcB); 1, Wick Riverside, 19.05.2022 (DB); 1, Biel of Duncansby, 21.05.2022 (RH); 1 (S), harbour road, Reay, 07.06 to 12.06.2022 (JKM); 3, Watten, 21.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 2, north of Lyth, 22.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1, East Murkle, 10.10.2022 (SAMM).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Resident; passage and winter migrant

81 records on "Birdtrack". 11, Latheronwheel, 05.10.2022 (Dr Gavin Woodbridge); 8, Nybster, 25.10.2022 (JO).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Resident

28 records on "Birdtrack" including from Reay, Latheronwheel, Dunbeath Strath, Dunnet Bay, Newlands of Forse, Wick Riverside, Dunnet Forest, Forse House, Langwell, Skiall Wood, Castlehill Wood, Sandside Wood. 1, Langwell, 25.06.2022 (PMM); 3, Wick Riverside, 04.07.2022 (DB); 1, Dorrery (garden), 10.09, 14.10, 26.11.2022 (NL); 1, Latheronwheel, 1, Thurso Riverside, 26.09.2022 (SAMM).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident

316 records on "Birdtrack". No significant records.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident

1 to 2, Sandside Burn, 05.01 to 16.04 (HW, PD); 2, Achins, 11.01.2022 (JKM); 2, Sandside Burn (harbour road), 27.01.2022 (JKM); 1 pair, Latheronwheel, 27.01.2022 (PD); 1, Sandside Burn, 09.02.2022 (EM); 2, Sandside Burn (road bridge), 14.02, 27.02, 02.04, 03.04.2022, 1 on 05.04.2022 (JKM, EM); 1, Langwell, 07.05.2022 (RH); 1, Achins, 25.05, 11.06.2022 (JKM); 1, Sandside Burn, 19.08.2022 (EM); 1, Sandside Burn (harbour road), 14.09.2022; 1, Latheronwheel Harbour, 09.11.2022 (DB); 1, Sandside Burn, 11.11.2022 (HW).

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Resident; passage and winter migrant

495 records on "Birdtrack". 300, St John's Pool/Loch, 07.01.2022 (JS); c.136, Newlands of Forse, 07.01, c.80 on 15.01.2022 (PM); 60+, John O'Groats, 16.01.2022 (NO); 812, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 800, Bardnaheigh, Shebster, 05.02.2022 (DAO); 1,000+, Waterloo, Wick, 15.02.2022 (SAMM); c.300, Newlands of Forse, 16.02.2022 (PM); c.300, Brawlbin, 01.03.2022 (RC); newly fledged, Thurso (garden), 29.05.2022 (SAMM); newly fledged, Wick (garden), 29.05.2022 (DM); flock of 700 to 800 juvs roosting in trees, Wick (garden), June/July 2022 (DM); flock of 50, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); c.200, Achow, 22.08.2022 (PM); 322, Fresgoe, Sandside, 20.09.2022 (HW); c.440, Nybster, 16.10, c.270 on 21.10, 22.10, c.350 on 25.10.2022 (RH, JO); c.650, Freswick, 25.10.2022 (JO); 200, Fresgoe, Sandside, 12.11.2022 (HW); c.300, Newlands of Forse, 19.11.2022 (PM); c.600, Nybster, 26.11.2022 (RH); 280+, Lyth, 03.12.2022 (DM); 300, Bardnaclavan, 10.12.2022 (DAO); 3,000, ND27, 15.12.2022 (JS); 95, Lyth, 25.12.2022 (DM).

[**Rose-coloured Starling** 1, Thurso Beach (brief views only without bins), 15.09.2022 (David Bain). A piebald Common Starling seen later (PH); same bird?].

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Local resident; migrant

31 records on "Birdtrack" including from Baillie Hill, Loch of Mey, St John's Pool/Loch, Dunnet Forest, Achrearnie, Yellow Moss (Shebster), Talaheel, Reay, Braemore, Langwell, Skiall Wood, Braal, Freswick, Broubster Leans, Nybster.

1, Auchorn, Lyth, 09.01.2022 (PMM); 2, Puldagon, 13.01.2022 (SAMM); 8, Baillie Hill, 05.02, 07.03.2022 (DAO); 1 (S), Sandside Wood, 27.02.2022 (JKM); 1, Westerdale, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Newtonhill, 16.03.2022; 1, Broubster Forest, 26.03.2022 (DJ); 1 pair (A), Shebster, 23.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Broubster Forest, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 5, Helshetter Wood, 25.05.2022 (JKM); 5 pairs, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Killimster, 22.11.2022 (PMM).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Passage and winter migrant

147 records on "Birdtrack". 70, Dorrery, 01.01.2022 (DAO); c.40, Newlands of Forse, 16.01, c.60 on 18.01.2022 (PM); c.20, Dirlot, 23.01.2022 (NO); c.20, Dunnet Bay, 06.02.2022 (NO); 6+, Reay (garden), 12.04.2022 (JKM); 2, Reay, 22.04.2022 (HW); 1(S), Broubster Forest, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Newlands of Forse, 03.06.2022 (PM); 4, Ravenshill, 26.09.2022 (DAO); 3, Mey, 30.09.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 10, Latheronwheel, 05.10.2022 (Dr Gavin Woodbridge); 2, Hillside, Killimster, 07.10.2022 (PMM); 8, Nybster, 16.10, 12 on 21.10, 73 on 22.10.2022 (RH, JO); 70, noc mig, Nybster, 22.10.2022 (PS); 30+, Latheronwheel Strath, 25.10.2022 (PM); 1, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 29.10.2022 (TH); 1, Dorrery (garden), 29.10.2022 (NL); 30, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); <100 roosting in trees/hedgerows, Larel, 11.11.2022 (SAMM); 60, Oldhall, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 50, Clayock, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); c.160, Drumhollistan, 13.11.2022 (NO); 300+, Harpsdale, 17.11.2022 (SAMM); 50+, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 20.11.2022 (SAMM, NO); 50+, Reaster, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 20+, Skiall, 29.11.2022 (SAMM); c.40, Newlands of Forse, 08.12.2022 (PM); 100+, Bilbster, 10.12.2022 (SAMM); 63, Nybster, 13.12.2022 (RH); <50, hedgerows, Wick to Oldhall, 14.12.2022 (SAMM); 8, Hastigrow, 17.12.2022 (DM); 2, Wick (garden), 17.12.2022 (DM).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Resident; passage and winter migrant

176 records on "Birdtrack". 1 (S), St John's, 09.01.2022 (JS); 4 (S), Sandside Wood, 27.02.2022 (JKM); 3 (S), Reay, 14.03.2022 (EM); 2, Broubster Forest, 26.03.2022 (EM); 3, Newtonhill, 11.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05, 2 (S) on 09.06.2022 (SAMM); 2 juveniles, Wick (garden), 21.05.2022 (DM); 1 (S), Scrabster House, 10.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Thurso (garden), 19.06.2022 (SAMM); 2, Bowertower, 20.06.2022 (DD); 5, John O'Groats Quarry, 09.09.2022 (PH).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Resident; passage and winter migrant

424 records on "Birdtrack". 6, Wick Riverside, 08.01.2022 (DB); 1 (S), Thurso, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); nest building, Wick (garden), 26.03.2022 (DM); fledged Lyth, 05.05.2022 (DM); nest with 4 eggs and a chick, Lyth, 07.05, predated on 09.05.2022 (DM); newly fledged yg, Wick (garden), 12.06, 21.07.2022 (DM); a newly fledged yg swallowed whole by adult Herring Gull, Wick (garden), 22.06.2022 (DM); 9, East Gills, Scrabster (garden), 03.11.2022 (KM); 24, Braal, 05.11.2022 (DAO); 10, Oldhall, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 35, St John's Pool/Loch, 18.11.2022 (JS); 10+, Newtonhill, 16.11, 17.11.2022 (SAMM); 10+, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 20, Poolhoy, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 20+, Greenland, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 37, Newlands of Forse, 20.11.2022 (PM); 53, Nybster, 26.11.2022 (RH, NO); 34, Freswick, 27.11.2022 (RH, NO); 22, Forss, 11.12.2022 (DAO).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Passage and winter migrant

c.120, Loch More, 23.01.2022 (RH); 50+, Latheronwheel Strath, 25.01.2022 (PM); c.190, Loch Scarmclate, 30.01.2022 (NO); 11, Brawlbin, 31.01.2022 (NL); c.100, Brawlbin, 01.02, 50+ on 01.03.2022 (Richard Clarkson); 350 to 400, Achins, 24.02.2022 (JKM); 60, Loch Calder, 05.03.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 63, Achavarn, 06.03.2022 (DAO); 27, Quoybrae, 08.03.2022 (PMM); 100+, Achow, 10.03.2022 (PM); c.20, Newlands of Forse, 18.03.2022 (PM); c.6, Latheronwheel Strath, 19.03.2022 (PM); 1, Nybster, 21.10.2022 (RH); 2, Freswick, 22.10.2022 (JO); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 22.10.2022 (JO); 2, Hillside, Killimster, 30.10.2022 (PMM); <50 roosting in trees/hedgerows, Larel, 11.11.2022 (SAMM); 20, Oldhall, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 30, Clayock, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 6, Hillside, Killimster, 28.11.2022 (PMM); 20, Shebster, 29.11.2022 (SAMM); 30, St John's Pool, 03.12.2022 (JS); 29, Nybster, 11.12.2022 (RH); 2, Castle St, Thurso, 16.12.2022 (JF); 4, Thurso (garden, feeding on cotoneaster berries), 16.12.2022 (SAMM); 100+, Tister hedgerows, 17.12.2022 (SAMM); 2, Lyth, 17.12.2022 (DM); 38, Hallam, 20.12.2022 (DAO); 100+, ND27, 15.12.2022 (JS); 1, Lybster, 30.12.2022 (PD).

Ring Ousel *Turdus torquatus*

Local summer migrant; passage migrant

1 m, Beinn Freiceadain, 20.04.2022 (Rory Whytock); 1, RSPB Dunnet Head, 23.04.2022 (SL); 1, Duncansby, 19.05.2022 (MB); 1 (S), west cliffs, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 east of Watten, 05.11.2022 (PH).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Summer migrant

2, Newlands of Forse, 28.04.2022 (PM); 1, Mey, 14.05.2022 (JS); 1, Broubster Forest, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Freswick, 18.05.2022 (RH); 1, Noss Head, 18.05.2022 (RH); 1, Skirza, 19.05.2022 (MB); 2, Biel of Duncansby, 21.05.2022 (RH); 3, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Langwell, 25.06.2022 (PMM); 1, St John's, 17.08.2022 (JS); 1, Newlands of Forse, 18.08.2022 (PM); 1 pair + 4 fledged yg, Skiall Wood, 24.07.2022 (DAO); bred Dorrery, four fledged chicks, 25.07.2022 (NL); 1, Latheronwheel, 28.07.2022 (PD); 3, Skirza, 08.09.2022 (PS); 1, Quoys of Reiss, 08.09.2022 (PS); 1, Noss Head, 08.09.2022 (PS).



Red-breasted Flycatcher, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09.2022

Peter Stronach

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Resident; passage and winter migrant

337 records on "Birdtrack". 5, Newlands of Forse, 13.02 to 23.03, 27.08, 6 on 22.09, 5 on 11.10, 13.10.2022 (PM); 5, Thurso, 23.03.2022 (DW); 2 newly fledged yg, Wick (garden), 12.06.2022 (DM); 1 adult, 1 juvenile, Lyth, 06.08 to 13.08.2022 (DM); 14, Latheronwheel, 05.10.2022 (Dr Gavin Woodbridge); 5, Nybster, 24.10, 25.10.2022 (JO); 5, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (D O-E).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Scarce spring migrant

1 m, Keiss, 17.05, 18.05.2022 (Robert Duncan).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Scrace migrant

1 f, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09, 09.09.2022 (RH, NO, PH).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Passage migrant

1, Duncansby, 03.09, 06.09.2022 (RH); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09, 09.09.2022 (RH, NO, PS); 2, Noss Head carpark, 08.09.2022 (PS); 3, Skirza, 08.09.2022 (PS); 2, Auchengill, 08.09.2022 (PS).

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Local summer migrant; passage migrant

1, John O'Groats Quarry, 18.05.2022 (RH); 1, Biel of Duncansby, 21.05.2022 (RH); 1 (S), Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SMM); 2, Brims, 07.09.2022 (DAO); 1, Duncansby Head, 08.09.2022 (PS); 8, Skirza, 08.09.2022 (PS); 4, Noss Head/Farm, 08.09.2022 (PS); 2, Westerloch (Subsea bushes), 08.09.2022 (PS); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09, 09.09.2022 (RH, NO, PS); 1, Wick, 10.09.2022 (Tony Laidler).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Passage and winter migrant

3, Duncansby Head, 23.10.2022 (PH).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Summer migrant; passage migrant

1, Badbea, 10.04.2022 (JP); 1, Brims, 27.04.2022 (PH); 1, Brims, 07.09.2022 (DAO); 1, Duncansby Head, 08.09.2022 (PS); 4, Skirza, 08.09.2022 (PS); 2, Skirza, 09.09.2022 (PH); 8, John O'Groats, 09.09.2022 (PH).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Resident

124 records on "Birdtrack" including from Keiss, Auchengill, Nybster, Hallam, Freswick, Newtonhill, Dunnet Bay, Loch of Mey, Noss Head, St John's Pool/Loch, John O'Groats Quarry, Lyth, Mey, Duncansby Head, Newlands of Forse, Loch Rangag, Latheronwheel, Sandside, Wick, Latheron, Westerdale, Achentoot, Holborn Head, Baillie Hill, Dirlot, Brawlbin, Skiall, Loch Scarmclate, Loch Watten, Sinclair's Bay, Greenland, Reay, Shebster, Dunnet Forest.

4, Sinclair's Bay, 24.01.2022 (RAF); 4, Skiall, 08.03.2022 (DAO); 1, Dunnet Bay, 22.03.2022 (NO); 1 pair + br 3, St John's Pool, 09.05.2022 (JS); 1 m, Bowertower, 10.05.2022 (DD); 5 (including 2 mm (T)), Newtonhill, 11.05.2022 (SMM); 1 m, Brawlbin, 14.05.2022 (SMM); 1 m (S), Newtonhill, 19.05.2022 (SMM); 1 adult + 1 juvenile, Wick, 23.05.2022 (D Eatch); 1 (A), Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SMM); 1 m, Hill of Dunnet, 24.05.2022 (DD); 1, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SMM); 6, north of Lyth, 22.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 1 pair, Broubster Leans (DJ); 2, Newtonhill, 14.07.2022 (SMM); 1 m, Loch Caluim 11.08.2022 (NL); 1, Broubster Leans, 22.08.2022 (DJ); 2 juveniles, Newtonhill, 23.08.2022 (SMM); 2, Reay (garden), 13.09, 17.09.2022 (JKM); 6, St John's Pool/Loch, 18.09.2022 (JS); 3 to 4, Dunnet Head, 18.09.2022

(JS); 10 (3 family groups), Newtonhill, 22.09.2022 (SAMM); 3 juveniles?, Reay (garden), 23.09.2022 (JKM); 10, St John's Pool, 05.10.2022 (JS); 4, Dunnet Head, 31.10.2022 (D O-E); 4, Noss Head, 01.11.2022 (D O-E).

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe Oenanthe*

Summer migrant; passage migrant

60 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Dunnet Head, 22.03.2022 (DG); 1, Reiss, 24.03.2022 (WM); 19, Holborn Head, 15.04.2022 (JP); 5, Crosskirk, 15.04.2022 (KM); 2, Latheronwheel, 14.04.2022 (JP); 1, East Murkle, 16.04.2022 (RS); 3, Holborn Head, 16.04.2022 (RH); 6, Fresgoe, Sandside, 16.04.2022 (HW); 1, Murkle, 16.04.2022 (JS); 1, Scrabster, 18.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, Beinn Freiceadain, 19.04.2022 (NL); 1 m, Dorrery, 2 ff, Brawlbin, 20.04.2022 (SAMM); 2, Puldagon, 21.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, Calder, 23.04.2022 (SAMM); 2, Latheronwheel, 25.04.2022 (PD); 1 f, Brawlbin, 27.04.2022 (SAMM); 1, Bowertower, 04.05.2022 (DD); 6, Ackergill, 05.05.2022 (DB); 1, Killimster, 05.05.2022 (DD); 1 f, Holborn Head, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Dwarwick Pier, 20.05.2022 (JS); 1, John O'Groats, More, 02.06.2022 (DD); 1 m, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 3 yg, Latheronwheel, 19.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 2, Hill of Dunnet, 30.06.2022 (DD); 4 recently fledged yg, Dunnet Head, 03.07.2022 (JS); 1, RSPB Dunnet Head, 14.07.2022 (DJ); ++, many fledged yg, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); pairs present Broubster Leans (DJ); 1, Newlands of Forse, 08.09.2022 (PM); 2, John O'Groats Quarry, 08.09, 1 on 09.09.2022 (NO, PH); 1, Thurso, 11.09.2022 (Alison McPartline); 1 s/s *leucorrhoa*, Keiss, 24.10.2022 (JO).

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Winter migrant

1, Wick, 21.01.2022 (Maureen Forbes); 1 SW, Loch of Wester, 26.10.2022 (George Dunbar); 1, Reay, 27.10.2022, more heard in Achvarasdal (KM); 1, Reay, 07.11, 08.11.2022 (EM, HW); 4, Sibster, Halkirk, 08.11.2022 (PH); 6, Castle St, Thurso, 19.11.2022 (JF); 17, Sibster, Halkirk, 19.11, 21 on 20.11.2022 (TH, SAMM, KM, NO, RH, PH); 2, St John's Pool, 20.11.2022 (JS); 2, Wick, 21.11.2022 (RH); 2, High Ormlie, Thurso. 25.11 to 02.12.2022 (FS); 10, Halkirk, 02.12.2022 (B/G); 5, Noss School, Wick, 06.12.2022 (Maureen Forbes).



Bohemian Waxwings, Sibster, Halkirk, 20/11/2022

Karen Munro

Yellow Wagtail sp. *Motacilla flava* ssp.

Passage migrant

1, Skirza, 20.10.2022 (PS).

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla simillima*

Vagrant; sometimes considered a subspecies of M. flava, but here treated as a full species.

1, Westerloch, 22.11, 05.12 to 14.12.2022 (George Dunbar, RH, PMM, SAMM, PS); subject to acceptance by BBRC.



Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Westerloch, 22/11/2022

George Dunbar

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident; summer migrant

57 records on "Birdtrack". 1, Sandside Beach, 21.01.2022 (EM); 1, Dunnet Bay, 22.01.2022 (NO); 3, Burnside, Thurso, 16.03.2022 (Alison McPartlin); 5, Latheronwheel, 14.04.2022 (JP); 2, Scrabster Beach, 20.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (FF), Sandside Burn, 21.05.2022 (EM); 2 juveniles, Weydale, 29.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 pairs, Berriedale Water, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 6, Berriedale, 14.06.2022 (JS); 1, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Latheronwheel, 11.06, 19.06.2022 (SAMM, Dr Celia Helliwell); 1, Berriedale Strath, 20.06.2022 (Dr Celia Helliwell); 2, Burnside, Thurso, 18.08.2022 (SAMM); 4, Newlands of Forse, 21.08, 22.08.2022 (PM); 2, Sandside Bay, 10.09.2022 (PMM); 1, Hillside, Killimster, 13.09, 22.09, 23.09, 11.12 (PMM); 1, Thurso Riverside, 19.09.2022 (SAMM); 1, Nybster, 06.11, 09.11.2022 (RH, NO); 1, Loch of Wester, 11.12.2022 (RH).



Grey Wagtail, Burnside, Thurso, 16/03/2022

Alison MacPartline

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Summer and winter migrant

132 records on "Birdtrack". .60, Thurso Harbour, 22.01.2022 (EM); 1 (FF), Lyth, 28.05.2022 (DM); 2 adults, 3 juveniles, Lyth, 06.08.2022 (DM); 32, Knockglass, 02.08.2022 (DAO); 15, roost, Thurso Harbour, 25.09.2022 (SAMM).

Pied/White Wagtail

110 records on "Birdtrack". 74+, Dounreay, 05.09.2022 (DAO); 31, Newlands of Forse, 12.09, 16.09.2022 (PM); 14, Sandside Bay, 01.10.2022 (HW).

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Passage migrant

1, Sandside, 27.03.2022 (RH); 1, Noss Head, 27.03.2022 (Steve Dudley); 12, Sandside, 07.04.2022 (EM); 1, Thurso Beach, 11.04.2022; 3 on 16.04.2022; 2 on 17.04.2022 (SAMM); 5, Dunnet Bay, 15.04, 16.04, 27 on 17.04, 17 on 18.04, 5 on 19.04, 8 on 20.04, 2 on 21.04.2022 (JO, RH); 2, Murkle, 16.04.2022 (JS); 9, Thurso Beach, 20.04.2022 (SAMM); 2, Dunnet Beach, 21.04.2022 (PMM); 1, Harrow Harbour, 22.04.2022 (North Sutherland Group); present Dunnet Beach, 23.04, 3 on 26.04, 1 on 01.05, 07.05.2022 (NO, RH); 2, ND27, 11.05, 1 on 30.08.2022 (JS); 1, Reay (garden), 11.05.2022 (JKM); 2 adults, 2 juveniles. St John's Pool, 18.09.2022 (JS); 1, Thurso Beach, 19.09.2022 (SAMM); 2, St John's Pool, 24.09.2022 (JS); 3, Sandside, 08.10.2022 (EM).



Pied Wagtail, Sandside, 22/01/2022

Eric Maughan

[Richard's Pipit 2, Sandside Farm, 12.04.2022 (EM)]

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Resident; summer migrant

273 records on "Birdtrack". Displaying, Holborn Head, 13.03, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 28, Baillie Hill, 02.04.2022 (DAO); 31, Holborn Head, 15.04.2022 (JP); <50 (D), mid island, Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 33, Newlands of Forse, 09.08.2022 (PM); c.25, Achow, 22.08.2022 (PM); 25, Broubster Leans, 08.09.2022 (DJ); 10+, Newtonhill, 22.09.2022 (SAMM); 11, Nybster, 03.12.2022 (NO); 3, Broubster, 11.12.2022 (DAO).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Summer and passage migrant

1, Skirza, 19.05.2022 (MB); 1, Newtonhill, 16.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Freswick, 03.09.2022 (RH, NO); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 09.09.2022 (PH).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Resident

132 records on "Birdtrack". 16, Holborn Head, 15.01.2022 (NO); 30, Dunnet Bay, 22.01.2022 (NO); 10, John O'Groats, 29.01.2022 (RAF); c.20, Dunnet Bay, 06.02.2022 (NO); 14, caravan park, Thurso, 09.02.2022, 12 on 23.02.2022 (SAMM); 72, Dunnet Bay, 24.02.2022 (RH); displaying Holborn Head, 13.03, 16.05.2022 (SAMM); 13, Victoria Walk, Thurso, 21.04.2022 (SAMM); 2 (D), 1 (FF), Victoria Walk, Thurso, 07.06.2022 (SAMM); ++ (D), (FF), Holborn Head, 26.06.2022 (SAMM); <100 (D, FF), Stroma, 17.07.2022 (SAMM); 10, Brough, 09.09.2022 (JS); 15, Nybster, 16.10, 17 on 25.10, 32 on 22.11, 21 on 01.12.2022 (RH, JO); 27, Thurso Beach, 10.12.2022 (SAMM).

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

Resident

155 records on "Birdtrack". 1 (S), Thurso. 25.02.2022 (SMM); 2 newly fledged yg, Wick (garden), 12.06.2022 (DM); 5 juveniles, Wick (garden), 29.06.2022 (DM); second fledglings, Wick (garden), 06.07.2022 (DM).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Resident

263 records on "Birdtrack". Up to 150+, Wick (garden), throughout year; collecting nest material, Wick (garden), 26.03.2022 (DM); newly fledged, Thurso (garden), 21.05.2022 (SMM); 2 newly fledged, Wick (garden), 21.05.2022 (DM); 25+ newly fledged, Wick (garden), 27.05.2022 (DM); second broods fledged 21.07.2022 (DM); newly fledged, Lyth, 24.07.2022 (DM); 60 to 70, Reay (garden), 30.07.2022 (JKM); c.80, Thurso (garden), 07.08.2022 (SMM); 40, Bardnacre, 07.08.2022 (DAO); 50+, Thurso (garden), 19.08.2022 (SMM).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Local resident; scarce migrant

1, Lyth, 01.01.2022 (DM); 2, Loch Watten, 09.01.2022 (RH); 1, Reay, 04.02, 12.02.2022 (EM, HW); 2, Dunnet Bay, 06.02.2022 (NO); 2, Lyth, 26.03, 09.04, 1 on 30.04.2022 (DM); pair breeding in nestbox, Castletown, 10.04.2022 (SL); 3, Dunnet Bay, 18.04, 1 on 21.04, 27.04, 30.04.2022 (RH, NO); 1 (FF), Lyth, 02.05.2022 (DM); 2 (FF), Lyth, 28.05.2022 (DM); 2+, Ramscreags, 11.06.2022 (SMM); 1 newly fledged, Lyth, 11.06.2022 (DM); 3, Loch Watten, 16.06.2022 (JS); 3 juvs fed by adults, Lyth, 19.06.2022 (DM); 1, Stemster, 23.06.2022 (RH); 2, Halkirk, 24.07.2022 (DAO); 1, Lyth, 06.08 to 15.10, 2 on 10.09.2022 (DM); 3, Forss, 04.09.2022 (DAO); 30+, Gillock, 15.10.2022 (SMM); 2, Lyth, 12.11 to 25.12.2022 (DM); 1, East Gills (garden), Scrabster, 09.12.2022 (KM).



Tree Sparrow (left), East Gills, Scrabster, 09/12/2022

Karen Munro

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident

273 records on "Birdtrack". 40, Olgrinmore, 06.01.2022 (DAO); 60, Helshetter, 07.01.2022 (HW); 7, Thurso, 06.02.2022 (SAMM); 30, Reay (garden), 09.02.2022 (EM); 1 m (S), Reay, 13.02.2022 (EM); singing, Oldhall, 20.02.2022 (SAMM); 60, Hillside, Killimster, 23.02.2022 (PMM); singing Rumster, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); <100 (S), Broubster Forest, 19.04, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 30, Oldhall, 13.11.2022 (SAMM); 87, Helshetter, 20.11.2022 (HW); c.130, Nybster, 11.12.2022 (RH, NO).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter migrant

Maximum spring count at Hillside, Killimster was 5 on 08.01, with last sighting 1 on 23.03.2022 (PMM); 1, Reay, 30.01.2022 (HW); 11, Knockglass, 04.02.2022 (DAO); 1, Reay (garden), 04.02 to 12.04, 2 on 09.02.2022 (JKM); 2 mm, Castletown, 15.04.2022 (RH, NO); 1, St John's Pool, 16.04.2022 (JS); 2, Castletown, 16.04.2022 (JO); 1, Achentoot, 19.04.2022 (SM); 1, St John's Pool, 26.04.2022 (JS); 1, Freswick, 20.10.2022 (RH, NO); 2, Nybster, 22.10.2022 (RH, JO); 1, St John's, 31.10.2022 (JS); 5, Dunnet Bay, 01.11.2022 (D O-E); 1, St John's, 05.11, 08.11,

12.11.2022 (JS); 1, Dorrery (garden), 08.11, 09.11, 26.11, 13.12.2022 (NL); 17, Oldhall, 11.12.2022 (SAMM, KM).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes Coccothraustes*

Scarce migrant

3, Wick, 27.03.2022 (Steve Dudley); 1, Reay (garden), 14.04.2022 (JKM); 2 NW, Hilliclay, 20.10.2022 (PH); 1 f, East Gills, Scrabster, 26.11.2022 (KM).



Hawfinch, East Gills, Scrabster, 26/11/2022

Karen Munro

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident; winter migrant

2, Baillie Hill, 02.01.2022 (DAO); 2, Helshetter, 07.01.2022 (HW); 4, Limekiln, Reay, 30.01, 02.02.2022 (HW, JKM); 3, Newlands of Forse, 15.02.2022 (PM); 4, Skiall wood, 05.04.2022 (DAO); 2, Broubster Forest, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 2, Langwell, 24.04.2022 (RH); 1, Latheronwheel, 26.04, 27.04.2022 (PD); 1, Broubster Forest, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Reay, 23.05.2022 (HW); 1 pair, Dorrery hill track, 22.07.2022 (NL); 1 m, 1 f + 1 juvenile (family group?), Dorrery, 24.07.2022 (NL); 1, Langwell Strath, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Newlands of Forse, 29.06.2022 (PM); 1 f, Reay (garden), 03.07.2022 (JKM); 1 pair, Sandside Burn, harbour road, Reay, 07.07.2022 (JKM); 1, Langwell Gardens, 1, Forse House, 31.07.2022 (SAMM); 6, Sandside Quarry, 22.08.2022 (HW); 6, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 29.10.2022 (TH); 3, nominate *pyrrhula*, Sibster, Halkirk on 11.12.2022 (PMM); 2, South Shebster, 10.12.2022 (DAO).



Male Bullfinch, Dorrery

Niall Laybourne

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Formerly common resident, population much reduced by Trichomonosis

81 records on "Birdtrack", 107 in 2021.

3 (S), St John's Pool/Loch, 26.03.2022 (JS); 1 (S), Thurso Riverside, 15.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), Langwell, 11.06.2022 (SAMM); 1, Reay (garden), 09.09, 2 on 22.09, 1 on 23.09, 3 on 28.09.2022, feeding on *Rosa rugosa* hips (JKM); 10, St John's Pool/Loch, 24.09, 03.11.2022 (JS); 1, Reay (garden), 08.10, 10.11.2022 (EM); 20, Dunnet Bay, 12.11.2022 (NO); 25, Sandside Bay, 12.11.2022 (HW); 21, Sandside Bay, 26.11.2022 (HW).

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Resident, population in decline

56 records on "Birdtrack" with records from Brough, Dunnet Bay, Freswick, Drumhollistan, John O'Groats, St John's Loch, Auchengill/Nybster, Dunnet Head, Biel of Duncansby, Braemore, Sandside Beach, Olgrinmore, Greenland, Holborn Head, Calder.

140, Calder, 01.01.2022 (DAO); 150, Dunnet Bay, 11.01.2022 (JS); 86, Dunnet Bay, 22.01.2022 (NO); 110, Dunnet, 30.01.2022 (RAF); 60, Skirza, 13.02.2022 (SAMM); c.1,000, Halcro, 28.02.2022 (DJ); 20, Holborn Head, 13.03.2022; 12, Olgrinmore, 13.03.2022 (DAO); 20, Auchorn, Lyth, 18.03, 30 on 20.03.2022, Brawlbin, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 12, Spittal,

26.05.2022 (SAMM); 40, Auchengill, 07.08.2022 (SAMM); 30+ Twite or Linnet, Reay (garden), 12.09.2022 (SAMM); 50 to 60 on 13.09.2022 (JKM); 50, Newtonhill, 22.09.2022 (SAMM); 3, RSPB Dunnet Head, 29.09.2022 (DJ); 30, Isauld, 30.09.2022 (SAMM); c.60, Dunnet Bay, 12.11.2022 (NO); 30, Aimster, 19.11.2022 (SAMM); 50, Brabster, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 15, Scrabster Hill, 20.11.2022 (SAMM); 45, Mid-Sands, Dunnet Bay, 23.11.2022 (JS).

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Resident

133 records on "Birdtrack". c.250, Dunnet Bay, 09.01.2022 (NO); 30, Brims, 05.03.2022 (DAO); 6, Auchorn, Lyth, 20.03.2022 (PMM); c.14, Newlands of Forse, 02.05.2022 (PM); 5, Thurso East, 13.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 pairs, roadside, Thurdistoft-Reaster, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 6, Castlehill, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 3, Victoria Walk, Thurso, 2 pairs, Scrabster Braes, 20.05.2022 (SAMM); 3, Victoria Walk, Thurso, 22.05.2022 (SAMM); 5, Victoria Walk, Thurso, 30.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, RSPB Dunnet Head, 02.06.2022 (DJ); 200, Brough, 30.08.2022 (JS); 30+. Osclay, 09.09.2022 (PM); 6, Sandside Beach, 14.09.2022 (EM); 43, Nybster, 16.09.2022 (RH); 50+, Puldagon, 22.09.2022 (SAMM); c.45, Nybster, 25.10.2022 (JO); 1,000, Glengolly, 11.11.2022 (MT); c.70, Dunnet Bay, 12.11.2022 (NO); 60, Loch Watten, 21.11.2022 (MT); 800, Wick, 07.12.2022 (JS).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis flammea cabaret*

1, Dunnet Forest, 30.01.2022 (JS); 20, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 27.03.2022 (TW); <50 (D, S), Broubster Forest, 19.04, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1(S), Newtonhill, 11.05.2022 (SAMM); 25 (S,D), Broubster Forest, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 2 (D), Newtonhill, 19.05.2022 (SAMM); 4, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); <50, Newtonhill, 05.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 (S), juveniless, Newtonhill, 16.06.2022 (SAMM); 3, Newtonhill, 14.07.2022 (SAMM); <50, Newtonhill, 20.07.2022 (SAMM); 2 juveniles, Newtonhill, 23.08.2022 (SAMM).

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea flammea*

1, Dunnet Bay, 24.03.2022 (RH); 2, s/s *rostrata*, Dunnet Bay, 18.04.2022 (RH); 5, Dunnet Bay, 19.04, 3 on 21.04.2022 (RH); 2, Lyth, 12.05 to 25.05.2022 (DM); 1, Skirza, 19.05.2022 (MB); 2, Biel of Duncansby, 21.05.2022 (RH).

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Resident, passage and summer migrant. All Redpolls now considered to belong to one species, Acanthis flammea.

5, St John's Pool/Loch, 05.08.2022 (JS); 19, Nybster, 24.09.2022 (RH); 1, Sibster, Halkirk, 2.11.2022 (NO).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrurus*

Scarce migrant

1, Hilliclay, 02.09.2022 (PH).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Resident; migrant

22 records on "Birdtrack". 1 pair, Dorrery track, 16.01.2022 (NL); 1 male (S), Rumster, 27.02.2022 (SAMM); 3, Broubster Forest, 26.03.2022 (EM); 2, Broubster Forest, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); present, Broubster Forest, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 1 pair, Broubster Forest, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 5, off sea, Gills Bay, 08.09.2022 (PH); 8, Rumster, 11.10, 14 on 19.10.2022 (PD); 50+, Camster, 31.10.2022 (PD); 20, Helshetter, 20.11.2022 (HW).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident

199 records on "Birdtrack". 15, Reay (garden), 12.04.2022 (EM); 4 pairs, Lyth, 23.04.2022 (DM); 1 (S), Thurso, 12.05.2022 (SAMM); 100+, Thurdistoft, 17.05.2022 (SAMM); 8, Sibster Walk, Halkirk, 24.05.2022 (SAMM); 3 newly fledged, Wick (garden), 28.06 and again 2 newly fledged on 30.07.2022 (DM); 2 adults + 4 newly fledged, Wick (garden), 15.09 to 25.09.2022 (DM); c.120, Freswick, 22.10, 160 on 25.10.2022 (JO); 23, Bower, 23.10.2022 (DD); 8+, Lyth, 12.11.2022 (DM).

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Resident; migrant

c.32, Dunnet Bay, 08.01.2022 (NO); 2, Lyth, 15.01.2022 (DM); 14, Hillside, Killimster, 04.02.2022 1st returning, Reay (garden), 04.02.2022 (EM); 1 m, Wick (garden), 05.02.2022 (DM); 1 f, Wick (garden), 07.02.2022 (DM); 50+, maximum spring count, Reay (garden), 09.02.2022 (EM); 2, Thurso, 10.02.2022 (SAMM); 4 pairs, Lyth, 09.04, 23.04.2022 (DM); 18, Reay (garden), 15.04, 15 on 23.04.2022 (HW); <100 (D, S), Broubster Forest, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); <100 (S), Broubster Forest, 22.04.2022 (SAMM); 26, Skiall Wood, 22.04.2022 (DAO); 29, Hillside, Killimster, 17.05.2022 (PMM); 1, Newtonhill, 21.05.2022 (DM); 6 newly fledged, Lyth, 11.06.2022 (DM); 1 ad + 1 juvenile, Thurso (garden), 16.06.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, 1 f, Thurso (garden), 19.06.2022 (SAMM); 43, Hillside, Killimster, 28.06.2022 (PMM); 16, Dunnet Bay, 18.07.2022 (RH); 5 (family group), Thurso (garden), 06.08.2022 (SAMM); juveniles, Lyth, 06.08.2022 (DM); 1, John O'Groats Quarry, 09.09.2022 (PH); 8, Lyth, 22.10, 05.11, 17.12, 6 on 25.12.2022 (DM); 17, Nybster, 25.10.2022 (RH); 15, St John's Pool/Loch, 05.11.2022 (JS); 15, St John's, 12.11.2022 (JS); 4, Dunnet Forest, 17.12.2022 (JS).

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce migrant

3, Keiss, 11.12.2022 (RH).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Winter migrant

6, Dunnet Bay, 08.01, 10 on 09.01.2022 (HW, NO); 5, Haster, 13.01.2022 (SAMM); 4, John O'Groats, 16.01.2022 (RH); 6, John O'Groats, 22.01.2022 (SL); 12, Brims, 04.02.2022 (DAO); 14, Dunnet Bay, 19.02.2022 (RH); present John O'Groats, 22.02.2022 (AM); 6, Holborn Head,

13.03.2022 (SAMM); 2 N, Dunnet Bay, 24.03.2022 (RH); 1, Reiss Beach, 15.04.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 1, Mey, 05.10.2022 (North Sutherland Group); 3, Duncansby Head, 30.10.2022 (D O-E); 2, Dunnet Bay, 12.11.2022 (RH); 6, Loch Calder, 19.11.2022 (MT); 1, Loch of Mey, 26.11.2022 (JS); 14, Dunnet Bay, 03.12.2022 (JS).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

Resident

60 records on "Birdtrack", 1 to 3 birds. 6, St John's Pool, 02.01, 10 on 16.01, 7 on 19.01, 20 on 23.01.2022 (JS); 13, Loch Scarmclate, 30.01.2022 (NO); 4, Hillside, Killimster, 05.02, 5 on 12.02.2022 (PMM); 1, Reay (garden), 11.02 to 26.05.2022 (JKM); 20+, Charleston, 13.02.2022 (SAMM); 1 male (S), Oldhall, 20.03.2022 (SAMM); 2 mm (S), St John's Pool, 09.04.2022 (JS); 3 (S), Reay, 17.04.2022 (JKM); 2, Janetstown, 22.04.2022 (DAO); 1, Loch Calder (north end), 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1, Ruther, 15.05.2022 (DD); 4, Ruther, 28.06.2022 (DAO); 4, St John's Pool, 05.08, 12.08.2022 (JS); present Reay, 29.10.2022 (HW); 4, Reay, 11.11.2022 (HW); 4, Loch Calder (south), 12.11.2022 (MT); 2, Hillside, Killimster, 16.12.2022 (PMM).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident

123 records on "Birdtrack". 1 m, Houstry, Latheron, 09.02.2022 (PD); 8, Brawlbin, 16.02.2022 (RC); 6, Broubster, 13.03.2022 (DAO); 1 m (S), Newtonhill, 16.03.2022 (SAMM); 1 m (S), Helshetter, 27.03.2022 (JKM); 6, St John's, 31.03.2022 (JS); 5, Dunnet Bay, 15.04.2022 (JO); 1 m (S), Brawlbin, 19.04.2022 (SAMM); 2 m (S), Loch of Mey, 24.04.2022 (SAMM); 7, Achnatoot, 30.04.2022 (SM); 1 m, Newtonhill, 11.05.2022 (SAMM); 1 m, Brawlbin, 14.05.2022 (SAMM); 1(S), Newtonhill, 05.06, 20.07.2022 (SAMM); 1 (FF), Mid Sands, Dunnet, 06.07.2022 (ML); 1 m + 1 juvenile, Sandside Dunes, 07.07.2022 (JKM); 7 pairs, Broubster Leans (DJ); 1, Reay (garden), 21.08 to 23.09, 2 on 13.09.2022 (JKM); 5, Newlands of Forse, 22.08.2022 (PM); 6, Nybster, 11.12.2022 (RH).

Amendments to 2021 report

Pink-footed Goose

The breeding record for Broubster Leans should refer to Greylags (2 pairs)

Greenland White-fronted Goose

140 at Broubster on 31.10.2021 should be per David Jones rather than from David Jones.

Mallard

20 at Broubster Leans on 31.10.2021 should be per David Jones rather than from David Jones.

Tufted Duck

3 breeding pairs at Broubster Leans rather than 1 pair.

Common Cuckoo

Present at Broubster Leans on 29.05.2021 and 12.06.2021 (David Jones).

Hen Harrier

1 pair (D), Broubster Leans, 15.04.2021 should be per Davis Jones rather than from David Jones.

Short-eared Owl

3, Broubster Leans, 15.04.2021 should be per David Jones rather than from David Jones.

Amendments to 2020 report

Cattle Egret

One at Milton, Wick on 03.10.2020 (per Karen Munro) was considered only as an Egret sp., probably Cattle Egret, in the 2020 report, as the photo image was too poor to be certain of the species involved. However more images have become available which clearly show the bird to be a Cattle Egret, making this the second Caithness record; subject to acceptance by SBRC.

GAZETTEER

Localities mentioned in the text are listed here with their National Grid reference down to 1 kilometre square.

Achentoot ND 0458	Blingery ND 3049
Achins NC 9564	Blood Moss ND 2287
Achnavast ND 0864	Borgue ND 1325
Achow ND 3622	Borrowston, Forss ND 0168
Achreamie ND 0166	Bower ND 2363
Achscorriclate ND 0844	Bowertower ND 2262
Achscrabster ND 0863	Braal ND1461
Ackergill ND 3555	Brabster ND 3169
Aimster ND 1163	Brackside, Reay NC 9564
Alterwall ND 2864	Braemore ND 0830
Altnabreac ND 0045	Brawlbin ND 0757
Auchengill ND 3763	Brims ND 0470
Backlass ND 0842	Broubster ND 0460
Badbea ND 0921	Brough ND 2273
Baillie ND 0465	Calder ND 0960
Balbeg ND 1553	Camster ND 2641
Balmore ND 0167	Canisbay ND 3472
Banniskirk ND 1557	Carsgoe ND 1363
Bardnaclavan ND 0764	Castlehill ND 1969
Bardnaheigh, Shebster ND 0364	Castletown ND 1968
Barrock ND 2572	Charleston ND 2671
Beinn Freiceadain ND 0655	Claredon ND 1369
Ben Dorrery ND 0655	Clayock ND 1759
Berriedale ND1223	Coghill Loch ND 0970
Biel of Duncansby ND 3870	Crosskirk ND 0270
Biggins ND 3255	Dalmore ND 1349
Bilbster ND 2853	Dirlot ND 1349

Dorrery ND 0755	Harrow ND 2874
Dounreay NC 9967	Helshetter NC 9662
Drumhollistan NC 9264	Hilliclay ND 1664
Dunbeath ND 1630	Hill of Wester ND 3258
Duncansby/Head/Ness ND 4074	Holborn Head ND 1172
Dunnet /Bay/Links ND 2270	Houstry, Latheron ND 1535
Dunnet Forest ND 2270	Huna ND 3674
Dunnet Head ND 2076	Inkstack ND 2571
Dwarwick Head/Pier ND 2071	Isauld NC 9765
East Mey ND 3074	Janetstown ND 0866
East Murkle ND 1768	John O' Groats ND 3872
Forse House ND 2135	Keiss ND 3462
Forss ND 0369	Killimster ND 3156
Freswick ND 3768	Killimster Loch ND 3055
Garbh Loch ND 0347	Knockglass ND 0563
Geise ND 1064	Lambsdale Leans ND 0454
Gerston, Halkirk ND 1259	Langwell ND 1023
Giar Hill ND 3670	Larel ND 1858
Gills/Bay ND 3374	Latheron ND 1933
Glengolly ND 1066	Latheronwheel ND 1833
Granton Mains ND 2264	Lieurary ND 0762
Greenland ND 2467	Lochan Buidhe ND 0369
Halcro ND 2360	Loch Achbuligan NC 9865
Halkirk ND 1360	Loch Calder ND 0762
Hallam ND 0367	Loch Caluim ND 0251
Ham/Pool ND 2373	Lochend ND 2668
Harpsdale ND 1355	Loch Heilen ND 2568

Loch Hempriggs ND 3447	Murkle ND 1569
Loch Meadhoin ND 0651	Murza ND 2563
Loch Meadie ND 0948	Myrelandhorn ND 2858
Loch More ND 0745	Newport ND 1224
Loch of Mey ND 2775	Newton Hill ND 3449
Loch of Wester ND 3259	Newlands of Forse ND 2236
Loch Olginey ND 0958	North Calder ND 1061
Loch Rangag ND 1842	North Head, Wick ND 3850
Loch Saorach ND 0160	Noss Head/Farm ND 3955
Loch Scarmclate ND 1860	Nybster ND 3662
Lochside, Castletown ND 2165	Oldhall ND 2056
Lochside, Reay ND 9865	Old Wick ND 3748
Loch Stemster ND 1942	Olgrinmore ND 0955
Loch Shurrery ND 0455	Osclay ND 2238
Loch Talaheel NC 9548	Ousdale ND 0720
Loch Thormaid ND 0060	Oust ND 0665
Loch Toftingal ND 1952	Pennyland, Thurso ND 1068
Loch Watenan ND 3242	Pentland Firth ND 1274
Loch Watten ND 2357	Philips Mains ND 2971
Loch Winless ND 2954	Poolhoy ND 1960
Lybster ND 2536	Puldagon ND 3248
Lybster, Forss ND 0268	Quoybrae ND 2758
Lynegar ND 2457	Quoynee ND 2058
Lyth ND 2863	Quoys of Reiss ND 3357
Lythmore ND 0567	Ramsraigs ND 1326
Mey ND 2874	Rattar/Burn ND 2573
Mid Calder ND 0859	Ravenshill ND 0769

Reay NC 9665	Strathmore ND 1047
Reisgill ND 2336	Stroma ND 3577
Reiss ND 3354	Tacher ND 1746
Rumster ND 2138	Taldale ND 0669
Ruther ND 2457	Thurdistoft ND 2268
St John's Loch/Pool ND 2373	Thurso/Bay ND 1269
Sandside/Bay/Head/Farm NC 9566	Thurso East ND 1268
Scaraben ND 0626	Thusater ND 0669
Scarfskerry ND 2674	Thuster ND 3051
Scrabster ND 0971	Tister ND 1961
Scrabster Loch ND 0870	Tornameal ND 0757
Shebster ND 0265	Torran Water ND 0553
Sibmister ND 1666	Ulbster ND 3240
Sibster Walk, Halkirk ND 1559	Upper Dounreay ND 0065
Sinclair's Bay ND 3557	Upper Geiselittle ND 1265
Skiall ND 0367	Waas ND 0866
Skinnet ND 1261	Warth Hill ND 3770
Skirza ND 3868	Watten ND 2455
Skitten ND 3256	West Brims ND 0469
Smerral, Latheron ND 1733	West Calder ND 0651
Sordale ND 1562	Westerdale ND 1353
South Head, Wick ND 3749	Westerloch/Wester River ND 3258/3359
Spittal ND 1654	Wester Olig ND 2065
Stainland ND 1266	Westfield ND 0665
Stanstill ND 2760	West Mey ND 2873
Stemster, Halkirk ND 1860	Weydale ND 1465
Stirkoke ND 3353	Whitebridge ND 2672

Wick ND 3652

