

FORTH ISLAND SEABIRD COUNTS 1969

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With the big number of gulls only the numerical order is possible. Unless otherwise stated all figures are of pairs or nests.

Points of interest this year are that, on Inchkeith, a Razorbill was sitting at the North Horn on a nest site, although there was no egg. This species has not bred in Inner Forth and this could be the start of colonisation. Also off Inchkeith there was a Black Guillemot a rather unusual seabird so far up the Forth. We have had reports of a 'white' Puffin on Craigleith in previous years and saw this bird for the first time this year. There were some smudges on the face and the primaries were dark but, otherwise, the bird was white. Several of us were able to 'snap' the bird so there will be a few slides to show on Member's Night. Some of the indefatigable younger members occupied their spare moments by finding nests of such species as Linnet and Reed Bunting on Inchkeith; and one oldster found a House Sparrow's nest with blue eggs on the north side of the Bass.

The counts were as follows:

	Craigleith	Lamb	Fidra	Inchkeith	Inchmickery
Fulmar (sites)	23	1	31	317	
Cormorant	2	150			
Shag	84	141			
Oystercatcher			5-6	3-4	1
Great Black-backed Gull	1				
Lesser Black-backed Gull	250-300	c5		100-1000	
Herring Gull	1000-10000	100-1000	c100	100-1000	c50
Kittiwake	544	110	88	187	
Razorbill	28	16		(1)	
Guillemot	620 birds	97			
Puffin	410 birds	2-3 birds	2-4 birds	80 birds	
Common Tern			150		100-200
Arctic Tern			25		
Roseate Tern			50		50?
Sandwich Tern					46

Please note that the numbers in this table may not agree with those in the main Forth Seabird Group tables. In some years some islands were counted more than once. When this happened the Forth Seabird Group figures reflect the main count.