

# FORTH ISLAND SEABIRD COUNTS 1970

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The colonisation of the small Forth Islands by several species is reaching an interesting stage.

New Kittiwake nest sites on Craigleith and Lamb must now be difficult to find. On the former, numbers are stationary and on Lamb the slight decrease on the main cliff, due to pressure of increasing Guillemots, is balanced by some new nests on rather improbable sites. On Fidra the increase of 16 nests has been achieved entirely by the new colonisation of the 'Castle'. The main pressure has switched to Inchkeith where the population has almost doubled since last year. This island cannot accommodate this sort of increase indefinitely and the question is - where next?

Similarly the Shags on Lamb which have been increasing at roughly 10 pairs per year, shot up by 35 pairs this year. Sites are becoming less suitable and we may anticipate that Fidra and/or Inchkeith will be next in line for colonisation. Guillemot numbers on Craigleith have shown little change in recent years but on Lamb, with a 40 per cent increase this year, they are spreading more and more to the flatter rocks between the Shags' nests. Fidra or Inchkeith may well get their just wave of colonists in the next few years. Razorbills have this year taken the plunge and bred on Inchkeith - the first record for Inner Forth. Once the psychological barrier to breeding on a new island is broken, others of the species readily follow.

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	Inch- mickery	Inchkeith	Fidra	Lamb	Craigleith
Fulmar		363	28	1	48
Cormorant				220	3
Shag				194	104
Gt. Bl. Back					1
Kittiwake		342	104	116	550
Common Tern	150		400-500		
Arctic Tern			ca 50		
Roseate Tern	2		ca 100		
Sandwich Tern	3		201		
Razorbill		2		10	35
Guillemot				135	650 birds on cliff
Puffin		80 birds			800 birds on birds sea & land

Unless otherwise indicated all figures refer to sites (Fulmar), nests or pairs.

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.