

it as a pet and it was able to fly in a clumsy fashion. In 1951, 1952 and 1953 this bird found a mate, and nested successfully on the south cliffs about fifteen feet from the base. No nesting took place after this date, and there have been no later records.

Little Cumbrae:

The *Third Statistical Account* (1962) says "Kittiwakes have nested for years in one or two places on the hills". This is a mistake for the common gull. The kittiwake is a cliff nester which does not nest on the Little Cumbrae, even on the miniature sea-cliff on the west.

South Ayrshire Cliffs:

For the past thirty years I have known kittiwakes to roost in large numbers on various places on the south Ayrshire cliffs, and on the shore below. This was also well known to, and well described by, Robert Gray in the mid-19th century. On several occasions I have investigated reports of kittiwakes nesting on the south Ayrshire cliffs, but none of these reports have turned out to be accurate and have presumably arisen from casual observation of the roosting birds. There is an abundance of suitable nesting sites, however, and birds are certainly present in large numbers right throughout the summer, so it would not be unduly surprising if kittiwakes did in fact one day nest here.

Finnarts Bay:

A report on the "Status of the Kittiwake in the British Isles" in *Bird Study* for September 1963 includes the following passage (page 171): "Finnarts Bay (E. side of Loch Ryan). A small station consisting of 12-15 pairs was found in 1954 (J. Murray). J. A. Gibson failed to find any nesting in 1960". In my view this report of nesting could not possibly be correct. Finnarts Bay consists of a grassy headland running down to the sea, with no cliff suitable for kittiwakes. The only cliffs are further north where the kittiwakes habitually roost (see above).

Summary:

Kittiwakes nest at five stations in the Clyde area. Last century they nested only at Ailsa Craig, which still contains the vast majority of the Clyde population. Kittiwakes have also nested at one other site in semi-tame conditions, and have been incorrectly reported as nesting at three other sites. The total Clyde breeding population within recent years has been as follows:

1951	c. 7250 pairs
1958	c. 7348 pairs
1960	c. 7337 pairs
1964	c. 7326 pairs
1968	c. 7866 pairs
1969	c. 7810 pairs

(To be continued)

THE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF THE ISLAND OF BUTE

By J. A. GIBSON

No account of the reptiles and amphibians of the Island of Bute has previously appeared, so these notes are based entirely on my own collecting during the past thirty-five years. I shall be very grateful to anyone who can add to the information.

REPTILES

SLOW-WORM *Anguis fragilis* L.

Fairly common and widely distributed throughout Bute, although since it is retiring by nature is not often seen by the casual observer and has to be searched for. I have many records from Inchmarnock.

COMMON LIZARD *Lacerta vivipara* Jacquin

Widely distributed throughout Bute and also common on Inchmarnock. I have one record from the Burnt Islands, on 7th July 1955.

GRASS SNAKE *Natrix natrix* (L.)

There are no grass snakes native to Bute, but in the early years of the second world war a pet shop in Rothesay was selling grass snakes. I bought one myself and took it back to the mainland. I gather that several of these grass snakes ultimately escaped, as is so often the case, but there is no evidence that they survived or bred.

ADDER *Vipera berus* (L.)

I know of no true record of the occurrence of the adder on Bute, although it is relatively common on the adjacent mainland of Argyll, in some places particularly so. From personal knowledge I know that several adders captured in Cowal were released in north Bute in the early 1940s, more or less as a schoolboy prank. It may be that this has been done on more than one occasion, although it is to be hoped that the experiment will not be repeated. I have no evidence, however, that any of the adders so released survived. Any other information will be welcome.

AMPHIBIANS

COMMON TOAD *Bufo bufo* (L.)

Fairly common and well distributed throughout Bute. I have no records from Inchmarnock.

COMMON FROG *Rana temporaria* L.

Commonly and widely distributed all over Bute. Many frogs breed on Inchmarnock and I have seen an occasional one on the Burnt Islands, although I have no record from the Burnt Islands since 1947.

SMOOTH NEWT *Triturus vulgaris* (L.)

Not so common as the palmate newt, but fairly well distributed throughout Bute. I have no records from Inchmarnock.

WARTY NEWT *Triturus cristatus* (Laurenti)

It is as well to state that I have no record of the great crested or warty newt for Bute, although I have searched for it repeatedly in all the likely places.

PALMATE NEWT *Triturus helveticus* (Razoumowski)

This is the commonest newt on Bute, and is well distributed in suitable places all over the island, not just on the hills. It is fairly common on Inchmarnock.

THE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF SANDA,
SHEEP ISLAND AND GLUNIMORE

By J. A. GIBSON

For the past thirty years I have been regularly visiting the Sanda group of islands off the south-east coast of Kintyre, and the following notes represent the information I have collected on the reptiles and amphibians. It is interesting that none of the previous general natural history accounts of Sanda makes any reference to reptiles or amphibians (Paterson and Renwick 1898, Paterson 1901, Borland and Walls 1951). I am grateful to Mr. James Ruell, whose family have been owners of Sanda for the past half-century, for help in many ways. I have no record of the adder for the Sanda islands, although adders are plentiful on the neighbouring Kintyre shore, neither have I any records of reptiles or amphibians for Glunimore.

REPTILES

BLOW WORM *Anguis fragilis* L.

Common on Sanda. A few records from Sheep Island.

COMMON LIZARD *Lacerta vivipara* Jacquin

Common on Sanda and fairly common on Sheep Island.

TURTLE *Species indeterminate*

An unidentified turtle was seen swimming in the sea some five miles south east of Sanda by a Campbeltown fishing boat in August 1944 (*Fishing News*, 23rd August 1947, page 8).

AMPHIBIANS

TOAD *Bufo bufo* (L.)

Through the courtesy of Mr. Duncan Colville I have been informed that Mr. John Bain, formerly head lightkeeper on Sanda, found two or three specimens of toads on Sanda in the mid-1940s. I have no personal records.

COMMON FROG *Rana temporaria* L.

Abundant on Sanda. In some years after the spawn has hatched it is almost impossible to walk across parts of Sanda without treading on a carpet of small frogs. Not found on Sheep Island.