

the hauling of a salmon net shot along the shore of the loch revealed sixteen Pike ranging from 9lbs to 27½lbs in weight (Mr Thomas S. Rae, *in litt.*). In the early 1940s Lord David Stuart caught a Pike weighing just over 30lbs in Loch Fad (Marquis of Bute, *in litt.*).

ROACH *Rutilus rutilus* (L.)

There are also a good few Roach in Loch Fad and Loch Ascog. A corrected statement to this effect was accidentally omitted from the final draft of the previous paper on Bute freshwater fishes (TBNHS 20: 74).

THREE-SPINED STICKLEBACK *Gasterosteus aculeatus* L.

A good many additional records have come to light, from Loch Ascog, Ettrick Bay and Scalpsie. It is clear that the Stickleback is fairly widely distributed on Bute, as it is on the other large Clyde islands.

References:

- GIBSON, J.A. (1970). The reptiles and amphibians of the Island of Bute. *Trans. Buteshire Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 18: 31-32.
 GIBSON, J.A. and STEPHEN, A. (1976). The freshwater fishes of the Island of Bute. *Trans. Buteshire Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 20: 71-75.

WILDFOWL COUNTS ON LOCH FAD AND DHU LOCH 1977-80

By Ian Hopkins

Each winter, the Wildfowl Trust organises wildfowl counts. These are undertaken nationally, on the same day once a month, throughout the winter, in order to monitor numbers and to produce an annual index for each species.

At the request of Mr J. Simpson, Bute Estate Factor, who is the organiser for Bute, I have undertaken counts on Loch Fad and the Dhu Loch since 1977. The total for both lochs have been added together, for continuity, as this has been done in the past. However, by far the largest numbers are on Loch Fad (including the Kirk Dam). The Dhu Loch is too deep at the margins to support the vegetation on which wildfowl feed, and is used mainly as a roost by an average of 120 mallard, and sometimes as many wigeon.

The Kirk Dam always has good numbers of wildfowl and is probably one of the best feeding lochs on the island.

Goose numbers on these lochs are not representative of numbers on the island, as the geese make extensive use of fields quite far from the lochs, and so are often under-recorded.

Loch Fad and Dhu Loch1977/78

Species	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Mallard	187	361	140	197	118	95	69
Teal	243	144	6	130	82	140	40
Wigeon	25	8	350	286	263	56	81
Pintail							
Shoveller							
Pochard		8	6	13	12	28	16
Tufted	14	44	30	100	90	93	106
Goldeneye		2	6	10	6	3	16
Goosander						3	
Merganser	8	12	21	35	39	9	
Greylag		92	18	130	250		40
Whitefront							
Pinkfoot							
Mute Swan	3	3		3	5		2
Whooper Swan							
Gt. Crested Grebe				1			

Loch Fad and Dhu Loch1978/79

Species	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Mallard	109	307	268	145	67	147	109
Teal	173	195	310	196	12	48	20
Wigeon	14	58	140	369		300	119
Pintail							
Shoveller	5	11	2	1			
Pochard	14	1	23	88	3	38	62
Tufted	50	85	67	135	2	35	126
Goldeneye		5	3	6	4	6	23
Goosander							
Merganser		21	24	23			2
Greylag		24	20	150		250	80
Whitefront							
Pinkfoot							
Mute Swan	6	2	3	1		5	4
Whooper Swan			1	1		1	5

Loch Fad and Dhu Loch1979/80

Species	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Mallard	60	148	183	160	260	312	103
Teal	115	240	110	116	112	106	80
Wigeon	50	93	260	266	478	265	21
Pintail							
Shoveller		8	1	1	2		
Pochard		10	41	47	73	62	5
Tufted	147	75	132	162	155	202	109
Goldeneye		1	12	6	15	30	79
Goosander							
Merganser	7			4	16	14	17
Greylag				300		150	
Whitefront							
Pinkfoot							
Mute Swan	4	1					2
Whooper Swan						2	2
Coot		88	120	132	230	118	48