

Report on Natural History of Dùn Coillich

Robin Hull January 2005

Introduction

Dùn Coillich [DC] is the name adopted by Highland Perthshire Community Land Trust [HPCLT] for the property they have acquired which lies east of the John Muir Trust land of Schiehallion and which is bounded on the eastern side by the B846 road from Coshieville to Tummel Bridge. The Western boundary is formed in part by the Allt Mor Burn and then by a fence running approximately north to join the boundary of Forestry Commission Land which forms the northern boundary of the property. The land was acquired by HPCLT in early 2002 since when frequent observations on the natural history of the property have been made.

Habitat

Dùn Coillich covers an area of approximately 1100 acres at an altitude varying from about 300 to 570 metres. Most of the area is montane moorland, with localized areas of woodland, which, apart from a small stand of Scots Pine on its south-eastern aspect, is largely confined to the gullies of the Goulandie and Allt Mor Burns.

The open water consists of these two rocky, fast flowing streams with a few areas of stagnant peaty water near the summit. Behind Glengoulandie farm, not on DC, there is a small artificial lochan constructed for fishing. Another sizeable fishing loch has been constructed off HPCLT property but within half a mile of it.

Other wetland consists of areas of marshland on the Schiehallion march, which extends across the border into low-lying areas just north of the Allt Mor. A second smaller area of marsh lies beside the Goulandie Burn adjacent to the derelict Sheep Dip. These wetlands are good sites for birds and may have important implications in future development of the property.

Survey Technique

Observers from HPCLT (and a few others) have walked over Dùn Coillich on many occasions between January 2002 and December 2004. Sightings of birds and other aspects of natural history have been noted marking the position using a map marked in 100 metre squares. Most [69%] of the observations were made by the writer, another observer [WH] contributed 18%, the remaining 13% were supplied by a total of nineteen other observers [see page 52-53].

Archaeological and historical observations

An Archaeological survey has been carried out by Clare Thomas and is reported on separately. These amateur observations below have been passed on to her for validation and, where appropriate, inclusion in her study.

Also included here are artefacts [ARTE] which required noting and, where appropriate, removal.

Two Historical notes are included, which had relevance in writing *Ravens over the Hill*. These are the erroneous date inscribed on the windowsill of Whitebridge Cottage and the possible site of Tychraggan [see *Ravens over the Hill*]

ARCH	Standing Stone	PR	13/05/02	L5	No obvious sign of cup or other marks	RH
ARCH	?? Stone circle	PO	13/05/02	L5	Close to standing stone	RH
ARCH	Hut circles	C	12/02/03		Examined with GCH	RH
ARCH	OLD SHEILING	C	26/04/04	I11	Rectangular 9' long, rounded corners with gaps mid of both long sides	WH
ARTE	Old stone grouse butt	C	23/05/03	J9		WH
ARTE	Old plough	C	03/03/02	G10	Harry told RH he left it there!	HN
ARTE	Implement	C	03/03/02	G10	probably a ditching implement	HN
ARTE	Spring c manhole cover	C	12/05/02	V19	partially wired off	RH
ARTE	Iron Fence posts	C	12/05/02	S16	Plus wire	RH
ARTE	Iron Fence posts	C	12/05/02	S15	Plus wire	RH
ARTE	Cairn	C	12/05/02	R16	Small on knoll	RH
ARTE	Iron Fence posts	C	13/05/02	L4		RH
ARTE	Brick tank © manhole cover	C	13/05/02	Q9		RH
ARTE	End of Deer Fence	C	13/05/02	J5		RH
HIST	WHITE BRIDGE COTTAGE				DATED 1725 PROBABLY same as bridge	RH
HIST	?Tychraggan site	Po	15/10/02	R-1	Hummocky ground maybe site of old buildings [Confirmed by RC 17/10]	RH

PLANTS

Botanical surveys were undertaken by RA and JG but as it was reported that they had had computer problems (which may be overcome in due course) wildflowers and other plants were recorded mostly from the spring of '03 onwards by WH (34%) RH (27%) GH (23%) and FD (16%) a few records from others.

Lichen

Only one species recorded; a probable identification of *Cladonia coccifera* by WH 2/3/03 described as Widespread with scarlet-edged spore bodies 2 cm high.

Ferns

Spleenwort recorded 26/4/04 by WH at X22

Hard Fern recorded 26/4/04 by WH at X21

Sedge

WH recorded a sedge in flower, but had no idea of species at I12 on 24/04/03 which indicates what poor botanists most of us are!

Grass

Grass, Quaking

Briza media

Flowering Plants

These are listed by usual English name with Scots name, where known, in square brackets followed by scientific name and then Gaelic name where known in round brackets.

Anemone, Wood [Darn Grass] *Anemone nemorosa*

Abundant and ubiquitous April to June

Asphodel, Bog *Narthecium ossifragum*

Abundant in marshy areas June to early September

Avens Water *Geum urbanum*

Locally common in wet areas June

Bearberry [Rapper-dandy] *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (Grainnseag)

Recorded once in April '04 near summit of Dùn Coillich

Bedstraw, Heath *Galium saxatile*

Recorded frequently in June and July '03 & '04 fairly widespread

Bedstraw, Lady's [Keeslip] *Galium verum* (Bun na ruamh)

Recorded fairly frequently July and August '03 & '04 especially along Glengoulandie burn by road

Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* (Fraochan, Dearchan-fitich)

Only recorded once [27/7/03 by FD] but present in profusion.

Bluebell [Gowk's hose] *Endymion non-scriptus* (Brog na cubhaig)

Reported once south of Dùn Beag in May '03

Bugle *Ajuga reptans*

Reported once in June '04 fairly common in grassland south of Scots Pine plantation [S10].

Butterbur *Petasites hybridus*

Also reported June '04 in grassland south of Scots Pine plantation [S10].

Buttercup [Gowan] *Ranunculus ? acris* (Cearbhan feoir)

Prolific and widespread in grassland

Butterwort [Sheep-rot] *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Badan-measgain)

Common in wetlands May to June

Clover, Red [Soukies] *Trifolium pretense* (Tri-bean)

Abundant but seldom reported

Clover, White [Soukies] *Trifolium reptans* (Tri-bean)

Abundant but seldom reported

Coltsfoot [Son-afore-the-fathers] *Tussilago farfara* (Cluath liath)

Earliest flower but reported only once at X20 near upper gate to DC April '04

Columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris*

Several clumps reported by GH in July '04 at V15-W17

Cottongrass, Common *Eriophorum angustifolium*

Abundant on wetlands July [underreported]

Cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*

Reported in July '03 and June '04 b FD in gully south of Scots Pines [N11]

Eyebright *Euphrasia nemorosa* (Lus-na-leac)

Abundant in marshy area around sheep dip and at V15 –W17. Reported July '03 and May-July '04

Flax, Fairy [Laverock's lint] *Linum catharticum* (Lion na beath sith)

Reported July '03 & '04 by FD & GH around upper part of Goulandie burn [V15-W17]

Forget-me-not ? *species*

Reported twice by FD July '03 & WH July '04. [WH not sure of variety v. small flowers]. In moist areas especially around sheep dip

Foxglove [Witches thimble] *Digitalis purpurea* (Lus-nam-bean-sith)

Ubiquitous in season but only reported once [GH July '04]

Globeflower [Witches gowan] *Trollius europaeus* (Leolaicheann)

Reported once in June '04 plentiful in wetland near Goulandie Burn [S10] by RH

Grass of Parnassus *Parnassia palustris*

Local but plentiful from early August to early September. On 2/9/04 RH recorded "locally abundant 150 blooms counted by glacial till in W17."

Harebell [Thimbles] *Campanula rotundifolia*

Several records July-September '03 & '04 mostly in short grassland [S8 Z22]

Hawkweed ? *Species*

Common in late summer species unknown

Heartsease [Love-idleness] *Viola tricolor* (Brug-na-cuthaig)

One record by WH May '03 at L10.

Heath, Cross-leaved [Bog Heather] *Erica tetralix* (Fraoch frangach)

Abundant and generalized late May to August.

Heather, Bell [She-heather] *Erica cinerea* (Fraoch bhadain)

Abundant and generalized late May to August.

Heather White

Reported once by PJ at I22 in July '03

Herb Robert [Cancer wort] *Geranium robertianum* (Lus-an-eallain)

Reported once but in great numbers at S10 in June '04 by RH.

Kingcup [Yellow gowan] *Caltha palustris* (Corrach-shod)

Reported twice [RH, GH] May-June '04. "Abundant in marshy areas around sheep dip."

Knapweed [Horse knot] *Centaurea nigra* (Cnapan dubh)

One report of this common wildflower by RH September '04 at R11

Ladies Smock [Carsons] *Cardamine pratensis* (Biolair ghriagain)

Abundant I May & early June reported [WH, RH, GH] "Widespread NE scattered elsewhere."

"Abundant in marshy area around sheep dip."

Ling [Heather] *Calluna vulgaris* (Fraoch)

Only recorded once but abundant in late summer.

Lousewort [Cock's comb] *Pedicularis sylvatica* (Lus riabhlach)

Abundant in May especially in NW corner [D29]

Meadowsweet [Lady of the meadow] *Filipendula ulmaria* (Rios Chuchulainn)

Generalised and abundant in July and August in '03 & '04 especially reported in Z22, I9, and V15-W17.

Milkwort, Common *Polygala vulgaris*

Abundant in May to July in both '03 and '04 esp V15-W17 "Abundant in marshy areas around sheep dip."

Orchid, Common Spotted *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*

Common in July around M11. "Several on col between DC and DB also at O4."

Orchids ? *species*

Many reported by WH in July '04 at I, J & N 10

Pansy, Mountain *Viola lutea*

In '03 many were noted but not reported. In '04 the species was scarce but seen in ones and twos during June & July in Q7.

Pignut [Eartnut] *Conopodium majus* (Braonan bhuachail)

Plentiful at S10 in June '04 but only recorded once by RH.

Primrose [May spink] *Primula vulgaris* (Sobrach)

Abundant and ubiquitous April to early June.

Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*

Reported July '04 at Q6&7. Clump near sheep dip

Ragwort [Weebo] *Senecio jacobaea* (Bhudhlan buidhe)

Sparse in September '04 at R10 & Z22. "Not a lot and mostly removed in advance of grazing."

Rockrose *Helianthemum chamaecistus*

Scattered in June & July '04 reported by GH & RH at S10 and V15-W17.

Saxifrage, Golden *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*

Locally abundant from April to early July along streams and in moist places especially V15-W17.

Scabious, Devils bit [Curl-doddy] *Succisa pratensis* (Ura bhallach)

Widely scattered in July and August

Self-heal [Heart o' the earth] *Prunella vulgaris* (Slán lus)

Two reports [FD & GH] in July '03 and '04 V15-W17.

Sheep's bit *Jassione montana*

One report [GH] in July '04 V15-W17.

Sneezewort [Adder's tongue] *Achillea ptarmica*

Fairly common and scattered July-September

Sorrell, Wood [Lady's clover] *Oxalis acetosella* (Samh)

Widespread and abundant from April to early June "Flowering in wood."

Spearwort, Greater *Ranunculus linguas*

Reported in July '04 by GH at V15-W17

Spearwort, Lesser [Goosetongue] *Ranunculus flammula* (Buidheag)

Reported by WH at J6 in July '04

Speedwell, Common *Veronica officianalis*

Reported by GH in June and July '04 at V15-W17.

Speedwell, Germander [Fluellen] *Veronica chamaedrys* (Nuallachan)

Reported by GH in June and July '04 at V15-W17.

St. John's Wort ? *Hypericum perforatum* (Allas Muire)

Reported by FD in July '03 and by GH July '04 at V15-W17.

Stitchwort, Greater *Stellaria holostea*

Reported in June & July '04 in S7 & S10

Stitchwort, Lesser *Stellaria graminea*

Several reports July '03, July '04 in V15-W17, X21, R 10.

Strawberry, Wild *Fragaria vesca* (Subhan laire)

One report April '03 [WH] in N13.

Sundew [Red rot] *Drosera anglica* (Ros an t'solais)

Sparse with 3 reports of clumps in wet places all in July at W22 and V15-W17

Thistle, Meadow *Cirsium dissectum*

One report [FD] in July '03.

Thistle, Marsh *Cirsium palustre*

Fairly widespread but only reported twice [GH & WH] V15-W17.

Thistle, Spear *Cirsium vulgare*

Fairly widespread but only reported twice [GH & FD] in July '03 & '04 at V15-W17.

Thyme, Common [Mother of thyme] *Thymus drucei* (Lus an righ)

Widespread but only reported twice [GH & FD] in July '03 & '04 at V15-W17.

Tormentil, Common [Blood-root] *Potentilla erecta* (Barr braonan-nan-con)

Widespread from May to July in '03 & '04 [GH, WH & FD] V15-W17.

Trefoil, Birdsfoot *Lotus corniculatus*

Common and widespread April to June

Valerian *Valeriana officinalis*

Single report July '04 at L11 by RH.

Vetch, Bitter [Heath vetch] *Lathyrus montanus* (Cairmeal)

Two reports June & July '04 at S10 and V15-W17

Vetch, Common *Vicia sativa*

Single report by WH May '03 at X21-22

Vetchling, Yellow Meadow *Lathyrus pratensis*

Single report by GH July '04 V15-W17

Violet, Common Dog *Viola riviniana*

Common and ubiquitous in April

Wintergreen, Chickweed *Trientalis europea*

Three reports of scattered single flowers by RH at L11, V17 & W22.

Yarrow [Sanch-gars] *Achillea millefolium* (Lus na fola)

Common and ubiquitous July to September.

Trees & Shrubs

Few trees were noted the exceptions being: -

Crab apple at S9.

Regenerating Birch at K16 & O10 on 23/8/03.

Creeping Willow I9-I10 28/8/03.

Bog Myrtle abundant at O10-K11 on 12/4/03 and at Q8 on 25/8/04

Broom abundant particularly on south side of Dùn Coillich summit in '03 and '04

All tree records by WH

Additional data available from Paul Jarvis

Fungi

All records from WH

<u>English Name</u>	<u>Linnean Name</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>REF</u>	<u>Note</u>
Blusher	<i>Amanita rubescens</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	Frequent under Scots Pine
Grisette	<i>Amanita vaginata</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	Frequent under Scots Pine

Bay Boletus	<i>Boletus badius</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	
Cep	<i>Boletus edulis</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	
	<i>Calocera viscosa</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	On old fallen pine
Brown Puffball	<i>Calvatia excipuliformis</i>	+	12/10/04		
Spotted Toughshank	<i>Collybia maculata</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	One specimen
Hedgehog Fungus	<i>Hydnum repandum</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	Two local areas with several
Scarlet Hood	<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>		11/09/02	Q9	In grassland
Meadow Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe pratensis</i>	1	11/09/02	Q9	In grassland
Waxcap, Meadow	<i>Hygrocybe pratensis</i>	+	12/11/04	Q9-P10	
	<i>Hygrocybe vitellina</i>		11/09/02	Q9	In grassland
Amethyst Deceiver	<i>Laccaria amethystea</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	A few specimens only
Brown Birch Bolete	<i>Leccineum scabrum</i>		11/09/02	S9-T9	A few specimens only
	<i>Paneolus rickeni</i>		11/09/02	Q9	In grassland
BlackishPurple Russula	<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	Frequent under Scots Pine
Blackish-purple Russula	<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	+	12/10/04	F30-H29	
Blackish-purple Russula	<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	+	12/11/04	O10	
Com. Yellow Russula	<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	
	<i>Russula sanguinea</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	Plenty
	<i>Trichlomopsis decora</i>		11/09/02	P10/O11	One clump on old fallen pine
Waxcap Meadow		several	02/12/03	Q(K5	

Invertebrates

Note from *Ravens over the Hill*: -

Ian Campbell mentioned, “There used to be a really good spring beside the Bridle Path that always had a population of those Gordian Worms^{1*} – I wonder if they are still there!”

Molluscs

The only molluscs recorded were ubiquitous black Slugs, *Anion ater*, and a smaller yellow-brown slug.

Arachnids

^{1*}These are also known as Horsehair Worms, *Gordius villoti*, and are quite harmless to humans. The larvae are parasitic on insects.

Note from Buchsbaum's *Animals without backbones* Penguin 1938 vol 1 p 184-6:

“It is an old belief that the so-called ‘horsehair snakes’ arise from horsehairs that have fallen in the water. They are neither horsehair nor snakes but are members of the small phylum *Nematomorpha* [form of a thread]. They occur in almost any body of water such as horse-troughs and may reach 6” in length. The larvae develop in insects as parasites and then adults emerge fully grown from their insect hosts. *Gordius* is a genus of hairworms which wriggle in ponds and ditches all over the world. The name comes from the fact that the adult worms are often found in tangled masses suggesting a ‘Gordian knot’.

Only one spider, probably *Agalena labyrinthica*, was reported by WH in March '03. He noted "On heather near Pine wood, no web seen."

Butterflies

Sixty observations; by RH (70%) TF (20%) PJ, WH & RY (10%). Most of these were seen in the wet summer of '04 probably because of the very good summer of '03, though '03 itself was poor for butterflies.

Admiral, Red *Vanessa atalanta*

Eight recorded in September '02, one in June '03 and 2 in August '04

Argus, Mountain *Aricia artaxerxes*

Single specimen recorded 14/8/02 between Dùn Coillich and Dùn Beag

Argus Scotch *Erebia aethiops*

Three observations in August '02, '03 & '04 in the last about 100 individual butterflies observed.

Blue Common *Polyommatus icarus*

A few recorded in August '02, none in '03 but the species was plentiful in July '04

Fritillary, Dark Green *Mesoacidsalia aglaja*

One record of three seen together on 3rd August '02

Fritillary, Pearl-bordered *Clossiana euphrosyne*

Three records of up to eight butterflies in June and early July '04.

Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered *Clossiana selene*

Four records of a maximum of about ten in August '02 and between June and July '04

Heath, Small *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Not seen in '02, two records in '03 both in June-July. Quite plentiful in June-July '04 widespread but concentrated along Goulandie Burn around Whitebridge Cottage

Orange Tip *Anthocaris cardamines*

Several individuals seen between May and June '04 mostly around Sheep Dip

Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui*

Three observations with a maximum of eight insects on 11/9/02 and singles on 9/6/04 and 15/8/04

Peacock *Inachis io*

One record in '02 when two were seen in September. There were no sightings in '03 but the species was plentiful in '04 with 3 in April and 30 in August-September

Ringlet *Erebia medusa*

Three records: one sighting of 3 in September '02, none in '03 and 2 of 20+ individuals in July '04

Tortoiseshell, Small *Aglais urticae*

Only two records both in '02, one butterfly in May and two in September.

White, Green-veined *Pieris napi*

Plentiful especially around sheep dip. Three sightings recorded in '02, one in '03 and eight in '04

White, Large *Pieris brassicae*

Uncommon one record in both '02 and '03

White, Small *Pieris rapae*

Three seen only on 4/8/02

Moths

Fox [larva]	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>	1	02/06/04	S24		FD
Common Marbled Carpet			14/09/03	R6	Trapped by Paul Waring between dusk & 2330	PW
Small Wainnist?			14/09/03	R6	Trapped by Paul Waring between dusk & 2330	PW

Rosy Rustic			14/09/03	R6	Trapped by Paul Waring between dusk & 2330	PW
Black Rustic			14/09/03	R6	Trapped by Paul Waring between dusk & 2330	PW
Lesser Yell Undrwinng			14/09/03	R6	Trapped by Paul Waring between dusk & 2330	PW
Square-spot Rustic			14/09/03	R6	Trapped by Paul Waring between dusk & 2330	PW
The Ear			14/09/03	R6	Trapped by Paul Waring between dusk & 2330	PW
Fox Moth larva	<i>Macrothylacea rubi</i>	1	21/08/02	X18	Large wooly B&W caterpillar	RH
Fox Moth larva	<i>Macrothylacea rubi</i>	1	23/08/02	M8	Large wooly B&W caterpillar	RH
Fox Moth larva	<i>Macrothylacea rubi</i>	6	23/08/02	F9	Large wooly B&W caterpillar	RH
Fox Moth larva	<i>Macrothylacea rubi</i>	3	08/09/02	P7		RH
Chimney Sweep		5	05/07/04	Q7		RH
Fox Larva	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>	1	22/07/04	U15		RH
Emperor [larva]	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	1	30/06/04	?		TF
Northern Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa quercus f. callunae</i>	1	30/06/04	?		TF
Fox Moth larva	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>	++	10/10/04		Widespread [except high] on grass, heather & bramble	TF
Emperor Moth pupa	<i>Saturnia pavona</i>	1	10/10/04	J15	Single cocoon near top	TF
Broom Moth larvae	<i>Melanchra pisi</i>	+	10/10/04		Several full grown larvae on bracken & heather	TF

White ermine moth larvae	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	++	10/10/04		Many full grown larvae on grass, widespread on the lower parts.	TF
Fox Moth Caterpillar	<i>Macrothylacea rubi</i>	1	23/03/04	L10		WH
? Fox larva	<i>Macrothylacea rubi</i>	+	12/10/04		Widespread along Allt Mor & northern boundary	WH

Other Insects

Not many records from non-specialist recorders. RC is recording Beetles and his report is included as an appendix.

Dor Beetle *Geotropius stecorarius*

Five records 15 seen in May '02, one in Sept '02 and three seen June-July '04

“Green Beetle”

Described by RH as 0.5-0.75 inches long, shape of Longhorn dull green with whitish spots seen May '02

Unnamed beetle *Carabus glabratus*

Recorded 1/6/02

Blue Damselfly *Agion virgo*

Recorded once 28/3/03

Gold Ringed Dragonfly *Cordulegaster bolonii*

Recorded three times: one on 2/8/03 one on 19/7/04 and a third, dead, on 28/7/04. In addition there was a probable sighting on 11/9/02.

Dragonfly *Aeshna cyanea*

One sighting 24/6/02

Dragonfly Large blue? *Anax imperator*

Several but uncertain identification in August '03

Grasshoppers *Chorthippus albomarginata*

Plentiful 23 & 26/8/03

Stone fly Larvae

27 found by HD & ED under stone at Sheep dip Ford 02/06/04.

Pond-skaters

Gerris gibbifer

Seldom reported but often seen on stagnant pools in peat. Several reported on 2/3/03 because so early.

Fish

Brown Trout *Salmo trutta*

Fingerlings were recorded on several occasions by RH at R5, S8 and V15-W17 between June & September in the three years of survey. In 'June '04, after the rabbit poison scandal, he noted "Not seen for some time I wondered if they had succumbed to carbofuran." They were seen after that date.

Amphibia

Frog *Rana temporaria*

Frogs were reported several times mostly in and around small pools in April-July '02, in April to August in '03 and in April to September in '04. Spawning was recorded by WM at R10 and by WH at S7 in March '04

Reptiles

Lizard Common *Lacerta vivipara*

Two were reported on 17/3/04 at X23 by JG and another on 26/06/04 at T13 by RY

Adder

Vipera berus

One was reported to RH on 25/05/02 at J6 by biology students from Dundee as “a snake with a zig-zag back.” A second was observed in a ‘comatose state, but alive and well on 28/03/04 by WH at I 10

From *Ravens over the Hill*:

“When Bob McNaughton was keeper at Tom Phubil there were adders on the hill and he always gave them a wide berth. Geordie saw one among the rocks. “There were quite a lot on Schiehallion but I only saw the one... you have to watch yourself in the rocks.” Danvers Valentine remembered “two occasions while I was at Litigan when adders reared their heads. One was in the steading where my wife found one; she smote it smartly on the head in case the children got in the way of it. And then a man who was helping me with sheep came across an adder up the hill dyke, so there are a few about.” John Fry added, “they are there, not in droves but in warm weather on our bit of hill you do see them infrequently.”

There is an old belief that goats kill adders; Jimmy Dunnet knew of this belief and said “They used to have a herd of goats up on Braes of Foss, wild goats, and the reason they were there was to kill the adders. If it is true that they kill the snakes perhaps the Dùn Coillich goats served a useful purpose.

Birds & mammals reported on or near Dùn Coillich January 2002 to December 2004

This report is divided into five parts:-

- 1 The present State i.e. species listed on DC
- 2 Historical data
- 3 Birds which theoretically might return to Dùn Coillich in future given
adequate environmental change
- 4 Disturbance factors
 - a) The proposed hydroelectric developments
 - b) Changes on adjacent properties
 - c) Recreational
- 5 Recommendations

The first three parts are listed first for birds then for mammals.

Parts 4 & 5 are placed after the data for mammals.

1 Present state of birds listed on DC

The 80 species identified to date are listed alphabetically by Standard English Name. Scientific Names are included together with the most often used Gaelic Name.

The Season when the bird is generally present is listed as: Resident, Summer or Winter visitors [NB these may not correspond with usual seasonal variations because, due to the altitude of the site, there is considerable vertical as well as seasonal migration].

An approximate indication of likelihood of the bird being present is given as Frequency on Dùn Coillich: Rare, Uncommon, Common or Abundant.

The number of each species, together with maximum seen at one time actually reported on the Dun is also given under Times Reported on DC. Under Notes there is a mention of the Dùn Coillich habitat where the species is seen together with known or assumed Breeding details.

<u>Blackbird</u>	<i>Turdus Merula</i>	<i>Lòn dubh</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	5 sightings of 9 birds

Notes: -

Uncommon in this habitat. Most seen round Glengoulandie farm & Shepherd's cottage, with one sighting at Whitebridge Cottage. One seen in January, 2 in March, 1 in May one in November
Possibly breeding

<u>Bullfinch</u>	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	<i>Deargan-coille</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon except in irruption	4 sightings of 64 birds

Notes: -

Reported in past round Whitebridge. Flock of about 50 seen near Allt Mor in Jan 03 apparently feeding in heather. 10 seen in March 03 otherwise singles or doubles.
Probably breeding

<u>Bunting, Snow</u>	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	<i>Gealag-an-t-sneachd</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>

Winter visitor

Rare

Two sightings of total 21 max 20

Notes: -

Flock of 20 seen near summit of DC in Feb 03 A single bird seen on Schiehallion boundary
[A22] November 04

Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	<i>Clamhan</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Common	64 sightings 96 max 4

Notes: -

Seen in ones and twos most days and in all months, chiefly round summit area. Several birds apparently feeding young in Allt Mor below confluence with Goulandie Burn in July '03.

Breeding

Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelops</i>	<i>Breacan-beithe</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Common	46 sightings 154 max 20

Notes: -

Occasional winter records mostly in twos and threes between March and October, but not in large flocks, mostly round habitations.

Probably breeding

Crow, Carrion	<i>Corvus corone</i>	<i>Starrag</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	13 sightings 20 birds max 4

Notes: -

All recorded between January and October. Corvids other than Ravens are relatively uncommon
Possibly breeding in Allt Mor

Crow, Hooded	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	<i>Starrag</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	3 4 birds Max 2 at one

time

Notes: -

Formerly reported as common but only 4 recorded, one between Summit of DC and Allt Mor in August '02; one by Goulandie burn [U16] near road in August '03 and 2 near Sheep dip [Q4] in March '04.

Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	<i>Cuach</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Uncommon	26 sightings 36 birds max 4

Notes: -

12 recorded as seen or heard in '02 only 6 in '03 16 in '04 [4 seen at once] all between Late April and Mid June. Both sexes recorded. Probably becoming less common and are getting scarce nationally and locally though 2004 seems to have been a good year. They like sitting on pylons watching for nesting Meadow Pipits.

Breeding

Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<i>Guilbneach</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	23 sightings 33 birds max 6

Notes: -

Fewer than expected only ones and twos mostly in April-June

? Breeding [known to have done so in past]. They seem to favour the east side of the road south of the Shepherd's cottage.

Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	<i>Gobha uisge</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	7 max 1

Notes: -

Seven sightings all in Goulandie burn by sheep dip. 3 in '02 [June, Sept & Oct] only 1 in May '03, 2 in Mar '04 and 1 in Nov '04 .

Possibly breeding along Goulandie or Allt Mor burns.

Diver, Black throated	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	<i>Learg dubh</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	2

Notes: -

Seen on Loch Kinardochy in May '02 and January '03 a probable 'flyover'.

<u>Dunnoek</u>	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	<i>Gealan-gàraidh</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	5 sightings 6 birds max 2

Notes: -

Only four records, 1 in September '02 1 in Jan '03, 1 in Jan '04 and 1 in Sep '04 most near Shepherd's cottage one in Allt Mhor [E0]. This species is possibly overlooked but this is not really its habitat.

Possibly breeding

<u>Eagle, Golden</u>	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	<i>Iolair-dhubh</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	3 sightings of single birds

Notes: -

One sighting Feb '03 when watched by WH for several minutes on east side of DC near stand of Scots Pines [Q12], another on 11/7/04 seen by RH in NE corner [X22] being mobbed by gulls as it flew over ESA. One reported by RC flying towards Schiehallion on 7/10/04 at about G4 Potential breeder [known to breed in Glenlyon]

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* *Luith-truisg*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Winter visitor	Uncommon	4 times 40 birds max30

Notes: -

All seen in 04 during March on northern migration and a few going south in October. '04 seems to have been a good year for the species, which stayed a long time in the autumn probably because of exceptional quantities of berries.

<u>Flycatcher, Spotted</u>	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	<i>Breacan-sgiobalt</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Uncommon	5, 8 birds max 3

Notes: -

One sighting of a pair at Whitebridge in July '02 and another single bird in August '03. 5 seen in '04 four of which were in conifers at Whitebridge Cottage and one in the Goulandie Gorge at S10

Probably breeding

Geese (unspecified)

Circa 200 flying overhead 29/9/04

<u>Goldcrest</u>	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	<i>Crionag-bhuidhe</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	5 sightings 8 birds max 2

Notes: -

Seen or heard in ones and twos in Scots Pine stand September '02 and in conifers at Whitebridge Cottage. Easily overlooked.

Probable breeder

<u>Goldfinch</u>	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	<i>Deargan-fraoich</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Common	6 sightings of 23

Notes: -

Most seen in late summer early autumn, June to October, feeding on thistles near sheep dip in '03 and '04. Not recorded in '04.

Possibly breeding

<u>Goosander</u>	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	<i>Lach-fhiacailleach</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident		
Uncommon		

1

Notes: -

Occasional visitor to Loch Kinardochy, where recorded in Jan '03. May be a 'flyover' on DC

<u>Goose Pink-footed</u>	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	<i>Gèadh</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Winter visitor	? Common	Single flock of circa 250

Notes: -

Single sighting of a large skein flying north over Sheep Dip October '02

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* *Glaisean-daraich*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
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Resident	Uncommon	8 sightings of 18 birds max 4
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Notes: -

A few sightings between May and July around Glengoulandie Farm. Probably breeding.

Greylag *Anser anser* *Gèadh-glas*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
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Winter visitor [some resident]	Uncommon	1
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Notes: -

Single sighting June '02 on pond behind Glengoulandie Farm ? feral

Grouse Black *Tetrao tetrix* *Coileach-dubh^{2*}*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
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Resident		
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Uncommon		19 sightings of 88 birds max 12
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Notes: -

Mostly heard or seen January to May. Only 3 definite sightings west of summit towards Allt Mor. More heard in spring to east of road. Most records were in autumn '04 when 44 were reported [max 12] mostly near summit of DC Two leks reported by WM on West side of Dùn Coilich, another east of road and a fourth near Braes of Foss. Numbers appear to be increasing. Almost certainly breeding

Grouse, Red *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* *Cearc-fhraoich*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
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Resident	Uncommon	33 sightings of 68 birds more heard & droppings frequently seen.
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Notes: -

Formerly plentiful now scarce generally; seen in ones and twos between January and May on moorland mostly above 350 metres, with a maximum of ten seen in Jan '03 and another 10 in November '04. Probably breeding

^{2*} Note similarity between Gaelic name and Dùn Coilich; it has been suggested that the Dun is named after the Blackcock though more likely translations are Fort or homestead of the wood or of the chicken..

Gull, Black-headed *Larus ridibudus* *Faoileag-a'chinn-dhuib*

Season Frequency on Dùn Coillich Times reported on DC

Resident Uncommon 4 sightings 12 birds max 6

Notes: -

Occasional round farm buildings in spring & early summer. 2 in March '03, 2 in June '03 six in May '04

Potential breeder on pond at Glengoulandie farm and possibly at new scrape.

Gull, Common *Larus canus* *Faoileag*

Season Frequency on Dùn Coillich Times reported on DC

Resident Common 36 sightings 156 birds max 15

Notes: -

Frequent sightings from late April to early June mostly north end of DC but some near ponds behind GG farm.

Breeding on Loch Kinardochy and in NE corner of DC.

Gull, Lesser Blackback *Larus fuscus* *Farspach-bheag*

Season Frequency on Dùn Coillich Times reported on DC

Resident Rare 1

Notes: -

Seen once flying at North end of DC in August '03

Harrier, Hen *Circus cyaneus* *Clamhan-nan-cearc*

Season Frequency on Dùn Coillich Times reported on DC

Resident Rare 9 max 1 with one possible

Notes: -

Formerly reported occasionally now seldom seen. Four independent reports of young female a few days apart in July and August '03. Four males (1 in April '03, 2 separate sightings on 15 & 17 Jan '04 and one in July '04). One unconfirmed sighting.

Known to breed within a few miles.

Heron *Ardea cinerea* *Corra-ghritheach*

Season Frequency on Dùn Coillich Times reported on DC

Resident Rare 2 sightings Notes: -
Seen only twice May '02 and Oct '04 both near pond by Glengoulandie farm
The construction of the scrapes may well attract this species.

Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	<i>Cathag</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Scarce	3 sightings 24 birds max 20

Notes: -

Surprisingly few reports of this locally abundant species. Maximum 20 in winter '03. Most often seen round farm buildings where probably breeding

Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	<i>Sgraicheap choille</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coilich	Times reported on DC
Resident	Uncommon	1

Notes: -

A single sighting only at Glengoulandie Farm in March '03; a bird to encourage for its importance in the ecology of oak trees. Should increase with more tree cover.

<u>Kestrel</u>	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	<i>Speireag-ruadh</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Common	36 sightings of 48 birds max 4

Notes: -

Commonest raptor after Buzzard seen in ones & twos sometimes mobbed by Ravens. Maximum of four seen together August '03. Probable breeder.

Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabinus</i>	<i>Didig</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coilich	Times reported on DC
Resident	Common	9 sightings 179 often in flocks max circa 100

Notes: -

Seen in large numbers in late summer, July to September feeding on grass heads.

No evidence of breeding

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* *Lach riabhach*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Common	15 sightings 46 birds max 12

Notes: -

Mostly seen on pond near Glengoulandie Farm between March and September ? feral.

Probably breeding

Martin, House *Delichon urbica* *Gobhlan-taighe*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Common	36 records totalling over 400 max 40

Notes: -

Frequent. Known to have bred in large numbers at Whitebridge cottage a few still there but most now round Glengoulandie Farm & Shepherd's Cottage. First 26/4 ['04] last 2/9 ['04]. Definitely breeding

Martin, Sand *Riparia riparia* *Gobhlan-gainmhich*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Uncommon	19 at least 120

Notes: -

Present early April to August. Less common than House Martin but usually arrives earlier: first 26/4 ['04] last 22/8 ['04].

Probably breeds; nest holes observed in exposed till banks along Goulandie burn.

Osprey *Pandion heliatus* *Iolair-an-t-iasgair*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor		Rare

1

Notes: -

One observed [IIC] flying over in April '03

Ousel, Ring *Turdus torquata* *Gobha-dubh-a' mhonaidh*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Rare	6 sightings 7 birds max 2

Notes: -

Occasional sightings [3], all in May & June '02. Nest with 4 eggs found May '02. Several birds heard calling but not seen in May and June '02. No records in '03 or '04.

DC's most special breeding bird much at risk from disturbance.

Owl, Short-eared	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	<i>Comhachag-chluasach</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
Resident	Rare	2

Notes: -

Not seen before '04 but presence strongly suspected from evidence of pellets. Seen at about 8pm 21/05/04 near NW boundary [C27] and on 28/8/04 near Sheep dip [Q8]
Possibly breeding. The huge numbers of voles may encourage breeding.

Owl, Tawny	<i>Strix aluco</i>	<i>Comhachag</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
Resident	Rare	4

Notes: -

Two sightings one in Glengoulandie Gully at roost in Birches, second in Scots Pine stand also pellets found by Allt Mor and at Sheep Dip in March '03. Possibly breeding.

Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<i>Gille-Brighde</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
Resident	Uncommon	8 sightings of 19 birds Max 6

Notes: -

Known to have bred in past along Glengoulandie Burn near Whitebridge, but only reported eight times all between March and July mostly round Sheep Dip area and once near Whitebridge Cottage. Potential breeder

Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	<i>Seabhag-ghorm</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
Resident	Rare	7 sightings 8 birds max 2

Notes: -

Sporadic sightings in March, August and October once pursuing large flock of Geese.
Potential breeder in crags above Allt Mor where it formerly had an eyrie.

Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	<i>Easag</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	Once only

This species, so abundant at lower altitude, was only recorded once at Whitebridge Cottage on 2/9/04. With increased game on neighbouring estates especially Farleyer this species may become more widespread.

Pigeon, Wood	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	<i>Calman-coille</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Abundant	20 sightings of fifty birds max 6

Notes: -

Under-reported, sightings recorded from March to October. Probable breeder in trees of Allt Mor

Pipit, Meadow	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	<i>Mioneun</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Abundant	97 probably over 1000 max 50

Notes: -

DC's most abundant summer bird, arriving early April few seen after mid Oct.

Breeding. Common host to Cuckoo.

Pipit Tree	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	<i>Rhiabhag-choille</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	rare	2 sightings

Seen and heard singing in lower part of Scots Pines at Q9&10 in June '04. This is relatively common throughout Highland Perthshire and should be attracted when there is better tree cover. Potential breeder.

Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	<i>Fitheach</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Common	59 sightings 121 birds max 9

Notes: -

Most frequent corvid, seen in all months. Breeds in crags near Allt Mor where it is liable to fail due to disturbance from walkers etc. Birds may be very aggressive in defending territory.

Probable breeder since time immemorial but increased activity on DC may hinder this. Nesting observed March 04 at I6

<u>Redpoll</u>	<i><u>Carduelis flammea</u></i>	<i><u>Deargan-seilich</u></i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	7 sightings 27 birds max 11

Notes: -

Seen in flocks in late summer, September to October, feeding on thistles

<u>Redstart</u>	<i><u>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</u></i>	<i><u>Ceann-deargan</u></i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Rare	2

Two records only seen and heard in Scots Pines at O11 in April '04. This is a species which may benefit from increased deciduous tree cover

<u>Redwing</u>	<i><u>Turdus iliacus</u></i>	<i><u>Deargan sneachta</u></i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Winter visitor	Rare	2 sightings of 46

Notes: -

Seen twice in October '02 on way south large flock lower end of Allt Mor. 40 on 17/10 and 6 on 30/10/02. Important species for spread of Rowan trees.

<u>Robin</u>	<i><u>Erithacus rubecula</u></i>	<i><u>Brù-dhearg</u></i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	12 sightings of 16 birds max 2

Notes: -

Probably under-reported. Sometimes heard singing @ White Bridge cottage. Few reports mostly March to May one or two in Autumn. Probable breeder.

<u>Sandpiper, Common</u>	<i><u>Actitis hypoleucos</u></i>	<i><u>Fidhleir bòrd-an-locha</u></i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer		Rare

5

sightings of 8 birds max 2

Notes: -

Seen occasionally around the Sheep Dip beside the Goulandie Burn and in the gully [Y12]. One would expect to see more of this common Perthshire species where the habitat seems ideal for them. Numbers will probably increase with the construction of the scrapes

<u>Siskin</u>	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	<i>Gealag-bhuidhe</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	4 sightings of 64 birds max 60

Notes: -

Not often seen apart from one large flock of 60 feeding on Thistles near sheep dip in September '02. Potential breeder

<u>Skylark</u>	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	<i>Uiseag</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	1

Notes: -

Increasingly rare species but seems to be slowly increasing with a few in Glen Quaich and at Rannoch. One single record heard and seen from summit of DC in June 02

Watch this species and report all sightings please. Potential breeder

<u>Snipe</u>	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	13 sightings 17 birds max 2

Notes: -

Singles seen but more heard chipping and with good views of drumming birds. During '02 & '03 all records were in April and May, but in '04 they were also present in November and December. Some round marshy areas near Allt Mor on DC & Schiehallion sides. Most were seen in the marsh area which will form the scrape.

Breeding but liable to disturbance in spring. Potential breeder

<u>Sparrow, House</u>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	<i>Glaisean</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	8 42 birds max 20

Notes: -

Increasingly rare species but we have a few, mostly round farm buildings seen from February to September. Breeding

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* *Speirag*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	5 sightings 6 birds max 2

Notes: -

A few sightings among trees in lower part of Allt Mor in May and October '02, occasional around Goulandie farm buildings and Forest on northern boundary. Possible breeder

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* *Druid*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	4 sightings 18 birds max 14

Notes: -

Occasional sightings round farm buildings. Probably rather too high for them in any numbers

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* *Clacharan*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Common	30 sightings 63 birds max 5

Notes: -

Seen frequently in '02 with evidence of breeding as many immatures present. Fewer in '03. 12 reports of 19 birds in '04

Present between February and October in '02 & '03 after which they probably show vertical migration, but persisted well into November in '04 due to mild season. Definite breeder

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Common	31 sightings of 194 birds max 30

Notes: -

Plentiful especially round farm buildings between May and September. Definite breeder

Swan, Whooper *Cygnus Cygnus* *Eala bhàn*

<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Winter visitor	Rare	1 sighting of 4 max 4

Notes: -

Two adults and two cygnets on Loch Kinardochy in Oct 02. Probable overflying

<u>Swift</u>	<u><i>Apus apus</i></u>	<u><i>Gobhlan dubh</i></u>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Rare	1

Notes: -

Only one sighting in flight, seen from road in June '02

<u>Thrush, Mistle</u>	<u><i>Turdus viscivorus</i></u>	<u><i>Smeàrach-mhor</i></u>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	? Uncommon	14 sightings of 18 birds max 3

Notes: -

Almost certainly under-reported. Occasional sightings in spring and summer from March to August. Possible breeder

<u>Thrush, Song</u>	<u><i>Turdus philemelos</i></u>	<u><i>Smeòrach</i></u>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	17 sightings of 25 birds max 5

Notes: -

Seen and heard reasonably often between March and May. Probable breeder

<u>Tit, Blue</u>	<u><i>Parus caeruleus</i></u>	<u><i>Cailleach-ghorm</i></u>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	5 sightings 21 birds max10

Notes: -

Seen in small numbers mostly round Shepherd's cottage and recorded between January and October. Should increase with greater tree cover . ? breeding

<u>Tit, Coal</u>	<u><i>Parus ater</i></u>	<u><i>Cailleachag-cheann-dubh</i></u>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coillich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	4 records of 4 birds max 2

Notes: -

Pair seen in Allt Mor March '03. Deserted nest in stump with one egg found in Scots Pine stand Sept '03. Seen occasionally in conifers in old plantation and around Whitebridge Cottage. Breeding sporadically.

<u>Tit, Great</u>	<i>Parus major</i>	<i>Currac-bhain-tighearna</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	7 sightings 11 birds max 3

Notes: -

Occasional round Shepherd's Cottage and at Whitebridge and feeding in heather by Allt Mor. Present but scarce most of year. Probable breeder

<u>Treecreeper</u>	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	<i>Snaigear</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Rare	1

Notes: -

Single bird in Scots Pine stand Sept '02 during fungus foray.

<u>Twite</u>	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	<i>Gealan-beinne</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Uncommon	14 sightings 32 birds max 6

Notes: -

Small flocks feeding and calling in long grasses and with Linnets perched on wire round sheep dip between late April and September. May breed

<u>Wagtail, Grey</u>	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	<i>Bricein-an-uillt</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Summer visitor	Uncommon	10 sightings of 17 birds max 3

Notes: -

Occasional near Glengoulandie burn at Whitebridge and at Sheep dip between end of April and early August. Probably breeding

<u>Wagtail, Pied</u>	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	<i>Breac-an-t-sil</i>
<u>Season</u>	<u>Frequency on Dùn Coilich</u>	<u>Times reported on DC</u>
Resident	Common	22 sightings 42 birds max 4

Notes: -

Mostly along road and by farm buildings from middle of March to late September. Breeding

Warbler, Willow	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	<i>Crionag-ghiuthais</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
Summer visitor	Uncommon	10 sightings of 27 birds max 12

Notes: -

Too high and not enough cover for the commonest warbler in Perthshire. All were seen in and around trees surrounding burns or cottages. This species should increase with more tree cover.

Juveniles seen so probably breeding

Wheatear, Northern	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	<i>Brù-gheal</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
Summer visitor	Uncommon	27 sightings of 35 birds max 3

Notes: -

Seen from end March to early August on upland parts, commonest round wall dividing DC from Glengoulandie farm. 20 seen in '02 but only 12 in '03 and 11 in '04. The species seems to be declining generally.

Breeding; often seen with young.

Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	<i>Gocan</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
Summer visitor	Uncommon	21, 56 birds max [8 in family group]

Notes: -

Seen sporadically April to September with immatures

Definitely breeding

Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	<i>Gealan-coille</i>
Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
Summer visitor	Rare	2 sightings 2 birds max 1

Notes: -

Single record Aug '02 southern end of Dun Beag another May '04 among stunted willows northwest corner of DC [D31]

Woodcock*Scolopax rusticola**Coileach-coille*

Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
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Winter visitor a few resident	Rare	3 records 13 birds max 11
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Two single birds seen Jan & December '04, one near Allt Mhor and one near sheep fank. A group of 11 reported by WM near Scots pines [O11] in March '04..

NB A fall of several hundred reported by Alex Murray one November a few years ago near Tummel Bridge

Woodpecker, Gt. Spotted *Dendrocops major* *Snagaire daraich*

Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
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Resident	Uncommon	4 sightings 4 birds max 1
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Notes: -

Three sightings of a single bird in Scots Pine Stand in May and September '02 and January '03, another on telegraph pole at R4 also much evidence of wood boring in same area and occasionally heard calling in Scots Pines.

Possible breeder

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* *Dreathan-donn*

Season	Frequency on Dùn Coillich	Times reported on DC
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Resident	Common	21 sightings 27 birds
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Notes: -

Probably under-reported. Reported January to August. As usual heard more than seen often in gullies of Allt Mor and Glengoulandie burns at any time of year. Also seen round Shepherd's cottage.

Almost certain breeder

2 Historical data

Birds reported on or about Dùn Coillich in past

These notes have been amalgamated from discussions with landowners, farmers and keepers who have known Dùn Coillich for up to ninety years. An indication of the numbers of birds that were on the Dun in the past provides some idea of what has been lost and what might be recovered.

Black Game

These were relatively more frequent in the past and leks were reported from Litigan, Inchgarth, and Farleyer. However the species was never common but was seen occasionally on Dùn Coillich;

Bullfinch

Bullfinches used to be regular visitors to fruit trees at Whitebridge before the war.

Buzzard

Buzzards though common, were less often seen than now.

Capercaillie

A target bird for Dùn Coillich. Capercaillie were to be found in the woods up above Garth Castle, near Loch Kinardochy and the Braes of Foss, with occasional sightings on Dùn Coillich.

Corncrake

Corncrakes “were more or less all over you’d go out in the early morning and you’d hear them right up until the 60s”. They were scarce on Dùn Coillich but were common in the damp meadows on the Weem side of Wade’s Bridge at Aberfeldy in 1937-43.”

Crow, Carrion

These were commoner in the past than present sightings suggest.

Crow, Hoodie

“Keepers on Farleyer were kept busy keeping hoodies down just after World War II.”

Curlew

“There were plenty of curlew breeding on Dùn Coillich in the 1940s and 50s.”

Eagle, Golden

Golden Eagle were present but rare – “their territory was, further west of the Allt Mor.

Grebe, Slavonian

In Duncan Sinclair’s ABC Guide there is a mention of a Slavonian Grebe nesting at Loch an Daimh.

Goose Greylag and Pink-footed

In autumn and spring “Dùn Coillich appeared to be on the flight path of skeins of geese – pink footed and greylags.

Grouse, Red

This is one of the great losses. On Farleyer prior to the first war about 1300 brace of grouse were regularly shot in a season. On Dùn Coillich grouse were once plentiful – there were accounts of 50 brace being shot in a day on Dùn Coillich by just two guns.

Gull, Common

Common gulls have bred on Loch Kinardochy for years.

Hen Harrier

Hen harriers were kept down on the moors but at least one keeper remembered lots of hen harriers.

Lapwing

There were “masses” of lapwing but they are conspicuous by absence on Dùn Coillich today.

Martin, House

House Martins bred round the eaves at Whitebridge: “One year we had sixty nests.”

Merlin

There were odd sightings of Merlin.

Osprey

And occasional ospreys

Ouzel, Ring

Ring ousels were present but scarce.

Owl, Short-eared

There were occasional Short Eared Owls seen on Dùn Coillich

Oystercatcher

Oystercatchers used to nest beside the Goulandie burn at Whitebridge. One person even kept a pet Oystercatcher, which ate out of her hand for two seasons.

Partridge Grey

Farleyer was described as “capital partridge shooting” in 1930 and though there are few Grey Partridge in Perthshire now there were once quite a lot of Partridges up at Inch Garth.

Peregrine

There were not many Peregrine but they were occasionally seen on Dùn Coillich probably from breeding sites on Schiehallion. They bred on Dùn Coillich on the crags above the Allt Mor in the past and may well do so again.

Pheasant

Despite being so common locally there has been only one report of a pheasant on Dùn Coillich. Formerly they were present on Farleyer.

Plover, Golden

Formerly plentiful and there used to be “great numbers at Craig Kynachan, not far away.”

Ptarmigan

Dùn Coillich is probably too low for this species normally restricted to above 2000 feet but they used to be common up above Glen Lyon House and can be seen on Schiehallion.

Raven

It seems that there have probably been Ravens in Glen Mor since the Ice Age.

Rook

There was a big rookery up above Garth House – and during the war – young rooks were harvested to supply the Polish soldiers at Taymouth Castle

Snipe

Farleyer had good snipe shooting and they nested on Dùn Coillich where they could be heard drumming

Woodcock

Woodcock were present on Farleyer and on Garth. Tom Phubil used to be a good place to hear and see roding Woodcock.

Yellowhammer

Yellowhammers, locally called ‘Scotch canaries’ used to flock on Dùn Coillich. The species seems to be in slow decline in Scotland.

3 Species not yet recorded, which we might hope to see on Dùn Coillich

These are again listed alphabetically rather than in conventional order of genera. The list includes a number of species, which might be expected in the habitat as it exists today together with species, which might return given adequate environmental change. Some of this change is controllable [ie reforestation] much, such as climate change, is outwith our control.

Brambling

These winter visitors are relatively common in Strath Tay and have been recorded on Drummond Hill. They tend to flock with Chaffinches on stubble fields. Possible on Dùn Coillich but the habitat is not really suitable. Could be attracted by sacrificial cropping

Bunting, Corn

Formerly common in Britain this species has declined severely, but recent sightings in Angus give rise to hope that it may be recovering.

Capercaillie

A target bird for Dùn Coilich. The species has been present on Dùn Coilich within living memory and is sighted occasionally at the Black Wood of Rannoch, Drummond Hill and Allean Forest. With increasing tree cover especially of Scots Pine the return of the Capercaillie is something we should aim at.

Chiffchaff

Not a common warbler in Perthshire but there seem to be increased numbers in the Dunkeld area suggesting that the species may become more frequent.

Chough

A single bird was seen at Weem in '04

Coot

An unlikely bird for Dùn Coilich because of lack of still water but it is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm and may be attracted to the new scrapes.

Cormorant

Becoming increasingly common on inland fisheries, often at Loch Kinardochy. May be seen in future when new fishing loch is established and possibly by ponds at scrape area.

Corncrake

Another difficult target bird for Dùn Coilich. Formerly fairly common on the Dun this species has now largely disappeared from Mainland Scotland. The efforts of the RSPB seem to be helping the species. One day it may call again on Dùn Coilich. The establishment of scrapes with rank vegetation might encourage corncrakes.

Crossbill

This species has been recorded near to Dùn Coilich at Braes of Foss and is a likely bird among the conifers of the Dun, which should be encouraged with increased planting of more Scots Pines.

Dove, Collared

This species has exploded throughout Scotland since it first arrived in the '50s. It will probably be seen around farm buildings on Dùn Coilich in the future

Dove, Stock

An uncommon species, which has been recorded in Strathtay, and which seems to be increasing slightly in numbers.

Duck, Tufted

An unlikely bird for Dùn Coilich because of lack of still water but it occurs on Loch Kinardochy and is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm. It may be attracted to the proposed ponds.

Flycatcher, Pied

This species seems to be declining but has been seen at Weem, in Glenlyon and at Loch Rannoch during recent years. Might occur with increased tree cover.

Goldeneye

An unlikely bird for Dùn Coilich because of lack of still water but it is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm. It may be attracted to the proposed ponds.

Goshawk

Occasionally reported in Perthshire and may be commoner than is believed. Increasing tree cover, particularly of conifers, may encourage colonization of Dùn Coilich

Goose, Canada

An unlikely bird for Dùn Coilich because of lack of still water but it is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm, on new fishing loch or proposed ponds.

Grebe, Little

An unlikely bird for Dùn Coilich because of lack of still water but it is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm or on new fishing loch.

Grebe, Great Crested

An unlikely bird for Dùn Coillich because of lack of still water but it is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm or on new fishing loch.

Grebe, Slavonian

An unlikely bird for Dùn Coillich because of lack of still water but it is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm. Known to have occurred at Loch an Daimh in past also, more recently, on Loch Freuchie in Glen Quaich.

Hawfinch

Occasional sightings in Perthshire including Strath Tay, a rather unlikely possibility for Dùn Coillich.

Hoopoe

Sightings of Hoopoes seem to be getting more frequent and the bird has been seen at Kinloch Rannoch and on South Loch Tummel within the last two years. A sight of this exotic southern bird on Dùn Coillich is not impossible particularly with warmer summers.

Kingfisher

This species occurs infrequently in Strath Tay where about 2-5 individuals are seen annually. Although Dùn Coillich is rather high the shallow streams with plentiful fish would seem an ideal habitat. Positioning perches a few inches above the water might attract them.

Kite, Red

Red Kites have been released on the Black Isle and are occasionally seen in Perthshire, where a pair nested in 2001. Three were sighted in the Sma Glen in December '04 [TF] Dùn Coillich is an ideal site for Red Kites and it is hoped they may be there one day.

Lapwing

Strangely this species, described as common in the past, has not been recorded on Dùn Coillich since surveying started. It appears to be in decline generally.

Magpie

Magpies are increasingly reported in Perthshire south of the Highland Boundary Fault. One was sighted at Dunkeld in 2002. The presence of the species would be of doubtful benefit.

Merlin

This falcon has been seen increasingly in Glen Quaich in recent years. It was formerly on Dùn Coillich where the habitat is suitable with many Meadow Pipits as prey. The species should be seen but is never likely to be common.

Moorhen

Moorhens seem to be declining, possibly because of mink. Dùn Coillich is possibly too high for them and has too little still water, however they are not impossible there especially as new ponds settle and phragmites becomes established.

Nuthatch

This is an interesting species to watch for. It was mentioned in the Old Statistical Account for Killin and that is its earliest and controversial record. Formerly not known to breed in Scotland the species is now well established in the Borders where I [RH] have seen it breeding in Berwickshire. In September 2001 a dead Nuthatch was brought in by a cat in Dunkeld. Watch this space!

Oriole Golden

A pair were reported near Killiechassie in '04

Owl Barn

This species has been in serious decline but there have recently been more reports of Barn Owls in Strath Tay notably round Grandtully, Weem and Dull and also in Glenlyon.

Owl, Long-eared

An uncommon species in Perthshire where most reports come from south of the Highland Boundary Fault. One thought to have been heard among Scots Pines at DC but unconfirmed

Partridge Grey

Formerly abundant this species is in general sharp decline, however a few remain in and around Glen Quaich.

Partridge, Red-legged

Increasingly being released on sporting estates this species is not infrequently seen along Strath Tay and could appear on Dùn Coillich where Grey Partridge were once common.

Pochard.

An unlikely bird for Dùn Coillich because of lack of still water but it is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm. It is seen regularly on Loch Kinardochy in winter.

Plover, Golden

Formerly plentiful but now generally declining but still present on Rannoch Moor and in Glenlyon. A possibility as a breeding species on Dùn Coillich.

Ptarmigan

Dùn Coillich is too low for this species, which is rare below 2000 feet. Also Ptarmigan have difficulty in establishing themselves in new sites because they have to go down before they can go up and seem to dislike doing this.

Quail

An unusual migrant, which is occasionally heard calling in Perthshire – a calling bird reported in Strath Tay in 2003. A remote possibility for Dùn Coillich

Redshank

Breed in small numbers in Glen Quaich and might be seen on Dùn Coillich but it is probably too high.

Rosefinch, Common.

Unlikely as it may seem a single bird was seen within a mile of Dùn Coillich in 2002.

Shrike, Great Grey

This species turns up occasionally in winter. A single bird was present most of the early months of 2003 in Glen Cochil. Also reported from near Loch Tummel December 2004

Snipe, Jack

Occasional sightings reported mostly from Vane Farm. A single bird seen at Remony February 2003

Sparrow, Tree

Now declining throughout Britain but there are still some left in Perthshire (the species has been recorded as near as Bankfoot and there are increasing reports of breeding success since 2002). Birdathon 2003 turned up a pair in Angus. Whether this bird is ever seen on Dùn Coillich will depend on the recovery of the species generally.

Swan Mute

Could be attracted to new ponds.

Tit, Bearded

This species is present in Perthshire and could be attracted to DC if Phragmites becomes established in the proposed scrapes

Warbler, Garden

This is a common species in Strath Tay at low altitude among broad-leaved trees. Reforestation may entice this bird to Dùn Coillich

Warbler, Grasshopper

Heard on DC this species has been recorded near Rannoch Station. It might be encouraged by increased Phragmites and other marshy plants around new scrapes.

Warbler, Sedge

Common in season near Castle Menzies and at Loch an Daimh this species would be encouraged back to Dùn Coillich if there were more still water with reed cover.

Warbler, Wood

This species seems to be declining but is reported from Drummond Hill and Glen Lyon. At present habitat on Dùn Coillich is unsuitable but increasing forestation should help it to establish there.

Waxwing

Occasional winter irruptions of Waxwings occur mostly in suburban gardens where they feed on ornamental shrub berries such as cotoneaster. Has been recorded on Drummond Hill so is theoretically a possibility on Dùn Coillich. Consideration should be given to the planting of some ornamental berried shrubs perhaps round the car park.

Wigeon

Seen on Loch Kinardochy but an unlikely bird for Dùn Coillich because of lack of still water but it is not impossible on the pond behind Glengoulandie Farm or on new fishing loch.

Woodlark

Another interesting and controversial species. Recorded often in the Old Statistical Account whose accounts are challenged by Baxter and Rintoul because of likely confusion with Tree Pipits. However close reading of the OSA reports, which describe the song of the alleged Woodlarks and their presence in Winter [Tree Pipits are Summer Visitors] really make one believe the reports are true. Woodlarks, formerly restricted in Britain to southern counties of England have been extending their range northwards. In Europe the species occurs as far north as southern Sweden and Finland and in the summer of 1998 the RSPB reported recovery of the species with extension of its range to Yorkshire. This is a bird that could be lured to Dùn Coillich by climate change with increased summer temperatures.

Woodpecker Green

Another bird of the Old Statistical Account the Green Woodpecker is heard more than seen around Weem and Dunkeld. With increasing forest this is a likely bird for Dùn Coillich in future. This species is heard in the lower reaches of the Keltney Gorge

Yellowhammer

Gradually disappearing from some of its former breeding areas with fewer reports from many areas of Perthshire. Formerly common, Yellowhammers have not been recorded on Dùn Coillich since HPCLT acquired the land.

1 Present state of mammals listed on DC

Badger *Meles meles* (Broc)

No Badgers have been recorded but there is evidence of their presence in a recently occupied sett at K6 the earthworks were described by RH as “Odourless multi-entrance tunnels with marked approach runs thro bracken.” Inspected by RC who agreed this was a disused sett

Cat, Wild *Felis silvestris* (Cat fiadhaich)

Droppings reported by IS in January ‘03

Deer, Red *Cervus elaphus* (Fiadh ruadh)

Numerous sightings of as many as 60+ at various times of all three years usually high but appearing lower down in hard weather.

Deer, Roe *Capreolus capreolus* (Fiadh ruadhag)

Frequently seen but in smaller numbers than Red Deer, up to six at a time

Fox *Vulpes vulpes* (Sionnach)

Five sightings of a single fox and one sighting of "Two cubs seen playing." Droppings frequently seen, possibly now using Badger's sett as an earth.

Goat *Capra ssp* (Gobhar)

Frequent sightings of up to 30 feral goats seen in various parts of DC. This situation improved markedly after transfer of goats to Kent

Marten, Pine *Martes abietum* (Taghan)

Probable droppings seen by RH 13th May '02 at P10.

Mole *Talpa europeus* (Famh)

Not seen but much evidence of their widespread presence all over DC.

Otter *Lutra lutra* (Dòbhran)

Not seen but Otter tracks observed in sand along Goulandie Burn at S10 on 2/6/04.

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (Coineanach)

Mostly seen in ones and twos with maximum count of ten. Dead rabbits poisoned with carbofuran found on 10,13 & 14 March '04.

Shrew, Common *Sorex vulgaris*

Four dead Shrews found in 5/02, 9/02, 8/03 & 9/04 at P9, P9, S10 & W18 respectively.

Several in RC's beetle pitfall traps above Whitebridge

Stoat *Mustela erminea*

One sighting in late summer of '02, '03 & '04 at Q0, R6 & S6 respectively. (One Stoat in ermine seen at S8 7/1/05)

Vole, Short-tailed Field *Microtus agrestis*

None seen but to judge by the frequency of runs in dead grass there must be an enormous population all over grassy areas. This has probably increased with longer grass following cessation of grazing, very common in neighbourhood of sheep fank. Several in RC's beetle pitfall traps above Whitebridge

2 Historical data

Mammals reported on or about Dùn Coillich in past

In remote past species such as Auroch, Irish Elk, Bear, Wolf, Lynx, Wild Boar and Beaver were present but have not been on DC in living memory.

The following are quotations from Ravens over the Hill: -

Badger

Geordie Maclaren: "I seen a badger, that's all I can say, but there was badgers at Inchgarth."

There were also some at Glenlyon House in 1949. Ian told of a badger that was caught near where the Goulandie burn joins the Allt Mor. "There used to be a wooden bridge across the burn somebody had set a snare there and a badger went into it of course it fell off and hanged itself."

Bill Scott spoke of an immense sett up here behind Tom Phubil in the hills.

Cat, Wild

There are several records of wildcat on Dùn Coillich. Geordie Maclaren remembered them: "I'll tell you what there was at Litigan, up in the wood, wild cats... they used to be up there... I think they'll be there yet."

Ian Campbell remembers them well as a boy. "We had a wildcat at Whitebridge in a case. My father caught it, I expect it was shot, and the Laird, as it was such a fine specimen sent it to Perth to have it stuffed. When the estate was sold my father took it back. We used to have it in the porch; it was 44" tip to tip. We had another one whose skin measured 46", a big cat. I remember one time fishing on the Allt Mor, just at that pool where the dyke goes into the burn, I was in a tangle. I was working on it and I must have been sitting there for ages and I happened to look up and here was a wildcat sitting on a stone in the middle of the burn and it didn't see me and I just watched it... absolutely beautiful."

Alex Fraser told me the remarkable story of how his five-year-old son Iain caught a wildcat.^{3*} Iain had set a snare himself by the chicken run at Garth. "He came in and he says, 'There's a pussy in a snare' I went out and I saw that and I said 'for heavens sake get away from there until I get it disposed of.' If he touched it he would have been scratched to death. Normal pussys are bad enough getting them out o' a snare." When I visited Alex at Kippen in the spring of 2003 he showed me the skin, which measured 42 inches tip to tip but part of the tail was missing. Though Danvers Valentine never actually saw a wildcat he saw the marks of them and John Fry saw them in Ringham wood, close by the bothy above Garth Castle. Bill Scott saw wild cats twice during the five years he was up at Tom Phubil: "One crossed just beside the house one night as we were coming home. And another night I was just above Glengoulandie and this animal crossed and I said 'That's a wildcat' and I noticed in my lights that it seemed to stop and I reversed back and got the lights on it and it was an absolutely magnificent wild cat. It didn't run away just about six or seven yards from the road so I got it well and truly in my headlights."

Fox

There were also plenty of foxes. Bob McNaughton's job was keeping down the foxes that had a couple of dens on the hill. Gina Stock went out with Alfred Menzies when he shot two foxes, one was a vixen with cubs and Gina was upset that the cubs were let to die. Jimmy Dunnet

^{3*} This story is recorded in the Scots Magazine March 2003

remembered one day a fox nearly drowned one of Alf's dogs in a pool in the Allt Mor burn coming down from Schiehallion. The dog went after the fox, quite a big bitch she was too, and the fox got her head under the water and nearly drowned her.

Goats

Goats were inherited with the land. Goats are fond of young trees and will allow none to grow in their presence. Much debate took place as to how to solve the goat problem. Fortunately a splendid final solution was found. We did not want the goats because they eat young trees and, fortuitously, we found someone who wanted goats for that very reason. The Dùn Coillich goats are now happily installed on the South Downs where they serve a useful function of preventing the encroachment of scrub on the Downs.

Hares, Brown and White

Glengoulandie was renowned for its hares, which Geordie loved: "Aye the hill hare^{4*} ... I was always amused the way it changes coat in the winter time ... quite white and blue in the summer time. The funny thing was that I never understand that the Grouse went off when they went off... they disappeared then and I never saw them back again. The Glen Lyon House Estate ... Oh there was thousands of them on it. It was a terrific place for blue hares but not so much on the Garth estate". Alex Fraser confirmed this; he mentioned the brown but not white hares. Ian said that blue hares were very numerous and Bill Scott told me: "they would shoot hundreds of blue hares in a day's drive. And now they're almost non-existent... they're still there but only just. When I noticed it particularly... one time in the winter if you went out in the snow on the hill they would be hare footmarks everywhere and now you walk a day in the hill and you won't see a footprint."

Marten, Pine

Pine martens were unusual. Geordie said: "Yes, ye would see Pine Martens they were quite prevalent at one time you know, but it's a while since I've seen them but they are still there I believe. Gina described how once she was sunbathing on a rock near where the Goulandie Burn joins the Allt Mor when she saw movement on the other side of the burn and went to investigate; the animal was a creature she had not seen before but she saw it well and described it to Alf who recognised it as Pine Marten and said "There are not many around here"; it was the only one Gina has ever seen. Bob McNaughton said: "There were no pine martens when I was at Tom Phubil

^{4*} Alpine, blue, white or mountain hares had several names but are all *Lepus timidus*.

though they were on Drummond Hill and had increased in the last 10-20 years.” He was not surprised that I had seen droppings on the hill.

Otter

Otters are rarely seen though in 1998 I [RH] saw an otter sitting on the road parapet above the Keltneyburn Gorge. Ian Campbell told me that there used to be otters in the Lyon. “They used a holt beside the ‘Rocky Pool’ near the East end of the Garth beat of the River.” Bill Hoare^{5†} has seen them on the Lyon near his garden and Alex Murray once saw one up on the hills on the Farleyer side along way from the river. One was sighted in the Glengoulandie caravan park by a resident.

Squirrel Red

Red Squirrels are getting rarer but there is the possibility of them among the hazels of the Allt Mor. Increased tree cover may attract them.

Stoat

Ian commented: “We used to have a lot of stoats, there used to be a lot of rabbits here; you’d see twenty or thirty rabbits and I’d quite often watch a stoat that had selected a rabbit and it would chase it and the other rabbits would not take any notice ‘Oh its Charley’s turn!’ they said.”

Disturbance factors

The proposed hydroelectric developments.

This involves the construction of an inlet on the Allt Mor near the junction of DC with the John Muir property on Schihallion [See map]. From this a buried pipe line will run approximately 30 metres across DC land before crossing the Allt Mor. The pipeline then continues across open moorland, roughly parallel to the Allt Mor before turning south to cross more moorland, to pass west of the woodland surrounding the Allt Coire Pheiginn. Further south still the proposed route of the pipe crosses open grassland east of the farms of Wester Litigan and Litigan before skirting the Scottish Wildlife Trust’s wildflower meadow at Balchroich along its western border Then the Pipeline crosses open grassland to reach thr Coshiville to Fortingall road at Tigh-na-Dalloch. The last section of the pipe crosses more open grassland to reach its outlet at a generating plant near the junction of the Keltney Burn with the river Lyon.

^{5†} One of the Highland Perthshire Community Land Trust trustees

The laying of this pipeline will inevitably create a disturbance of to wildlife. There is a sensitive area in the crags above and immediately to the east of the working area on DC. This is a site where Ravens nest and where, in the past, there has been a Peregrine Falcon eyrie. The wooded area adjacent to the Allt Mor burn is also sensitive, though probably less so than the crags. The Allt Mor trees are a breeding ground for many passerine species but the pipeline is here across open moorland several metres from the trees lining the gorge of the Allt Mor. Disturbance on moorland is likely to be small and the breeding birds there [a few Red and Black Grouse, small passerines such as Wheatear and innumerable Meadow Pipits have plenty of space to the west].

Further south where the pipe line crosses the Allt Coire Pheiginn near the tongue of woodland which westwards from the gorge of the Allt Mor by Garth Lodge there is another sensitive area. This is where in the recent past Black Game and Capercaillie have bred. Though it is unlikely that the latter do so now the wooded area should be disturbed as little as possible and not during the breeding season. The gorge of the Allt Coire Pheiginn is a potential Ring Ousel breeding area and this too should be avoided in the breeding season.

After this wooded area the pipeline crosses open grassland in front of Litigan farm where disturbance is probably of little importance. It then skirts Balchroich meadow through a belt of scrubland beside a conifer forest. Again this is an area of poor avian habitat where work on the pipeline is likely to cause little disturbance to birds. The last section through open grassland is also unlikely to be a problem for birds. The generator by the River Lyon could, if noisy disturb species such as Dippers and Grey Wagtails, which breed along the river.

Changes on adjacent land.

Apart from the Hydro scheme the main change will be the fishing loch being constructed on Glengoulandie Deer Park just north of the junction of the Allt Mor and Goulandie burns. This is fed by a small spring, which has produced a boggy area with a small amount of standing water. If and when the loch fills it should provide a considerable acreage of open water. This could be of distinct advantage to the bird life of DC because it may attract wetland birds such as Divers, Ducks, Grebes and Waders.

The Farleyer estate east of the B846 is being redeveloped as a sporting estate with stalking and shooting increased game preservation may affect DC wildlife.

Recreational Activities

These are difficult for obviously it is the wish of HPCLT that DC should be used by the public as much as possible but, at the same time, such activities are detrimental to bird life. [In passing it is interesting to note that WD gunnery ranges where, despite the noise of gunfire, some of the best bird sanctuaries exist because nobody walks there.] Whilst it is not the intention to ban such activities entirely it should be recommended that DC should be thought of as a wildlife sanctuary; noisy and obtrusive activities should be discouraged. The construction of paths intended to keep walkers away from sensitive areas must be given careful thought.

Recommendations

Work on hydro-electric scheme

This should be undertaken at times when disturbance is least important ie outwith the breeding season. Work on less sensitive areas could be at any time but laying of the pipeline on the DC and Coire Pheiginn sections of its route should be undertaken between the months of July and February. Screening trees and shrubs should be planted around any visible exposed pipeline or buildings and where possible these should be of species providing food sources for birds.

Woodland

Planting should consist of broadleaved species as much as possible. These should be widely spaced to encourage species such as Woodpeckers, Wood Warblers and Redstarts. Ideally trees should be in clumps with corridors between the clumps allowing cover for woodland species to pass between them. These corridors should also link with existing woodland along the Allt Mor and Goulandie burns. Among conifers a preponderance of Scots Pine will help to make the habitat suitable for Crossbills, Goldcrests, Cole Tits, Owl species and Capercaillie. The planting of berry bearing trees such as Bird Cherry and Rowan will provide a useful food source. Consideration should be given to planting some non-native berried species, such as cotoneaster, around the car park and any information centre and/or observation hide, which may be built in future, to provide screens, shelter and winter food.

Gullies

The gullies on the eastern and southern flanks of DC are the favoured nesting sites of Ring Ousels. These should be protected during the breeding season and made into a 'no go' area.

Wetlands

DC is deficient in wetland habitats apart from the two burns and marshy areas by the Allt Mor and around the Sheep Dip at R8 on the survey map. This is the site of intended scrapes and shallow ponds with a view to encouraging amphibia, wetland insects, plants and birds.

1 Open water

This deficiency is particularly true of open water, which is represented only by the old fishing pond at Q5&6 and by a few small stagnant peaty pools on the summit plateau. The addition of the new fishing loch on the nearby Deer Park may help to attract aquatic species. It appears that the work on the Allt Mor near the inlet to the hydroelectric pipeline, though it may raise the water level by a few inches at first is likely to revert to its present state fairly quickly. If in the future it becomes possible to create additional stretches of still water this could improve the birdlife.

2 Streams

Areas along the banks of the two burns should be regarded as sanctuaries during the breeding season, especially for Wagtails, Dippers and Sandpipers. This is particularly true of the Goulandie burn just below Whitebridge until it is flanked by trees. This was a former nesting site for Oystercatchers and Curlews.

3 Marsh

Areas of marshland are particularly important for Waders, which are woefully scarce on DC. The area near the western boundary of DC north of the Allt Mor is important for breeding Snipe and should be protected during the spring. The other area of marsh is by the Goulandie burn between the Sheep Dip and the boundary with Glengoulandie Farm. This is an area, which could be improved by excavation to provide a shallow lagoon with exposed scrapes of mud to attract wading species.

4 Reedbeds

The planting of reed beds and Phragmites around these newly constructed marshy scrapes would increase the likelihood of species such as Reed Bunting, Grasshopper and Sedge Warblers.

Conclusion

Dùn Coilich is already an exciting mixture of habitats, which, with careful planning could be enhanced to increase wildlife. The hydroelectric scheme proposed by Keltneyburn Hydro Ltd may possibly, after initial disturbance due to laying the pipeline, improve the habitat and should be accepted by the trustees.

List of reporters

Coope	Beryl BC
Coope Russell	RC
Danks	Edward EC
Danks Fiona	FD
Danks Hannah	HD
Fison Tim	TF
Fison Ruth	RF
Gardiner Julie	JG
Hoare William	WH
Hull Gillian	GH
Hull Robin	RH
Jarvis Margaret	MJ
Jarvis Paul	PJ
LeCorre Iona	IL
Mattingley Wendy	WM
Nicholson Hamish	HN
Smith Innes	IS
Waring Paul	PW
Youngman Ron	RY

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Nick Butcher Senior Project Geologist M-I Drilling Fluids Aberfeldy
 Ian Campbell, Forester, who spent his childhood at Whitebridge Cottage.
 Gordon Clark, Findynate Farm, Strathtay
 Bella Dewar of Coshieville.
 Anne Dunbar, of Dumfries, granddaughter of John Rutherford the tailor of Balloch.
 Jimmy Dunnet of Aberfeldy
 Alex Fraser, keeper at Garth in late 1940s, now lives in Kippen.
 John Fry, whose family formerly owned Garth Castle, now living at Logierait.
 Geordie McLaren [1924-2002] farmed at Litigan for many years
 Mrs McAdam, mother of Harry and Sandy, lived at Glengoulandie for 40 years.
 Harry McAdam, former owner of Glengoulandie Deer park.
 Sandy McAdam, present owner of Glengoulandie Deer park.
 Duncan McDiarmid whose grandfather farmed Glengoulandie in the 19th century.
 Bob McNaughton, former gamekeeper to Major Neil Ramsay of Farleyer.
 Wendy Mattingley of Cluny Gardens
 Alex Murray, former Provost of Perth now farming opposite Glengoulandie.
 Major Neil Ramsay formerly of Farleyer
 Baron Neil Rose, owner of Garth Castle.
 Bill Scott who lived at Tom Phubil before moving to Donafuil.
 Jimmy Stewart, retired keeper from Garth, now lives in Dumfries.
 Henry Steuart Fotheringham, Grandtully
 Gina Stock, grand-daughter of Robert Menzies, who spent part of her childhood at Glengoulandie just before and after World War II.
 Roger Sylvester, formerly a Schoolmaster at Glenalmond College.
 Danvers Valentine farmed at Litigan
 Charlie Westland a retired oilrig worker now living at Glengoulandie.
 Ron Youngman, Bird Recorder for Perth and Kinross.

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