### CHAPTER 4 - CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study not only confirmed that Islay receives internationally important numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese, with some 30%-40% of the world's population wintering on the island in recent years, but also showed that certain parts of the island are particularly important for the geese. Analysis of the distribution of the birds from 1988-89 to 1992-93 inclusive, for instance, found that the highest proportion of the geese wintering on Islay each season were recorded in the Kilmeny count area; a comparatively small number of goose sites and of birds were found in the Glen and Ardtalla count areas (see Section 3.1.1). Moreover, the same 1 km squares within the main count areas proved consistently important for the geese over several years, emphasising the need to protect these traditional sites for the continued welfare of the species. fidelity was confirmed not only by the tendency for birds to concentrate in certain parts of the island from year to year, but also by the tendency for the same individuals to return to the same farms; of 122 geese sighted on Islay for at least two seasons, 80.3% were recorded at the same farm each year. The effect that the destruction of a traditional wintering site has upon the subsequent The effect that the dispersal and survival of individuals from that region is a question which hopefully will not need to be tested in future, particularly since earlier studies indicate that loss of habitat is associated with a decrease in the size of the population. (Ruttledge & Ogilvie 1979; Stroud 1992).

Analysis of the movements of marked birds indicates that the home ranges of individual geese are limited, varying from 42 to 1444 hectares for individuals monitored during the 1991-92 and 1992-93 The individual birds also made very patchy use of their home range, using only a small number of fields and thus apparently being highly selective in their choice of feeding sites (Section The marked day-to-day variation in the numbers of birds using the three experimental fields (Section 3.2), and also variation between years in the relative importance of particular fields for the birds (Table 3.1.4.2), however, suggests that the conservation of Greenland White-fronted Geese on Islay should be considered in terms of protecting "catchment areas" supporting different flocks or subpopulations to allow for movements between fields. Some 20 such catchment areas, identified by monitoring the movements of flocks between feeding sites and roost sites in the 1991-92 winter, are illustrated in Section 3.4, including areas where the feeding sites of birds using different roosts appear to overlap. Over 80 roosts or roost complexes were recorded, including 16 that received at least 300 birds (Section 3.4), thus qualifying as sites of international importance for the species and therefore suitable for designation as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Only four of these roosts (Gruinart Flats, Duich Moss, Glac-na-Crich and Feur Lochain) are currently designated as Ramsar sites, and the designation does not extend to the birds' day-time feeding areas. The possibility of extending Ramsar status to other roost sites, and also to feeding sites, should be explored. Moreover, although the importance of traditional wintering sites on Islay may be recognised at an international level, national legislation is the means by which efforts to conserve birds and their habitats are implemented. Many areas used by the geese on Islay have already been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), but the number and distribution of SSSIs may should be reconsidered, and legal protection at an international level introduced by designating sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EEC Birds Directive (see Section 1.2).

An assessment of the distribution of geese in the main study area during the 1992-93 winter found that habitat variables did appear to influence the birds' selection of feeding sites; they occurred more frequently and in greater numbers in fields with comparatively high abundance of <u>Juncus</u> and those with greener swards. They also occurred in greater numbers in fields with longer swards, and the tendency for the geese to disperse into smaller flocks over a larger number of fields as the winter progressed was attributed to the reduction in the food supply. A further more detailed investigation of the effect that different land management practices had upon the distribution of the birds proved inconclusive. There was no evidence to suggest that liming and fertilising pasture, or the cutting of Juncus stands, had a major effect upon the distribution of geese across the treated fields, although there was some tentative evidence for a positive association between goose numbers and the biomass of vegetation recorded in the different plots. There was also no evidence for an association between the different treatments and variation in a range of habitat variables measured during the winter however (including the biomass of vegetation, sward length and the abundance of different types of vegetation), suggesting either that the methods used to measure the habitat variables were too crude to identify any differences between the experimental plots, or that the treatments had only a limited effect on the vegetation within a single season. It is also possible that the birds select a field on the basis of its "condition" (colour, sward length, topography etc) as viewed from the air, but that the distribution of birds upon landing may be influenced by other factors including social relationships within the flock.

A more detailed study of the association between different types of farming practice, habitat variables and goose distribution over a longer period (at least three winters) therefore is needed to clarify this issue. The question of whether birds move from un-treated plots in mid-winter to more intensively managed pasture later in the season (tentatively indicated in section 3.2, and also by Norriss & Wilson 1993) should also be investigated in further detail. Analysis of the distribution of birds in relation to habitat, based on observations made during the all-island counts (ie at feeding sites) indicated that over 80% of the birds seen in autumn and 90% of those seen in spring were recorded on pasture, including 15.8% on rough pasture in autumn and 12.3% on rough pasture in spring. Arable land was used more intensively in autumn than in spring (which also agrees with the findings of Norriss & Wilson 1993), perhaps reflecting differences in food availability at these times, or variation in the nutrient

requirement of the birds during the winter. An investigation of the food ingested by the birds, determined by faecal analysis, showed that the birds fed selectively on different types of vegetation at different sites, but that Anthoxanthum odoratum, Festuca rubra, Alopecurus geniculatus, and Trifolium repens appear to form a major part of the diet. There was a positive correlation between the number of Greenland white-fronted Geese and the number of Barnacle Geese present at a site (field AO35 on the RSPB reserve), and an inverse correlation between the numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese counted with the number of cattle present on the same day.

Although the study has reviewed the past and present status of the geese on Islay, it is important that monitoring and research programmes continue and develop with a view to identifying any change in the status or ecological requirements of the birds. introduction of the goose management scheme on Islay may have a major effect upon the distribution of the geese, for instance, since farmers will be less likely to deter the birds from feeding on their Norriss and Wilson (1993) show that patterns of site use are influenced by disturbance factors, but disturbance levels have not yet been investigated in relation to the Islay-wintering population. In addition to making a more detailed study of the feeding ecology of the species, and assessing the effect of the goose management scheme upon the Islay-wintering population, the study identifies other areas that need further research. The uneven distribution of family parties on Islay, with certain sites tending to have a higher percentage of juveniles over several winters than other areas, for instance, should be considered in further detail to determine the biological reasons underlying the variation in reproductive success. Possible reasons for this variation include differences in the food supply and condition of the birds in winter, which could be identified by further research into the feeding ecology of the geese at different sites, or to sub-populations on Islay remaining in discrete groups and nesting under differing conditions in the breeding range, which could be addressed by ringing birds on different parts of Islay and relocating these individuals at their icelandic nest sites. Finally, the continued association between parents and their offspring, which persists for much longer periods in Greenland White-fronted Geese than in other goose species (Warren 1990), should be explored in terms of the costs and benefits to individuals in the family group in remaining together over several years.

### SUMMARY

A summary of the results described within each section is given at the end of the section in question, but some of the main findings of the study are also listed below:

- 1. The results of the study confirmed that Islay receives internationally important numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese and showed that certain parts of the island are particularly important for the geese; the highest proportion of the geese wintering on Islay from 1988-89 to 1992-93 inclusive were recorded in the Kilmeny count area. A comparatively small number of goose sites and of birds were found in the Glen and Ardtalla regions.
- 2. The same sites within the main count areas proved consistently important for the geese over several years, emphasising the need to protect these areas for the continued welfare of the species.
- 3. There was some evidence for seasonal changes in the distribution of the birds on Islay.
- 4. Over 80% of the birds counted in autumn and over 90% of those recorded in spring were recorded on pasture; within the pasture categories the birds were evenly distributed over old pasture and recently improved pasture in autumn, but concentrated on recently improved pasture in spring. Arable land was used more in autumn than in spring.
- 5. There was substantial annual variation in reproductive success, and also an uneven distribution of family parties on Islay within a season. Certain sites tended to have a higher percentage of juveniles each year than others. This consistency in reproductive success was more apparent at the farm level than between count areas. There was no evidence to suggest that families selected particular types of habitat during the winter.
- 6. Resightings of marked birds indicated that the birds have a high level of winter site fidelity, both within and between seasons, although there was evidence for a shift from one feeding area used in autumn to an adjacent site in mid-winter.
- 7. An analysis of sightings of ringed birds confirmed that individual geese tend to remain within a very small area during the winter (with home ranges recorded for individual birds varying from 42 to 1444 hectares), and that individuals make very patchy use of their home range.
- 8. More detailed observations of the distibution of birds in the main study area indicated that the geese concentrate on a small number of fields early in the season but disperse into smaller flocks, using a larger number of fields, as the winter progresses. Sward length decreased as the winter progressed, and the reduction in food supply was thought to be a possible reason for this change

in distibution.

- 9. The geese in the main study area selected fields with a comparatively high abundance og <u>Juncus</u>, and also those with greener swards, suggesting that they prefer improved (fertilised) pasture. However, different liming and fertilising treatments at three experimental fields during the summer did not appear to affect the distribution of birds within these fields the following winter.
- 10. The number of years since the field was re-seeded did not have a significant effect on the number of birds using the field.
- 11. Since the investigation of the effect that different land management practices had upon the distribution of the birds proved inconclusive, a more concentrated study of the distribution of the geese in relation to management techniques and habitat variables is recommended to help to confirm the ecological requirements of Greenland white-fronted Geese, and the best ways of managing the land for the birds.

4665

- 12. It is suggested that the conservation of Greenland White-fronted Geese on Islay should be considered in terms of protecting "catchment areas" supporting different flocks or sub-populations to allow for localised changes in distribution within and between winters. Some 20 catchment areas were identified by monitoring the movements of flocks between feeding sites and roost sites in the 1991-92 winter, including areas where the feeding sites of birds using different roosts appear to overlap.
- 13. Over 80 roosts or roost complexes were recorded, including 16 that received at least 300 birds, thus qualifying as sites of international importance for the species and potentially suitable for designation as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Many areas used by the geese on Islay have already been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), but the number and distribution of SSSIs may perhaps need to be reconsidered, and legal protection at an international level introduced by designating sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EEC Birds Directive.
- 14. Although the study has reviewed the past and present status of the geese on Islay, it is important that monitoring and research programmes continue and develop with a view to identifying any change in the status or ecological requirements of the birds, and particularly to assess the effect that the Islay Goose Management Plan has upon the distribution of the geese.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the many farmers and landowners on Islay who co-operated with this project by granting access to their land. We particularly thank those in the main study area: Mr MacGregor, Ian MacPherson, Ian Kennedy, the Pagets, Gavin Doyle, Mark French, Jim McHarry and Bez Berry, especially those who also helped with the establishment of the field experiments. We also thank Mr & Mrs Doyle of Foreland Estate, Mr Boyd of Islay Estate, Mr Montgomery of Kinnabus Estate, Mr Fraser of Laggan Estate and Mr Carr of Dunlossit Estate for access to their land.

For help in many ways, we are particularly grateful to Dr Ron MacDonald and his staff at the Bowmore office of SNH, especially Ross Lilley for his help with the count data, to Mike Peacock and Jack Fleming of the RSPB Aoradh for help with field experiments and for the use of Aoradh farm counts, to Dr Malcolm Ogilvie for help with cannon netting and for the use of his juvenile count data, to Lindsey Kinnes for habitat discussions and to all those who filled in the habitat questionnaire, including David Stroud and Dr Eric Bignal of JNCC for their advice on earlier habitat classifications.

Finding accommodation on Islay is always a problem, and we would like to thank the Pagets at Sunderland and Julia Welstead and Mike Madders at Carnduncan for their invaluable help over the winter and spring.

Several members of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust staff have provided invaluable support to the project, including John Bowler for undertaking several of the analyses, Carl Mitchell for visiting Islay at short notice to provide advice on fixing radio transmitters, Kevin Peberdy for the botanical surveys and Marcus Gilleard for the faecal analyses and preparation of some of the figures. Dr Mike Bell kindly gave general advice on the statistics and Dr Myrfyn Owen made helpful comments on drafts of the text. Last, but certainly not least, Dr Tony Fox provided inspiration, support and unique insight into Greenland White-fronted Geese throughout the study.

#### REFERENCES

Alerstam, T., Hjort, C., Hogstedt, G., Jonsson, P.E., Karlsson, J., & Larsson, B. (1986) Spring migration of birds across the Greenland Inlandice. Meddelelser om Gronland, Bioscience 21: 1-38.

1917

- Ankney, C.D. & MacInnes, C.D. (1978) Nutrient reserves and reproductive performance of female Lesser Snow Geese. <u>Auk</u> 95: 459-471.
- Bell, M.C. (1990) Range analysis of field-by field resightings of Greenland White-fronted Geese wintering on the Wexford Slobs. Unpublished Report.
- Bell, M. C. (1993) Population dynamics and management of Greenland White-fronted Geese on Islay. Report to Scottish Natural Heritage. Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge.
- Best, J.R. & Higgs, W.J. (1990) Bird population status changes in Thule district, North Greenland. <u>Dansk Ornitologisk Forenings</u> <u>Tidsskrift</u> 84: 159-165.
- Bignal, E. & Curtis, D.J. (1991) Geese on Islay: Relationships between geese and features of land types affected by agriculture. Ecological issues behind goose management conflicts on the island of Islay. EMU/LIAL Project, October 1991.
- Bignal, E.M., Bignal, S. & Curtis, D.J. (1989) Function unit systems and support ground for choughs the nature conservation requirements. In: E.M. Bignal & D.J. Curtis (Eds.) Choughs and landuse in Europe. Proceedings of and international workshop on the conservation of the Chough, Phrrhocorax pyrrhocorax in the E.C. 11-14 November 1988. Scottish Chough Study Group, Tarbert.
- Bignal, E., Stroud, D. & Easterbee, N. (1991) A case study in goose management: the island of Islay. <u>Goose damage and management workshop</u>. NCC Research & Survey in Nature Conservation Report No. 33. Pp. 22-31. NCC, Peterborough.
- Birks, J.D.S. & Penford, N. (1990) Observations on the ecology of arctic foxes <u>Alopex lagopus</u> in Equalummiut Nunaat, west Greenland. <u>Meddelelser om Gronland, Bioscience</u> 32: 1-26.
- Black, J.M. & Owen, M. (1989) Parent-offspring relationships in wintering Barnacle Geese. <u>Anim. Behav.</u> 37: 187-198.
- Boyd, H. (1955) The role of tradition in determining the winter distribution of Pinkfeet in Britain. <u>Wildfowl Trust Ann. Rept.</u> 7: 107-122.

- Boyd, H. (1958) The survival of White-fronted Geese (<u>Anser albifrons flavirostris</u> Dalgety & Scott) ringed in Greenland. <u>Dansk Orn. Foren.</u> Tidsskr. 52: 1-8.
- Cadman, W.A. (1953) Winter food and ecological distribution of the Greenland White-fronted geese in Britain. <u>British Birds</u> 46: 374-375.
- Campbell, J.W. (1947) The food of some British waterfowl. <u>Ibis</u> 89: 429-432.
- Choudhury, S. & Owen, M. (1993) Migratory geese wintering on Islay: assessing the impact. Report to the Scottish Office. Wetlands Advisory Service Ltd., Slimbridge.

199

9%

- Cramp, S., & K.E.L. Simmons, (Eds) (1977) <u>Birds of the Western Palaearctic, Volume 1</u> Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Dalgety, C.T. & Scott, P. (1948) A new race of the White-fronted Goose. <u>Bulletin of the British Ornithologists Club</u> 68: 109-121.
- Delacour, J. (1954) <u>Waterfowl of the World, Volume 1</u> Country Life, London.
- Drent, R., Ebbinge, B. & Weijand, B. (1979) Balancing the energy budgets of arctic-breeding geese throughout the annual cycle: a progress report. <u>Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern</u> 23: 239-264.
- Department of Agriculture & Fisheries for Scotland (1987) Agricultural Statistics. 1987. HMSO, Scotland.
- Easterbee, N., Bignal, E.M. & Stroud, D.A. (1990) Coordinating Goose Counting Routes on the Island of Islay, Argyll: Second Edition. NCC, Chief Scientist Directorate Report 1028, Peterborough.
- Fox, A.D. & Gitay, H. (1991) Breeding success in Greenland Barnacle Geese <u>Branta leucopsis</u> wintering on Islay, Scotland. <u>Ardea</u> 79: 359-364.
- Fox, A.D. & Stroud, D.A. (1981) The life history and ecology of the Greenland White-fronted Goose. In: Fox, A.D. & Stroud, D. A. (Eds) The Report of the 1979 Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Expedition to Eqalungmiut Nunaat, West Greenland. GWGS, Aberystwyth. Pp. 148-155.
- Fox, A.D. & Stroud, D.A. (1986) The Greenland White-fronted Goose in Wales. Nature in Wales (New Series) 4: 20-27.
- Fox, A.D., Madsen, J., & Stroud, D.A. (1983) A review of the life history and Ecology of the Greenland White-fronted Goose. <u>Dansk orn.</u> Foren. Tidskr. 77: 43-55.

- Fox, A.D., Stroud, D.A. & Francis, I.S. (1990) Up-rooted Common Cotton-grass <u>Eriophorum angustifolium</u> as evidence of goose feeding in Britain and Ireland. <u>Bird Study</u> 37: 210-212.
- Fox, A.D., Norriss, D.W., Stroud, D.A. & Wilson, H.J. (in press) Greenland White-fronted Geese in Ireland and Britain 1982/3 to 1993/4. National Parks & Wildlife Service and Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Report, 54 pp.
- Francis, I.S. & Fox, A.D. (1987) Spring migration of greenland White-fronted Geese through Iceland. <u>Wildfowl</u> 38: 7-12.

Visio

Wis

機能

\$89.3

- Islay Geese Working Group (1992) <u>Migratory geese wintering in Islay:</u> assessing the agricultural impact. Unpubl. Rep. 20pp.
- Johnson, J.C. & Raveling, D.G. (1988) Weak family associations in Cackling Canada geese during winter: effects of size and food resources on goose social organisation. In: <u>Waterfowl in Winter</u> (Ed. M. Weller). University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- Jones, R.D. & Jones, D.M. (1966) The process of family disintegration in Black Brant. <u>Wildfowl Trust Ann. Rep.</u> 17: 75-78.
- Kamp, K.A.J., Fox, A.D. & Stroud, D.A. (1988) Mortality and movements of the Greenland White-fronted Goose <u>Anser albifrons</u> <u>flavirostris</u>. <u>Dansk Orn. Foren. Tidsskr.</u> 82: 25-36.
- Kenward, R. (1990) RANES IV. Software for analysing animal location data. Users Manual, ITE, Furzebrook.
- Lyster, S. (1985) <u>International Wildlife Law</u>. Grotius Public ations Ltd., Cambridge.
- MacLandress, M.R. (1983) Winning with warts? A threat posture suggests a function for carucles in Ross's Geese. Wildfowl 34: 5-9.
- Mayes, E. (1984) The diet of the Greenland White-fronted Goose in Ireland. Unpublished Report. Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin.
- Mayes, E. 1991. The winter ecology of Greenland White-fronted Geese Anser albifrons flavirostris on semi-natural grassland and intensive farmland. Ardea 79(2): 295-303.
- Norriss, D.W. & Wilson, H.J. (1988) Disturbance and flock size changes in Greenland White-fronted Geese wintering in Ireland. Wildfowl 39: 63-70.
- Norriss, D.W. & Wilson, H.J. (1993) Seasonal and long-term changes in habitat selection by Greenland White-fronted Geese Anser albifrons flavirostris in Ireland. <u>Wildfowl</u> 44: 7-18.

Owen, M. (1971) The selection of feeding sites by White-fronted Geese in winter.  $\underline{J. Appl. Ecol.}$  8: 905-917.

Owen, M. (1975) Cutting and fertilising grass swards for winter goose management. <u>J. Wildl. Manage.</u> 39: 163-167.

Owen, M. (1976) Factors affecting the distribution of geese in the British Isles.  $\underline{\text{Wildfowl}}$  27: 143-147.

Owen, M. (1977a) <u>Wildfowl of Europe</u>. Macmillan, London.

Owen, M. (1977b) The role of wildfowl refuges on agricultural land in lessening the conflict between farmers and geese in Britain. <u>Biol.</u> Conserv. 11: 209-222.

Owen, M. (1980) The role of refuges in wildfowl management. In: E.N. Wright, I.R. Inglis & C.J. Feare (Eds.) <u>Bird problems in agriculture</u>. Pp. 144-156. British Crop Protection Council Publications, Croyden.

Owen, M. (1981) Abdominal profile - a condition index for wild geese in the field.  $\underline{J.~Wildl.~Manage.}$  XX: 227-230.

Patterson, I.J. & Fuchs, R. (1991) Possibilities for waterfowl reserves from changing land-use practices. In: M. van Roomen & J. Madsen (Eds.) Waterfowl and agriculture: review and future perspective of the crop damage conflict in Europe IWRB Special Publication No. 21. IWRB, Slimbridge.

Percival, S.M. (1988) Grazing ecology of Barnacle Geese (<u>Branta leucopsis</u>) on Islay. Ph.D. thesis, University of Glasgow.

Percival, S.M. & Houston, D.C. (1992) The effect of winter grazing by barnacle geese on grassland yields on Islay. <u>Journ. Appl. Ecol.</u> 29: 35-40.

Pollard, D.F.W. & Walters-Davies, P. (1968) A preliminary study of the feeding of the Greenland White-fronted Goose <u>Anser albifrons flavirostris</u> in Cardiganshire. <u>Wildfowl</u> 19: 108-116.

Rees, E.C. (1990) Bewick's Swans: their feeding ecology and coexistence with other grazing Anatidae. <u>J. Appl. Ecol.</u> 27: 939-951.

Ruttledge, R.F. & Ogilvie, M.A. (1978) Wildfowl on Islay. Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. 83b: 473-489.

Ruttledge , R.F. & Ogilvie, M.A. (1979) The past and current status of the Greenland White-fronted Goose in Ireland and Britain. <u>Irish</u> <u>Birds</u> 1: 293-363.

- Salomonsen, F. (1950) <u>Gronland Fugle. The Birds of Greenland</u>. Kobenhavn. 609pp.
- Salomonsen, F. (1967) <u>Fuglene pa Gronland</u>. Rhodos, Kobenhavn.
- Scott, P. (1966) The Bewick's Swans at Slimbridge. <u>Wildfowl Trust Ann. Rept.</u> 17: 20-26.
- Southwood, T.R.E. (1966) <u>Ecological Methods</u>. Methuen, London.
- Stroud, D.A. (1983) Greenland White-fronted geese in Britain; 1982/83. GWGS, Aberystwyth. 15pp. Greenland White-fronted Goose Research Report No. 1.
- Stroud, D.A. (1984) A preliminary list of Greenland White-fronted Goose roost sites in Argyll. 2nd Argyll Bird Report
- Stroud, D.A. (1992) Greenland White-fronted Goose <u>Anser albifrons</u> <u>flavirostris</u> International Conservation Plan. Report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ireland and IWRB, Slimbridge.
- Stroud, D.A. & Fox, A.D. (1981) The status of the Greenland White-fronted Goose in east Greenland. In: Fox, A.D. & Stroud, D.A. (Eds) The Report of the 1979 Greenland White-fronted Goose Study expedition to Eqalungmiut Nunaat, West Greenland. GWGS, Aberystwyth. Pp. 146-147.
- Tamisier, A. (1979) The functional units of wintering ducks: a spatial integration of their comforts and feeding requirements. Verh. orn. Ges. Bayern 23: 229-238.
- Tamisier, A. (1985) Some considerations on the social requirements of ducks in winter. Wildfowl 36: 104-108.
- Vickery, J.A. & Summers, R.W. (1992) Cost-effectiveness of scaring brent geese <u>Branta b. bernicla</u> from fields of arable crops by human bird scarer. <u>Crop protection</u> 11: 480-484.
- Warren, S.M. (1990) An analysis of the Irish Wildlife Service Greenland White-fronted Goose Project 1983/84 1989/90. Report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge.
- Wilson, H.J., Norriss, D.W., Walsh, A. & Stroud, D.A. (1991) Winter site fidelity in Greenland White-fronted Geese <u>Anser albifrons flavirostis</u>, implications for conservation and management. <u>Ardea</u> 79: 287-294.
- Ydenberg, R.C. & Prins, H.H.T. (1981) Spring grazing and manipulation of food quality by Barnacle Geese. <u>J. Appl. Ecol.</u> 18: 443-453.

## .1 xibnəqqA

in autumn and spring, from 1988-89 to 1992-93 inclusive. Count dates used in autumn were 6.12.88, 2.12.89, 1.12.90, 1.12.91, 12.12.92. Count dates used in spring were 30.03.89, 10.02.90, 24.03.91, Count dates used in spring were 30.03.89, 10.02.90, 24.03.91, Number of geese counted on each 1 km square within each count area,

-	-	<u>-</u>	2.69 ETI 2 0.77 385 I	9768 9768
8.06	727	2	Z. 69 . Z	9788
₽. TII	2.562	2	3 243 148.8 -	3845
0.94	230	Ţ	8.841 Z4S.8	9 <del>7</del> 78
₽°Z	75	τ		
пеэш		(u)	mean (n	
Хєчк	conur	мтрр дееве	geese connr Year	
Five-	Меап	No. yrs	yrs Mean Five-	. оИ
	. <b></b> -		rmujuA	
	puj	ads	dantany	
				ALLATGAA
			T	 7947
0.ε	ST	Ţ -	0.12 C.021 I	
9.811	£.8£1	<b>₹</b>	9.42 8.81 2	
0.4	20	Ţ	Z.87 Z.261 Z	2990
8.01	₹S	Ţ	7.89 £91 Z	
9.12	129	2	<b>5 2 5 1</b>	
8.0₽	705	2	0 20	
-	_	-		
9.991	208.3	₹	_	
2.06	150.3	£	0.421 7.306 1 3 206.7 124.0	
0.52	STT	Ţ		
₽.₽6	E. TZI	ε		
<del>-</del>	-	- -	Z.84 <u>1</u> 42 <u>1</u>	7256
Ð. 9£	232	τ	0.82 0 <u>4</u> 1 1	
-		-	7 T40 S8.0	. SI24
2.89	2.07I	2		2060
₹.98	744	ε	£.21 2.8£ 2	
4.42	7.04	٤	7 3 6 6	7967
₽. T	37	τ <del>-</del>	0.25 2.78 2	
0.91	08	Ţ	÷	
2.76	2.76	<u>s</u>		
Z.OI	τς	τ	Z.43 70I 8	7752
8.2	S.₽I			
пеэш		(u)	ı) mean	Grid (r
year	าเเทดอ	with geese	deese conut year	
Five-	Меап	No. Yrs		.oV
	Бu	t z g s	итита	A
				<b>EHINNS</b>

7 382 7 7 7 3 8 2 -

9₹6€

Appendix 1 (cont.)

GORM

with geese count year with geese count year (n) mean (n)  1964 2 121.5 48.6 2 348 12 2064 4 249.5 199.6 4 236.3 12 2065 1 25 2163 1 224 2164 2 336.5 134.6 1 101 2166 1 18 2263 1 106 21.2 5 447.4 42 2266 1 115 23.0 4 171.5 1 2267 1 97	
2064     4     249.5     199.6     4     236.3     1       2065     -     -     -     1     25       2163     -     -     -     1     224       2164     2     336.5     134.6     1     101       2166     -     -     -     1     18       2263     1     106     21.2     5     447.4     4       2266     1     115     23.0     4     171.5     1       2267     -     -     -     1     97	Five- year mean
2364     2     215     86.0     1     12       2367     2     194.5     77.8     1     66       2368     4     313.5     250.8     3     54.3       2369     -     -     -     2     32       2370     2     34.5     13.8     1     8       2464     2     243     97.2     -     -     -       2467     -     -     -     1     11       2468     -     -     -     2     24       2470     1     10     2.0     2     29       2564     4     241.8     193.4     4     169.5     1       2565     -     -     -     1     313       2664     -     -     -     4     61.3	39.2 89.0 5.0 44.8 20.2 3.6 47.4 37.2 19.4 2.4 13.2 32.6 12.8 1.6 29.6 11.6 35.6 62.6 49.0 37.2

GLEN

	Aut	umn		Spring					
Grid	No. yrs with geese		Five- year mean	No. yrs with geese (n)	Mean count	Five- year mean			
3455 3556 3657 3658 3659 3758 3759 3860 3961	- 4 3 - 3 1 4 4	63.3 3 - 121.3 7 114 2 124.8 9 173.5 13	- 54.8 88.0 - 72.8 22.8 99.8 38.8	3 4 4 1 3 - 4 2	64.7 69.5 52 184 217.3 - 85 122	38.8 55.6 41.6 36.8 130.4 - 68.0 48.8			

Appendix 1 (cont.)

# GRUINART

	Aut	umn		Spring					
Grid	No. yrs with geese (n)	Mean count		No. yrs with gee (n)	Mean ese count	Five- year mean			
2766 2767 2768 2769 2864 2866 2867 2869 2871 2873 2964 2965 2966 2967 2969 2973 2964 3066 3066	41 31 35 31 32 31 33 35 31 33 53 14 -4	148.5 204.4	16.4 75 20.8 2.2 11.6 82.4 31.2 18.6 7.2 8.2 37.0 32.2 46.0 118.8 204.4 67.0 0.4 12.8 96.8 74.0	2 2 2 2 2 2 1 - 1 5 3 5 4 3 - 1 3 1 - 2	30.5 9.5 23.5 - 42 19.5 8 5 - 7 6 69.8 39.7 83.8 54.5 12 - 9 70.3 107 - 21.5	12.2 3.8 9.4 - 16.8 7.8 3.2 1.0 - 3.2 - 1.2 69.8 23.8 83.8 43.6 7.2 - 1.8 42.2 21.4 - 8.6			
3071 3172	1	15	3.0	- 	- 	_ 			

Appendix 1 (cont.)

OA

	Auti	ımn		Spring				
Grid	No. yrs with geese (n)	Mean count	Five- year mean	No. yrs Mean Five- with geese count year (n) mean				
2741		<del>-</del>	-	1 40 8.0				
2742	1	80	16.0	1 188 37.6				
2743	1	35	7.0	1 20 4.0				
2843	2	222.5	89.0	3 92.7 55.6				
2844	_ 1.	102	20.4					
2942	5	334	334.0	5 268.4 268.4				
2943	3	52.3	31.4	3 130.7 78.4				
3042	_	-	-	1 275 55.0				
3143	2	26.5	10.6	4 48.3 38.6				
3243	1	114	22.8					
3244	1	246	49.2	1 64 12.8				
3245	1	12	2.4					
3247	3	154.3	92.6	3 111.7 67.0				
3248	3	130.7	78.4	2 153.5 61.4				
3250	-	-	-	1 22 4.4				
3346	4	137.3	109.8	4 314.5 251.6				
3347	1	8	<b>/1.6</b>	3 112.7 67.6				
3348	-	- '	<b>'</b> –	1 15 3.0				
3349	1	97	19.4	4 32.3 25.8				
3350	-	-	-	1 18 3.6				
3445	1	33	6.6	1 120 24.0				
3446	4	343.7	275.0	3 221.3 132.8				
3447	1	3	0.6					
3448	4	163	130.4	3 154.3 92.6				
3449	4	171.5	137.2	4 92.8 74.2				
3450	-	-	-	1 72 14.4				
3451	-	-	-	1 112 22.4				
3546	-	-	-	1 61 12.2				
3547	1	77	15.4					
3548	2	129	51.6	2 330 132.0				
3549	4	108.5	86.8	3 68.3 41.0				
3550	1	39	7.8	3 50 30.0				

ZZ - ZZZ + + ZZ Z O 9 O + O - 9 + - 8 9 - 9 9 8 Z Z 8 Z O · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	96 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	12-611624911162-6199-281189112	- 0 0 - 7 - 7 - 8 9 C 9 9 8 0 7 0 8 0 C C 9 7 7 7 7 7 8 9 C 9 8 0 7 0 7 8 0 7 7 7 7 7 7 8 9 C C 6 7 8 0 7 6 9 6 9 T 0 T 8 7 7 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 8 7	8.7TZ 7	Z - T - T E T - T T T T T T T T T T T T T	£06868468455584955595549599999999999999999
9.411 0.281 4.4	9.411 SZZ - TI	S - 5 3	8.81 2.62 8.591 2.081		₹ € T ₹	7998 2998 2998 7978 7978
5.842 8.81 2.842 2.88	2.505 2.505 2.505 2.505	7 7 7	8.89 4.271 8.8 59	S.812 S.6 -	₹ Z -	797E 797E 798E 798E
£.20 2.02 0.23 8.22 2.512	72 5.02 5.02 73.2 73.2	S 7 7 T	- 0.881 6.8 6.02	70T	T T	7928 7928 2928 7928
₽.E 6.1E1 4.82	T <i>L</i> S:#9T <i>L</i> T	Z 7 T	- + TT -	- 2.41	- 5 -	3162 3162 3164
Five- Mean mean	Mean count	No. yrs with geese (n)		Mean count	No. Yrs with geese (n)	Grid
	 bu	tirqs		นพา	ıduA	KIPWENA

Appendix 1 (cont.)

9.92 I33 T		0998
3 20	8.62 7.66 E	<b>T95</b> E
	Z.72 E.24 E	3260
	8.821 8.821 Z	3226
		3228
5 0	1 120 24.0	T978
	8.7 ee I	3460
	마이를 수 건물	657E
_	9.54 2.42 p	3458
_	5.54 2.801 S	15£E
_		T9EE
V E	6.8E1 7.722 E	6588
_	Z.OII 8.7EI ₽	3358
0 00 = 00		3259
0 7 2	J 130 26.0	3258
Z. EZ	1 120 24.0	6STE
	₽. ₽₽ 8.88 ₽	3758
0 01	5.62 E.64 E	LSTE
	9.12 £2 Z	FSIE
	8.8 22 2	6508
0 00	4.421 4.421 Z	3058
	9.27	30E7
	5.64 7.28 E	3026
0 0	5.32 E.16 E	3022
0 2 -	8.25 7.62 E	8562
8.22 72 2	9.9 2.9I S	9567
8:0 \$ I	2, 12 83 2	5567
9 9	Z. 23 Z. 23 Z	2858
Z. £1 Z. Z Z		7882
Z. I 9 I		2826
₽. E 3.8 Z	9.£ 81 I	2825
	0.2 01 1	SSLZ
8.1 6 I		
nsəm (n)	ивэш (и)	Grid
with geese count year	with geese count year	
No. yrs Mean Five-	No. yrs Mean Five-	
	итијиА 	
Spring	amitativ	

Appendix I (cont.) Number of geese counted on each I km square within each count area, in autumn and spring, from 1988-89 to 1992-93 inclusive. Count dates used in autumn were 6.12.88, 2.12.89, 1.12.90, 1.12.91, 12.12.92. Count dates used in spring were 30.03.89, 10.02.90, 24.03.91, 10.02.92, 09.03.93.

LAGGAN

Appendix 2. Whole farm counts, 1991/92-92/93

Note: A total of 18 counts were made during the 1992-93 winter, which were all used in estimating the mean farm totals for that winter.

		MEAN FARM TOTALS				MEAN FLOCK SIZES			
		199	1991-92 1992-93			-92		2-93	
Count		MEAN		MEAN	DAYS GWF	MEAN	No.	MEAN	
area	Farm name		COUNTS	TOTAL	PRESENT	FLOCK		FLOCK	FLKS
DUTABLE									
RHINNS:	D-11/	0.0	9						
BH	Bruichladdich	210.7	20	141.0	15	68.7	66	63.4	49
BS	Bolsay	34.3	12			82.2	5		
CF	Craigfad	23.2 1.7		. 9	1	77.3 15.0	3 1	17.0	1
CL CS	Claddach Conisby	50.6	13	147.9		50.6	13	204.8	13
CV	Cladville	105.7		115.6		77.5	15	80.0	26
CW	Carn west	0.0	10						_
EE	Easter Ellister	1.8	9	4.3	4	8.0	_	9.6	8
GE	Gearach	1.5	10			15.0	1		
KE	Kelsay	0.0 196.0	10 16	50.2	4	184.5	17	180.8	5
KI KW	Kilchiaran Kentraw Lossit farm (Rhinns) Balymeanach	103.4	28	50.2 66.2	13	67.8	44	51.8	23
LO	Lossit farm (Rhinns)	27.3	11	8.6	3	75.0	4	51.7	3
MN	Balymeanach	142.2	9	28.1 73.2 145.0	4	64.0	20	72.3	7
OF	Octorad	133.3	12	73.2	13	73.9 76.7	22 43	82.3 115.3	16 24
OM	Octomore	219.7 170.7	14 15	218.7	14 15	65.6	39		41
PC PR	Port Charlotte Portnahaven	0.0	9	210.7	13	05.0		30.0	
PW	Port Wemyss	1.4				13.0	1		
WE	Wester Ellister	29.2	9	16.3	6	37.6	7	48.8	6
GORM:						40.7		70.0	24
BB	Ballinaby	157.5	13 15	105.0 323.9		48.7 52.4	64 93	78.8 85.7	24 68
CO FO	Coul	212.1 150.5	16	50.7		56.3	49	43.5	21
GG	Foreland Grulinbeg	81.6	11	53.5	10	43.9	31	48.8	20
LK	Leek	112.0	9	189.8 403.3	15	59.5	17	92.4	44
RK	Rockside	448.7	.* 23			93.6		123.1	59
SG	Sanaig	76.2	10 7	31.1		24.3	32	43.1	13 3
SM	Smaull			8.1 305.6		80.9	193	48.3 107.9	51
SU	Sunderland	384.4	23	303.6	10	80.5	173	107.5	31
GRUINA			_		-	6.0	2	27.7	15
AN	Ardnave	1.7 148.5	7 29	23.1 210.3		27.1	402	24.3	156
AO BU	Aoradh Bun an Uillt	7.9	8	2.3		21.0	3	42.0	1
CP	Corsapol	61.2	-	235.2		14.9	37	42.3	100
KA	Killinallan	0.0 9.7	7	1.1	1 2			19.0	1
KN	Kilnave	9.7	9			10.9	8	11.0	2 55
LY US	Lyrabus Uisge an t-Suidhe	104.7 105.6	9 9	108.8 71.2		34.9 36.5	27 26	35.6 28.5	45
KILMEN	_								
BE	Bridgend	279.4	8	249.4	18	73.1	35	74.5	61
BM	Ballimartin	161.9	10	140.0		52.2	31	69.2	37
BN	Bunnahabhain	34.2	9	64.8		101.0	3	81.1	18
DA	Daill	52.2	7	44.7		72.4 72.1	5 47	100.6 69.6	8 82
EK	Esknish	226.3	15 9	273.1 288.3		72.1	44	59.5	94
EO FL	Eorrabus Finlaggan	325.4 158.5	8	120.8		73.0	23	67.9	32
KD	Knockdon	48.6	8	31.4		32.4	12	68.2	10
KL	Kiells	252.7	9	185.1	14	80.9	28	100.9	33
KM	Kilmeny	170.9	8	102.8		66.5	15	61.2	35
KP	Kepolls	305.0		144.3		74.6	49 31	58.5 33.5	51 66
MC	Mid Carrabus	196.1		109.9 120.2		57.7 35.4	25	48.4	47
MR OV	Mulreesh Octovullin	88.5 649.8		362.8		138.2	52	76.8	85
SC	Scarrabus	105.2		29.0		60.8	13	58.0	9
		_							

Appendix 2 (cont.) Whole farm counts, 1991-92 and 1992-93.

		MEAN FARM TOTALS			MEAN FLOCK SIZES				
			1-92	1992	2-93	1991-92			2-92
Count		MEAN	NO. OF		DAYS GWF	MEAN	No.	MEAN	No.
	Farm name	TOTAL			PRESENT	FLOCK	FLKS		FLKS
LAGGAN		24.4	7	28.3	10	13.2	13	25.5	20
AL BW	Ardlarach	24.1	8	3.5	3	19.3	10	21.0	3
CG	Bowmore Claggan	32.9	7	80.7	12	38.3	6	56.4	42
CR	Cruach	43.3	9	7.9		25.9	17	17.9	8
CT	Clachantree	57.6	8	81.4	16	18.4	25	43.1	34
CY	Corrary	128.6	7	109.4		30.0	30	98.5	20
DU	Duich	2.1	7	.6	1	7.5	2	11.0	1
GC	Gartachossan	272.4	7	113.8		44.0	47	51.9	41
GM	Gartmain	65.9	8	48.1	13	69.4	9	39.9	24
IH	Island House	24.3	ž	100.0	11	11.3	15	75.0	24
LN	Laggan	49.3	8	61.4	14	18.8	21	34.6	32
MY	Mulindry	151.0	7	88.4	16	46.0	23	54.9	29
NB	Neriby	124.3	7	98.4	9	73.6	14	86.8	26
RM	Ronnachmore	61.7	ģ	34.9	10	32.6	17	29.9	21
TL	Tallant	203.9	10	124.8	17	47.4	43	36.5	62
GLEN:			_		1.0	68.9	18	73.6	38
AV	Avenvogie	177.1	7	155.3	16 16	59.0	11	48.3	27
CC	Ceannacroic	81.1	8	72.4	15	94.6	26	77.9	33
CN	Cluanach	251.4	9	134.6		93.3	11	90.7	17
KG	Kynagarry	128.3	8	85.7		111.2	6	120.5	11
KO	Knocklearoch	95.3	7	73.7	8	75.0	4	120.5	11
LO	Lossit (estate)	11.4	7		7		8	113.0	8
NG	North Glen	94.9	9	50.2	,	106.8	•	113.0	
OA:									
BV	Ballivicar	428.6	9	600.9		52.1	74	98.9	114
CB	Cragabus	16.4	7	7.0	3	14.4	8	25.2	5
FH	Carraig Fhada								
GA	Glen Astaile	0ر ہ	7						
GD	Glenegedale	5.8.8	8	70.1		42.7	11	51.4	26
GL	Giol	239.6	9	119.7		50.4	38	107.8	20
IV	Inveraval	55.0	3	28.5		110.0	1	85.5	6
KB	Kinnabus	278.5	8	311.4		54.3	41	101.9	55
KT	Kintra	148.7	10	241.8		41.3	36	55.7	79
LR	Leorin	553.9	9	357.9		95.4	56	59.1	109
PE	Port Ellen	30.7		8.6		107.5	2	25.8	6
RB	Risabus	180.3	9	115.2		64.9	25	79.8	26
UK	Upper Killeyan	105.3	8	51.5	7	73.7	10	67.7	15
ARDTAI	T. N								
ARDIAL	Ardbeg	7.3	8	6.2	3	58.0	1	29.5	4
AT	Ardtalla	0.0	-		=				
BY	Brahunisary	19.0	-	3.0	2	38.0	4	27.0	2
KR	Kintour	0.0	_	- • •	_				
LG	Laphroaig	341.1	-	321.1	. 17	121.6	25	118.7	53
77.7	Pahittoata		-		_				