

Recent Reports July-December 2014

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - Jim Dickson and Paul Daw



31 December: At Ormsary, Mid-Argyll the juv **Kumlien's Gull** showing well today and a first-winter **American Herring Gull** there along with an *intermedius* **Lesser Black Backed Gull** and 3 Purple Sandpipers (Jim Dickson/Stuart Crutchfield). At Loch Gilp a large build-up of gulls with around 2,100 Black-headed's and also the adult **Bonaparte's Gull**, 3 adult **Mediterranean** and an adult **Little Gull** there (Jim Dickson).



Juv. Kumlien's Gull Ormsary 31.12.14 (Jim Dickson).



1W American Herring Gull Ormsary 31.12.14 (Jim Dickson).

30 December: A juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** was found at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport, Mid-Argyll (it was initially reported as a juvenile Glaucous Gull on 28 Dec). Also a very dark Herring Gull that had some features of American Herring Gull but not seen in flight.

An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll at 15.30 until light stopped play at 16.15, also 4 adult **Mediterranean Gulls** there (Jim Dickson – also seen by David Jardine and Stuart Crutchfield).

29 December: A dead **Striped Dolphin** was found at Gott Bay, Tiree today: also a male **Pied Wagtail** and a Chaffinch there. Elsewhere 4 Pintail and 12 Shoveler at Loch Riaghain; 12 Shelduck and a Grey Plover east of Salum; a Rook and 15 Jackdaw at Loch an Eilein; 5 **Long-tailed Ducks**, an adult Gannet, 4 Red-throated Divers, 5 Great Northern Divers, a Black Guillemot and a Fieldfare at Balephetrish Bay (John Bowler).

A **white Oystercatcher** was photographed at Ormsary (Knapdale) Mid-Argyll and 75 **Common Goldeneyes** and 2 **Slavonian Grebes** were on Loch Caolisport (Jim Dickson). 2 Slav Grebes and 75 Goldeneye. Also a single Lesser Black-backed Gull possibly *intermedius* (Jim Dickson).

About 10 Magpies and 6 Jays (together) feeding on some old peanuts thrown out in the garden at Dunoon. Also 13 Long-tailed Tits (the most George has seen together in the garden) with 10 on one fat feeder (George Newall).



white Oystercatcher Ormsary (Knapdale) Mid-Argyll 29 Dec (Jim Dickson).

28 December: A wintering **Common Sandpiper** was seen at Ronachan Point, Kintyre this morning. Four **Velvet Scoters** and a **Snow Bunting** were just north of the Claonaig ferry terminal, Kintyre at noon (Jonathan Platt). A juvenile /first winter Glaucous Gull was at the fish-farm in Ormsary (Knapdale) Kintyre this afternoon and 23 **Black-throated Divers** on Loch Caolisport (Stuart Crutchfield).

The first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** still at Loch a' Phuill today – also a high count of 65 Common Goldeneyes and 124 Whooper Swans there. At Hough Bay: 15 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 2 adult Gannets, 3 **Red-throated Divers**, 9 **Great Northern Divers**, 61 **Purple Sandpipers** and a Water Rail and Dunnock at Balephuill (John Bowler).



Long-tailed Ducks Hough Bay, Tiree 28 Dec (John Bowler).

27 December: A lone male **Brambling** was in a garden in Dunoon today and 24 **Purple Sandpipers** and 13 Turnstones were at the Crazy Golf in Dunoon (George Newall).

A single **Greenshank** was in the bay at the north end of Linne Mhuirich (Loch Sween) this morning Also, a **Red Knot** by the gate to Danna, Loch na Cille (Loch Sween): unusual here, and a few Great Northern Divers on the sea (Jonathan Platt).

26 December: At Rhunahaorine Point, Kintyre today a **Red-necked Grebe** was found by Jonathan Platt. Also in that area were 10+ **Long-tailed Ducks** with a further 5 off the Tayinloan ferry terminal and good numbers of **Slavonian Grebes**. At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll early afternoon in amongst 1,600 Black-headed Gulls there were 5 Mediterranean Gulls (3ads, a 2w and a 1w) an adult Little Gull also 9 adult Kittiwakes flew high over Lochgilphead to the north (Jim Dickson). A Little Egret was at Ardachuple Farm, Colintrave, Loch Riddon, Cowal at 13.30 hrs (Graham Clark).

26 Dec

A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was at Baugh, Tiree (Bill Welstead).



Red-necked Grebe Kintyre, 26.12.14 (Jonathan Platt).

23 December: A very large number of small gulls at head of Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll, on a falling tide after 15:00, included at least **1,950 Black-headed Gulls**, 300 **Common Gulls**, 3 adult **Mediterranean Gulls**, an adult **Little Gull** and a first winter **Kittiwake** (Jim Dickson).

22 December: First winter male **Ring-necked Duck**, drake Common Pochard, 2 Coots and Slavonian Grebe all at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree at lunch-time. Single Rook and 15 Jackdaws at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).

21 December: Despite generally fairly awful weather, most of the mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts for December 2014** are now in. Good numbers of wildfowl were found including Eurasian Wigeon, Eurasian Teal and Mallard: a varied selection in the Sound of Gigha included 5 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 28 **Common Scoter** and 3 **Velvet Scoters**. Flocks of **Greenland White-fronted Geese** were present at Tayinloan, Kintyre (350) and Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) Mid-Argyll (86). A family of Mute Swans at Achnamara (Loch Sween) included all 7 cygnets first seen there in Aug. A **Peregrine Falcon** was recorded at Loch Etive Mid-Argyll but again, relatively small numbers of waders were recorded.

The full table for December can be found under the WeBS Count tab. Many thanks to all those who have taken part in these counts throughout the year. Also to those who have contributed records and photographs to the Recent Reports page and made it such a fascinating picture of bird life in Argyll.

18 December: On Tiree today, 75 Dunlin at Sorobaidh Bay with a Black Guillemot offshore there (John Bowler).

17 December: A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was at Traigh Bhagh, Tiree today. Elsewhere: 5 Fieldfares at Kilmoluaig, 15 Jackdaws and a Rook at Loch an Eilein and a Goldfinch at Balephuill (John Bowler).



Juvenile Glaucous Gull Traigh Bhagh, Tiree 17 Dec (John Bowler).

16 December: At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today, 2 **Mediterranean Gulls** (adult & first-winter) and 3 adult **Little Gulls**. Also the **Kingfisher** was there again (Jim Dickson).

The second leg of the Tiree goose count today (West Tiree) found: the first winter male Ring-necked Duck, Slavonian Grebe and 2 Coots still at Loch a' Phuill, 35 Fieldfares at Druimuidhe and 5 others around the west end. Also 2 **Moorhens** at Loch Bhasapol (John Bowler).

Two **Moorhens** were in a garden at Gruline, Mull this morning happily feeding with chickens down by the river (Norman Adamson).

Eight **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen off Tayinloan, Kintyre and a group of **Greenland White-fronted Geese** were feeding deep in the juncus there (John Nadin).



Greenland White-fronted Geese Tayinloan, Kintyre 16 Dec (John Nadin).

15 December: The first leg of the Tiree goose count today (East Tiree) found: one **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** at Kirkapol and another with the Barnacle Geese at Fadamull. A **Lapland Bunting** was at Gott Tip: also 3 Goldfinches, 2 Greenfinches, 10 Reed Buntings and 5 Fieldfare there. Three Little Grebe and a **Great Northern Diver** (unusual inland) on Loch Riaghain and 6 Fieldfares at Milton. There are now 15 Jackdaws and a Rook at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler). A juvenile **Iceland Gull** was at Killiechronan, Mull today (Anand Prasad). This is the first report of this species in Argyll this winter so far.



Juvenile Iceland Gull Killiechronan, Mull today (Anand Prasad).

14 December: This first winter **Common Rosefinch** was photographed at the Baptist Church caravan at Bunessan, Mull on 30th November (George Newall). A very late record for this species in Scotland. At least 110 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** grazing in a field on the west side of Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) this morning and, unusually for there a male Great-spotted Woodpecker was in roadside trees near Coshandrochaid (Morag Rea). A single **Snow Bunting** was at Traigh nan Gilean, Tiree (John Bowler).



First winter Common Rosefinch Bunessan, Mull 30th Nov (George Newall)

13 December: The first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** is still at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree and a Slavonian Grebe and 2 Coots are also there. A single Woodcock was at Balephuill (John Bowler).

A single **Barnacle Goose** was in with Greylag Geese at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) this morning and 2 Jays were in the garden at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

12 December: A westerly movement of 240 **Kittiwakes** occurred in 1 hour off Aird, Tiree first thing this morning in NW6 and 5 Jackdaws were at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).

09 December: At **Little Egret** at the head of Loch Gilp at lunch-time eventually disappeared into creeks on the NW side (Jim Dickson). Also 2 adult and 2 first winter **Mediterranean Gulls** were off the south side of Ardrishaig with ca600 Black-headed Gulls: the adult and first winter were there until 15:00 (John Nadin/Angus McNab). Going by their ages that means that at least 8 different **Mediterranean Gulls** have been around Loch Gilp in the last couple of weeks (4 adults, 2 second-winters and 2 first-winters).

08 December: At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning: 40 Dunlin and 25 **Bar-tailed Godwits**: only 7 Greenland White-fronted Geese at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) today. And at 15:00, four **Mediterranean Gulls** (3 adults, 1 first winter) and an adult **Little Gull** there (Jim Dickson).

Today's WeBS / Whooper count on Tiree found: the first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** still at Loch a' Phuill: also a male Pochard and 2 Coots there. The island total for **Whooper Swans** had increased to 176 (including 5 flying south over Balephuill). Also, a Moorhen at Loch Bhasapol; a Little Grebe at Loch Riaghain; a Rook and 4 Jackdaws at Loch an Eilein; 120 Ringed Plovers, 310 Sanderling, 12 Purple Sandpipers and 35 Dunlin at Balephetrish Bay and 70 Ringed Plovers, 80 Sanderling, 101 Dunlin, and 13 Bar-tailed Godwits at Sorobaidh Bay.

Four **Little Auks** flew west off Aird first thing in NW7 with 2 Great Northern Divers, 5 Fulmars 2 Northern Gannets, 80 Kittiwake and 40 large auks also there in 1 hours sea-watching (John Bowler).

7 December: A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Hynish, Tiree also 5 Bar-tailed Godwits and an adult Gannet there. A second-winter **Mediterranean Gull** at Loch Gilp,

Mid-Argyll this afternoon (Jim Dickson). Two **Whooper Swans** on Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan).

6 December: The Oronsay **Little Egret** is proving a long stayer: it was on The Strand today-(Mike Peacock per Morgan Vaughan). A Rook and 3 Jackdaw still at Loch an Eilein, Tiree (John Bowler).

5 December: Off Aird, Tiree in one hour: 2 **Little Auks**, 48 Kittiwakes, 16 Fulmars, 24 large auks, 18 Shags, 4 Red-throated Divers, 2 Great Northern Divers and 2 adult Gannets. A **Chiffchaff** at Greenacres, Heylipol, a Pied Wagtail at Traigh Bhagh and a **Grey Plover** at Balephetrish Bay (John Bowler). An adult **Little Gull** at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

4 December: At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 2 adult and a first-winter **Mediterranean Gulls** this afternoon (Jim Dickson).



1w Mediterranean Gull Loch Gilp, 4 Dec (Jim Dickson).

3 December: The female/first-winter **Black Redstart** was re-found at Tayinloan jetty, Kintyre this morning (Stu Crutchfield).

2 December: The adult **Little Gull** and **Kingfisher** still at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll but no sign of the adult **Bonaparte's Gull** today although very few gulls about (Jim Dickson).

1 December: At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this afternoon in with c. 900 Black-headed Gulls: an adult **Bonaparte's Gull**, 5 **Mediterranean Gulls** (3 adults and 2 second-winters) and an adult **Little Gull**. Also there was a **Kingfisher**. A **Chiffchaff** was seen in a Kames garden, Cowal (Simon Wellock).



Bonaparte's Gull (centre bird) Loch Gilp, 1 Dec (Jim Dickson).



Bonaparte's Gull Loch Gilp 1 Dec (Jim Dickson).

30 November: A **Siberian Chiffchaff** at Balephuill, Tiree, a 1w male **Ring-necked Duck** again at Loch a' Phuill, plus a Slavonian Grebe, 3 Coot, a Greater Scaup and 8 Shoveler. A Chiffchaff, 3 Goldfinch and a Greenfinch by the pumping station at Loch a' Phuill. A Woodcock and 10 Long-tailed Ducks at Hough Bay. Also a Jackdaw at Loch an Eilein on 29 Nov and 2 Shelducks at Salum on 25 Nov (John Bowler). A juv **Glaucous Gull** at The Reef on 26 Nov (Janet Hunter). An adult **Mediterranean Gull** was at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll (Stu & Errol Crutchfield). At least 14 Reed Buntings about 2 miles south of Otter Ferry (Barr Laggan), Cowal (Tom Callan).

29 November: On the ABC trip to Loch Gilp and the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll today 61 species were seen in just over four hours including: a **Little Egret**, 2 **Little Gulls** (adult and 1w) and an adult **Mediterranean Gull** at Loch Gilp. At Ardrishaig a **Kingfisher** was seen briefly and further out into Loch Fyne several **Great Northern Divers** and a **Common Scoter** were seen. At the Add Estuary the **Black-tailed Godwit** is still there and nearby small numbers of Lesser Redpolls and Redwings (Jim Dickson).

28 November: A **Black Redstart** at Tayinloan ferry jetty, Kintyre late afternoon and at least 7 **Long-tailed Ducks** off there (Katie Pendreigh). Three adult **Mediterranean Gulls** at the head of Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll, 5 Fieldfares at Cairnbaan, a **Black-tailed Godwit** at the Add Estuary and a **Greenshank** at

Achnamara, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson). The 1w male **Ring-necked Duck** again at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree at closer range and in better light at lunch-time, also 1 Slavonian Grebe, 2 Coot, 12 Shovelers and 1 Pintail there. A 1w **Rook** at Loch an Eilein (also seen here on 27 Nov) and 4 Jackdaw there. A Hen Harrier, a Sparrowhawk and a Kestrel plus some nervous-looking sparrows at Balephuill (John Bowler) .In Cowal there were around 1000 gulls, almost all Black-headed and Commons in more or less equal numbers, in the tidal stream through Otter Ferry Narrows and up towards Loch Gair. A **Slavonian Grebe** of the winter was off the south end of the Spit was my first of the winter. Also 12 Whoopers at Loch Melldalloch with 2 new ads on the upper Powder Dam along with 14 Wigeon and a female Goldeneye. At least 40 Teal were also on Loch Melldalloch (Tom Callan).



Rook Tiree, 28 Nov (Jim Bowler).



Mediterranean and Black-headed Gulls Loch Gilp, 28 Nov (Jim Dickson).

27 November: A **Kingfisher**, a Goldeneye and 29 Dunlin at the head of Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson). At least five **Mediterranean Gulls** (4 adults and a 1w) at the head of Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this afternoon (John Nadin).



Kingfisher Loch Gilp, 27 Nov (Jim Dickson).



Goldeneye Loch Gilp, 27 Nov (Jim Dickson).

26 November: Three **Greenshanks** at Linne Mhuirich, near Tayvallich, the **Black Swan** at the Ulva lagoon and 3 Woodcock over the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll at dusk (Bill Allan).

25 November: A Yellowhammer at Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll...a new tick for my garden list! (Blair Urquart). The **Little Egret** still at head of West Loch Tarbert, a female Velvet Scoter at Sound of Gigha, 2 female Shoveler at Westport marsh, Kintyre, ad Mediterranean and ad Little Gull at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson/Bill Allan). A Red-throated Diver, 86 Turnstones and 28 Purple Sandpipers at Crazy Golf, Dunoon, Cowal at high tide (George Newall).



Wren Kintyre, 25 Nov (Jim Dickson).



Great Northern Diver Sound of Gigha, 25 Nov (Jim Dickson).

24 November: A Woodcock and 16 Goldfinches on Oronsay (Morgan Vaughan).

23 November: At Dunoon Crazy Golf, Cowal from George Newall: 77 Turnstones (comfortably most I've seen here) and 29 Purple Sandpipers. At Loch Gilp this afternoon: 1 ad Mediterranean and 1 ad Little Gull also 18 Dunlin, 18 Bar-tailed Godwits and 4 Great Northern Divers off Ardrishaig. At the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll a single Black-tailed Godwit and 18 Dunlin (Jim Dickson). The **Black Swan** still at the Ulva 'puddle', Mid-Argyll (Bill Allan, Anne-Lise Dickie).



Mistle Thrush Add Estuary, 23.11.14 (Jim Dickson)

22 November: On Tiree: A Slavonian Grebe and 2 Coot at Loch a' Phuill. A Siberian Chiffchaff at Whitehouse also a Jack Snipe and 75 Skylarks there and a Grey Plover at Balepheterish Bay (John Bowler). **Little Egret** still on Oronsay (Morgan Vaughan).



Jack Snipe Tiree 22.11.14 (John Bowler)

21 November: A large gathering of gulls (mainly Black-headed c.1,200) at head of Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll along with 4 adult and a 1w **Mediterranean Gulls**, also the ad **Little Gull** still there (Stu Crutchfield/ Jim Dickson).

20 November: A **Wood Pigeon** that arrived at Balephuill – just the 2nd November record for Tiree: also there were a female Blackcap and 3 Goldfinches. Elsewhere, a single **Pink-footed Goose** at Main Road Farm, Balephuill, a Little Grebe newly arrived at Loch a' Phuill (but no sign of the Slavonian Grebe or Ring-necked Duck there), 12 Fieldfares at Sandaig and 4 Fieldfares and 5 Greenfinches at Meningie (John Bowler).

Single **Greenshank** and **Snow Bunting** on Oronsay today, where the Little Egret was still present (Morgan Vaughan).



Wood Pigeon Balephuill, Tiree 20 Nov (John Bowler).



Pink-footed Goose Balephuil, Tiree 20 Nov (John Bowler).

19 November: The **Little Egret** was seen on Oronsay again on today (Morgan Vaughan and Mike Peacock, Cathy Smith, Isobel Baker). The **Little Egret** at West Loch Tarbert was also found again today and a group of four **Snow Buntings** were in the hills above Tayinloan, Kintyre (John Nadin). A **Bean Goose** seen during the Islay goose counts today at Lyrabus (Mary Redman/ Louise Muir).



Little Egret Oronsay 19 Nov (Morgan Vaughan).



Snow Buntings near Tayinloan, Kintyre 19 Nov (John Nadin).

18 November: A **Rough-legged Buzzard** was reported this afternoon near Port Charlotte, Islay (Stuart Crutchfield). First reported by Bob Davison on 11 Nov, if confirmed this will be the first Argyll record since the one on Tiree in 1997.

Two **Red Kites** were found in Fearnoch Forest (nr. Taynult), Mid-Argyll today (Rory MacLean per David Jardine).

Two days of goose-counting (17/18 Nov) on Tiree detected the following: first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** and **Slavonian Grebe** still at Loch a' Phuill, a **Lapland Bunting** on machair at Hough with Starlings and Redwings, single **Snow Bunting** at Hynish, scattered groups of up to 30 Fieldfares (ca 140 in total around the island), single Pink-footed Geese at Kilmoluaig and Kirkapol. Also 2 male and a female **Hen Harriers**, 3 **Merlins**, a Sparrowhawk and a Common Kestrel (John Bowler).

17 November: Most of the mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts for November 2014** are now in, as well as a couple of late submissions for October. Good numbers of wildfowl including Eurasian Wigeon and Red-breasted Mergansers with Common Goldeneye now making an appearance. Also 4 **Red-throated**, 10 **Black-throated** and 11 **Great Northern Divers** at Kilfinan Bay and a total of **50 Little Grebes** at Loch Sween & Loch Etive alone. Relatively small numbers of waders apart from Oystercatchers but **23 Rock Pipits** at Loch Crinan were unusual. **The full table for November and updated table for October can be found under the WeBS Count tab.**

A **Merlin** was at Arduaine, Mid-Argyll today (Hugh Nicol).

A 1st winter **Mediterranean Gull** and a single **Great Skua** were seen from the Islay from the ferry this morning (not far out from Port Ellen) (Stuart Crutchfield) and a **Woodcock** was in the garden at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).



Fieldfare Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) 15 Nov (Jim Dickson).



Mediterranean Gull Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 15 Nov (Jim Dickson).

16 November: Good diver numbers on Loch Caolisport, Mid-Argyll this morning in flat calm conditions: 1 **Red-throated Diver**, 16 **Black-throated Divers**, 20+ **Great Northern Divers** with 2 **Slavonian Grebes** (Stuart Crutchfield). The first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** again at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree with single **Slavonian Grebe** and 105 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**. 12 Greenfinches, 7 Goldfinches, a Dunnock and a Chaffinch at Balemartine / Mannal with 18 **Great Northern Divers** offshore. 30 Fieldfares, 120 Redwings, a Dunnock and a Chaffinch at Hynish. A **Barn Owl** (rare on Tiree) was at Kirkapol at 22:15pm (John Bowler).

15 November: A juvenile **Pomarine Skua** was off Hough Bay, Tiree today, where 1,400 Kittiwake, 110 Gannets and 500 auks were feeding offshore. Also 11 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 10 **Red-throated Divers**, 8 **Great Northern Divers** and a Black Guillemot in the bay.

Male and female Blackcap, 30 Redwing and 5 Chaffinches at Balephuill, 90 Fieldfares and 80 Redwings at the north end of Beinn Hough and 2 Goldfinches and a Fieldfare at Balinoe (John Bowler).

14 November: The first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** still at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree today as well as a male Sparrowhawk. A male Blackcap, Common Chiffchaff, Dunnock and 4 Chaffinches at Balephuill and 150 Redwing at West Hynish (John Bowler).

A male **Snow Bunting** was on Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan).



Snow Bunting Oronsay 14 Nov (Morgan Vaughan).

13 November: Four adult **Mediterranean Gulls** this morning: 2 south of Ardrishaig, Mid-Argyll, feeding out in Loch Fyne and 2 on the mud at Loch Gilp at head of the loch. Also at Loch Gilp: 2 Little Grebes, 16 Dunlin, 6 Fieldfares with a single Fieldfare at Cairnbaan (Jim Dickson). A single **Kittiwake** was also on the mud at Loch Gilp at lunch-time (David Jardine).

A **Common Chiffchaff** at Balephuill, Tiree (John Bowler).

A **Common Kingfisher** on the shore of Loch Etive, near Connel Bridge, this morning was the second sighting this week and the third this month at the same spot (Mike Harrison).



Greenland White-fronted Geese Tayinloan, Kintyre 12 Nov (John Nadin).



Mediterranean Gulls Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 13 Nov (Jim Dickson).



Greenland White-fronted Geese Tayinloan, Kintyre 12 Nov (John Nadin).

12 November: An adult **Little Gull** was at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today (David Jardine). Seen later by Jim Dickson and John Nadin when 2 adult **Mediterranean Gulls** also present there.

A **Little Egret** was at West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre today (seen by Allen Duckworth, John Nadin and Jim Dickson).

A late lone **Barn Swallow** was at Ormsary (Loch Caolisport), Knapdale (John Nadin).

A **Woodcock** and a Kestrel at Balephuill, Tiree (John Bowler).

At Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre a first winter **Common Rosefinch** was at the feeding station this morning (Eddie Maguire).



first winter Common Rosefinch Machrihanish Seabird Observatory 12 Nov (Eddie Maguire).



Little Egret West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre 12 Nov (Jim Dickson).

11 November: Three adult **Mediterranean Gulls** found at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll at mid-day (John Nadin per Jim Dickson). Still there 13:00, along with ca 420 Black-headed Gulls as well as a **Common Kingfisher** (Jim Dickson).

A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** and 2 juvenile **Pomarine Skuas** seen off Gunna Sound (Coll/Tiree) from the ferry and a juvenile **Pomarine Skua** between Mull and Coll – all harassing Kittiwakes (ca 500 in total). On Tiree, the first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** was still at Loch a' Phuill with 2 **Greater Scaup**, a **Slavonian Grebe** and 3 **Black-tailed Godwits**. Elsewhere a Common Chiffchaff (not tristis)

at Balephuill, 2 Little Grebes at Loch Riaghain and a Fieldfare at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).



Common Kingfisher Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 11 Nov (Jim Dickson).

10 November: A total of 22 **Little Grebes** were found during the Loch Sween WeBS Count today including a tight flock of 15 at Linne Mhuirich (near Tayvallich). Also 37 **Whooper Swans** (incl. 5 juveniles.) 30 **Mute Swans** (all adults) at the Ulva lagoons (Paul Daw).

Single **Snow Bunting**, and single **Brambling** located among a large mixed flock of Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Goldfinches and Twite at the fish-farm at Ormsary, Knapdale this afternoon. A female **Blackcap** was nearby (Stuart Crutchfield). A **Little Auk** was flying S at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory at 10:30hrs (Eddie Maguire).



Little Auk Machrihanish Seabird Observatory 10 Nov (Eddie Maguire)

09 November: Eight **Snow Buntings** at the Add Estuary during Jim's WeBS count (the first he's seen there) (Jim Dickson).

On Seil Island, Mid-Argyll today a **Barn Owl** and 3 Eurasian **Jays** were at Ardencaple and a **Water Rail** at Lochan Seil (David Jardine).

On Oronsay today: a **Little Grebe**, a **Grey Plover** and a single **Brambling** (Morgan Vaughan).

Four drake **Goosanders** were at the head of the Loch Creran during the WeBS count there today. Also two **Greenshank** there, with another near the mouth of the loch and 32 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** at Ardnaclach Farm, North Shian (Robin Harvey).

A single **Common Chiffchaff**, 4 **Woodcock** and ca 300 **Fieldfares** were found at Milton, Tiree (Christian Verstraete per John Bowler).

08 November: A **Little Egret** was seen, whilst canoeing back over the Strand, flying along the coast of Oronsay at The Strand, then feeding on the edge. Three **Pomarine Skuas** (2 dark phase, 1 intermediate) were seen in the Corryvreckan influence today, half way between Colonsay/Garvellachs. Two flying parallel to the ferry, the third chasing a Kittiwake for at least 5 minutes: large flocks of Kittiwake & gulls were feeding there. (Single **Pomarine Skua** seen in the same area on 3 Nov with large flock of gulls & Kittiwakes) (Mike Peacock). Also on Oronsay today: 2,200 **Barnacle Geese**, a single Common Goldeneye, 5 Great Cormorants, 461 **Fieldfares** and 124 **Redwing** (Morgan Vaughan). A first year **Blackcap** was at Kilmartin, Mid-Argyll today and a **Red Knot** at Loch Gilp during the WEBS count (David Jardine).

07 November: Eighteen **Bar-tailed Godwits** counted at the head of Loch Gilp this morning (Stuart Crutchfield). This **Little Egret** was at the Add Estuary at ca 11:00 today. It flew over the Islandadd bridge then headed inland up the Add river into the distance (Jim Dickson).



Little Egret Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 7 Nov (Jim Dickson).



Little Egret Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 7 Nov (Jim Dickson).



Little Egret Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 7 Nov (Jim Dickson).

06 November: Two **Little Grebes** close in off the old pier at Loch Gilp this morning (Jim Dickson).

Little Grebe Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 6 Nov (Jim Dickson)



Little Grebe Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 6 Nov (Jim Dickson)

05 November: **Northern Wheatear** again at Tayinloan, Kintyre today and the **Greenland White-fronted Geese** have started coming back there: ca 200 yesterday plus 13 **Greylag Geese** (Katie Pendreigh).

The following impressive photos of **Barnacle Geese** at Loch Gruinart, Islay were taken by **Shirley Kirk** (forwarded by Davie Rutherford).



Barnacle Goose Loch Gruinart, Islay 30 Oct (Shirley Kirk).



Barnacle Goose Loch Gruinart, Islay 30 Oct (Shirley Kirk).



Barnacle Goose Loch Gruinart, Islay 30 Oct (Shirley Kirk).

04 November: 29 Whooper Swans flew (quite high) South East over Ardfarn, at 10:45 this morning: a lovely sight! (Julia Randall).

Wader numbers finally beginning to grow at Crazy Golf, Dunoon today: 17 **Purple Sandpipers**, a Common Redshank and 8 Turnstones (George Newall).

A single **Whooper Swan** on arable stubble and 21 **Redwings** were on Oronsay today and 67 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** were on Colonsay (Morgan Vaughan).

A **Siberian (*tristis*) Common Chiffchaff**, a **Greenland Redpoll**, NW Redpoll, male Blackcap and 2 Goldcrests (newly arrived) were at Balephuill, Tiree this morning (John Bowler).

The **Little Gull** was seen again at Loch Gilp this morning (seen later by David Jardine). Two Grey Wagtails were at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) along with 30+ Redwings and 5 Goldeneye at the Add Estuary. A male **Brambling** has been hanging about Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll recently (Jim Dickson).



Grey Wagtail Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson)



Little Gull Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 4 Nov (Jim Dickson).



Brambling Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 1 Nov (Jim Dickson)

03 November: Birds passing Oronsay today included: 9 **Great Northern Divers** offshore south of Oronsay and 7 **Whooper Swans** and 16 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** overhead, heading SW (Morgan Vaughan). A first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** had arrived at Loch a' Phuill before lunchtime today (right hand bird in record shots below), also there were a female-

type **Greater Scaup** (middle bird in first photo) and an ***aythya* hybrid** (left-hand bird in record shots below), a **Slavonian Grebe** and 3 **Black-tailed Godwits**. A **tristis Common Chiffchaff** was newly arrived at Balephuill: also there were the Greenland Redpoll, 2 male and 1 female Blackcaps and 3 Goldfinches. Six Goldfinches and a Linnet were at Balinoe, a Common Chiffchaff at The Glebe and a Jackdaw at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).



aythya ducks (see above) Loch a' Phuill, Tìree 3 Nov (John Bowler).

aythya ducks (see above) Loch a' Phuill, Tìree 3 Nov (John Bowler).

02 November: A single **Little Grebe** was found on Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan).

31 October: Single **Great Skua** off Hynish, Tìree today as well as 88 Gannets and 220 Kittiwake² flying SW in 1 hr (John Bowler). Total of 1,964 **Barnacle Geese** counted on Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan).

30 October: This afternoon a single **Northern Wheatear** was at Tayinloan, Kintyre (Katie Pendreigh) and a **Common Chiffchaff** was on dog roses in the garden at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

The 1st winter female **Lesser Scaup** was showing better at Loch a' Phuill, Tìree at lunch-time with 2 imm Greater Scaup, 3 Goldeneye and 29 Redshank.

The **Greenland Redpoll** is still playing “little and large” with the NW Redpoll at Balephuill: also a male Blackcap and 2 Goldfinches there (John Bowler).



Greenland Redpoll with NW Redpoll at Balephuill, Tiree 30 Oct (John Bowler)

29 October: A Red-throated Diver, 12 Purple Sandpipers and 4 Rock Pipits at the Crazy Golf, Dunoon today (George Newall).

A large **Greenland Redpoll** newly arrived at Balephuill, Tiree today (see pic) – also a NW Redpoll there (for comparison!), Three male Blackcaps, a Willow Warbler, 5 Brambling, 3 Dunnock, 2 Greenfinch, 4 Chaffinch and 150 Redwing also at Balephuill plus 20 Whooper Swans flying south there at 08:30 hrs. Two immature Greater Scaup and 3 Goldeneye at Loch a' Phuill plus 168 Greenland White-fronts, 5 Linnets and 2 Chaffinches; 6 **Gadwall** at Loch an Eilein and a **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** with Barnacle Geese at Salum (no sign of the Rosy Starling or Ring-necked Ducks today) (John Bowler). Today at the Sound of Gigha, in calm conditions, Jim Dickson made the following counts: 64 **Common Scoter**, 1 **Velvet Scoter**, 26 **Red-throated Divers**, 4 **Black-throated Divers**, 238 **Great Northern Divers** (largest single tight group was 126 birds) and 58 **Slavonian Grebes**, Also 34 Ringed Plovers, 1 Grey Wagtail and 16 Meadow pipits at the Tayinloan jetty area (Jim Dickson).



Rock Pipit Dunoon, Cowal 29 Oct (George Newall).



Greenland Redpoll Balephuil, Tiree 29 Oct (John Bowler).

28 October: Now two first winter **Ring-necked Ducks** at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree : going around together. Also 165 Greenland White-fronted Geese there, 12 Black-headed Gulls and 29 Common Redshank on the floods (other diving duck too distant to check). Approx. 650 Redwing around West Tiree today. Flying south off Hough in 1 hour at midday were: 255 Gannets, 3 **Pomarine Skuas**, 9 **Arctic Skuas**, 15 **Great Skuas**, 345 Kittiwakes and 975 large auks. Also 30 **Whooper Swans** and a Common Scoter SW off Traigh Bhagh at 1100hrs and 30 Whoopers at An Fhaodhail. A male and 2 female Blackcaps were still at Balephuil (John Bowler). A drake **Green-winged Teal** was found at Gruinart RSPB reserve, Islay this evening (David Wood et al). At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory: a first winter **Mediterranean Gull** and 2 **Barn Swallows** going past north (Eddie Maguire).

27 October: An adult **Little Gull** was at the head of Loch Gilp mid-morning today (Jim Dickson). The juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** was back again at Meningie, Tiree at lunch-time (John Bowler).



Little Gull Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll 27 Oct (Jim Dickson).



Little Gull Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll 27 Oct (Jim Dickson).

26 October: On Tiree, a **Snow Bunting** at Barrapol, **Northern Wheatear** at Heylipol, a **Brambling** at Mannal and another **Brambling**, a male Blackcap and a Willow Warbler at Balephuill (John Bowler).

Also a male **Brambling** in the garden at Cairnbaan this evening and a male **Yellowhammer** at Crinan Ferry in the afternoon (Jim Dickson).

(seen 19 September – reported today: a **Common Kingfisher** on Strathlachlan River from a new footbridge about a hundred yards from Inver Cottage (near Castle Lachlan), Loch Fyne (Dave Dewar per George Newall).

25 October: The mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts for October 2014** are now in. Good numbers of Eurasian Wigeon, Mallard and Red-breasted Mergansers: also Common Redshank including 21 at West Loch Tarbert. Notable species were a **White-tailed Eagle** at Loch Craignish and a **Black Swan** at Loch Sween: **the full table can be found under the WeBS Count tab.**

A newly arrived juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** is feeding around the cattle feeders at Meningie (near Loch a' Phuill), Tiree today. Another new arrival is a female **Ring-necked Duck** at Loch a' Phuill: there with first winter female **Lesser Scaup** and first winter female **Greater Scaup**, ca 90 Tufted Duck and 215 Whooper Swans. At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today: 1 juv **Long-tailed Skua**, 3 juv Pomarine Skuas, 4 Great Skuas, 1 juv Little Gull, 1,100 Kittiwakes (Eddie Maguire). Thanks to comments on the photos published of the Lesser Whitethroat (still lurking at Main Road Farm, Balephuill) it has now been identified as '**Siberian Lesser Whitethroat**' (race *blythi*). Also 200 Redwings there (John Bowler).



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling Meningie, Tiree (John Bowler)



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling Meningie, Tiree (John Bowler)

24 October: A **Wilson's Petrel** was observed at the Tayinloan ferry jetty, Kintyre this morning by Dan Brown. The bird was in the mouth of a Herring Gull and was dropped before being taken and drowned by a Great Black Back. If accepted this would be only the second Argyll record with the first Argyll (and Scottish) record being on Jura on 1 Oct 1891!

A **Magpie** was in the garden at St Catherine's, Cowal this week. Although fairly regularly reported at Strachur Graham had never seen one this far north before (Graham Thomas).

At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today, 30 **Great Northern Divers** heading south and 6+ on the sea, 10 **Pomarine Skuas** (8 immatures/2 adults), 2 **Great Skuas**, a first winter **Little Gull**, and a Puffin (Eddie Maguire). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found at Gruinart RSPB reserve, Islay today (James How et al). An interesting collection of swans at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll today comprised 27 **Mute Swans** (all adult), 63 **Whooper Swans** (including 10 juveniles) and a single **Black Swan**. The latter could possibly be the individual seen at Campbeltown Loch recently. Also 3 **Greenshanks** nearby (Paul Daw). Jim Dickson

counted 22 adult and 1 juvenile **Whooper Swans** at Loch Gilp and 3 adult and 3 juvenile Whoopers at the Add Estuary this morning (Jim Dickson) and Morgan Vaughan counted 62 **Whooper Swans** on Oronsay today). On Tiree, the **Lesser Whitethroat** still at Main Road Farm, Balephuil: also a Willow Warbler, a male Blackcap, 2 Bramblings and 100+ Redwing at Balephuil. Two female Blackcaps at Carnan Mor with 8 Whooper Swans south there. And approx. 100 Redwing in scattered groups elsewhere around West Tiree (John Bowler), Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve today (James How).

23 October: A **Short-toed Lark** was seen on Oronsay today (description provided) (Morgan Vaughan).

A female **Lesser Scaup** was seen and photographed at Ardnave Loch, Islay today (Steve Percival). The record has been submitted to the BBRC.

The **Lesser Whitethroat** was back lurking at Main Road Farm, Balephuil – showing a lot white on one side of the tail.... a potential ‘Siberian’ Lesser Whitethroat (see photos).



Lesser Whitethroat Balephuil, Tiree 20 Oct (Toby Green).

The first winter **Lesser Scaup** was still at Loch a' Phuill this afternoon with 284 **Whooper Swans** (John Bowler).

Seven **Purple Sandpipers** at Crazy Golf course, Dunoon this morning in spite of high seas. Four Turnstones were there yesterday (George Newall).

22 October: A group of 15 adult & 2 juvenile **Whooper Swans** and a female/imm. Goldeneye were at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll this afternoon (Jim Dickson). On Tiree, a **Lesser Whitethroat**, male and female **Blackcap**, a **Brambling** and 15 Redwings were at Balephuill. Small groups of **Whooper Swans** were on the move today (John Bowler).

21 October: Good sea-watch this morning from Aird, Tiree in WNW 8-9 winds with squalls 0805-0935hrs (all heading west): 6 Fulmars, a **Leach's Storm-petrel**, 740 Gannets, 10 **Great Skuas**, 11 **Pomarine Skuas** (2 adults), 6 **Arctic Skuas**, 825 Kittiwake and 110 large auks (John Bowler) and then , in the afternoon: 5 **Great Skuas**, 2 more **Pomarine Skuas** and 4 **Arctic Skuas** in 1.5 hrs pm (Toby Green). A *tristis* **Common Chiffchaff** was newly arrived at Balephuill together with a Willow Warbler and 3 Bramblings and a **Snow Bunting** was at The Reef (John Bowler).

20 October: The juvenile **Lesser Scaup** was at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree again (Toby Green). A **Lesser Whitethroat** was found at Main Road Farm, Balephuill: a male Blackcap and 5 Bramblings were there last night (John Bowler).

19 October: A single **Northern Wheatear** was at Tayinloan, Kintyre this morning (Katie Pendreigh) and around 200 **Redwings** were near Dalvore, Moine Mhor today (Jim Dickson).



Redwing Dalvore, Moine Mhor 19 Oct (Jim Dickson).

Single **Snow Bunting** and **Greenshank** on Oronsay this morning. (Morgan Vaughan).

Juvenile **Lesser Scaup** again at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree with a female type Greater Scaup, single Common Coot, 2 Goldeneye and 277 Whooper Swans (25 cygnets). A 1hr sea-watch off Aird in W7 1615-1715hrs produced (all heading W): 3 Fulmar, 2 **Great Northern Divers**, 261 Gannets, 3 adult **Pomarine Skuas**, 2 **Arctic Skuas**, 3 **Great Skuas**, 2 Black Guillemots, 727 Kittiwakes and 317 large auks (John Bowler).

Two **European Storm-petrels**, single **Pomarine Skua** and 3 **Great Skuas** from the ferry between Mull and Coll (Toby Green). 2nd calendar year **American Golden Plover** again at Balevullin this afternoon and 18 Bramblings, a Willow Warbler, male Blackcap and, 45 Redwing at Balephuill. Also a **Snow Bunting** at Kilkenneth (Toby Green).

Meanwhile, on Coll, a Mistle Thrush, 15 Coal Tit, a Treecreeper, 10 Goldcrests, 7 Jackdaws, a Rook and 65 Redwings at The Lodge Plantation (John Bowler).

18 October: On Tiree, 35 Bramblings, a **Mealy Redpoll**, and 3 Blackcaps at Balephuill. Also two **Grey Phalaropes** and an **Arctic Skua** between Tiree and Coll and 2 Siskins and a Fieldfare at the Lodge Plantation, Coll (John Bowler).

A **Little Egret** on the golf course at the head of West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre today had been present on 17 October and was possibly the bird seen Kennacraig recently (Allen Duckworth).

17 October: On Tiree, the 2nd calendar year **American Golden Plover** was at Balevullin again – re-found by Graham Todd. At Balephuill 3 female Blackcaps, a Willow Warbler, 3 Goldcrests, 2 Fieldfares, 45 **Bramblings** and at least 38 Whooper Swans flying over southwards. At Loch a' Phuill, 263 **Whooper Swans** (incl. 28 cygnets), 172 Mallard and one Goldeneye there (Tufted Ducks too distant to check through). Also 11 Jackdaws still at Ruaig, 1,050 Barnacle Geese at Balephetrish, scattered groups of Redwing around the island (ca 150 in total) and 2 Pale-bellied Brent Geese at Gott Bay with 1 more at Sorobaidh Bay.

Late yesterday pm a **Snow Bunting** arrived at Barrapol and a large flock of Barnacle Geese flew south over Balephuill at 19:20hrs (John Bowler).

16 October: A single male **Velvet Scoter** was seen from the Islay ferry, just outside Kennacraig, Kintyre this morning (Mike Peacock per Morgan Vaughan).

This afternoon on RSPB Oronsay: five **Whooper Swans** (2 ad 3 juvenile.), 2,396 **Barnacle Geese**, 2 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** and 15 Eurasian Wigeon (Morgan Vaughan).



Whooper Swans Oronsay 16 Oct (Morgan Vaughan)



Barnacle Geese Oronsay 16 Oct (Morgan Vaughan)



Pale-bellied Brent Geese Oronsay 16 Oct (Morgan Vaughan)

More **Jackdaws**: On the way up to Oban this morning around 60 were near Barbreck/Kintraw (Loch Craignish), Mid-Argyll. Also several small groups of **Redwings** and a large flock of around 250 just south of Kilmore (nr Oban) (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree, a **Lesser Whitethroat** was newly arrived today at Cornaigbeg. And at Balephuill there were single Willow Warbler and Blackcap, 2 Goldcrests, 5 **Fieldfares**, 280 **Redwings** and one **Brambling**. A single **Jackdaw** remained at Crossapol (John Bowler).

15 October: About 30 **Redwing** were seen near Connel, Mid-Argyll this morning (Mike Harrison).

The number of **Barnacle Geese** on Oronsay had increased to 2,256 today and the 2 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** were still present (Morgan Vaughan).

On Tiree, the first two **Fieldfares** of autumn appeared at Balephuill today (John Bowler).

14 October: A quiet day on the second leg of the goose count on Tiree: a newly arrived **Common Goldeneye** was at Loch a' Phuill, and the juvenile **Lesser Scaup**, female **Greater Scaup**, male **Pochard** were still present (no sign of the *sinensis* Cormorant though).

A **Long-tailed Duck** and 12 Black-headed Gulls were off Traigh Bhi. 11 **Jackdaws** were at Ruaig with a lone **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** and a flock of 10 more **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** were heading NE. 80 **Bramblings** and 40 **Redwings** roosted at Balephuill last night with at least one male **Blackcap** still present today and a Brindled Ochre moth trapped there last night (John Bowler). On Oronsay, 28 **Whooper Swans** were heading south and 1,680 **Barnacle Geese** were counted together with 2 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** (Morgan Vaughan).

Jackdaw Gatherings. There seems to be something going on with our Jackdaws just now. Jim Dickson saw 73 birds this morning heading off fast over Crinan Ferry going out towards Jura. Then when back in that area this afternoon he saw at least 350 Jackdaws over in the Barsloisnoch/Slockavullin direction, spiralling high into the sky for about 10 minutes before they dispersed. As well as the 300 on Tiree, 470 were reported at Treshnish, Mull yesterday (13 Oct - counted from a photograph) and there were still 200 there the following day (14 Oct) (Anand Prasad). And on Oronsay this week; 53 today (14/10/2014) and 67 on 13 October (Morgan Vaughan).



Jackdaws on Oronsay 14 Oct (Morgan Vaughan).

John Bowler suggests “maybe the light easterlies and clear skies are allowing them to wander more widely than usual at this time of year: perhaps after a good breeding season too, so more about?”

We’d be interested to hear of any other recent Jackdaw flocks.

13 October: A flock of *ca* **300 Jackdaws** seen this afternoon at Loch an Eilein (some of which landed on the barns there) constitutes a record count for Tiree: later they all few off eastward.

A **Great Cormorant** at Loch a’ Phuill this afternoon showed characteristics of the ‘continental’ race *sinensis*. A juvenile **Lesser Scaup**, 123 **Whooper Swans**, a female **Greater Scaup**, a male **Pochard**, 2 **Ruff** and , 8 **Black-tailed Godwits** were also there and the goose count around east Tiree today found **1,065 Barnacle Geese**.

A record 80 **Bramblings** roosted at Balephuill last night: there were still 2 **Blackcaps**, a **Willow Warbler**, 40 **Redwings** and a **Goldcrest** there and 30 **Whooper Swans** flew over south early in the morning. A single **Common Chiffchaff** was at Melness, Cornaigbeg (John Bowler).



Part of Jackdaw flock Loch an Eilein, Tiree 13 Oct (John Bowler).



Poss. continental race Great Cormorant Loch a' Phuill, Tiree (John Bowler).

12 October: A **Kingfisher** flew under the Bellanoch bridge at the Add Estuary this afternoon and a couple of minutes later a Merlin and a Peregrine appeared in the same field of view! (Malcolm Chattwood). A flock of 28 Reed Buntings along the Crinan ferry road this afternoon (Jim Dickson). 1 Siskin and 60 Brambling roosted at Balephuill, Tiree last night. Juv **Lesser Scaup**, 1f Scaup, 1m Pochard, 125 Whoopers and 18 Greenland White-fronts at Loch a' Phuill, 15 Greenland White-fronts and 30 Whooper Swans at Loch an Eilein, 1 Willow Warbler, 3 Blackcap, 1 Goldcrest, 3 Brambling, 10 Redwing and 1 Siskin at Balephuill / Carnan Mor plus 11 Whooper Swans south at dusk (John Bowler).

11 October: A **Common Kingfisher** was seen in the bay at Inveraray, Mid-Argyll today (Ann & Noel Hand).

A Great Tit at Mannal, first in 13 years on Tiree and apparently present since 9 Oct (John Bowler). 1 Mealy Redpoll, 12 Brambling and 2 Goldfinch at Balemartine / Mannal, 2m Blackcap, 1 Willow Warbler, 1 Goldcrest and 7 Brambling at Balephuill. Some 70 Barnacle Geese through today. **Lesser Scaup**, 1f Scaup, 1m Pochard, 119 Whooper Swans and 7 Greenland White-fronts at Loch a' Phuill, ca. 20 Redwing scattered around West Tiree (John Bowler/Jim Dickson). A Brambling in Kilmartin, 30 Turnstone, 1 Kingfisher, 2 Brambling on Loch Gilp WeBS count, 2 Wheatear at Tayinloan, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Brambling, 1 Swallow, 1 Greenshank, 3 Brent Geese (2ad + 1juv) on Gigha (David Jardine). 3 Magpies in a Craignure garden, Mull (Pete Hall per

Alan Spellman). A male Blackcap in Cairnbaan (Jim Dickson). 2 **Yellow-browed Warblers** caught and ringed in Lussa forest, Kintyre (Neil Brown).

Great Tit Mannaal, Tiree 11.10.14 (John Bowler).



Yellow-browed Warblers Lussa Forest, Kintyre 10.10.14 (Neil Brown).

10 October: 1 female type **Greater Scaup** new at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree with 1 juv **Lesser Scaup**, 1m Pochard, 60 Tufted Duck and 84 Whoopers (16 cygnets). Also 1w **Mediterranean Gull** there in the afternoon which then moved to Traigh Bhi. Record numbers of Brambling about: 38 at Balephuill, 12 near Loch a' Phuill and 2 at Main Road Farm. Also 4 Blackcap, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Willow Warbler, 1 Wheatear, 10 Redwing and 1 Mealy Redpoll at Balephuill (John Bowler/Jim Dickson). A Magpie in Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll this morning (David Jardine) and presumably the same bird seen heading towards Achnabreac from the direction of Dunadd this afternoon (Malcolm Chattwood).

9 October: 1 **Red-breasted Flycatcher** remained all day at Balephuill, also 1 Garden Warbler there, 15 Brambling, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Wheatear and 10 Redwing. 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler** at Main Road Farm, Balephuill with 1m Blackcap. (John Bowler/ Jim Dickson). An adult **Mediterranean Gull** in the Sound of Mull, off Craignure (Oriole Birding group per Alan Spellman).

8 October: Obvious arrival this morning at Balephuill / Carnan Mor, Tiree: 1 **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 17 Brambling, 80 Redwing, 1 Mealy Redpoll, 1 Lesser Redpoll, 7 NW Redpolls, 1 Bullfinch over calling plus 3

Chiffchaff, 2 Blackcap and 1 Willow Warbler; also 1 Grey Wagtail there last night. The juv **Lesser Scaup** still at Loch a' Phuill. (John Bowler/Jim Dickson). A Kingfisher from the slip way by the recycling bins in Ardrishaig mid-day (John Taylor).



juv Lesser Scaup Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 8.10.14 (Jim Dickson).



Red-breasted Flycatcher Balephuill, Tiree 8.10.14 (Jim Dickson)



Yellow-browed Warbler Balephuill, Tiree 8.10.14 (Jim Dickson)

7 October: On Tiree the juv **Lesser Scaup** showing well again at Loch a' Phuill in calm conditions with 4 Gadwall, 6 Pintail, 2 Shoveler, 3 Ruff and 18 Whoopers including the first 2 cygnets of the autumn there. 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler** still at Balephuill also upto 16 **Brambling**, 2 Chaffinch and 2 Redwing there. At least 360 Barnacle Geese passed south over the island.



Brambling Balephuil, Tiree 7.10.14 (Jim Dickson)

6 October: A **Yellow-browed Warbler** new at Balephuil, Tiree with 3 **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 1 **Willow Warbler** and 3 **Goldcrest**. A Juv **Pomarine Skua** off West Hynish and 2 **Snow Bunting** at Hynish. The juv **Lesser Scaup** still at Loch a' Phuill. (John Bowler/Jim Dickson).

5 October: A **Black Swan** at Add Estuary this evening and 5 **Mandarin duck** on Loch a'Choire, Ford, Mid-Argyll (David Jardine). A **Glaucous Gull** at Loch Gorm, Islay (Bob Davison). 6,230 **Barnacle Geese** and 88 **Pale bellied Brent** at Loch Gruinart, Islay (James How). A juv **Lesser Scaup** at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree first suspected when seen there distantly on 1 Oct (Jim Dickson/John Bowler) also 22 adult **Whoopers** there, 6 **Pintail**, 4 **Gadwall**, 3 **Ruff**, 10 **Knot** and 2 **Black-tailed Godwit**. A seawatch from Hynish in S8 with rain 16.10-17.40 : **3 Leach's Petrel**, **6 Pomarine Skua** (3 ads), 4 **Arctic Skua**, 3 **Great Skua**, 4 **Arctic Tern**, 4 **Fulmar**, 17 **Manx Shearwater**, 46 **Kittiwake**, 2 juv **LBB Gull**, 2 **BH Gull**, 189 large auk and 278 **Gannet** (all heading SW) (John Bowler/Jim Dickson).

4 October: On Tiree a 1w **Common Rosefinch** new at Balemartine, also 1 juv **Marsh Harrier** SSW offshore there being mobbed by 300 **Kittiwakes** plus 1 **Chiffchaff**, 1 **Swallow**, 1 **Arctic Tern** and 6 **Wheatears**. A 1w **Yellow Wagtail** at Barrapol, the **Melodious Warbler** again at The Glebe, 6 **Pale-bellied Brent** at Balephetrish, 3 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Blackcap** and 15 **Common Redpoll** at Balephuil. 600 **Kittiwake** off Traigh Bhi being harried by 1 **Bonxie**. (John Bowler/Jim Dickson).



Common Rosefinch Balemartine, Tìree 4.10.14 (Jim Dickson).



Yellow Wagtail Barrapol, Tìree 4.10.14 (Jim Dickson).

3 October: On Tìree the **Melodious Warbler** back at The Glebe also 1 Chiffchaff there. A Garden Warbler new at Balephuill with 3 Blackcap, 3 Chiffchaff, 2 Willow Warbler, 6 Goldcrest, 3 Dunnock and 15 Common Redpoll, also 7 Swallows there. A Salvonian Grebe east of Soa, 1 Ruff, 1 Blackwit, 12 Knot and 44 Dunlin at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler/Jim Dickson). A white morph **Gyr Falcon** was reported on at Rochside Islay (per Ian Brooke).

2 October: On Tìree a presumed **Mealy Redpoll** at Balephuill and 15 NW Redpolls there, 1m Blackcap, 2 Chiffchaff, 2 Willow Warbler and 4 Goldcrest. A seawatch at Hynish late pm in S7 produced **1 Leach's Petrel** and 1 Storm Petrel plus totals (in 100 mins) of 2 Arctic Skua, 5 Arctic Tern, 57 Kittiwake, 16 Manxies, 4 Fulmar and 58 large auks, plus 86 Gannet in 20 mins (all heading SW). 2 Ruff still at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler/Jim Dickson). A **Goshawk** was reported from Aros Park Mull 'causing havoc and chasing Woodpigeons' (per Alan Spellman). 28 Barnacle Geese now at Loch Gruinart RSPB reserve (James How).



Garden Warbler and Blackcap Balephuil, Tiree 3.10.14 (John Bowler).

1 October: On Tiree 36 Tufted Duck at Loch a' Phuill, 1 Barnacle Goose at Ruaig, 1 Pale-bellied Brent at Gott Bay, 1 Grey Plover at Miodar, 17 Swallows at Caolas and 2 Little Grebe at Loch Riaghain (John Bowler/Jim Dickson).



Pale-bellied Brent Goose Gott Bay, Tiree 1.10.14 (Jim Dickson)

30 September: On Tiree, a first-winter **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Greenhill (Jim Dickson /John Bowler). 2CY **American Golden Plover** showed well at Balevullin (John Bowler). A **Grey Wagtail** new at Balevullin (Jim Dickson) was first Tiree record this year.15 Common Redpoll, 1 Garden Warbler, 3 Willow Warbler, 2 Chiffchaff, 1f Blackcap, 2 Water Rail, 1 Dunnock and 4 Goldcrest at Balephuil / Carnan Mor plus **2 Crossbills** south there at 5pm. A male Blackcap and 1 Chiffchaff at Kilkenneth , a Pale-bellied Brent at Gott Bay,1 Corncrake and 1 Water Rail at The Reef and a Sparrowhawk at Vaul. (John Bowler/Jim Dickson). A first-winter **Arctic Tern** seen feeding off Arrochar this afternoon (Dan Brown).



Red-breasted Flycatcher Tiree 30.9.14 (Jim Dickson)

29 September: On Tiree, 15 Common Redpoll, 2 Blackcap, 4 Chiffchaff, 5 Goldcrest, 2 Willow Warbler at Balephuill / Carnan Mor (John Bowler/ Jim Dickson). A Chiffchaff and a Goldcrest at Cornaigbeg (Jim Dickson). Eleven adult Whoopers, 3 Ruff, 27 Blackwit, 1 Grey Plover and 10 Knot at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler/Jim Dickson) and 1 Pale-bellied Brent at Ruaig. A **Turtle Dove** was at Oronsay house, Isle of Oronsay (Mike Peacock).



Turtle Dove Oronsay 29.9.14 (Mike Peacock)

28 September: **Melodious Warbler** still at the Glebe, **2CY American Golden Plover** back at Loch a' Phuill – last seen on 13 Sep (Jim Dickson). **1 Snow Bunting** at Carnan Mor 60+ Swallow today plus 1 Sand Martin at Mannal, **15 Common Redpoll**, 2 Willow Warbler, 2m Blackcap, 1 Chiffchaff and 2 Goldcrest at Balephuill, also 2 Willow Warbler and 1m Blackcap elsewhere on the island (John Bowler). Two newly arrived Whooper Swans on the marshes at Ulva Lagoons and 29 Mute Swans on the water there. The Wigeon were also there in force - about 42 - along with around 44 Canada Geese (Morag Rea).

27 September: Juv **Pectoral Sandpiper** and juv. **Little Stint** at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree at midday with 2 Ruff, 16 Knot, 4 Blackwit, 5 Pintail and 7 Whoopers. 15 Common Redpoll at Balephuill with 2 Willow Warbler, 1 Chiffchaff, 1m Blackcap, 1 Dunnock, 1 Water Rail and 1 Goldcrest. The **Melodious Warbler** still at the Glebe, Scaranish. (Jim Dickson). George Newall saw a Chiffchaff in his garden this morning (Dunoon) and a single Purple Sandpiper still at Crazy Golf, Dunoon. Four Common Scoter flew south through the Sound of Luing, off Blackmill Bay, where there was an immature Sanderling. An immature Moorhen was on Loch Iliter (David Jardine).



Coal Tit Struchur 27.9.14 (Graham Thomas)

26 September: An Osprey on Tiree seen at various location from Caoles to Loch a' Phuill. Also 1 juv **Little Stint** at Loch a' Phuill, with 2 Ruff, 13 Knot, 17 Blackwits and 28 Dunlin plus 7 Whoopers and 25 Tufted Duck. 12 Common Redpoll still at Balephuill with 2 Willow Warbler, 2 Goldcrest and 2 Blackcap (John Bowler). Found both both Barn and Tawny Owls at Toberonochy, Luing this evening (David Jardine).

25 September: The **Melodious Warbler** was still at the Glebe Scarinish, Tiree at midday today, although viewing conditions were not ideal... (John Bowler).

24 September: Nine **Little Grebes** at Loch Riddon, Cowal included a group of 7 and at least 93 **Goosanders** were present there, in difficult counting conditions. The vast majority of the 58 **Turnstones** at Otter Ferry fish farm were in winter plumage (Tom Callan).

A juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper** and a juvenile **Little Stint** were at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree this afternoon as well as 4 adult **Whooper Swans** (which arrived there on 21 Sep), 21 **Tufted Duck**, 18 juvenile **Red Knot**, 4 juvenile **Ruff**, 28 **Dunlin** and 9 juvenile **Black-tailed Godwits**. Present at Balephuill / Carnan Mor were: 4 **Goldcrests**, a **Common Chiffchaff**, 2 **Willow Warblers**, 2 **Blackcaps**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and 12 **Common Redpolls** (John Bowler).

A **Turtle Dove** was in the village of Arinagour, Coll this afternoon (Ben Jones per John Bowler).

23 September: The **Melodious Warbler** was showing again at The Glebe, Scarinish, Tiree this morning with one **Goldcrest**, a male **Blackcap**, a **Common Chiffchaff** and a **Duncock**.

At Balephuill / Carnan Mor there were: five **Goldcrests**, 5 **Blackcaps**, 2 **Willow Warblers**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and 12 **Common Redpolls**, while 20 **Pink-footed Geese** flew over SE. This morning there were also dozens of **Red Admiral** butterflies around the island (John Bowler).

A **Common Kingfisher** and a **Dipper** were seen on the Lusragan Burn in Connel this morning (Mike Harrison).

22 September: Newly arrived on Tiree today: 4 **Goldcrests**, a female **Blackcap**, a **Common Chiffchaff**, a **Garden Warbler**, a **Spotted Flycatcher**, 2 **Goldfinches** and 7 **Northwestern (Greenland) Redpolls** at Balephuill, an

immature **Pied Flycatcher** at the Glebe (but no sign of the Melodious Warbler there) and a **Jack Snipe** at The Reef. And at Loch a' Phuill: 3 **Pintail**, a juvenile **Grey Plover**, 12 **Red Knot**, a juvenile **Little Stint**, 2 **Ruff**, 8 **Black-tailed Godwits** and a **Great Skua** (John Bowler).

21 September: A juvenile **Barred Warbler** was at Meningie, Balephuill, Tiree this afternoon and a **House Martin** was at West Hynish. At Loch a' Phuill, a juvenile **Little Stint** was present with 12 **Red Knot**, 20 **Dunlin** and 4 **Ruff**. A **Northwestern (Greenland) Redpoll** was at Balephuill as well as 3 **Goldcrests**, a **Common Chiffchaff**, 2 **Willow Warblers** and a male **Blackcap** (John Bowler).

20 September: A **Little Stint** found among Oystercatchers on the Spit at Otter Ferry, Cowal today was a first for the area. One of an unusual number seen in Argyll this autumn (Tom Callan).

Little Stint Otter Ferry, Cowal 20 Sep (Tom Callan)

Little Stint Otter Ferry, Cowal 20 Sep (Tom Callan)

The **Melodious Warbler** was still at the Glebe, Scarinish this afternoon and 76 **Pink-footed Geese** flew SE overhead there. A juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Loch a' Phuill with 20 **Red Knot**, 5 **Ruff** and 12 **Black-tailed Godwits** (John Bowler).

At Loch Gilp this morning: 85 **Wigeon**, a single **Pintail**, 35 **Ringed Plover**, 13 **Red Knot** and 11 **Dunlin**. At Loch Crinan: 15 **Ringed Plover**, 2 **Little Stint**, 25 **Dunlin** (inc. a very large one), and a juvenile **Black-tailed Godwit** (Jim Dickson).

Little Stint Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 20 Sep (Jim Dickson)

Little Stint Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 20 Sep (Jim Dickson)

19 September: At Loch Gilp this morning: 254 **Oystercatchers**, 6 **Red Knot**, 3 **Dunlin**, 1 **Ruff**, and 39 **Common Redshank**. At Loch Crinan/Add Estuary mid-day: 8 **Ringed Plovers**, 2 **Golden Plover**, 2 **Little Stints**, a **Curlew Sandpiper**, 20 **Dunlin**, 2 **Ruff**, 1 **Greenshank**, a **Turnstone**, a male **Hen Harrier** and a late **Cuckoo** (Jim Dickson).

18 September: An immature **Melodious Warbler** found at The Glebe, Scarinish, today was a new species for Tiree (Jim Dickson/Bill Allan)

The majority of mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts for September 2014** are now in. Good numbers of Oystercatcher and Eurasian Curlews but several people commented on the paucity of small waders: the full table can be found under the WeBS Count tab.

A single **Risso's Dolphin** was seen from the return ferry in the evening off Coll (unusual in these waters) (Jim Dickson).

Melodious Warbler The Glebe, Scarinish, Tiree 18 Sep (Jim Dickson).

Melodious Warbler The Glebe, Scarinish, Tiree 18 Sep (Jim Dickson).

17 September: A **Common Kingfisher** was seen flying low above the water on the south side of the Carsaig Bay (nr Tayvallich). A reward for the observer, brave enough to be swimming there at the time (Lottie Goodlet).

A **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** was at Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree today and a **Sandwich Tern** was there earlier – (Jim Dickson per John Bowler).

A **Frosted Orange moth** trapped at Balephuill was an unexpected addition to the Tiree list (John Bowler).

16 September: Seven **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** in the harbour Portnahaven, Islay today were possibly the first of the autumn. One had colour rings: a red ring with a letter V on the right leg and a Yellow ring with a letter F on the left. According to Graham McElwaine in Ireland it is a bird first ringed as 1 year old in Iceland in spring 2009 (it is now 6 years old). It has been wintering every year since in the Strangford Loch area of Ireland. It was seen back in Iceland this spring and it seems it is the first time it has been spotted here on Islay (Peter Roberts).

15 September: A juvenile **Marsh Harrier** flew south down the west coast of Tiree at 13:10-13:15 today, from Beinn Hough over Sandaig to Loch a' Phuill and beyond. The adult **Greenland White-front** and juvenile **Little Stint** were at Loch a' Phuill again this evening together with 8 juvenile **Red Knot**, 14 **Dunlin**, 3

juvenile **Ruff** and 24 juvenile **Black-tailed Godwits**: no sign of the Pectoral Sandpiper though. A fresh influx of juvenile **Sanderling** (63 juveniles = 20% of birds aged) noted around the island on the mowing survey plus 60 **Northern Wheatears**, 12 **Robins** and 10 **Red Admirals**. Also, a very late fresh **Elephant Hawk-moth** was trapped at Balephuill last night, with single late Campion, Gold Spot and Pinion-streaked Snout (John Bowler).

Elephant Hawk-moth Balephuill, Tiree 14 Sep (John Bowler)

At the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan today: 74 **Wigeon**, 3 **Red Knot**, juvenile **Little Stint**, 2 juvenile **Ruff**, a **Greenshank**, 3 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 15 **Lesser Redpolls**.

At Loch Gilp: 4 **Red Knot**, 8 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 29 **Common Redshank**.

At Loch Caolisport: 12 **Ringed Plover**, 4 **Red Knot**, 6 **Dunlin** and one **Greenshank**.

At Ulva Puddle & Keills area of Loch Sween: 8 female/immature **Pintail** (very unusual here), 78 **Wigeon**, 49 **Teal**, 18 **Ringed Plover**, 35 **Goldfinches**, 46 **Twite** and 40 **Lesser Redpolls**, and, lastly, a male **Blackcap** and 2 **Grey Wagtails** at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

14 September: On Tiree, a **Long-eared Owl** was a surprise find roosting in the sycamore at Balephuill today. Also there were a **Sparrowhawk**, a **Common Kestrel**, a **Goldcrest** and 7 **Common Redpolls**. The juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Loch a' Phuill again this evening, with 36 **Wigeon**, 7 **Red Knot**, a juvenile **Little Stint**, 12 **Dunlin**, 3 **Ruff**, and 2 **Black-tailed Godwits**. A **Greenland White-fronted Goose** was at Loch a' Phuill with the Greylags (none seen here all summer so presumably just arrived) (John Bowler).



Long-eared Owl Balephuil, Tiree 14 Sep (John Bowler).

A **Hobby** was seen flying south at Scalasaig, Colonsay at 13:20 today (David Jardine).

A nice group of waders at Loch Crinan this evening included: 6 **Ringed Plover**, a **Golden Plover**, 7 **Red Knot**, a juvenile **Little Stint**, 14 **Dunlin** and 2 juvenile **Ruff** (Jim Dickson).



Juvenile Little Stint (3rd from left) Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 14 Sep (Jim Dickson).



Juvenile Little Stint (2nd from right) Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 14 Sep (Jim Dickson).

13 September: A **Little Stint** was at Traigh nam Barc, Colonsay today and a **Moorhen** on East Loch Fada: plenty of **White Wagtails** about too (David Jardine).

12 September: A vocal juvenile **Common Rosefinch** was in the garden at Balephuill, Tiree first thing today. A juvenile **Barred Warbler** was at Carnan Mor with 12 **Common Redpolls**. Later, a second juvenile **Barred Warbler** was found in the garden at Balephuill (John Bowler).

A probable juvenile **Honey-buzzard** was seen on Luing, Mid-Argyll today (description supplied) (Stuart Crutchfield).

Three **Sandwich Terns** and 3 **Black Guillemots** were near the Crazy Golf course, Dunoon at high tide (George Newall).

This evening there were **41 Grey Herons** at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll. Some birds were seen flying across the moss from quite a distance away so it looks like a large roost. A flock of 45 **Barn Swallows** were at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).



Juvenile Common Rosefinch Balephuill, Tiree 12 Sep (John Bowler).

11 September: The juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree again this evening, with 9 **Dunlin**, 10 **Red Knot**, 3 **Ruff**, 3 **Black-tailed Godwits**, 2 **Greenshank** and a **Common Sandpiper**. Three **Goldcrests**, a **Willow Warbler**, 3 **Sedge Warblers**, 10 **Common Redpolls**, a **Greenfinch** and 2 **Goldfinches** were at Balephuill / Carnan Mor (John Bowler).

Two **Razorbills**, 13 **Common Guillemots** and, unusually, a single **Puffin** seen from Portavadie to Tarbert ferry today. Also 3 **Greenshank** in the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll (Dave Warden).

A glorious evening at the Add Estuary produced 60+ *alba* wagtails (including at least 10 obvious **White Wagtails**), three **Greenshank**, a single **Whimbrel** and 26 **Grey Herons** (Jim Dickson).



alba Wagtails Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 11 Sep (Jim Dickson)



Wigeon Islandadd bridge, Add Estuary 11 Sep (Jim Dickson)

10 September: Three **Greenshanks** at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll this morning (Jim Dickson) and an adult **Mediterranean Gull** flying past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory (Eddie Maguire).

A juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper** showed well this evening at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree: also there were 302 **Northern Lapwing**, 10 **Dunlin**, 13 juvenile **Red Knot**, 5 juvenile **Ruff**, 23 juvenile **Black-tailed Godwits** and 6 **Greenshank** (John Bowler).

A male **Bullfinch** was feeding in the rowan tree in a garden in Dunoon today and George says **Jays** have been more in evidence recently (George Newall).

09 September: Still quite a few warblers around at the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll today. Along the Crinan Ferry road were at least nine **Reed Buntings**, several family groups of **Stonechats**, three **Whinchats**, several **Sedge Warblers** and **Common Whitethroats**, 40+ **Goldfinches**, 2 **Lesser Redpolls** and two **Bullfinches**. Also record numbers of **Grey Herons** at the Add Estuary with 24 there this morning.

A female/immature **Pintail** was found at the Add Estuary this evening - unusual for there (Jim Dickson).



Sedge Warbler Add Estuary 09 Sep (Jim Dickson).



Common Stonechat Add Estuary 09 Sep (Jim Dickson).

08 September: A second juvenile **Barred Warbler** was newly arrived at Balephuill, Tiree first thing this morning: it then flew up to Carnan Mor. The other juvenile **Barred Warbler** was still at Vault. The first summer **American Golden Plover** and a juvenile **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** were at Loch a' Phuill this evening with 38 **Golden Plover**, 110 **Northern Lapwings**, 6 **Red Knot**, 5 **Dunlin**, 26 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 3 **Greenshank**. All were flushed by a **Peregrine Falcon** (John Bowler).



Juvenile Barred Warbler Balephuill, Tiree 08 Sep (John Bowler).

07 September: The **Little Egret** was still at Kennacraig, Kintyre today (per Peter Roberts).

Barred Warbler Vault, Tiree 7 Sep (Keith Gillon)

06 September: A juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 5 **Red Knot**, 3 **Ruffs**, 24 **Black-tailed Godwits**, 2 **Whimbrel** and 3 **Greenshank** were found at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree. In the afternoon 3 juvenile **Little Gulls** flew west off Aird in 1 hr, among a moderate movement of commoner seabird species. A **Grey Phalarope** was seen off Gunna Sound from the Oban ferry as well as 5 **Arctic Skuas** between Mull and Tiree (John Bowler).

A juvenile **Barred Warbler** was at Vault, Tiree and a **Garden Warbler** at Hynish (Keith Gillon).

05 September: At the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan this morning quite a few waders were dropping in during light rain with: 18 **Ringed Plover**, 2 **Golden Plover**, 21 **Red Knot**, 11 **Sanderling**, 45 **Dunlin**, one **Black-tailed Godwit**, 4 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, 22 **Common Redshank** and 17 **Turnstones**. Also there were an **Osprey**, a juvenile **Peregrine Falcon**, 18 **Wigeon**, 52 **Teal** and 154 **Mallard**, 60 **Barn Swallows**, 160 **Meadow Pipits**, 65 **Goldfinches**, 22 **Linnets** and 2 **Bullfinches** (Jim Dickson).

The **American Golden Plover** on Tiree was found again today, at Balevullin and

closer views revealed it to be a 1st-summer bird. Also 3 juvenile **Curlew Sandpipers** at Clachan and a **Lesser Whitethroat** at Balinoe (Keith Gillon per John Bowler).

04 September: A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** were at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree this afternoon (Keith Gillon per John Bowler).



Ruff Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 4 Sep (Keith Gillon).



American Golden Plover Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 4 Sep (Keith Gillon).

03 September: A juvenile **American Golden Plover** was found heading towards Sandaig, Tiree this afternoon and showed there well later on. Also on Tiree, 6 **Ruff** were at Middleton; 2 **Ruff** and 3 **Red Knot** at Loch a' Phuill; a **Lesser Whitethroat** and 2 juvenile **Willow Warblers** at Main Road Farm; 6 **Common Redpolls**, 6 **Lesser Redpolls**, a **Goldcrest** and 2 **House Martins** at Balephuill (Keith Gillon/John Bowler).



Juvenile American Golden Plover Sandaig, Tìree 03 Sep (John Bowler).

02 September: Four **Sandwich Terns** (heading down river), 2 **Black Guillemots** and 2 Gannets seen from the Crazy Golf course, Dunoon this morning. Later, near the old pier at Kirn, there were 6 **Sandwich Terns**, ca 40 **Turnstones**, a few Redshanks and Curlews and the usual scatter of Oystercatchers (George Newall).



Sandwich Terns Kirn, Dunoon 02 Sep (George Newall).

A **Common Kingfisher** was seen at Loch Cuin (Loch a' Chumhainn), Dervaig, Mull today (Arthur Brown per Alan Spellman) and a juvenile/1st winter **Mediterranean Gull** was behind the fish farm at Ormsary, Knapdale this afternoon (Stuart Crutchfield).

01 September: A single **Common Swift** was flying around the top of the cliffs at Grasspoint, Mull today (Bart Jaspers, Netherlands per Alan Spellman). The adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** was still at Gott Bay, Tìree this morning, with a juvenile **Curlew Sandpiper** and 9 **Common Terns**. A newly arrived **Spotted Flycatcher** was at Balephuill, with 6 **Common Redpolls** and 6 **Lesser Redpolls**. Also a **Dunnock** at The Glebe (John Bowler).

White-rumped Sandpiper Gott Bay, Tiree 1 Sep (Keith Gillon).



White-rumped Sandpiper Gott Bay, Tiree 1 Sep (John Bowler).

31 August: An adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at Gott Bay, Tiree today (Keith Gillon). A **Common Kestrel** at Ben Hynish was the 1st of autumn on the island (John Bowler).

A **Little Egret** was seen near Ardbeg, Islay today (per Ian Brooke).

29 August: At Loch Crinan this morning a nice adult pale **Arctic Skua** was chasing 2 **Sandwich Terns** (both unusual for there). Also 10 juvenile **Black tailed Godwits**, 14 **Dunlin** and a juvenile **Mediterranean Gull**.

Later that morning, the first calendar year **Little Egret** was still at Kennacraig, Kintyre. Then, from the Islay ferry: 2 **Red-throated Divers**, 14 **Fulmars**, 1200+ **Manx Shearwaters** (the largest group on sea was 300+), 2 dark/juvenile **Arctic Skuas**, one **Great Skua**, 800+ **Kittiwakes** (mainly off SW Jura) and lots of **Common Guillemots** and **Razorbills**, including one Guillemot that could actually fly! (Jim Dickson).



Manx Shearwaters from Kennacraig - Islay ferry 29 Aug (Jim Dickson).



Arctic Skua Loch Crinan 29 Aug (Jim Dickson).



Little Egret Kennacraig, Kintyre 29 Aug (Jim Dickson).

28 August: On Tiree today: 2 juvenile **Ruff** at Balephuill, one juvenile **Ruff** and 25 **Pintail** at Loch a' Phuill. Also 4 juvenile **Common Redpolls**, 4 **Lesser Redpolls**, a **House Martin**, 3 **Goldfinches**, 4 **Willow Warblers**, a **Robin** and 2 **Goldcrests** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

A **Little Stint** was found at Killiechronan, Mull today (Arthur Brown per Alan Spellman).

Today at the Add Estuary: an **Osprey** fishing and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** posing for a photo (Jim Dickson).



Common Redshank Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 27 Aug (Jim Dickson)



Osprey Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 28 Aug (Jim Dickson)



Bar-tailed Godwit Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 28 Aug (Jim Dickson)

27 August: At Loch Riddon, Cowal today an impressive gathering of 124 Goosander: some of them are in the photograph below. (Tom Callan).



Goosanders Loch Riddon, Cowal 27 Aug (Tom Callan).

This evening 435 **Manx Shearwaters** were seen flying S in 15 minutes at Grogport, Kintyre: also a first calendar year **Mediterranean Gull** going south there and 61 **Common Scoter** at Rhunahaorine, Kintyre (David Jardine).

26 August: Northerly then easterly winds have meant no seabirds and very few waders at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory recently but this **Black-tailed Godwit** came close enough for a nice photograph (Eddie Maguire).



Black-tailed Godwit MSBO, Kintyre 26 Aug (Eddie Maguire).

25 August: A small wader at Breachacha Bay on Coll today is thought to have been a juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper**. It was found by Alex Mackintosh, who also found an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** there during his stay on the island. The **Black Swan** was seen again on Campbeltown Loch, Kintyre today. A pair of **Mute Swans** were acting aggressively towards it (Elaine Hemmings).

24 August: A juvenile **Long-tailed Skua** was seen from the Kennacraig to Port Ellen, Islay ferry today (Mark Lewis).

23 August: Malcolm Chattwood had a good sighting of two **Common Swifts** over his house at Bridgend, nr Lochgilphead today. He hadn't seen one for nearly 3 weeks, although his wife Sue saw one at the Lochgilphead Hospital on the 11 Aug (Malcolm Chattwood).

22 August: Eight **Turnstones** near the Crazy Golf course, Dunoon today were at varied stages in moult (George Newall).

21 August: Three juvenile **Ruff** and a male **Hen Harrier** were at the Reef, Tiree this afternoon. A juvenile **Greenfinch** was newly arrived at Balephuill and 5 **Sedge Warblers** and 3 **Willow Warblers** were also there (John Bowler).

20 August: Today's mowing survey on Tiree produced: 10 juvenile **Black-tailed Godwits** at Cornaigmore; 9 juvenile **Red Knot**, an adult and 2 juvenile **Common Terns** and 1 juvenile **Shelduck** at Gott Bay; a **Greenshank**, 25 **Curlew**, 125 **Sand Martins**, a male **Eurasian Wigeon** and 3 **Shoveler** at Loch a' Phuill and an **Arctic Skua**, one **Great Skua** and 580 **Shags** in Gunna Sound. The first autumn **Robins** were at Gott and Balephuill (John Bowler).

A **Dipper** at the Killail burn (Otter Ferry) was the first there for ages. Also a juvenile **Red Knot** and a single **Redshank** at Killail. A pair of **Mute Swans** with 4 cygnets were at Portavadie, Cowal and at least 50 **Turnstones** at Kirn and 45 or more **Turnstones** at Cluniter (west bay Dunoon) (Tom Callan)

More **Redshanks** about again today with 26 at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll and 54 at the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan. Also 10 **Wigeon**, 13 **Teal**, 6 **Red Knot**, 65 **Curlews** and 3 **Common Sandpipers** there (Jim Dickson). This **Goosander** was photographed at the head of Loch Gilp this morning:



Goosander Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 20 Aug (Jim Dickson).

19 August: Today at the Add Estuary: 3 **Goosanders**, 9 **Red Knot**, 4 **Dunlin**, 47 **Redshank** and juvenile **Mediterranean Gull**. And along the Crinan Ferry Road at least 14 **Common Stonechats**, a family group of 5 **Whinchats** (2ads + 3juvs), 14 **Goldfinches** and a **Common Whitethroat** (Jim Dickson). 80 **Kittiwakes**, a second calendar year **Little Gull** and 70 **Common Terns** were at east end of Sound of Mull (John Bowler).



Juvenile Common Stonechat Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 19 Aug (Jim Dickson).



Juvenile Pied Wagtail Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 19 Aug (Jim Dickson).

There were at least 50 **Manx Shearwaters** flying north through Otter Ferry Narrows at 09:00 this morning (Tom Callan).

18 August: Among birds recorded during the WeBS Count at Loch Long, Cowal today were 298 **Common Eiders** and at least 100 **Manx Shearwaters** (Robert Devine). See updated August WeBS Count list for full details.

A quick evening visit to the Add Estuary found a single male **Gadwall**. Initially seen far out associating with 7 **Eurasian Wigeon** it then spent time on its own. Also present were 86 **Mallard**, 4 **Red Knot**, 2 **Dunlin**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 32 **Redshank**, and a juvenile **Hen Harrier** (Jim Dickson).



Male Gadwall Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 18 Aug (Jim Dickson).

17 August: During a NW gale at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, a 9 hr sea-watch found the following, all flying south: 6 **Common Scoter**, 3 **Leach's Storm-petrels**, 2000+ **Manx Shearwaters**, 1 **Arctic Skua**, 4 **Great Skuas**, *ca* 500 **Kittiwakes** (age samples revealed the majority (80%) were juveniles, 16 **Sanderling**, one **Red Knot**, 30 **Dunlin** and 25 **Turnstones** (Eddie Maguire).

A juvenile **Hen Harrier** was at the Add Estuary this morning and this evening there were 7 juvenile **Red Knot** and a juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** (Jim Dickson).



Juvenile Kittiwake MSBO, Kintyre 17 August (Eddie Maguire).



Great Skuas MSBO, Kintyre 17 August (Eddie Maguire).

14 August: Two families of **Mute Swans** (with 5 and 7 young respectively) were found during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll today as well as unusual numbers of **Common Redshank** (39) and a **Northern Wheatear** at Loch na Cille and many **Scotch Argus** butterflies in flight (Paul Daw).

The **WeBS Counts for July** (including an **Osprey** at West Loch Tarbert) and those so far received for **August** are now on the website (see WeBS Count tab).

A **Northern Wheatear** was by the crazy golf course, Dunoon this morning (George Newall).



Scotch Argus butterfly Loch na Cille, Mid-Argyll 14 Aug (Paul Daw).



Northern Wheatear Loch na Cille, Mid-Argyll 14 Aug (Paul Daw).

13 August: The **Little Egret** was still at Kennacraig, Kintyre this morning; on the N. side of causeway, feeding (Sylvia & Allen Duckworth). It was still there at 14:00 (Jim Dickson).

A sea-watch off Aird, Tiree 05:45-07:15 hrs in NW force 6 winds produced: 85 **Fulmar**, one **Sooty Shearwater**, 365 **Northern Gannets**, a **Great Skua**, 2 **Kittiwakes** and an **Arctic Tern** amongst a blizzard of 16,250 **Manx Shearwaters** (all heading west) (John Bowler).

Two hunting **Ospreys** were over Loch Gilp. Mid-Argyll as well as a juvenile **Red Knot**, 25 **Ringed Plover**, 2 **Turnstones**, 8 **Common Redshank**, 6 **Linnets** and a gathering of 34 **Common Terns** with good proportion of juveniles (Jim Dickson). A second calendar year **Mediterranean Gull** was seen at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll (Stuart Crutchfield).

During the WeBS Count at Loch Gilp this evening a **Red Knot**, 2 **Whimbrel** and a **Greenshank** were seen as well as 15 **Manx Shearwater** flying south. A first year **Mediterranean Gull** was at the Add Estuary afterwards (David Jardine).



Little Egret Kennacraig, Kintyre 13 Aug (Allen Duckworth).

12 August: Today at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll, two juvenile **Mediterranean Gulls** (both un-ringed) and another juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** at Loch Crinan (too distant to see if ringed or not). Also 71 **Ringed Plover** at Loch Crinan and 6 **Sanderling** (Jim Dickson).

Eight **Great Skuas** flying west in 1 hr at Aird, Tiree. Also 8 **Black-tailed Godwits** at the Reef (John Bowler).

11 August: A **Balearic Shearwater** was flying west off Aird, Tiree at lunchtime in large movement of **Manx Shearwaters** heading west out of the Minch (up to 3,000 an hour). A juvenile **Red Knot** and the first juvenile **Sanderling** of the autumn were at Gott Bay and 2 colour-ringed **Sanderling** were at Balephetrish Bay (both known Tiree wintering birds). Three juvenile **Little Terns** were at Gott Bay and an adult **Common Tern** at Vaul Bay. The mowing survey around West Tiree found 256 **European Golden Plovers** (John Bowler).

Six **Turnstones** by the crazy golf course, Dunoon today were the first waders (apart from Oystercatchers) there for a while (George Newall).

10 August: A few new waders in today at Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll, including 41 **Ringed Plover**, 13 **Dunlin** and a single **Turnstone**. At the Add Estuary, 7 **Common Sandpipers** together, 2 juvenile **Red Knot** and 2 **Goosanders**. And at Cairnbaan a family party of **Bullfinches** (ads + 2 juveniles) (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today: a second calendar year **Mediterranean Gull** again on freshly cut-silage at Heylipol with 130 **Common Gulls**, 290 **Northern Lapwings**, 58 **Curlews** and 3 **Pintail**. A male **Hen Harrier**, one **House Martin**, 35 **Sand Martins** and 12 **Barn Swallows** were at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).

A **Little Egret** showed up at the head of West Loch Tarbert, this evening (10 Aug) and was found again Monday morning (11 Aug) at Kennacraig ferry terminal. Interestingly, it flew up into the trees together with a Grey Heron! (Sylvia & Allen Duckworth).



Little Egret West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre 10 Aug (Sylvia & Allen Duckworth).

09 August: A **Ruff** was at the south end pools on Oronsay today (Mike Peacock). Also today, in fields near Drimvore (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll, was an adult **Northern Lapwing** with two fully grown young so presumably from the pair displaying earlier in the spring/summer there. And at the Add Estuary a large gathering of adult and almost full grown young **Canada Geese** with 378 birds there (Jim Dickson).

Today, for the second year running, a juvenile **Reed Warbler** was caught on Aros Moss during the CES (Constant Effort Ringing Site) visit. It would be nice to think that the breeding range expansion continues and maybe an Argyll breeding pair isn't far off? (Neil Brown).



Juvenile Reed Warbler Aros Moss (nr Campbeltown) 9 Aug (Neil Brown).

On Tiree today: a juvenile **Cuckoo** (possibly locally produced) and 3 juvenile **Willow Warblers** at Carnan Mor, a **Common Chiffchaff** and 2 juvenile **Willow Warblers** at Balephuill and 4 **Whimbrel** at Milton (John Bowler).



Juvenile Common Cuckoo Carnan Mor, Tiree 9 Aug (John Bowler).

08 August: Two **Corn Crakes** with squeaky calls on Oronsay today: possibly this year's young (Mike Peacock).

On Tiree today: a **House Martin** at Balephuill, a female **Hen Harrier** at Moss and 8 **Whimbrel** at Milton (John Bowler).

07 August: So many **Common Swifts** over Oban tonight that it was difficult to count among the buildings, but at least 25 and quite possibly 40 circling over High Street, Oban. The noise was amazing because some were quite low and most not much higher! (Mike Anderson).

On Tiree today: an **Arctic Skua** at Balevullin, 4 **Great Skuas** at Ceann a' Mhara and a **Whimbrel** at Traigh Bhi (John Bowler).

05 August: On the ferry from Greenock to Dunoon a good-sized flock of **Manx Shearwaters** (at least 150) were seen in mid stream. They didn't seem to be going anywhere in a hurry, heading towards Loch Long then circling: some putting down others heading back down-river. On the way to Greenock, George had seen just 8! (George Newall).

04 August: An unexpected visitor to Campbeltown Loch today was a colour ringed (NIX) **Black Swan** (Eddie Maguire).



Black Swan Campbeltown Loch 4 Aug (Eddie Maguire).

03 August: A single **Sooty Shearwater** was seen off West Hynish, Tiree today with ca 700 **Manx Shearwaters**. Also there were 3 adult **Red Knot**, 55 **Curlew**, 40 **Common Dolphin** and ca 7 **Greenland-type Northern Wheatears** around the point (John Bowler).

02 August: A juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** was seen flying N past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today (Eddie Maguire). What was presumably the same bird was also there on 4 Aug.

Two **Great Skuas** and 13 **Greenshank** were at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree (John Bowler).



Juvenile Mediterranean Gull MSBO 4 Aug (Eddie Maguire).

01 August: This young juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** was photographed at Loch Craignish, Mid-Argyll today (Morag Rea).



Juvenile White-tailed Eagle Loch Craignish, Mid-Argyll 01 Aug (Morag Rea)

31 July: During a couple of visits to the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan today: 2 **Wigeon**, a party of 14 **Teal** on the sea, an adult **Black-tailed Godwit**, 3 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, 4 **Greenshanks**, an **Osprey** and a male **Hen Harrier** (first here for ages). Also a **Common Cuckoo** mobbed by pipits over the Lochgilphead meadows road. No sign of the juvenile Mediterranean Gull (Jim Dickson).



Osprey Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 31 July (Jim Dickson).

Found on Tiree during a 'mowing survey' today: 401 **Sanderling**, 4 **Bar-tailed Godwit** and 9 adult **Turnstones** around the island. Also, 5 **Red Knot** and 45 **Dunlin** at Gott Bay; 3 **Wigeon**, 48 **Teal**, 140 **Mallard**, 25 **Pintail**, 5 **Shoveler**, a **Black-tailed Godwit** and 8 **Greenshank** at Loch a' Phuill; 21 **Tufted Duck** (local broods) at Loch Bhasapol; **Arctic Skua**, **Common Tern** and 70 **Arctic Terns** at Vaul and 4 **Little Terns** around the east end of the island. Also a **Merlin** at The Reef (John Bowler).

30 July: The juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** was at Add Estuary again, at 14:30. It then flew to Loch Crinan where there were: 5 **Ringed Plovers**, 7 adult **Sanderling**, 30 **Dunlin**, a **Bar-tailed Godwit** in non breeding plumage and 2 adult **Turnstones**. Still 2 **Greenshank** at the Add Estuary and two **Common Swifts** were over the Crinan Ferry road (Jim Dickson).

The first returning **Turnstones** at Otter Ferry were a scattered group of at least 20 on the spit this morning along with a similar scatter of at least 30 **Ringed Plover**. On the up loch side of the spit was an adult **Red-throated Diver** with a fully grown young (Tom Callan).

8 **Common Swifts** moved over Loch Caithlim on Seil, Mid-Argyll tonight: also 5 **Greenshank**, 2 **Moorhens** and a single **Tufted Duck** duckling at Ardencaple (David Jardine).

From the 13:00 Portavadie - Tarbert ferry today there were 27 **Manx Shearwaters** in groups of 3,4, and 20, all heading up loch: 16 were flying south at 17:00. A female **Red-breasted Merganser** with a late brood of 4 small young was on the Otter Ferry spit this evening. This morning, from his greenhouse, Tom thought he could hear a Grasshopper Warbler but on further investigation he saw it was a very agitated Wren. he then noticed a somewhat larger 'bird' below the Wren which on closer inspection turned out to be a **juvenile Fox!** The group of 20 or so **Turnstones** are still present on the Spit (Tom Callan).

There has been a lone **Bottle-nosed Dolphin** present for the last week or so by the Red port hand navigation mark off Glas Eilean, Port Ann, Loch Fyne. Tom watched it for half an hour this morning and it was never more than a couple of meters away from the mark showing only its dorsal fin. Yesterday, and this evening (when approached by a boat) it was frequently jumping well clear of the water. Obviously one normally associates Bottle-nosed Dolphins in gatherings of 20 or so. **Would be interesting to know if any members have any idea what was going on** (Tom Callan).



Juvenile Mediterranean Gull Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 30 July (Jim Dickson).

29 July: At Loch Gilp this morning, four juvenile **Greenshanks** and an adult **Peregrine** keeping an eye on the waders there although no Dunlin or other new arrivals noted.

At the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan again nothing new of note but a female **Sparrowhawk** was being mobbed by Swallows (Jim Dickson).

Second calendar year **Mediterranean** Gull found near An Talla, Crossapol, Tiree this morning (John Bowler).

A juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** was found at the Add Estuary after 17:00 this evening (Jim Dickson).

A **Barn Owl** was seen in a garden at Ormsary, Knapdale last night (Errol Crutchfield).

27 July: A third calendar year **Little Gull** dropped in briefly at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree this afternoon during a squall. Also 13 **Greenshank** and a single **Ruff** there (John Bowler).

Heavy rain today brought down a few more waders at the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan today.

Add Estuary: a single **Wigeon**, 13 **Dunlin**, 3 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, 43 **Curlews**, one **Common Sandpiper**, 3 **Greenshank**, 38 **Black-headed Gulls**, 8 ad **Common Gulls** and 5 juveniles.

Loch Crinan: 6 **Ringed Plovers**, one **Sanderling**, 31 **Dunlin**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, one **Greenshank**, 38 **Curlews** and 130 **Black-headed Gulls** (mostly adults) (Jim Dickson).

25 July: Ten summer-plumaged **Black-tailed Godwit** and a **Whimbrel** were at the Add estuary on today (David Jardine).

23 July: Driving past Kilfinan, Cowal this afternoon there were at least **40 Rooks** on the over-head wires. Virtually without exception they all had their bills apart and were obviously panting. The car said that it was 25°C (Tom Callan).

22 July: An adult **Curlew Sandpiper** was seen with Dunlin off Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today (Eddie Maguire).

Lots of birds at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree this evening : 3 **Eurasian Wigeon**, 34 **Eurasian Teal**, 29 **Pintail**, 3 **Gadwall**, 2 **Shoveler**, 118 **Mallard**, 15

adult **Black-tailed Godwit** and 8 **Greenshank**. All flushed out of the flooded margins by a juvenile **White-tailed Eagle**! Also 2 **Puffins** off Ceann a' Mhara. A huge moth catch on night of 20/21 July at Balephuill produced 465+ moths of 63 species including the first Welsh Wave for Tiree (John Bowler).

Approximately 50 **Common Swifts** reported over Oban today (Bill Alan) and at least 10 were seen over Lunga (Treshnish Isles) (George Newall).

21 July: An all-white (albino?) **Mute Swan cygnet** was photographed at Ronachan Point, Kintyre today. The bill was dingy yellow (Tom Callan).



Mute Swan family Ronachan Point, Kintyre 21 July (Tom Callan).

20 July: One **Green Sandpiper**, an adult **Red Knot**, 8 **Dunlin**, 3 **Greenshank**, 170 **Golden Plover**, 2 **Whooper Swans** and 21 **Pintail** at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree today. Also a **Grasshopper Warbler** still reeling at Balephuill (John Bowler).

At least 25 **Spotted Flycatchers** consisting of several family groups were seen at Ardgartan hotel grounds (nr Arrochar), Cowal today by Howard Butler, a visitor, who says "The Spotted Flycatchers were great to see as they are very scarce this year in Cambridgeshire".

On the Crinan Ferry Road, Moine Mhor today: 4 **Sedge Warblers**, a **Grasshopper Warbler**, 3 **Common Whitethroats**, 2 **Yellowhammers** and 7 **Spotted Flycatchers**. Also 3 **Greenshank** in the Add Estuary and one at Loch Gilp (Jim Dickson).

An **Osprey** was seen hovering over Campbeltown Loch at around 12:30 today, just to the seaward side of the old shipyard. It was mobbed by a gull and then moved a little and tried again. Other gulls joined in and it was chased off out of sight in the direction of Low Askomil (John Cowan).

A **Common Whitethroat** was still singing, at Nursery Cottages, nr Minard, Mid-Argyll this morning (Paul Daw).

Six **Common Swifts** were flying over Connel this afternoon and 13 **Grey Herons** were at an afternoon roost on the west shore of Saul Mor Bay, Loch Etive (Mike Harrison).

19 July: Two **Common Swifts** at Balephuill, Tiree today. Also one **Greenshank**, one **Moorhen** and 160 **Golden Plover** at Sandaig (John Bowler).

17 July: From the Portavadie to Tarbert Ferry this morning: a juvenile **Common Guillemot** escorted by a male. A **Common Whitethroat** was doing it's display

singing at the Tank Slip , Tighnabruaich, and a flock of 35 **Curlews** were at the Little Spit, Otter Ferry. In spite of much looking from both ferry journeys, no Manx Shearwater unlike yesterday (Tom Callan).

A single **Great Skua**, 29 **Sanderling** and 18 **Dunlin** at Gott Bay, Tiree today (John Bowler).

Several small groups of **Razorbills** and **Common Guillemots** were seen in the Firth of Lorne, both adults and young of both species. A **Northern Gannet** was fishing inshore of Eilean Mor, east of Dunstaffnage Bay, in water so shallow that it had to dive in at a very low angle (Mike Harrison).

16 July: Seen from the Portavadie to Tarbert ferry today: 32 **Manx Shearwaters** in two groups moving down Loch Fyne late morning and from the late (17:30) ferry, 49 **Manx Shearwaters** in 5 groups also moving down the loch. Probably many more not seen. Also a colour ringed sub adult Herring Gull in Tarbert, Kintyre this morning which may be the same as seen last year as juvenile (Tom Callan).

15 July: WeBS today (15 July) found single **Greenshanks** at Loch an Eilein and Loch Bhasapol plus 5 more at Loch a' Phuill, where 25 **Pintail** were also present. Two **Sandwich Terns** were off Miodar (John Bowler).

Shags appear to have had a good year on the Ross of Mull with several groups of up to about 50 birds present at the north end of the Sound of Iona. A **White-tailed Eagle** was seen over Loch na Lathaich, followed soon afterwards by a male **Hen Harrier** (Mike Harrison).

14 July: The **WeBS Counts** for **May** and **June** have now been added (see Argyll WeBS Counts tab). Welcome to Ian McPherson who is covering Loch Tulla for the first time. During the summer months some sites are not counted but interesting records can occur at any time. Three **Whooper Swans** were still present at Loch Crinan on 16 May, 55 **Red-breasted Mergansers** and 18 **Great Northern Divers** were in the Sound of Gigha on 20 May as well as 53 **Sanderling**, an **Osprey** at Loch Tulla on 4 May, 76 **Dunlin** at Loch Crinan on 16 May, 30 or more **Common Terns** at Loch Creran on 16 May (although Robin Harvey says they still hadn't settled at the tern raft there by the June count) and an impressive count of 447 **Common Eider** was made at Loch Long in June.

A one hour sea-watch in SE7 with rain/mist off Hynish, Tiree at lunch-time produced: 62 **Fulmar**, 220 **Manx Shearwaters**, one **Storm Petrel**,

108 **Gannets**, 24 **Shags**, 10 **Kittiwake**, 4 **Sandwich Tern**, 12 **Arctic Tern**, 60 **Common Guillemots** and 16 **Puffins**, and, all heading SW. A male

Grasshopper Warbler was still reeling at Balephuill (John Bowler).

Five **Greenshank**, 8 **Common Sandpipers**, 3 **Bar-tailed Godwit**,

118 **Oystercatchers** 64 **Eurasian Curlews** and a single **Eurasian Wigeon** in the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

13 July: a female **Blackcap** was at Balephuill, Tiree: **possibly breeding here**. Also 3 juvenile Goldfinches and 2 juvenile Chiffchaffs there (latter 2 broods locally produced) (John Bowler).

12 July: A few more waders about today: 3 **Greenshanks** and 9 **Common Sandpipers** at the Add Estuary and a group of 60 **Eurasian Curlews** at Loch Crinan and 3 **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Loch Gilp (Jim Dickson).

11 July: A **juvenile Common Cuckoo** was seen on the Crinan Ferry road, Moine Mhor today. The only one reported so far (Jim Dickson).

A group of about 15 **Manx Shearwater** was seen off the west coast of Jura.

Two **Red-throated Divers** were in Glenpatrick Bay, Loch Tarbert, Jura and a small colony of **Arctic Terns** appeared to be breeding on a small islet in the bay (Mike Harrison).

10 July: Two or possibly three pairs of **Common Swifts** found nesting at a site near Slockavullin, Mid-Argyll this morning. Certainly six birds in the air and one or two going into the eaves (Jim Dickson). Swifts are generally pretty scarce in Argyll away from the larger towns but seem to have been more numerous and widespread this year. Still two Greenshanks at the Add Estuary (Jim Dickson).

Yellowhammer and **Wren** were singing and **Common Whitethroat** were feeding young at Bagh an Gleann Muc at the northwest tip of Jura today. Later, a **Tawny Owl** was heard calling (Mike Harrison).



Common Swift nr Slockavullin, Mid-Argyll 10 July (Jim Dickson).

09 July: No less than three **Ospreys** were present at the Add Estuary this morning and the two **Greenshanks** were still there. It seems to have been a good year many passerine birds including **House Sparrows**. Jim Dickson counted 32 in the dementia garden at the Mid-Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead yesterday and the Cairnbaan population also doing well. **Common Starlings** also seem to be about in good numbers: a family party were in his garden at Cairnbaan the other day, the first juvenile he's ever had there. Also flocks of up to 40 Starlings zipping around the River Add, Crinan, Lochgilphead etc. (Jim Dickson).



Osprey Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 9 July (Jim Dickson).

08 July: Stuart Gibson sent in some record shot photos of a very pale Redpoll seen on the Isle of Ulva, Mull. Jim Dickson and John Bowler agree it shows the characteristics of **Common (Mealy) Redpoll** (Stuart Gibson per Jim Dickson).

04 July: A **Grasshopper Warbler** was still reeling at Balephuill, Tiree today with a **juvenile Grasshopper Warbler** there too (John Bowler).

03 July: A **Common Sandpiper** at Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree in the rain was possibly a migrant? Eight Collared Doves and a female **Hen Harrier** were at Balephuill, Tiree plus a **fledged brood of 5 Willow Warblers**. 16 Arctic Terns inc 10 first summer birds at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).

02 July: A total of 16 **Common Shelduck** were found at the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan this morning with four families at the Add ranging from tiny chicks to flying juveniles! Also still two adult **Greenshank** (a pair?) sitting side by side at the River Add: they've have been there since 11th June. A **juvenile Black-headed Gull** was the first of the year seen there (Jim Dickson).

Two Sandwich Terns were off Balevullin, Tiree (John Bowler).

Three female-type **Common Goldeneye** were photographed this morning flying south off Machrihanish Seabird Observatory: a most unseasonal record (Eddie Maguire).

01 July: Two **Sandwich Tern** and a Sanderling at Gott Bay, Tiree. A **Sandwich Tern** and a **Common Tern** with Arctic Terns off Vaul plus 4 **Sanderling** flying east (John Bowler).