

DECEMBER 2016

30 December: Mid-Argyll: a female **Blackcap** has been visiting a garden at Manse Brae in Lochgilphead over the last week and has been aggressively chasing other birds away from food....and today it was joined by a male! (Neil Vassey).

Islay: a **Cackling Goose** feeding with Barnacle geese at Ballinaby yesterday at 1500 (Mike Peacock) and reported there again today (Ian & Margaret Brooke). Also a **Glaucous Gull** opposite Whin Park, Loch Indaal (Dave Nevitt per Ian Brooke).

28 December: Mid-Argyll: an adult **Little Gull** at Loch Gilp, also 122 **Black-headed Gulls** and 20 **Bar-tailed Godwits** (Jim Dickson).

Cowal: At Cluniter, Innellen this morning, 28 **Ringed Plovers**, 30 **Turnstones** and 2 **Dunlins** then late afternoon at the Holy Loch 12 **Little Grebes** (Alistair McGregor).



Little Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 28 Dec (Jim Dickson).



Little Grebe - Holy Loch, Cowal 28 Dec (Alistair McGregor).

25 December: Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

Islay: This morning we looked again in vain for Gyr Falcon. At the RSPB Loch Gruinart - 500 + **Teal** along with a very nice drake **Green-winged Teal**, other highlights were 30 **Shovelers**, 1-2 **Pintail** and 130 **Golden Plovers**. At Loch Indaal to Bowmore: 30 **Brent Geese** (7 more at Bruichladdich), 6+ **Slavonian**

Grebes, 10 Great Nothern Divers, 8 Goldeneye, 7 Common Scoter and 4-5 **Long Tailed Ducks**. Two of the L T Ducks were in the harbour amongst the moored boats in good light – a real Christmas treat (Peter Roberts). A **Grey Phalarope** was seen at Ardtalla...very tame about 15 feet away (Brendon Hollands per Ian Brooke).

Mid-Argyll: the male **Blackcap** still in the garden at Scammadale (Bill Allan/Anne-Lise Dickie).



Grey Phalarope - Ardtalla, Islay 25 Dec (Brendon Hollands).

24 December: Mid-Argyll: A **Kingfisher** again at Loch Gilp today (David Jardine).

23 December: Islay: Peter Roberts and Mike Peacock had a search for the **Gyrfalcon** today without success, however the weather was awful.

22 December: Mid-Argyll: In my garden at Scammadale... nearly trod on a male **Blackcap**... it was obviously very tired and hungry as just concentrating on the food I put out (Anne-Lise Dickie).). A **Long-tailed Duck** on Loch Ederline today (rare away from the coast) (David Jardine).

Islay: A report of a **Gyrfalcon** near Rockside this morning (George E Jackson).

19 December: Tiree: A Juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Loch Bhasapol plus 1 Coot there. 1 **Grey Plover** at Loch a' Phuill – very unusual to see one away from the coast here in winter, also 1f **Greater Scaup** there. 1 **Goldcrest** at The Glebe – Tiree's first ever mid-winter record. 4 **Little Grebe** at Loch Riaghain (John Bowler).

Cowal: a productive Holy Loch WeBS for George Newall with highlights:

59 **Wigeon**, 105 **Teal**, 71 **Mallard**, 67 **Eider**, 7 **Goldeneye**, 11 **Little Grebe**, 232 **Oystercatcher**, 5 **Ringed Plover**, 9 **Lapwing**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 104 **Curlew**, 67 **Redshank**, 11 **Turnstone**, 4 **Black Guillemot**, 2 **Dippers**.

Mid-Argyll: Moine Mhor: no sign of the Great Grey Shrike today (Jim Dickson).

17 December: Mid-Argyll: The **Great Grey Shrike** showing well this morning at the Moine Mhor. While watching it 3 male **Black Grouse** and 2 **Woodcock** flew over it. Later a f/imm **Hen Harrier** was there. The shrike was more over towards the Crinan ferry road in the afternoon. Also 2 **Grey Wagtails** at the Crinan Canal in Cairnbaan (Jim Dickson).

Cowal: 26 **Purple Sandpipers** and 3 **Turnstones** at Crazy Golf, Dunoon this morning (George Newall).



Great Grey Shrike - Moine Mhor 17 Dec (Jim Dickson).



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16 December: Islay: Ian Brooke has been in touch to pass on the SNH island International Goose Counts carried out on Monday and Tuesday with the tallies coming through at 45,714 **Barnacles**, 5,585 **White-fronts** and 556 **Greylags**. Also a drake **Green-winged Teal** at RSPB Loch Gruinart yesterday (James How).

Mid-Argyll: A **Great Grey Shrike** found late afternoon at the Moine Mhor 1.2 km north of the Islandadd bridge and east of the B8025 (Mike Hoit).

14 December: Islay: 142 **Common Scoters**, highest count so far, all in one flock feeding Loch Indaal, directly out from Port Charlotte. Also 55 **Wigeons** flying out into the loch at first light (stubble feeding?) and a **Grey Wagtail** on the beach (Mike Peacock).

Tiree: a 2CY **Iceland Gull** at Barrapol today (presume the bird that over-summered here), 1 **Carrion Crow** at Kilkenneth (the first here for several years), 1 **Coot** at Loch Bhasapol, 7 scattered **Fieldfares** around Tiree over the last two days of goose counting and 1 **Kestrel** at Barrapol (John Bowler).



Iceland Gull -Barrapol, Tiree 14 Dec (John Bowler).

12 December: Mid-Argyll: the **Moorhen** was still on the Lusragan Burn in Connel this morning, as were two **Dippers**. A small flock of about 12 **Waxwings** were around too, but not settling long enough for a good photograph (Mike Harrison).



Dipper - Connel, Mid-Argyll 12 Dec (Mike Harrison).



Waxwings - Connel, Mid-Argyll 12 Dec (Mike Harrison).



Moorhen - Connel, Mid-Argyll 12 Dec (Mike Harrison).

11 December: The **Argyll WeBS Counts for November 2016** have now been submitted and have been added to the website– click on the WeBS Count tab to see the table.

Cowal: near Glendaruel a flock of at least 13 **Bullfinches** flew across in front of the car and settled on a small Larch tree. Most if not all were bright males. Also a report of a **Buzzard** carrying an Oystercatcher (Tom Callan).

10 December: Mid-Argyll: A juvenile **Moorhen** has been pottering about in the Lusragan Burn in Connel for the last few days, eight years since the last one was seen here (Mike Harrison).

09 December: Mid-Argyll: only 5 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** at Barsloisnoch farm (Moine Mhor), this wintering population continues to decline each year. Also 1 **Barnacle Goose** there with the Canadas (Jim Dickson).

08 December: Cowal: a flock of 17 **Bar-tailed Godwits** at water's edge on Otter Ferry Spit. Unusually high number for there (Tom Callan).

Tiree: the '**Siberian**' **Chiffchaff** again at Balephuill today, 1 **Coot** at Loch Bhasapol and 1 f **Greater Scaup**, 2 **Pintail** and 9 **Goldfinch** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

06 December: Mid-Argyll: A **Kingfisher** on the Lusragan Burn brightened up a dreich morning in Connel (Mike Harrison).

05 December: Tiree a single **Coot** was new at Loch Bhasapol today, becoming increasingly rare. A **Duncock** at the Glebe and a Caerlaverock-ringed **Barnacle Goose** at Sandaig (John Bowler).

Mid-Argyll: 3 **Snow Buntings** near the windfarm east of Ormsary (Errol Crutchfield).



Tree Creeper - Corra Farm, Cowal 5 Dec (Tom Callan).

04 December: Mid-Argyll: a single **Pink-footed Goose** at Barsloisnoch Farm (David Jardine).

Cowal: 10-14 **Waxwings** at Benmore Botanic Gardens today (Sybil Baldwin).



Waxwing - Benmore, Cowal 4 Dec (Sybil Baldwin).

03 December: Tiree: a '**Siberian**' **Chiffchaff** in the garden at Balephuill today, plus 1 **Fieldfare** and 3 **Water Rails** (John Bowler).

Islay: the **Isabelline Wheatear** is still nr. Machir Bay (Stu Crutchfield).



'Siberian' Chiffchaff - Tiree 3 Dec (John Bowler).

02 December: Tiree: a male **Green-winged Teal** at Loch Bhassapol (presumably the same as Clachan on 15 Nov). Also a juv **Glaucous Gull** off Hough Bay plus 4 **Long-tailed Duck**, 65 **Purple Sandpiper** and 2 legged-flagged **Sanderling** there. A Norwegian leg-flagged **Bar-tailed Godwit** was at Balephetrish Bay (John Bowler).



1w Isabelline Wheatear - Islay 1 Dec (Jim Dickson).



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01 December: Islay: managed to get confirmatory ID photos of the tail and under-wing coverts of the first-winter **Isabelline Wheatear** at Machir Bay (Jim Dickson). Only five previous Scottish records with the last in 2005. This autumn has seen seven arrive in the UK including this first for Argyll and another in Shetland.

North Argyll: a late WeBS count at Loch Creran included 9 **Goldeneye** and a record 6 drake **Goosander** (Robin Harvey).



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