

RECENT REPORTS February 2016

29 February: At Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll today: at 07:00 there were 95 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** leaving their roost at 'The Puddle'; *ca* 10:00 eight **Whooper Swans** arrived and upwards of 120 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** gathered in field beside The Puddle in the evening. Throughout the day *ca* 300 **Barnacle Geese** were feeding at Danna and other highlights on a stormy day included **Common Eider** off Telford's pier and a pair of **Treecreepers** in the garden at Coshandrochaid (Sue and Kevin Richardson).

28 February: During a walk from Walked from Coshandrochaid to Telford's pier Keills (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll 50+ **Greenland White-fronted Geese** were feeding in an adjacent field. Further sightings included: Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Barnacle Goose, Common Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, 3 male Common Eider, pair Common Goldeneyes, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Little Grebe, Common Guillemots, Common Snipe, Woodcock, Common Stonechats and Rock Pipits (Sue and Kevin Richardson).



Canada and Greenland White-fronted Geese – Keills (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll 28 Feb (Sue and Kevin Richardson).

26 February: Three **Red Knot** seen at Keillmore (Loch Sween) today (Andy Craven per Richard Wesley).



Red Knot - Keillmore (Loch Sween) 26 Feb (Andy Craven).

Also photographed there by Andy Craven:



Common Stonechat - Keillmore (Loch Sween) 26 Feb (Andy Craven).



Common Buzzard - Keillmore (Loch Sween) 26 Feb (Andy Craven).



Curlew - Keillmore (Loch Sween) 26 Feb (Andy Craven).

A **Lesser Canada Goose** (*hutchinsii*) on the Oa, Islay this afternoon is first David has seen on the Oa reserve (David Wood).



Lesser Canada Goose - Oa, Islay 26 Feb (David Wood).

25 February: In the field adjacent to Deer Park, Glen Massan (nr Dunoon), Cowal today, there were 10 **Magpies**, 24 **Fieldfares** and a single **Mistle Thrush**. And a pair of **Common Shelducks** were at the head of the Holy Loch (Alistair McGregor).

24 February: No less than 10 **White-tailed Eagles** (2 adults + 8 immatures) were counted together at the head of Loch na Keal, Mull and 4 **Golden Eagles** were seen on the way there from Salen (Tom Callan).

At the head of Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll the 1w **Glaucous Gull** still present, also 36 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, 20 **Dunlin**, 5 **Shelducks** and an adult **Lesser Black Backed Gull** (Jim Dickson).

23 February: 24 **Purple Sandpipers** at the Crazy Golf, Dunoon today with a **Red-throated Diver** and a **Black Guillemot** offshore (George Newall).

22 February: Mixed flock of nearly 250 geese near Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) during WeBS Count comprised: 194 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, 39 **Greylag Geese** and 36 **Greater Canada Geese** (Paul Daw).

21 February: Despite the rain, WeBS Count was good at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning and included: first winter **Glaucous Gull** still present – first record for this species on WeBS Count ; 33 **Common Eiders** (best count here for a few years); 2 **Great Northern Divers**; one **Slavonian Grebe**; 7 **Red Knot** and 30 **Turnstones**. Also a **Dipper** on the shore at Ardrishaig and 2 or more **Water Rails** at Loch Ederline (best count for a few years) (David Jardine).

At Ardrishaig, Mid-Argyll today: a **Little Grebe** on the canal at Linnet Court has been there for the last 3 days. And in the garden today at Columba Court (Ardrishaig) around **26 Siskins**: there have been up to 16 but today was the most present at one time. Lynsey can't keep up with rate they're going through the Niger and sunflower seeds! (Lynsey Gibson).

20 February: Some highlights on Lismore today while completing the NEWS section down by the lighthouse,: Port Ramsay – 5 **Lapwings**, 2 **Red Knot**; Loch Fiart – 135 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, 1 **Grey Wagtail**; Kilcheran Loch – 1 **Grey Wagtail**; Achnacroish – 1 **Water Rail** and at Oban, the first winter **Iceland Gull** was still there (David Jardine).

A few sightings from South Kintyre today: 3 **Whooper Swans** on floods at Kilmichael Farm,

near Campbeltown this morning, 40 **Redwings** and 60 **Fieldfares** at Peninver and 120 **Fieldfares** at Gobagrennan (Chris Bradshaw & Andy Mckee).

19 February: A juvenile **Iceland Gull** in Oban harbour today was also present on 18 Feb (John Bowler).

18 February: At Drimvore (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll a male **Brambling** and also a female seen later at Cairnbaan in with ca 190 **Chaffinches**. At Loch Gilp the near adult (third-winter) **Little Gull** again as well as the juv/first-winter **Glaucous Gull** (Jim Dickson).

17 February: The second leg of goose count around West Tiree today found: a drake **Green-winged Teal** at Loch a' Phuill – busy displaying with Teal; a juvenile **Iceland Gull** at Moss; a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Traigh Ghrianaid, a male **Pied Wagtail** at Meningie; 3 newly arrived **Common Stonechats** at Balephuill; 2 **Fieldfares** at Hynish and a **Goldfinch** at Greenhill (John Bowler).



drake Green-winged Teal - Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 17 Feb (John Bowler).



juvenile Iceland Gull – Moss, Tiree 17 Feb (John Bowler).

The juvenile/first winter **Glaucous Gull** is still in Oban, at Oban Times pier (Anne-Lise Dickie).

16 February: A **Twite** (L586147) colour-ringed code 5E at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 08 October 2014 was photographed on 14 Feb 2016 at Whitehead, Co. Antrim (Sandy McWilliams per Eddie Maguire).

The juvenile/first winter **Glaucous Gull** is still at the head of Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

15 February: On Tiree, the first leg of the goose count found: a first winter **American Herring Gull** at Crossapol Farm, the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** at Crossapol Point with 320 Common Gulls, first winter **Black-headed Gull** at Ruaig, 5 **Pintails**, 18 **Shovelers** and 2 **Little Grebes** at Loch Riaghain and a juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** flying west from Gunna to Urvaig and later seen circling with a **second** juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** at Balephetrish (John Bowler).



American Herring Gull - Crossapol Farm, Tiree 15 Feb (John Bowler).



Kumlien's Gull - Crossapol Point, Tiree 15 Feb (John Bowler).

14 February: There were 30+ **Yellowhammers** by Kilmory Ross / Barraormid (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll today. Also a juvenile male **Hen Harrier** (second year) at Danna and a male **Goosander** in Tayvallich Harbour, where there have been up to 4 (2 pairs) occasionally throughout this winter (Morag Rea).

On Iona today: at least 42 **Golden Plover** were about midway between the road and the shore, East of Clachanach, and nearby 200 plus **Barnacle Geese** feeding up to the Columba Hotel, on the East side (Robin MacCormick).

A juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** was soaring around over Ceann a' Mhara and Loch a' Phuill, Tiree this morning. Also male and female **Hen Harriers** and 4 **Chaffinches** at Balephuill and a **Short-eared Owl** at Balinoe at 01:30hrs (John Bowler).



White-tailed Eagle – Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 14 Feb (John Bowler).

13 February: On Tiree today: the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** again at Crossapol Farm and a **Mistle Thrush** and 55 **Twite** at West Hynish (John Bowler).

The first winter **Glaucous Gull** was still at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning (Jim Dickson).

Video clip of Glaucous Gull:



first winter Glaucous Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 13 Feb (Jim Dickson).



first winter Glaucous Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 13 Feb (Jim Dickson).



first winter Glaucous Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 13 Feb (Jim Dickson).

12 February: Gulls galore. A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** and an adult **Lesser Black Backed Gull** were at the head of Loch Gilp this morning as well as the adult **Little Gull** (Stu Crutchfield).

A new first winter **Glaucous Gull** in Oban Bay, Mid-Argyll today (Bill Allan/ Anne-Lise Dickie).

A first winter **Iceland Gull** was at Taynuilt, Loch Etive this afternoon (Andy Robinson).

On Islay: an **Iceland Gull** at Kinnabus today (David Wood).

On Tiree: 2 adult **Black-headed Gulls** at Crossapol Farm (John Bowler).

And on Mull a **Common Sandpiper** was reported between Glenforsa and Pennygown (Debbie Thorn per Alan Spellman).

11 February: Jays have been widely reported from gardens this winter and up to 4 Jays have been coming to a garden at Scammadale (nr. Oban), Mid-Argyll recently (Anne-Lise Dickie/Bill Allan).

On Islay: **Common Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at the Oa, today were the first of the year on the reserve (David Wood).

10 February: On Tiree: the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** was at Crossapol Bay this afternoon; a **Pied Wagtail** at The Maze and a single **Pink-footed Goose** flew south over Balephuill with Greylags (John Bowler).

A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** again at the head of Loch Fyne (opposite the Oyster bar), Mid-Argyll and the long staying juvenile **Glaucous Gull** again at Arrochar, Cowal/Clyde. (Bill Allan).



Juvenile Glaucous Gull Arrochar, Cowal/Clyde 10 Feb (Bill Allan).



1w Glaucous Gull Head of Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll 10 Feb (Bill Allan)

Two **Lesser Redpolls** on the niger seeds in George Newall's garden in Dunoon. Also in the area: a few Eider, Mallard, Wigeon and a pair of **Common Shelducks** just beyond Innellan. And at Ardyne (near Toward Point): a few Mallard, Eiders, a pair of **Red-breasted Mergansers** and a pair of **Common Shelducks** on the sea, *ca* 50 **Oystercatchers** and 54 **Ringed Plovers** on the shore with 4 Mallards and a handsome drake **Goosander** on Ardyne burn. A huge mixed flock was on the fields nearby, frequently taking the air and moving from one side of the field or to a different field making accurate counting was impossible. However, there were at least 1,000 birds, over 75% being gulls (by far the majority Common, then Herring with probably about 30 Black-headed at least two in full breeding plumage). There was a minimum of 150 **Oystercatchers**, about 50 **Curlews**, a scatter of Corvids (mainly Rooks and Jackdaws) and a flock of about 70-80 **Starlings**. A **Common Kestrel** was hunting above Castle Toward grounds (George Newall).



Common Kestrel - Castle Toward, Cowal 09 Feb (George Newall).

An adult **Little Gull** was at the head of Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll again this morning.



Little Gull (centre left) – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 10 Feb (Jim Dickson).

09 February: On Tiree today: a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Sandaig and a **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** with Barnacle Geese at Middleton (John Bowler).

Up to 2 **Magpies** have been visiting a garden at Kinloch near Benderloch, North Argyll in the past week (per Robin Harvey).

Five **Siskins** together at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll were the first of the year there (Jim Dickson).

08 February: At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today: 2 **Goosanders**, 9 **Red Knot**, 20 **Dunlin**, 39 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 26 **Curlews** (Jim Dickson).

The Tiree juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** was back at Crossapol this afternoon, with a juvenile Iceland Gull (John Bowler).

34 **White-fronted Geese** (one with neck-collar) and a **Woodcock** seen during 2 NEWS count sectors at Loch Creran, North Argyll today (Robin Harvey).

06 February: 71 **Barnacle Geese** counted at Maol, Baile Mor, Iona, Mull today (Robertson MacCormick).

Three juvenile **White-tailed Eagles** seen heading north over Carsaig, near Tayvallich, Mid-Argyll today (Lottie Goodlet/Duggie Chirnside).

04 February: Two **Magpies** have been visiting gardens in the vicinity of the Grammar School, Campbeltown regularly (Archie Houston per Eddie Maguire).

This is the time of year at which Magpies begin to appear in various parts of Argyll outwith the core breeding area round Dunoon, reaching a peak in April. We are interested in all such records – please report to Jim Dickson at the e-mail address above.

For discussion of the pattern of past records see 'Magpies in Argyll' under the Publications tab.

A partly leucistic **Barnacle Goose** was at Balephetrish, Tiree today (John Bowler).



leucistic Barnacle Goose - Balephetrish, Tiree 04 Feb (John Bowler).

03 February: A **Barn Owl** flew across the road at Balemartine, Tiree at dusk (John Bowler).

First winter **Glaucous Gull** at Lossit Bay, Islay today feeding on a dead Gannet, also 67 **Common Scoter** in Loch Indaal, off Port Charlotte - Mike's highest count so far this winter (Mike Peacock).



first winter Glaucous Gull - Lossit Bay, Islay 03 Feb (Mike Peacock).

At least 3 **Woodcock** flying over Corra, Otter Ferry, Cowal, then going inland, in around 20 mins from very first light this morning (Tom Callan).

02 February: A hectic 1hr sea-watch from 08:15hrs, off Aird, Tiree in NW8 wind saw a very large movement of seabirds heading west out of the Minch including: 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 7 **Great Northern Divers**, 225 **Fulmars**, 1 "**Blue**" **Fulmar** (of the darkest type "DD"), a single **Manx Shearwater** (the earliest on record here), 62 **Northern Gannets**, 3,650 **Kittiwakes**, 6,400 large auks (mix of **Guillemots** and **Razorbills**), 5 **Black Guillemots** and 9 **Little Auks**. 5 **Fieldfares** were at Druimbuidhe, Cornaigmore, Tiree (John Bowler).