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31 January: Calm seas off Hynish, Tiree produced: 1 **Black-throated Diver**, 55 **Great Northern Divers** and 9 **Black Guillemots**. 38 **Purple Sandpipers** and a Porpoise also seen there. A group of 6 **Meadow Pipits** at Balephuill was unusual on Tiree, for mid-winter (John Bowler).

A quick visit to Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll late morning found: 148 **Black-headed Gulls** (more than recently), including one with extensive brown head, and one adult **Mediterranean Gull** with a white colour-ring on left leg but too distant to read it (Jim Dickson).



Mediterranean Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 31 Jan (Jim Dickson).

26 January: On Tiree today: a pair of **Gadwall** and a male **Pintail** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

24 January: A male **Pintail** was at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll today (Morag Rea).



Pintail - Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll 24 Jan (Morag Rea).

The pair of **Gadwall** and an **Iceland Gull** present at Knock outfalls (nr. Gruline), Mull today. Also 2 **Pied Wagtails** on the beach and a **Golden Eagle** flying over (Juliet Vines per Alan Spellman).

23 January: The following were found on Luing, Mid-Argyll this morning, during NEWS sections there: at Toberonochy – 530 **Barnacle Geese**, 55 **Northern Lapwings**, a first

winter **Iceland Gull** and 5 **Fieldfares**. Also 17 **Tufted Ducks** at Loch Seil (David Jardine).

A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was at Traigh Bhi, Tiree today (John Bowler).

Good views of a male **Hen Harrier** over the forest on the left (east) between Grogport and Coronations woods just prior to arriving in Carradale, Kintyre (Andy Craven).

On Islay, a **hutchinsii Canada Goose** was with Barnacle Geese at Cornabus, the drake **Green-winged Teal** again at RSPB Loch Gruinart reserve, and a first-winter **Glaucous Gull** at Machir Bay (Stu Crutchfield/Scott O'Hara).

22 January: Some counts in the Barsloisnoch/Moine Mhor area, Mid-Argyll : 7 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, a male **Hen Harrier**, 64 **Curlews**, 230 **Common Gulls**, 5 **Wood Pigeons**, 65 **Rooks**, 4 **Carrion Crows**, 5 **hybrid crows**, 89 **Hooded Crows**, 8 **Redwings**, 5 **Pied Wagtails** and 18 **Meadow Pipits**. Heavy overnight rain meant the Kilmartin burn (almost) bursting its banks (Jim Dickson).

The counts of the main gull flocks on Tiree encountered during the all-island goose count on 19-20 January revealed a total of **1,870 Common Gulls** – the highest total yet recorded there. Most are in groups of several hundred birds feeding inland on wet grassland and around livestock feeding areas, although yesterday a flock of 650 Common Gulls (and 220 Herring Gulls) was feeding at Sorobaidh Bay where a very high tide was washing food out of the large seaweed banks there. John has never seen so many large gull flocks on the island.

The all-island count also came up with: 106 **Whooper Swans**, 3,020 **Golden Plover**, 3,655 **Lapwing**, 2 **Black-headed Gulls**, 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 465 **Herring Gulls**, 3-4 **Iceland Gulls**, 1 **Kumlien's Gull** and 1 **Glaucous Gull** (John Bowler).

A **Common Kingfisher** was at Loch Cuin (Loch a' Chumhainn), Mull today (Juliet Vines per Alan Spellman).

21 January: A wader roost at Campbeltown Loch held 142 **Oystercatchers**, 72 **Curlew**, 64 **Ringed Plover**, 1 **Purple Sandpiper** and 5 **Dunlin** and a **Merlin** was seen at Gobagrennan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre (Chris Bradshaw & Andy Mckee).

On Tiree today: juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** in massive feeding flock of gulls in the SW corner of Sorobaidh Bay at high tide this afternoon. Also there: 2 adult **Black-headed Gulls** (1st of year here), plus around 650 **Common Gulls** and 220 **Herring Gulls** (John Bowler).



juvenile Kumlien's Gull (centre) - Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree 21 Jan (John Bowler).

20 January: Reported from Kintyre today: a single **Greenshank** and 2 **Goosanders** at Kennacraig Ferry terminal; 21 **Great Northern Divers** and 6 **Slavonian Grebes** at the north end of the Gigha Sound (Chris Bradshaw & Andy Mckee).

The second leg of the goose count around West Tìree today found: the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** again at Balinoe, a juvenile **Iceland Gull** at Loch Stanail (3-4 juvs on the island just now), a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** and an adult type **Lesser Black-backed Gull** in a flock of 450 **Common Gulls** and 120 **Herring Gulls** at Sandaig. Also, one **Pink-footed Goose** at Heylipol, two **Pink-footed Geese** at Cornaigmore and a **Long-tailed Duck** and a **Slavonian Grebe** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

At Kennacraig, Kintyre today, a pair of **Goosander**. Then from the ferry from Kennacraig to Islay: 11 **Goldeneye**, 2 **Red-throated Divers**, 17 **Great Northern Divers** and a **Slavonian Grebe** in West Loch Tarbert and, off Gigha, 61 **Great Northern Divers** (includes two flocks of 30 & 16), 7 **Kittiwakes**, 3 **Common Guillemots** and 12 **Razorbills**. On Jura, 2 adult and one immature **White-tailed Eagles** all in air together, with fourth adult perched on Glas Eilean (Mike Peacock).

Most of the mainland Argyll WeBS Counts for January 2016 are now in and they and the November and December 2015 counts have been added to the website. Highlights in January included: 85 **Teal**, 195 **Oystercatchers** and 97 **Curlews** at Holy Loch (also 2 Redwings here); 2 **Golden Eagles** and a **Common Kingfisher** at Loch Craignish; 174 **Wigeon** and 58 **Teal** at Loch Crinan; 119 **Wigeon**, 180 **Mallard**, 5 **Goosanders** and 18 **Little Grebes** at Loch Etive; a **Black-throated Diver**, 27 **Ringed Plovers**, 33 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and second winter **Little** and **Mediterranean Gulls** at Loch Gilp; 6 **Tufted Duck** at Loch Leathan; a **Great Northern Diver** and a **Red-necked Grebe** at Loch Sween and 4 **Goosanders** at Loch Tulla. **The full tables of counts for November and December 2015 and January 2016 can be found under the WeBS Count tab.**

19 January: A **Twite** colour ringed at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre during autumn 2015 (August-November) was seen by Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire on 16th January 2016: our first notification from this county (Jamie Dunning per Eddie Maguire).

A flock of at least 36 **Yellowhammers** were seen today at Kilmory Ross Farm near Barrahormid (past Tayvallich), Mid-Argyll. The most Jim's seen together in Argyll. (Jim Dickson).



Yellowhammers - Kilmory Ross Farm (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).



Yellowhammers - Kilmory Ross Farm (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

Found today during a goose count on Tiree: a juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** in huge gull flock at Crossapol Farm this afternoon; juvenile **Iceland Gulls** at Salum and Ruaig; a **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** and a **Canada Goose** with **Barnacle Geese** at Vault; a **Pink-footed Goose** at Heylipol; a **Pintail** and a **Little Grebe** at Loch Riaghain; 12 **Fieldfares** at Heanish and 2 more at Salum and a **Snow Bunting** with 4 **Goldfinches** at Gott Tip (John Bowler).



Kumlien's Gull - Crossapol Farm, Tiree 19 Jan (John Bowler).



Iceland Gull – Ruaig, Tiree 19 Jan (John Bowler).

18 January: At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this afternoon: 10 **Common Shelducks**, 19 **Ringed Plover**, 10 **Dunlin** and 39 **Bar-tailed Godwits**. Also a count of 34 **Hooded Crows**, 4 **Carrion Crows** and 5 hybrids. On the coast 1km south of Ardrishaig a single **Dipper** and on Loch Fyne, 2 **Red-throated Divers**, 1 **Black-throated** and 5 **Great Northern Divers** (Jim Dickson). A juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** was found in a large gull flock at Balinoe, Tiree this afternoon (John Bowler).



Kumlien's Gull - Balinoe, Tiree 18 Jan (John Bowler).

Up to three **Reed Buntings** have been visiting the garden at Connel, Mid-Argyll since the cold weather started and have been feeding on the ground below the bird table (Mike Harrison).



Reed Buntings – Connel, Mid-Argyll 18 Jan (Mike Harrison).

17 January: A **Red-necked Grebe** was found at Loch na Cille today during the Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll WeBS Count (Paul Daw/Morag Rea). What was presumably the same bird was seen the same day in the Linne Mhuirich Narrows at the end of the Tainish peninsula (Lottie Goodlet and Dougie Chirnside).



Red-necked Grebe (distant!) - Loch na Cille, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll 17 Jan (Morag Rea).

A second winter **Mediterranean Gull** and second winter **Little Gull** during the WeBS Count at Loch Gilp late this afternoon with the Black-headed Gulls, also one **Black-throated Diver** in the outer part of the loch (David Jardine).

A female **Hen Harrier** was hunting at Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll at 08:30 this morning. And a male **Hen Harrier** alongside Dunadd road (Moine Mhor) also hunting (Jon Close).

Jim now has at least 190 **Chaffinches** in the garden at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll as well as 7 **Long-tailed Tits** (Jim Dickson).



Long-tailed Tit - – Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 14 Jan (Jim Dickson).

16 January: Two **Golden Eagles** seen during the WeBS Count at Loch Craignish today. Initially together over Eilann McKaskin, then one drifted across the lagoon in Loch Craignish and soared low over the hill by the road. Fantastic views of that one in particular - close enough to see the eye through binoculars! (Julia Randall/Jan Brown). Highlights during a NEWS sector count at Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll this morning were 3 **Black-throated Divers** and a first-winter **Little Gull** (Jim Dickson). Little Gull video clip: <https://vimeo.com/151999777>



Little Gull – Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll 16 Jan (Jim Dickson).



Little Gull – Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll 16 Jan (Jim Dickson).

At the north end of Iona early this morning there were 2 **Golden Plovers** on Eilean Annraidh and two **Little Auks** off the north coast near Findlay's Rock. Also a **Woodcock** at first light on the road at Ardfenaig, Mull and a male **Merlin** near Fhionnphort (David Jardine).

At the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre (Tayinloan jetty to Ronachan Point): ca 16 **Common Scoter**, 2 male **Velvet Scoters** and 6+ **Slavonian Grebes**. At Rhunahaorine Point: 25 **Sanderlings**, 10 **Ringed Plover**, 50 **Dunlin** and 3 **Turnstones**. At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll: 11 **Bar-tailed Godwits** (Roger Broad).

15 January: A single **Red Knot** was at Kinloch (Pennyghael), Mull this afternoon along with two **Greenshanks** and a **Great Skua** was reported at Fhionnphort by one of the ferrymen (David Jardine).

A male **Pintail** and a **Slavonian Grebe** were at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree (John Bowler).

14 January: In the garden at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll today: 3 **Jays**, 145 **Chaffinches** (mostly males), 14 **Greenfinches** and 4 **Goldfinches** (Jim Dickson).



Finch flock (part) – Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 14 Jan (Jim Dickson).



Finch flock (part) – Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 14 Jan (Jim Dickson).

13 January: Highlights of NEWS count section Traigh an Luig to Rubha Ban, Loch Indaal, Islay today: 61 **Greater Scaup**, 19 **Common Scoter**, 11 **Ringed Plovers**, 19 **Dunlin**, 85 **Oystercatchers** and 11 **Turnstone**. Also 8 **Common Ravens** on a long dead sheep on the strand line and a **Kestrel** (Mike Peacock).

There are currently 12 **Red Knot** at the spit in Otter Ferry, Cowal (Tom Callan).



Red Knot – Otter Ferry, Cowal 13 Jan (Tom Callan).

Two adult **Mediterranean Gulls** at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this lunchtime, found by David Jardine, and still there early afternoon. A noted recent increase in Black-headed Gull numbers there (Jim Dickson).

An adult **Little Gull** was also present at Loch Gilp this afternoon (presumably the same adult from Dec) (John Sweeney per Angus Murray).



Mediterranean Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 13 Jan (Jim Dickson).

John Bowler had a call yesterday re: a storm-bound auk inland at Scarinish wandering about on the road. He thought it was going to be a Little Auk but it was a **Common Guillemot**. It seemed disoriented but otherwise healthy, so he returned it to sea and it swam off strongly. He wonders if any other storm-wrecked Guillemots have been found in Argyll?



Common Guillemot – Scarinish, Tiree 12 Jan (John Bowler).



Common Guillemot – Scarinish, Tiree 12 Jan (John Bowler).

12 January: A single **Jack Snipe** was at the Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll late morning today (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree a 1hr sea-watch off Aird from first light in NW7-8 with squalls produced the following (all heading W): 3 **Red-throated Divers**, 1 **Great Northern Diver**, 4 **Fulmars**, 5 **Northern Gannets**, 116 **Kittiwakes**, a **Puffin**, 2 **Little Auks**, and 222 large auks. Also, a juvenile **Iceland Gull** at Crossapol Point and **Peregrine** and **Sparrowhawk** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

The 1st-winter **Iceland Gull** was at Oban still today (John Sweeney per Angus Murray).

A **Little Auk** was flying up loch Indaal, Islay, past Port Charlotte, towards Bruichladdich today at 09:20 this morning (Mike Peacock).

11 January: 46 **Common Scoter** in small flocks displaying, off Port Charlotte, Islay today . Highlights of NEWS count section Bruichladdich to Traigh an Luig, Loch Indaal: 9 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese**, 6 **Great Northern Divers**, 10 **Cormorants**, 3 **Grey Herons**, 17 **Ringed Plovers**, 14 **Northern Lapwings**, 25 **Oystercatchers**, 5 **Purple Sandpipers**, 11 **Turnstones** and a **Grey Wagtail** (Mike Peacock).

A single **Brambling** was in a large flock of **Greenfinches** (*ca* 80) and Chaffinches (*ca* 20) on the coast between Killlean and A 'Chleit point, Kintyre today. Also 20 **Pied Wagtails** (David Jarrett per Jim Dickson).

A newly arrived juvenile **Iceland Gull** was on floodwater at Balephuill (towards Loch a' Phuill), Tiree today. Also 2 dead Common Dolphins stranded ashore at Scarinish and Brock (John Bowler).



Juvenile Iceland Gull – Balephuill, Tiree 11 Jan (John Bowler).

10 January: A newly dead **Little Auk** was found on the shore near Torrisdale, Kintyre today (Jennifer Lane Lee per Eddie Maguire).

A rare calm day on Tiree produced: a **Red-throated Diver**, 15 **Great Northern Divers**, 60 **Kittiwakes** and a **Little Auk** off West Hynish; a pair of **Gadwall**, a **Slavonian Grebe** and 3 **Otters** at Loch a' Phuill; 2 **Goldfinches** at Meningie (John Bowler).

During a NEWS Sector count Danna Island, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll today: 98 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**: other highlights being 4 **Great Northern Divers**, a **Jack Snipe** on the tide-line and a single **Purple Sandpiper**. Also nice views of an **Otter** – despite the lousy weather! Jim watched it swim ashore with a fish and it never noticed him over the next 10 mins or so, only 20 metres away (Jim Dickson).

Otter video clip: <https://vimeo.com/151298020>



Otter – Danna, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll 10 Jan (Jim Dickson).



Otter – Danna, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll 10 Jan (Jim Dickson).



Otter – Danna, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll 10 Jan (Jim Dickson).

08 January: 25 **Purple Sandpipers** and 34 **Turnstones** at Crazy Golf, Dunoon today (George Newall).

Seen in Loch Gilp (from Ardrishaig), Mid-Argyll today: 2 **Common Guillemots**, 5 **Razorbills**, and 4 **Black Guillemots** (but no Little Auks!). Also noted were 2 **Red-throated Divers**, 2 **Great Northern Divers**, 2 **Little Grebes** and a single **Slavonian Grebe** opposite the high school (presumably the same individual seen by David Jardine in mid-Dec), 19 **Ringed Plover**, 23 **Dunlin** and 3,000+ **Herring Gulls** (on the Lingerton side) (Jim Dickson).



Ringed Plover - Ardrishaig, Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 08 Jan (Jim Dickson).

07 January: Another **Little Auk** was sighted this afternoon; at Loch Kinnabus, Islay. It flew around the loch a couple of times and then strongly off over the hill back out to sea (David Wood).

06 January: A **Little Auk** was found dead at Tarbert, Jura today (Gordon Muir per Ian Brooke).

05 January: **Little Auks** are now appearing in some unlikely places. One turned up in a garden at Bridge of Awe, Mid-Argyll this morning and took shelter in a woodpile there (Liz Forbes). Another was found on the road just outside Ford, Mid-Argyll. It was fluttering along the road, seemingly unable to take off. It seemed in very good condition (nice and plump, no wing damage, etc), and the finder is going to release it on Loch Craignish (per Julia Randall).



Little Auk – Bridge of Awe, Mid-Argyll 04 Jan (Liz Forbes).



Little Auk – Ford, Mid-Argyll 04 Jan (Julia Randall).

Details have now been received for the **Norwegian-ringed Blackbird**, which was photographed in Connel (Mid-Argyll) in December (see 27 December below). The bird was ringed as an adult in Hobol county, about 25 miles south-south-east of Oslo and 640 miles east-north-east of Connel, on 15 April 2013. (Mike Harrison).

04 January: Single **Little Auks** reported on Loch Long and Loch Goil, Cowal today. One just south of Portincaple, and another on Loch Goil near Stuckbeg, on the east side. (David Jarrett).

Single first-winter **Glaucous Gulls** again at Arrochar, Cowal and the head of Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll (Bill Allan).

A nice male **Goosander** was on Loch Craignish, Mid-Argyll today (Julia Randall).

Excellent views a **Little Auk** at Hunter's Quay at 12:45 in the shelter of the ferry terminal (just to the north). Under 50 feet away. Seemed healthy - observed preening and diving. Watched for about 15 mins. Also the NEWS Sector count from Kirn - Hunters Quay: 2 **Purple Sandpipers** and *ca* 72 **Turnstones**, and the first winter **Glaucous Gull** is still on the pier at the Village Hall, Arrochar (Alexander Nicol).

And at a NEWS Sector count on Seil Island, Mid-Argyll a **Woodcock** was in scrub close to the shore. A **Treecreeper** was singing at Ardencaple House (very early and no doubt in response to the mild weather we have been experiencing) and there were two **Greenshank** on Loch Caithlim. On the pond behind Ardencaple House were 10 **Moorhens**. David says he's never had a double figure count of this species in Argyll. Indeed apart from Loch Gruinart, Islay where, e.g., 7 pairs bred in 2006, this is the **highest count** recorded anywhere in Argyll and certainly on the mainland. Later, 400+ **Barnacle Geese** were found on Luing (David Jardine). On Tiree today: 6 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 2 **Red-throated Divers**, 2 **Northern Gannets** and 2 **Black Guillemots** at Hough Bay today. The dead 6.2m Killer Whale from the west coast pod was still at Crossapol Point (John Bowler).



Orca – Crossapol Point, Tiree 04 Jan (John Bowler).

03 January: Four **Common Shelducks** newly arrived at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).

02 January: Seen during a NEWS survey (Non-estuarine wader survey) at Tayinloan – Rhunahaorine, Kintyre today: few waders, except 36 **Turnstones** but also 15 **Long-tailed Duck**, 59 **Common Scoters**, 32 **Great Northern Divers**, 27 **Slavonian Grebes**, 4 **Water Rails** (in reed bed by caravan park) and perhaps most interesting, 21 **Pied Wagtails** (David Jardine).



Long-tailed Duck – Sound of Gigha, Kintyre 02 Jan (David Jardine).



Slavonian Grebe – Sound of Gigha, Kintyre 02 Jan (David Jardine).

A flock of 45 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at Traigh an Luig, Loch Indaal, Islay today (Mike Peacock).



Pale-bellied Brent Geese - Loch Indaal, Islay 02 Jan (Mike Peacock).



Pale-bellied Brent Geese - Loch Indaal, Islay 02 Jan (Mike Peacock).

An adult **Iceland Gull** was reported at Taynuilt pier, Mid-Argyll (Scott Paterson per Angus Murray).

01 January 2016: This nice photograph of **Sanderlings** was taken on Tiree during storm Frank (Jane Macleod).



Sanderlings – Tiree 01 Jan (Jane Macleod).

A **Brambling** in the garden at Cairnbaan, along with the increasing local **Chaffinch** flock; now with at least 115 birds. Also, 4 **Greenfinches**, 4 **Goldfinches** and 3 **Jays** coming to the garden (Jim Dickson).

Single, first-winter, **Iceland** and **Glaucous Gulls** reported at the head of Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll (Bill Allan).



Iceland Gull - Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 1 Nov (Errol Crutchfield).