

## RECENT REPORTS July 2016

**31 July:** Totals of 243 **Common Scoters** and 355 **Red-breasted Mergansers** counted at the Sound of Gigha late morning today (all between West Coast Salmon and Ronachan Point). And at Loch Gilp there was obviously good feeding for the **Common Terns** with a count of 160+ between the tideline and a large mass of them over Duncuan Island. Also 6 **Ringed Plovers**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit** and 8 **Common Redshanks** there (Jim Dickson).

**Grasshopper Warbler** heard reeling in short bursts at Nursery Cottages (Minard), Mid-Argyll this morning (Paul Daw).

On Tiree today: 1 **Greenshank** at Loch a' Phuill; 190 **Arctic Terns** including 25+ fledged juveniles at Soa; 4 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 192 **Sanderlings** at Gott Bay; 5 **Bar-tailed Godwits** including a breeding plumage adult at Hynish; 2 **House Martins** still with an active nest at Scarinish, a fledged **Moorhen** at Kilkenneth with 2 new chicks there. Also 8 **Basking Sharks** between Salum and Gunna Sound – with 15 there on 29 July (John Bowler).

**29 July:** On Tiree today: 7 **Black-tailed Godwits** and a **Greenshank** at Loch an Eilein and 1 **Greenshank** at The Reef (John Bowler).

**Turnstones** counted in the Dunoon, Cowal area today: Cluniter 8; Crazy Golf 3; Kirn 30 (Tom Callan).

**28 July:** On Tiree today: a **Grasshopper Warbler** was still reeling at Balephuill and the juvenile **Robin** was still there (John Bowler).

5 **Turnstones** at Otter Ferry Spit, Cowal today and 9 at Otter Ferry Fish Farm (Tom Callan).

**27 July:** **Grasshopper Warbler** heard reeling in bracken west of Largiebaan (S of Machrihanish), Kintyre today (Sue Holland).

37 **Curlews** at Otter Ferry Spit, Cowal today (Tom Callan).

On Tiree today: 46 **European Storm-petrels** between Barra and Tiree as well as a **Minke Whale** breaching and 8 **Common Dolphins**; 820 **Shags** and 10 **Basking Sharks** and in Gunna Sound; a **Little Grebe** at Milton; 2 **Arctic Skuas** at Balevullin and a juvenile **Grasshopper Warbler** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**26 July:** Nine **Common Swifts** spiralling high over the large car park in Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll at lunchtime today (Jim Dickson).

**25 July:** A **Nuthatch** seen in a garden at Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll today was also present yesterday (Faye and Bob Henderson).

**24 July:** A lot more waders around at Loch Gilp/Loch Crinan/Add Estuary today.

At 09:40: 187 **Dunlin** and 2 **Sanderling** at extreme low tide edge at Loch Gilp and 2 adult **Black-tailed Godwits**, 1 juvenile **Bar-tailed Godwit** and 132 **Dunlin** (all adults) at Loch Crinan. Three juvenile **Greenshanks** still at the Add Estuary (no sign of the 2 adults from yesterday) and a **Common Swift** flying over.

At 11:00 an adult **Curlew Sandpiper** took off from Loch Gilp with around 70 or so **Dunlin** and headed towards Otter Ferry direction leaving about 110 **Dunlin** at the tide edge which soon also flew off toward Otter Ferry. Also 2 **Whimbrels** on the mussel bed (Jim Dickson).

**23 July:** Highlights of Jim's WeBS count at Loch Crinan/Add Estuary today were a breeding plumage **Black-tailed Godwit** and 5 **Greenshanks** together (2 adults and 3 juveniles) (Jim Dickson).

**22 July:** An account from Neil Brown of a remarkable 'fall' of migrants at the CES (Constant Effort Sites) ringing site at Aros Moss, Machrihanish. He was late in opening the nets due to a heavy mist but as he walked around the moss opening the nets, the mist cleared and sun came out and so did the **Willow Warblers**. He says: "I think the weather conditions created classic 'fall' conditions as sometimes seen at Coastal sites, Willow Warblers just seemed to be dripping from the vegetation and their constant calling and singing was simply awesome. I tried counting sections and at one point got to 73 before losing count, I found it hard to estimate numbers but 300-500 may be conservative!. The visit total of 101 birds maybe a record catch for the site with 59 being Willow Warbler plus a further 36 Willow Warblers caught in a couple of quickly erected 'extra' nets. The number caught certainly wasn't representative of the amount present." Neil Brown.

We've just received an excellent video clip of a **Black Kite** seen near Machrihanish, Kintyre on 11 May. Many thanks to Aidan Maccormick for supplying the video - here are some stills from it:



**Black Kite** – nr Machrihanish, Kintyre 11 May (Aidan Maccormick).



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**21 July:** This **Common Sandpiper** family group was photographed at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning (Jim Dickson).



**Common Sandpipers** - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 21 Jul (Jim Dickson).

**20 July:** At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today there were; 182 **Oystercatchers**, 2 **Whimbrel**, a juvenile **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 4 adult **Sanderlings**, 8 **Dunlin**, 11 **Common Redshanks**, 3 **Common Sandpipers** and 2 **Greenshank**. And at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll: 9 adult **Sanderlings**, 21 **Dunlin**, 18 **Common Redshanks** and 5 **Common Sandpipers**. Nearby a **Grasshopper Warbler** still reeling. An **Osprey** was there yesterday. (Jim Dickson). At least twelve **Common Swifts** tearing around and swooping in under the eaves at the Primary School in Dunoon, Cowal today (Tom Callan).

**19 July:** Among other waders on the point at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today, a cracking male **Ruff** still partly in breeding plumage (Eddie Maguire).



**Ruff** – MSBO, Kintyre 19 Jul (Eddie Maguire).



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**18 July:** The **WeBS Count tables for April to June have now been added to the website** – click on the WeBS Count tab to see them. Records include: 5 **Wigeon** at Loch Tulla in June, 2 **Garganey** at Loch Gruinart in May, 3 **Greater Scaup** at Loch Gilp in May (a new species here), 16 **Great Northern Divers** at Loch Indaal in June, 2 **Water Rails** at Loch Ederline (detected using a tape lure), 3,024 **Dunlin** at Loch Gruinart in May and 7 **Greenshank** at Loch Tulla in June.

A flock of 60+ juvenile (delinquent!) **Common Starlings** have been flying around demolishing fat balls and terrorising the local birds at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll. Previous records of Starlings there have been of just the odd bird over the last few years. Perhaps a very good breeding season? (Jim Dickson).

A rather unexpected find this afternoon was this **Short-eared Owl** near Otter Ferry, Cowal. Also the first brood of very small young **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Otter Ferry this afternoon (Tom Callan).



**Short-eared Owl** – nr Otter Ferry, Cowal 18 Jul (Tom Callan).

On Tiree today: an adult **Little Grebe**, a moulting adult **Bar-tailed Godwit**, a male **Ruff** and 5 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein; a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Kenovay; a juvenile **Iceland Gull** again at Kilkenneth (Toby Green); 2 **Arctic Skuas** at Gott Bay and increasing numbers of **Sanderlings** on the beaches. Also a male **Common Whitethroat**, a male **Grasshopper Warbler**, a **Robin** and a **Common Redpoll** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**17 July:** A **Nuthatch** was seen in the garden at Corra, Otter Ferry, Cowal this morning (Tom Callan).

Today at Portrigh, Carradale, at least 50 **Goldfinches** (adult & juvenile) were present, being relentlessly persuaded by a female **Sparrowhawk** (Alasdair Paterson).

On Tiree today: 5 adult **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein; a breeding plumage **Bar-tailed Godwit** and 7 **Sanderlings** at Sorobaidh Bay and a dead Harbour Porpoise there; a **Great Skua** over Balinoe; a juvenile **Robin** and new fledged brood of **Barn Swallows** at Balephuill (John Bowler).



Newly fledged Swallows – Balephuill, Tiree 17 Jul (John Bowler).

**16 July:** A **Nuthatch** was seen visiting a peanut feeder at Glenview, Dalmally, Mid-Argyll today (Scott Paterson).

On Tiree today: 76 **Curlews** and **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Common Whitethroat** singing at Balephuill (John Bowler).

Two juvenile **Greenshanks** and 11 **Common Sandpipers** at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

At Portrigh, Carradale, Kintyre at least 100 **Twite** were in the as yet uncut silage fields (Alasdair Paterson).

A **Lesser Redpoll** was with Siskins and Goldfinches at bird feeders at Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll (Paul Daw).



**Greenshanks** - Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 15-16 Jul (Jim Dickson).

**15 July:** A total of 22 **Black Guillemots** in Oban Harbour at 05:15 hrs today and, on Tiree, 5 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein and a female **Gadwall** with a brood of 2 young at Loch na Faing (John Bowler).

Two juvenile **Greenshanks**, 1 **Whimbrel** and 2 **Common Sandpipers** at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

**14 July:** ca. 180 juvenile **Starlings** gathered at the Islandadd bridge, Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll (John Halliday).

Single **Sandwich Tern** seen and heard calling at Kirn, Dunoon at 13:00 (Paul Daw).

**13 July:** A **Sandwich Tern** feeding at Loch Indaal, Islay today was there most mornings this week (Mike Peacock).

**12 July:** These fascinating photos taken by Blair Urquhart's young son Struan depict an interaction between a **White-tailed Eagle** and a **Golden Eagle** over Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll today. The first shows the White-tailed Eagle and despite the blurring, in the second the Golden Eagle can be seen escorting it away, while they are talon grappling in the third (Struan Urquhart per Blair Urquhart).



White-tailed and Golden Eagle - Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll 12 Jul (Struan Urquhart).



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On Tiree today: a female **Tufted Duck** with b/3 at Loch an Eilein and the juvenile Robin still at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**11 July:** An adult male **Common Rosefinch** was seen and heard singing at a Forestry Commission site at Ballochgair (north of Peninver), Kintyre at 11:30 today (Bob Relph). As well as the adult **Greenshank**, a single **Whimbrel** is at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree, a **Grasshopper Warbler** was reeling at Balephuill and there were lots of juvenile birds about, including **Twite** and **Wheatear** (John Bowler).



Juvenile **Northern Wheatear** – Balephuill, Tiree 11 Jul (John Bowler).



Juvenile **Twite** – Balephuill, Tiree 11 Jul (John Bowler).

**10 July:** An adult **Greenshank** at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning as well as a lot of very wet looking birds around the Crinan Ferry road, Moine Mhor (Jim Dickson).



Sedge Warbler – Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 10 Jul (Jim Dickson).



Barn Swallow – Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 10 Jul (Jim Dickson).



Grasshopper Warbler – Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 10 Jul (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today: a female **Hen Harrier**, 12 adult **Black-tailed Godwits** and 20 **Dunlin** at Loch a' Phuill. The third calendar year **Glaucous Gull** still present to south of loch but very weak and moved off track by hand as vulnerable to being run over (John Bowler).

**9th July:** New developments on the male **Bufflehead** seen in Oban Bay in April. We've just received photos taken by Przemek Wronski in late afternoon of 21 of April, opposite St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban. Although recently accepted by BBRC as a genuine vagrant, one of the photos shows a yellow colour ring on the right leg and it now seems clear that this should be treated as a likely escape. A male **Bufflehead** reported in Cumbria over last winter and occasionally to 6 June also had a yellow colour ring (still to find out which leg...) and



perhaps could even be the same individual having moved north a bit in April and then traveled back to Cumbria? Many thanks to Przemek for the new photographs.



male Bufflehead - Oban Bay, Mid-Argyll 21 Apr (Przemek Wronski).



male Bufflehead showing yellow ring - Oban Bay, Mid-Argyll 21 Apr (Przemek Wronski).



male Bufflehead with Eiders - Oban Bay, Mid-Argyll 21 Apr (Przemek Wronski).

A jaunt from Moine Mhor (Drimvore) via Loch Crinan to Crinan Ferry, Mid-Argyll today, before the rain set in, produced the following totals of selected species: 65 **Greylag Geese**, 105 **Canada Geese**, a female **Teal**, a male **Wigeon**, 3 **Red-throated Divers**, a **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 6 **Dunlin**, 5 **Common Sandpipers**, 19 **Common Redshanks**, 4 **Common Swifts**, 75+ **Barn Swallows**, 1 **Jay**, 12 **Sky Larks**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 6 **Sedge Warblers**, 65 **Common Starlings**, 6 **Whinchats**, 16 **Common Stonechats**, 25 **Pied Wagtails**, 80+ **Meadow Pipits**, 45 **Linnets**, 6 **Lesser Redpolls**, 35 **Goldfinches**, 60+ **Siskins**, 50 + **Common Chaffinches**, 3 **Reed Buntings**. Also a family of **Spotted Flycatchers** at Cairnbaan and the loads of finches (mainly juveniles) about is surely a sign of a very good breeding

season for them (Jim Dickson).

Adult and juvenile **Grasshopper Warbler** at Balephuill, Tiree (John Bowler).

**8th July:** Today on Tiree: 26 **Sanderlings**, 27 **Dunlin** and 11 **Bar-tailed Godwits** at east end of Gott Bay Also there, a late brood of **Common Shelducks** and some 750 **Arctic Terns**, including 600+ second calendar year birds (John Bowler).



**Sanderlings** – Gott Bay, Tiree 08 Jul (John Bowler).



**Arctic Terns** – Gott Bay, Tiree 08 Jul (John Bowler).



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**7th July:** On Tiree today: a presumed bleached / worn third calendar year **Glaucous Gull** at Loch a' Phuill also present on 6 July (see photos, comments welcome - to [John.Bowler@rspb.org.uk](mailto:John.Bowler@rspb.org.uk).) A **Greenshank** was there too. Also a **Black-tailed Godwit** at The Reef and a male **Grasshopper Warbler** reeling at Balephuill (John Bowler).



**Glaucous Gull** - Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 07 Jul (John Bowler).



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**5th July:** Seems to have been a good year for Spotted Flycatchers in Argyll. A family of **Spotted Flycatchers** and a male **Yellowhammer** were at Kilmartin, Mid Argyll today. At the Add Estuary a reeling **Grasshopper Warbler** and three families of **Whinchats** (Jim Dickson).

A **Spotted Flycatcher** at Keills (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll was catching flies outside John's kitchen window this morning. Also a family of **Common Pheasants** just up the hill are the

first John has seen there in 22 years. Another **Spotted Flycatcher**, was seen at Carsaig (nr Tayvallich) yesterday (John Aitchison).



**Spotted Flycatcher** - Kilmartin, Mid Argyll 05 Jul (Jim Dickson).

A second calendar year **Iceland Gull** was at Greenhill, Tiree today (John Bowler) and an **Iceland Gull** was seen at Treshnish lochan, Mull (Anand Prasad).

**4th July:** At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today a flock of *ca.* 50 **Common Scoters** (all males) flew S at 11:05hrs and 20+ **Sandwich Terns** in the area included their earliest ever juvenile for the second day running. The juvenile was standing by the small Arctic Tern colony at Big Scone Island off the village: the very early date suggests that it may be locally bred! (Eddie Maguire).



**Common Scoters** – MSBO, Kintyre – 04 Jul (Eddie Maguire).



**Juvenile Sandwich Tern** – MSBO, Kintyre – 04 Jul (Eddie Maguire).

A third-year **Mediterranean Gull** at the Add Estuary today. Also 2 adult **Greenshanks**, 5 **Common Sandpipers** and a male **Hen Harrier** there (Jim Dickson).



**Mediterranean Gull** – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 04 Jul (Jim Dickson)

On Tiree today: 3 **Whooper Swans** at Loch Bhasapol and **Greenshanks** at both Loch Bhasapol and The Green; a male **Common Whitethroat**, a male **Grasshopper Warbler** and a **Robin** at Balephuill. And a group of *ca* 45 **Risso's Dolphins** were feeding off the Green for 3 hrs this morning (John Bowler).



Risso's Dolphins – off The Green, Tiree 04 Jul (John Bowler).



Risso's Dolphins – off The Green, Tiree 04 Jul (John Bowler).



Risso's Dolphins – off The Green, Tiree 04 Jul (John Bowler).

**03 July:** Juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** seen near Newton, Cowal today; also a **Common Cuckoo** nearby at Barr Mor (Nigel Scriven).



**Juvenile White-tailed Eagle** – nr. Newton, Cowal 03 Jul (Nigel Scriven).

A **Great Northern Diver** in breeding plumage was seen about half a mile up Loch Fyne from Otter Ferry, Cowal today and this first **House Martin** out the nest at Otter Ferry appeared in the rain this morning (Tom Callan).



**Juvenile House Martin** - Otter Ferry, Cowal 03 Jul (Tom Callan).

**01 July:** Three **Greenshanks** were at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll today. Also a **juvenile Black-headed Gull** there – the first juvenile B-h Gull was at Loch Gilp on 29 June (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree, 80 **Pied Wagtails** were roosting at Balephuill (John Bowler).

These beautiful **Corn Crake** photos are three of a series taken on Oronsay, Colonsay this morning. Morgan caught it as it came out to preen after a rain shower (Morgan Vaughan).



**Corn Crake** - Oronsay, Colonsay 01 Jul (Morgan Vaughan).



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