

RECENT REPORTS June 2016

30 June: A **Nuthatch** at Stronafian, near Colintrave, Cowal with up to three birds there over the spring (Karen McMillan per George Newall). Also, a **Greenshank** still at Loch Gilp (was there on 28 Jun) (Jim Dickson).

29 June: On Tiree today: a **Greenshank** and 2 **Great Skuas** at Loch a' Phuill; a female **Hen Harrier** at Heylipol; juvenile **Robin** and reeling **Grasshopper Warbler** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

28 June: A single **Nuthatch** was at the bird table in our garden at Barcaldine, North Argyll on 20 Sep 2015; and another one yesterday (27 June) which I managed to photograph. It appeared again this morning so may become a regular! (Clive Craik).



Nuthatch - Barcaldine, North Argyll 28 Jun (Clive Craik).

27 June: At Linne Mhuirich (nr. Tayvallich), Mid-Argyll, Chris saw a **Common Swift** last week – the first he's seen there in 17 years! (Chris Purslow).

On Tiree today: a second calendar year **Iceland Gull** headed north at Traigh Ghrianaidh this afternoon and 1,200 **Kittiwakes** were on the rocks there (mostly second calendar year birds). The juvenile Robin is still at Balephuill (John Bowler).



Kittiwakes - Traigh Ghrianaidh, Tiree 27 Jun (John Bowler).

26 June: On Tiree today: a **Wood Pigeon**, a male **Common Whitethroat** and a juvenile **Robin** (from Coll? as none breed on Tiree) at Balephuill as well as the first brood of

fledged **Barn Swallows** there and 4 recently fledged young **Willow Warblers** (first seen on 17 Jun); 2 **Great Skuas** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).



Juvenile Robin – Balephuill, Tiree 26 Jun (John Bowler).



Juvenile Barn Swallows – Balephuill, Tiree 26 Jun (John Bowler).



Juvenile Willow Warblers – Balephuill, Tiree 26 Jun (John Bowler).

25 June: The female **Long-tailed Duck** was still on Loch Gilp first thing and associating with some female Eiders and their chicks. Today it was out in the middle of the loch and a bit more towards Lochgilphead (Jim Dickson).



Long-tailed Duck – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 25 Jun (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today: a **Long-eared Owl** in a garden at Baugh; 2 **Whimbrel** at Sandaig; a **Wood Pigeon**, a male **Grasshopper Warbler** and a juvenile **Robin** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

24 June: A female **Long-tailed Duck** was found among the female Common Eiders with chicks on the front at Ardrishaig, Mid-Argyll today (Stuart Witts).

On Tiree today: a single **Golden Plover** at Sandaig and a juvenile **Robin** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

23 June: On Tiree today: a **Barn Owl** at Balephuill at 23:50 hrs – a very rare mid-summer record form Tiree. Also 2 **Whooper Swans** and 2 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).

22 June: An Odd Couple. The photos of this 'pair' of Scoters were taken by Kevin West at the lochan at Easter Ellister on 15 June. The male is clearly a **Velvet Scoter** but the female is a **Common Scoter**. The same mixed pair was reported at this location last year. Malcolm Ogilvie comments "Jane Dawson kept, and bred, both Common and Velvet Scoters and although it is now several years ago since she gave up, both species are pretty long-lived and I refuse to believe it is a coincidence that they are on one of her duck breeding ponds. But don't ask me where they are when they're not on that pond, i.e. in winter." (Kevin West per Ian Brooke/Jim Dickson).



Velvet Scoter & Common Scoter – Easter Ellister, Islay 15 Jun (Kevin West).



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Today on Tiree; 260 **Kittiwakes** at Loch a' Phuill including ca 200 second calendar year birds – 3 **Great Skuas** and 35 second calendar year **Arctic Terns** were also there (John Bowler). This immature **White-tailed Eagle**, in heavy moult, was photographed at Port Ellen, Islay today (Mike Peacock).



White-tailed Eagle - Port Ellen, Islay 22 Jun (Mike Peacock).



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21 June: Today *ca* 3,000 **Manx Shearwaters** were seen between Coll and Tiree; also an **Arctic Skua**, a **Great Skua** and 30 **Puffins**. And 2 **Orcas** 2/3 the way between Mull and Coll – John’s first in 15 years of looking here (John Bowler).

At the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre today: 90+ **Common Scoter** (mostly males) and a group of 3 (non-breeding plumage) **Black-throated Divers**. Good numbers of **Northern Gannet** in Loch Fyne at present including a group of 100+ on the water off Inverneill, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).



Black-throated Diver – Sound of Gigha 21 Jun (Jim Dickson).



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19 June: Five **European Storm-petrels** were seen between Tiree and Coll today (John Bowler).

Jim has just found that the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) have accepted the record of the adult male **Bufflehead** found by Richard Turner in Oban Bay on 15 April 2016. It has not been placed in Category E (escapes etc.) so, as a genuine vagrant, it becomes a new species for Argyll . The **Snowy Owl** found in Glen Orchy on 27 Feb was also accepted by BBRC.

This **Lesser Redpoll** photographed at Poltalloch (nr. Kilmartin), Mid-Argyll today is a new visitor to the garden there (Fiorna).



Lesser Redpoll - Poltalloch, Mid-Argyll 19 Jun (Fiorna).

A **Eurasian Jay** flew across the road in front of Margaret's car south of Inveraray this morning at around 08:30 (Margaret Owens-Smith)

This juvenile **Common Whitethroat** was photographed on Coll (per Davie Rutherford).



Common Whitethroat – Coll 19 Jun (per Davie Rutherford).

18 June: three **Spotted Flycatchers** (2 adult, one juvenile) flitting around a Tayvallich, Mid-Argyll garden today have been there for most of June (Morag Rea).



Spotted Flycatcher - Tayvallich, Mid-Argyll 18 Jun (Morag Rea).

Today on Tiree; 15 **Collared Doves** and a **Siskin** at Balephuill; 3 **Great Northern Divers** and 2 **Sandwich Terns** at Sorobaidh Bay; a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

17 June: 5 **Great Skuas** at Ceann a' Mhara, Tiree today (John Bowler).

This exotic visitor to a garden in Bullwood Road, Dunoon today is thought to be a **Rose-ringed (Ring-necked) Parakeet** (Michael Kent). The white patch at the base of the bill is not typical and could be due to feather loss. Probably an escaped cage bird: there was a previous Argyll record of a Rose-ringed Parakeet at Hunter's Quay, Dunoon on 2nd Oct 2009.



Rose-ringed Parakeet – Dunoon, Cowal 17 Jun (Michael Kent).

16 June: two **Red Knot** at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree today (John Bowler).

15 June: a **Turtle Dove** was found at Kinnabus, Islay today (Phill Catton per David Wood) and on Tiree a **Wood Pigeon** was at Carnan Mor (John Bowler).

14 June: today on Tiree; 2 **House Martins** with a partially built nest at Scarinish; 2 **Whimbrel** over the Glebe as well as 4 **Greenfinches** (2 male, 1 female and 1 juvenile) and a **Common Redpoll** there (John Bowler).

13 June: on Tiree today; a **Common Cuckoo**, a male **Blackcap**, a male **Common Whitethroat** and a **Spotted Flycatcher** at Balephuill; a **Common Swift** over Carnan Mor (John Bowler).



Spotted Flycatcher – Balephuill, Tiree 13 Jun (John Bowler).

12 June: on Tiree today: 2 **Greenshanks**, a **Sandwich Tern**, 2 **Great Skuas** at Loch a' Phuill; a **Whinchat** at Meningie; a **Common Cuckoo** and a male **Common Whitethroat** at Carnan Mor (John Bowler).

11 June: three **Ptarmigans** were seen on Meall nan Gobhar (Glen Etive) North Argyll today (Alan Gibson).

On Tiree today: a **Spotted Flycatcher** and a **Dunnock** at The Glebe; 3 **Greenshanks** and a **House Martin** at Loch a' Phuill (Keith Gillon per John Bowler).

10 June: a **White-throated Sparrow** was found at Vaul this morning by Keith Gillon. Seen again at 20:00 but not since. Argyll's second record of this North American species, following the bird at Otter Ferry, Cowal in 2014. No sign / sound of yesterday's Icterine Warbler at the Glebe (John Bowler). Also on Tiree, an **Arctic Skua** at Loch a' Phuill (Keith Gillon).



White-throated Sparrow – Vaul, Tiree 10 Jun (John Bowler).



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More reports of **Painted Lady butterflies**: near Loch Clachaig, south of Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll on 08 Jun (Roger Broad) and in a garden at Bullwood (nr Dunoon), Cowal on 08 and 09 Jun (Cherry Cook).

09 June: an **Icterine Warbler** found by Keith Gillon was singing and showing occasionally at the Glebe, Tiree this morning. Six 1st summer **Black-tailed Godwits** were at Baugh and a **Common Swift** was at the Glebe (John Bowler). Also on Tiree, a single **Tree Sparrow** at Kirkapol this morning (Alison Morgan).

A **Common Quail** was heard calling briefly at Ford, Mid-Argyll today (Roger Broad). The **Mute Swans** on Loch Etive, Mid-Argyll, still had 4 young this morning and a female **Common Eider** was leading a flotilla of 7 downy young. In Oban, Mid-Argyll, at least 5 **Common Swifts** were flying around the usual nest site on High Street (Mike Harrison).

08 June: four **Common Swifts** were flying around Connel bridge, Mid-Argyll. One was seen entering the hole in a bridge girder which is thought to have been used as a nest site in previous years. At the mouth of the Lusragan Burn on Loch Etive a pair of **Mute Swans** were accompanied by 4 downy young. A pair of **Song Thrushes** have been collecting food and depositing faecal sacs in my garden in Connel, the first for many years (Mike Harrison).

A **Turtle Dove** was briefly at Balephuill, Tiree in the fog late morning before heading off north and the male **Common Whitethroat** was still there. A single **Whimbrel** was at Gott Bay (John Bowler).

Also on Tiree, a juvenile **Robin** at Heanish (Alison Morgan). The last Robin breeding record on Tiree was in 2007 (John Bowler).

07 June: on Tiree today: a single **Red Knot** at Traigh Bhagh; a **Whimbrel**, 8 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and an Irish colour-ringed **Oystercatcher** at Soa; 2 **Wigeon**, 2 **Great Northern Divers** and 2 **Sandwich Terns** at Gott Bay; a **Common Redpoll** near Loch Bhasapol (John Bowler). Also on Tiree a single **Bar-tailed Godwit** was feeding with a group of Oystercatchers at the top of the beach at Balemartine and a **Great Northern Diver** off Cornaig beach in the evening (Alison Morgan) and a **Wood Pigeon** was at the Manse (Keith Gillon).

06 June: on Tiree today: a **Turtle Dove** at Beinn Hough flew towards Greenhill; a **Common Swift** was over Vault (Keith Gillon). A **Common Cuckoo**, a male **Blackcap**, a male **Common Whitethroat** and a singing **Grasshopper Warbler** were at Balephuill, and **Grasshopper Warblers** were singing at Balemartine last night (05 Jun) and at Vault on Saturday night (04 Jun). Also 2 **Goldfinches** at Balephuill and 2 **Common Sandpipers** at Happy Valley late pm (John Bowler).

05 June: on Tiree today: immature male **Marsh Harrier** at Loch Bhasapol and a **Common Whitethroat** and 2 **Siskins** at Vault (Keith Gillon); a **Blackcap**, a male **Common Whitethroat** and 2 **Siskins** at Balephuill and a pair of **House Martins** nesting at Scarinish will, if successful, be only the 2nd breeding record for Tiree. But no sign of the elusive song-bird at The Glebe... Also a **Barn Swallow** on Lunga, Treshnish Isles (John Bowler). At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today; a summer-plumaged **Ruddy Turnstone** still hanging around the point and at least 2 **Painted Lady Butterflies** (Eddie Maguire).



Ruddy Turnstone – MSBO, Kintyre 05 Jun (Eddie Maguire).

Painted Lady butterfly at Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll this morning (Paul Daw).

04 June: a late audio-taping of more complete song and brief flight views, suggest the mystery songster lurking all day at the Glebe was actually a **Thrush Nightingale** – rather than a Marsh Warbler frequently mimicking a *luscinia*.... (Keith Gillon).

On Tiree, today: a probable **Marsh Warbler** at The Glebe found at 13:00 by Keith Gillon – giving occasional bursts of mimic-full song and sub-song on and off all afternoon but

essentially not showing yet... Also at The Glebe: a **Whimbrel**, 3 **Wood Pigeons**, a **Spotted Flycatcher**, a male **Greenfinch** and 2 **Common Redpolls**, with 2 **Sandwich Terns** nearby at Gott Bay (Keith Gillon per John Bowler). At Carnan Mor; 2 **Common Whitethroats** and 4 **Common Redpolls** and a new **Chiffchaff** at Balephuill with persistent stuttering “chif, chif, chif-o-chif, chif, chi-of-chif, chif, chif” call (see photo). An obvious arrival of **Painted Lady butterflies** today (John Bowler).



Chiffchaff – Balephuill, Tiree 05 Jun (John Bowler).

Two **Common Swifts** seen over Kirn, Dunoon, Cowal today (Andrew Webster).

A **Common Quail** was heard calling at Lochbuie, Mull at 04:55 this morning (Brian Jones per Alan Spellman).

03 June: briefly, in front of the hide at Loch a’ Phuill, Tiree this morning: an adult **Little Stint**, adult **Curlew Sandpiper**, male **Ruff** and ca 90 **Dunlin** (all headed off NW) and a male **Common Whitethroat** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

Small numbers of waders at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today included 25 **Sanderlings**, a **Dunlin** and 2 **Whimbrels** (Eddie Maguire).

At the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll today: four pairs of **Common Shelducks** each with large broods. 11 female **Common Eiders** with a total of 41 tiny ducklings now in one group. Also there, a male **Hen Harrier** hunting and a single **Grey Wagtail** (Jim Dickson).

02 June: On Tiree today: 2 **Wood Pigeons**, a male **Common Cuckoo**, a male **Common Whitethroat** and a singing **Garden Warbler** at Balephuill (John Bowler) and 4 **Red Knot** at Traigh Bhi (Graham Todd).

01 June: A **Corn Crake** was calling today in the field opposite Machrihanish Airbase guardroom (MACC: ex RAF / Defence Estates). Apparently this bird has been present since at least mid-May (Davie McPherson / Stuart McGougan per Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today: 4 **Red Knot** at Balephetrish Bay included 1 red bird and 130 **Sanderling** there included leg-flagged birds from Ghana and Mauritania. A **Common Cuckoo** still at Balephuill and a male **Common Chiffchaff** at The Glebe (John Bowler). Also on Tiree: a ringtail **Hen Harrier** at Ruaig (Traigh Mhor) this afternoon; a pair of **Sand Martins** at Caolas and a **Common Eider** with 2 young in a bay on the SE coast (Alison Morgan).

A juvenile **Iceland Gull** was at Heylipol Church Loch, Tiree (Keith Rainford) and a **House Martin** was at Balephuill in the evening (John Bowler).