

RECENT REPORTS November 2015

30 November: At Tayinloan , Kintyre: 3 **Pink-footed Geese**, 170 White-fronted Geese and 18 Greylag Geese in field by ferry terminal this morning (Eddie Maguire).

At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll: 37 Bar-tailed Godwits, 9 Grey Herons and 2 Little Grebes (Jim Dickson).



Teal and Curlew - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 30 Nov (Jim Dickson).

29 November: At Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre (Seawatch 10:00-14:00hrs / NW f6-8 with heavy squalls) 2 **Great Skuas** >S (Eddie Maguire).

A female **Brambling** at the bird feeder at Totronald, Coll and several folk are reporting seeing Moorhen in strange places – I'm guessing there might be an influx and they are popping up all over the place (Ben Jones).



Great Skua - MSBO, Kintyre 29 Nov (Eddie Maguire).



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28 November: At Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre (10:00-14:00hrs / SW f5 with frequent squalls)...an excellent candidate for juv **Kumlien's (Iceland) Gull** photographed flying S this morning although light dreadful, also a juv Gannet and Black-tailed Godwit there and a Purple Sandpiper and 11 Sanderling by the old lifeboat station. Near Drumlemble School ca. 300 Greylag Geese and a **Pink-footed Goose**. (Eddie Maguire/ Rab Morton).

A confrontation between Dippers on the Lusragan Burn in Connel (Mid-Argyll) ended when two birds (the resident pair?) drove a third one down the river and out onto the shore of Loch Etive. (Mike Harrison).

On Lismore, Mid-Argyll a juv **Glaucous Gull** seen off Achnacroish, and the presumably the same bird bathing on Kilcheran Loch. Also two Moorhens (ad and 1Y) on Kilcheran Loch and another on Loch Balnagowan (David Jardine).



Iceland Gull - MSBO, Kintyre 28 Nov (Eddie Maguire).

26 November: A juv **Glaucous Gull** at Arrochar Pier, Cowal (Anne-Lise Dickie).

25 November: Around Dunoon, Cowal: at Crazy Golf, 17 Purple Sandpipers, 14 Turnstones. At Clunitor, 5 Purple Sandpipers, 35 Ringed Plover, 77 Turnstones and at Kirn, 4 Purple Sandpipers and 54 Turnstones (Tom Callan).

A pair of **Yellowhammers** visited a garden in Connel (Mid-Argyll). (Mike Harrison).

24 November: 3 Purple Sandpipers on Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan).



Purple Sandpiper - Oronsay 24 Nov (Morgan Vaughan).

23 November: A **Common Sandpiper** was among 30-40 Turnstones and Ringed Plovers at the mouth of the Killail Burn, Otter Ferry, Cowal today, also 3 Woodcock over his house (Tom Callan).

A late **Barn Swallow** was seen at Gartmain, Islay (Steve Rightson) per Ian Brooke).

22 November. The drake **American Wigeon** is still on floods at Kilmichael Farm, nr. Campbeltown, Kintyre also 6 **Long-tailed Ducks** at Tayinloan, Kintyre and a new juv **Iceland Gull** at Ormsary fish farm, Mid-Argyll (Stu Crutchfield).

At Tayinloan today Katie Pendreigh saw a **Chiffchaff**, a Water Rail and a P-b Brent Goose. On Tiree a **Long-tailed Duck** was new at Loch a' Phuill with 1 Slavonian Grebe, 135 Greenland White-fronted Geese and 53 Goldeneye. The **Siberian Chiffchaff** was again at Balephuill plus 2 **Greenland Redpoll**, 1 **Tree Sparrow**, 1f Blackcap and 1 Goldfinch (John Bowler).

2 Slavonian Grebes in Ardmuckinish Bay, North Argyll (David Jardine).

At Killinallan , Loch Gruinart, Islay: 5 Great Northern Diver, 33 Sanderling and a few Ringed Plover, 2 Greenshank and 4 Whooper Swans arriving and inland 2 Hen Harrier and a Kestrel.

At Loch Indaal, Port Charlotte across to Gartbrek – Laggan Point: 31 Great Northern Diver, 9 Red-throated Diver, 53 & 9 Common Scoter flocks (Mike Peacock).



G N Diver - Loch Gruinart, Islay 22 Nov (Mike Peacock).

21 November: A **Waxwing** flew around calling at Balephuill, Tiree with 30 Redwing and 1 Fieldfare (John Bowler).

20 November: At Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre this afternoon (NW with squalls) Eddie Maguire had 2 **Pomarine Skuas**, 3 **Leach's Petrel** and 6 **Long-tailed Ducks**.

In the Ormsary area, Mid-Argyll today: a White tailed Eagle, 2 Golden Eagles, a m Hen Harrier, 2 Common Buzzards, a Sparrowhawk, a Kestrel and a Merlin (Errol Crutchfield).

A **Brambling** visited a garden in Connel, Mid-Argyll (Mike Harrison).

A **Grey Phalarope** was at Oronsay, Colonsay (Morgan Vaughan).



Brambling - Connel, Mid-Argyll 20 Nov (Mike Harrison).

19 November: A seawatch at Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre (WNW f4 increasing to f7 during frequent squalls): a **Grey Phalarope**, a Pale-bellied Brent Goose, 4 Wigeon, 2 Red-throated Diver, 8 Great Northern Diver and 370 Kittiwakes (only 20% juvenile) (Eddie Maguire). Three juvenile **Iceland Gulls** were in Oban Bay this morning and also there yesterday (John Bowler).

At the Moine Mhor area, Mid-Argyll this morning 1 Woodcock, 650 Redwings 150 Fieldfares, 15 Mistle Thrush and m Hen Harrier (Jim Dickson).



Grey Phalarope - MSBO, Kintyre 19 Nov (Eddie Maguire).



Grey Phalarope - MSBO, Kintyre 19 Nov (Eddie Maguire).

18 November: A juvenile **Iceland Gull** was at Calgary, Mull (Anand Prasad).

17 November: On Tiree a 1hr sea-watch off Aird from 0800hrs produced the following (all heading W out of the Minch in W7-6 after WSW-W8 all night): 3 **Sooty Shearwater**, 2 juv **Pomarine Skua**, 1 **Great Skua** amongst 855 large auk (mostly Razorbills), 237 Kittiwake, 98 Fulmar, 63 Gannet, 37 Great Northern Diver, 5 Red-throated Diver and 2 Black Guillemot. 14 Fieldfare at Druimbuidhe and 1 **Siberian Chiffchaff**, 1f Blackcap, 2 **Brambling**, 4 Goldfinch and 1 Fieldfare plus the **Tree Sparrow** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

A drake **American Wigeon** with the Wigeon flock on floodwater just N of Campbeltown this afternoon, viewable from the layby by Kilmichael Farm (Chris Bradshaw & Andy McKee).

On Islay at Kinnabus: 2 **Brambling** today where surprisingly my first of the year here.

Excellent passage of Whooper Swans over the last few days with 103 on Loch Kinnabus on Saturday, all leaving on Sunday morning, replaced by 84 on Sunday, which all left promptly on Monday morning. Never seen more than 20 or 30 here at once before (David Wood).



Blackcap - Balephuill, Tiree 17 Nov (John Bowler).



Brambling - Balephuill, Tiree 17 Nov (John Bowler).

16 November: On Tiree: an adult female **Lesser Scaup** at Loch a' Phuill with 1 Slavonian Grebe plus the drake **American Wigeon**, 5 Pale-bellied Brents and the **Black Redstart** again near the pumping station. 3 **Sooty Shearwater**, 1 ad **Pomarine Skua**, 1 **Leach's Petrel** and 2 **Great Skuas** west off Aird in 1hr from 0800hrs in with 1,130 Kittiwake, 960 large auk (mostly Razorbills), 172 Fulmar, 76 Gannet, 4 Red-throated Diver, 3 Great Northern Diver, 1 Black Guillemot and 2 Purple Sandpipers. The **Tree Sparrow** and **Greenland Redpoll** still at Balephuill (John Bowler).

The Strath, Kintyre: estimate at least 800 Fieldfare and 300 Redwing in the area (Eddie Maguire).

Found an odd with the Canada Geese at Inveresragan on the north side of Loch Etive (NM9835). I suspect that the bird could be a cross between a **Swan Goose** (*Anser Cygnoides*) and a Canada Goose (Mike Harrison).



Fieldfare - Strath, Kintyre 16 Nov (Eddie Maguire).

15 November: The **Glaucous Gull** (from Campbeltown Loch) was at the Strath, Kintyre this morning (Eddie Maguire).

A pair of Goldcrest worked their way through my garden at Hunter's Quay, Cowal today...(Alistair McGregor).

On Tiree: 6 Fieldfare and 1 **Tree Sparrow** at Balephuill 250 Redwing at West Hynish and 5 Black-headed Gull south there (John Bowler).



Tree Sparrow - Balephuill, Tiree 15 Nov (John Bowler).



Goldcrest - Hunter's Quay, Cowal 15 Nov (Alistair Mc Gregor).



Goldcrest - Hunter's Quay, Cowal 15 Nov (Alistair Mc Gregor).

14 November: On Tiree the **American Wigeon** was still at Loch a' Phuill and the **Black Redstart** again near the pumping station, also 5 Pale-bellied Brents on the loch. Two **Greenland Redpoll** were at Balephuill with ca 450 Redwing, 1f Blackcap and 1 **Tree Sparrow**. Two Chiffchaff, 1 Goldfinch and 1 Pied Wagtail were at Sorobaidh Bay creek (John Bowler). On Islay there were large movements of Whooper Swans with 365 (going S) past Kilchoman (Ian & Margaret Brooke), 258 on the RSPB Gruinart reserve (James How), 93 near Port Charlotte (Bob Davison) and 40 over Port Ellen (Dave Protherough).



Black Redstart -Tiree 14 Nov (John Bowler).



Chiffchaff - Balephuill, Tiree 14 Nov (John Bowler).

13 November: A seawatch at Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre - 6hrs from 08:00hrs (all birds moving S / force 6 westerly gale / frequent squalls): 3 Red-throated Diver, 6 Great Northern Diver, a juv Northern Gannet, a **Great Skua**, 50 Black-legged Kittiwake and a Red Knot (Eddie Maguire).

A 1hr lunch-time seawatch from Aird, Tiree in W8-9 with squalls produced (all heading W): 3 **Sooty Shearwater**, 1 RT Diver, 4 GN Diver, 14 Fulmar, 22 Shag, 38 Gannet, 54 large auk and 165 Kittiwakes. 1m and 1f Blackcap new at Balephuill plus 1 **Tree Sparrow** again there. 21 PB Brent new at Balephetrish Bay and scattered families of Whooper Swans on inland floods (John Bowler).

At Port Charlotte, Islay a juv **Iceland Gull** flying down the loch at 14:30 and a **Black-throated Diver** fairly close inshore (Mike Peacock).

On Islay, Martin Armstrong saw a group of **Waxwings** (not counted) on the outskirts of Port Ellen.



Whooper Swans - Tiree 13 Nov (John Bowler).



Great Skua - MSBO, Kintyre 13 Nov (Eddie Maguire).

12 November: The juvenile **Glaucous Gull** still at Campbeltown harbour, Kintyre (Eddie Maguire).

A 1hr lunchtime sea-watch from Hynish, Tiree in S8-9 produced (all heading SW): 4 **Sooty Shearwater**, 2 **Leach's Petrel**, 1 imm **Pomarine Skua**, 1 **Long-tailed Duck**, 6 Great Northern Diver and 1 Red-throated Diver in amongst 175 large auks, 132 Kittiwakes (30% juvs), 53 Gannets, 14 Fulmars and 23 Shags (John Bowler).

A **Leach's Storm Petrel** from the living room window, this morning in Port Charlotte, Islay also 2 Great Northern, 1 Red-throated Diver and 4 Eiders in the storm (Mike Peacock).



Glaucous Gull - Campbeltown, Kintyre 12 Nov (Eddie Maguire).

11 November: On Tiree today at Loch a' Phuill the drake **American Wigeon** again at Loch a' Phuill, **Black Redstart** again near the pumping station, 1 Great Northern Diver on the loch, 33 Goldeneye and 6 Gadwall but numbers of Whoopers have dropped to 204. Also 180 Redwing and 1 Kestrel at Meningie and a **Greenland Redpoll** with Twite at Balephuill (John Bowler).

10 November: A late Chiffchaff lingering in the gloom at Balephuill, Tiree for the last 2 days (John Bowler).

Could you identify this bird for us which is currently frequenting our garden in Sandbank, Cowal (Allan/Carol MacDonald)...and showing a Eurasian Jay which are not always easy to capture on film.



Jay - Sandbank, Cowal 10 Nov (Carol MacDonald).

09 November: A **Twite** colour ringed at Machrihanish SBO this autumn (UK Twite Study Project) was photographed on 29 Oct at Church Point, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland. This is the second MSBO Twite found on the North Sea coast of Northumberland (Eddie Maguire).



Twite - MSBO, Kintyre (Eddie Maguire).

08 November: Details have been received of the **White-fronted Goose (neck collar P1J)** photographed at Strath Farm, The Laggan, S Kintyre 5 November.

It was caught at Hvanneyri, W Iceland, autumn 2004 and has been a regular at The Laggan, Kintyre; present during winters 2004/5, 2008/9, 2009/10, 2012/13 and 2014/15. Also seen at Hvanneyri autumn 2008, 2009 and 2014. 2015 Sightings: 20 May: collar identified at Hvanneyri, W Iceland. 11 October: collar identified at Hvanneyri, W Iceland (normally this is a mean arrival date in Kintyre!).

(Tony Fox per Eddie Maguire).

07 November: There was a pair of **Gadwall** on Ballachuan Loch, Seil, this afternoon, along with 6 **Mute Swans**, 12 **Wigeon**, 8 **Teal** and 7 **Tufted Ducks**. Earlier there were 2 **Long-tailed Tits** at the school on Luing and a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** has been reported in that area during the last week (both uncommon species on Luing). Also on Luing was a **Water Rail** in the will carr beside the Fire Station (David Jardine).

On Tiree today: 398 **Whooper Swans**, the drake **American Wigeon** and 6 **Gadwall** at Loch a' Phuill. An immature **Black Redstart** was near the Pumping Station at Loch a' Phuill as well as 45 **Meadow Pipits** and 2 **Linnets** and a **Tree Sparrow** still at Balephuill with an *abietinus*-type ('Scandinavian') **Common Chiffchaff** and 3 **Northwestern (Greenland) Redpolls** (John Bowler).



Black Redstart – Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 07 Nov (John Bowler).

06 November: This first-winter **Glaucous Gull** was by Campbeltown Marina at 15:00hrs today (Eddie Maguire).



Glaucous Gull – Campbeltown, Kintyre 06 Nov (Eddie Maguire).

A **Barn Swallow** was flying around the house all afternoon at Ardchyline Farm (nr. St Catherine's) Cowal today – quite a surprise! (Pauline Bishop per Graham Thomas).

05 November: During a 5hr sea-watch at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today there were: 24 **Brent Geese** and ca 100 **Mallards**. Birds flying S included a **Black-throated Diver**, 5 **Great Northern Divers**, 12 **Ringed Plovers** and 4 **Curlew Sandpipers**. And at Strath Farm west pool (The Laggan): geese included 440 **White-fronts (including neck collar PIJ)**, 9 **Barnacles**, and 11 **Pink-feet** (Eddie Maguire).



Pale-bellied Brent Geese – MSBO, Kintyre 05 Nov (Eddie Maguire).



Greenland White-fronted Geese – Strath Farm (The Laggan), Kintyre 05 Nov (Eddie Maguire).

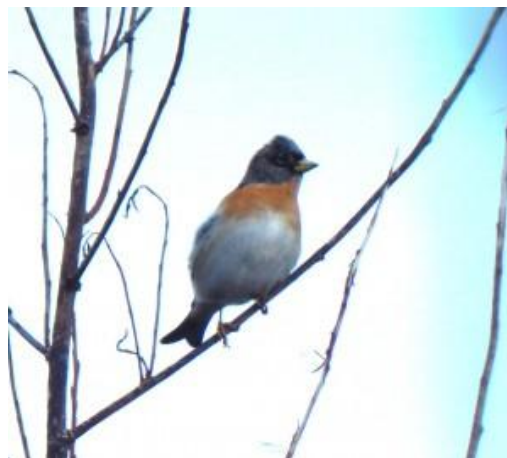
A **record count** of **502 Whooper Swans** was made around Tíree today, including site record of 431 at Loch a' Phuill. Elsewhere: the **Tree Sparrow** was still at Balephuill, a **Short-eared Owl** and a **Woodcock** reported at Cornaigmore, a male **Hen Harrier** and a **Common Chiffchaff** at The Glebe and 5 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 4 **Common Scoter** heading south, 8 **Red-throated Divers** and 7 **Great Northern Divers** at Hough Bay. Scattered groups of **Redwings** and **Fieldfares** were all over the island (John Bowler/ Andy Robinson).

04 November: At Loch Indaal, Islay (Port Charlotte across to Gartbreck) in flat calm conditions: 9 **Red-throated Divers** and 53 **Great Northern Divers**, including a flock of 37 engaged in communal fishing. And off Blackrock, 2 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese**, 48 **Greater Scaup**, 32 **Common Eiders**, a female **Long-tailed Duck**, 22 **Common Scoters**, 3 **Common Goldeneyes**, 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers** and a further 5 **Great Northern Divers** (Mike Peacock).



Greater Scaup – Loch Indaal, Islay 04 Nov (Mike Peacock).

On Tiree today: a female **Blackcap**, a **Common Chiffchaff**, 25 **Blackbirds**, 85 **Fieldfares**, 150 **Redwings**, one **Tree Sparrow**, 2 **Bramblings** and 4 male **Siskins** at Balephuill; 14 **Barnacle Geese** flying south over Balephuill at 10:00hrs; 11 **Whooper Swans** (at 12:00), a **Pied Wagtail** and one **Siskin** at Vaul; groups of 25 and 16 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** flying SSW over Hynish at ca 16:00hrs and a **Short-eared Owl** reported at Barrapol (John Bowler/ Andy Robinson).



Brambling – Balephuill, Tiree 04 Nov (John Bowler).



Whooper Swans over Vaul, Tiree 04 Nov (John Bowler).

03 November: On Tìree today: one **Tree Sparrow** and 3 male **Siskins** at Balephuill, a 'chunky' **'Greenland' Redpoll** and 1 **Common Chiffchaff** at The Glebe and 401 **Whooper Swans** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

02 November: On Tìree today: 2 newly arrived **Tree Sparrows** were at Balephuill together with the **Yellow-browed Warbler**, a Common Chiffchaff, 13 Fieldfares, 40 Redwings and a male Siskin. The drake **American Wigeon** and immature/female Greater Scaup were still at Loch a' Phuill together with 373 Whooper Swans and 12 Whooper Swans flew south over Crossapol (John Bowler).

About a dozen **Brambling** were among a flock of Chaffinches and numerous Goldcrests on Halton Estate, Dunoon (close to the end of the fourteenth hole on Dunoon golf course) (Alistair McGregor).



Tree Sparrow – Balephuill, Tìree 02 Nov (John Bowler).



Yellow-browed Warbler – Balephuill, Tìree 02 Nov (John Bowler).

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Brambling – Dunoon 02 Nov (Alistair McGregor).

01 November: A juvenile **Iceland Gull** was at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll today (Errol Crutchfield). On Tiree today: a **Yellow-browed Warbler** newly arrived at Balephuill; also a female Blackcap, 150 Redwings and 2 Siskins there. And on Loch a' Phuill: 350 Whooper Swans, the drake **American Wigeon** and the immature/female Greater Scaup still present (John Bowler. A **Firecrest** was reported at Knock, Mull today (Sue & David McDowell per Alan Spellman). There is only one previous Mull record - at Tobermory on 13 Nov 2012.



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