

Argyll Bird Report 2019



published by the
Argyll Bird Club 2020



MERLIN on Islay - the late Mike Peacock

*FRONT COVER -
SNOWY OWL on Coll - D & R Wainwright*

**The Thirty First
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the year
2019**



Editor, layout & design: Jim Dickson on behalf of the Argyll Bird Club
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Introduction

Welcome to the 2019 Argyll bird report which is now the 31st published by the Argyll Bird Club.

Last year we produced the first report as a simplified PDF to enable quicker completion and allow it to be made more widely available online. This change has generally been seen as a positive and logical step by most, although not by all folk, and we of course appreciate that change is not always universally accepted. The positives from a production and editorial viewpoint far outweigh the negatives and we hope you will agree that, in having a more-timely report with a lot more colour photos taken during the year is worth it.

The report is essentially a highlighted systematic list of species that occurred during 2019 and no attempt is made to present papers or articles *etc*, and these are better placed in the Argyll Bird Club's quarterly 'Eider' magazine or journals such as Scottish / British Birds or BTO publications for a more in-depth analysis.

Once again, records within the systematic list are presented for each season, and their occurrence in each of the ten Argyll regions. It should be noted that for many species there may be no note of occurrence in relatively under watched areas such as Cowal, Jura or North Argyll. This is usually a reflection of no reports having been submitted rather than indicating that such species do not occur there. For all the species with twenty or less reports during the year all the submitted sightings are listed. Some rarities have video footage that can be accessed by clicking the links provided.

We hope you will enjoy the report and in turn use it to add to further appreciation of bird life in Argyll and to send in your records if not doing so already. The bird club also runs a facebook group and a website.

For individuals, researchers, and planning bodies *etc* who require more detailed species accounts for specific sites or regions, it should be noted that this data is still available from the Argyll bird database. We therefore advise anyone requiring such information to contact the bird recorders.

Jim Dickson (May 2020)

Bird Recording in Argyll

Submitting your bird records

The Argyll bird recorders maintain the Argyll bird database on behalf of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Argyll Bird Club and in recent years have been receiving more than 30,000 records per year. We welcome all bird records however please look at the guidance sheet on the Argyll Bird Club website under Bird Recording which gives threshold guidelines on what to report. The recorders are happy to input casual reports, however when larger volumes of records are submitted, we recommend that these are sent in *Excel* spreadsheet format compatible with the Argyll bird database. We can send you a template or for regular record providers we can send an automated input form. Please email abcrecorder@outlook.com for more details. Records sent to the BTO's BirdTrack and WeBS can be accessed by the recorders as well as records sent to Birdguides.

Rare birds

Details and photographs of all rare bird sightings should be sent in (preferably emailed) as soon as possible after the sighting to **Jim Dickson**, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UF. Tel: 01546 603967 E-mail: Argyllbirder@outlook.com Please use the standard form (available from Jim). These will be judged locally by the Argyll Bird Records Committee (ABRC) whose members are listed on p. 4, sent on to the *Scottish Birds* Records Committee (SBRC), or passed to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC), depending on the species/level of rarity.

The list below is made up of the ABRC list of Argyll rarities and the SBRC list of Scottish rarities (those marked #) details rare species whose occurrence in Argyll needs to be fully documented i.e. details of the circumstances surrounding the sighting and a detailed description of the bird and if possible, photographs and field notes.

Records of rarities in the systematic list are accompanied by the names of the observers, starting with the finder(s)/identifier(s), (or, in the absence of this information, the person who first reported the bird to the recorder), followed by the observer(s) who submitted details of the record, if different.

Species for which descriptions are required by the Argyll BRC and the Scottish BRC (#). A full list of BBRC species can be found at <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information>

Black Brant #	Ruddy Duck
Taiga Bean Goose	White-billed Diver
Tundra Bean Goose	Wilson's Petrel #
European White-fronted Goose	Cory's Shearwater #
(race <i>albifrons</i>)	Great Shearwater #
Bewick's Swan	Balearic Shearwater
Egyptian Goose	Great Cormorant (race <i>sinensis</i>)
American Wigeon	Eurasian Bittern
Green-winged Teal	Night-heron #
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)	Cattle Egret #
Red-crested Pochard	Great White Egret
Ring-necked Duck	Purple Heron #
Lesser Scaup	White Stork
Surf Scoter (except adult males)	Glossy Ibis
Smew	Eurasian Spoonbill

Red-necked Grebe
 Black-necked Grebe
 Honey-buzzard
 Black Kite #
 Montagu's Harrier #
 Goshawk
 Rough-legged Buzzard
 Red-footed Falcon #
 Hobby
 Spotted Crake
 Common Crane
 Avocet
 Black-winged Stilt #
 Stone Curlew #
 Little Ringed Plover
 American Golden Plover
 Black-tailed Godwit (continental) #
 Temminck's Stint
 White-rumped Sandpiper #
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Lesser Yellowlegs #
 Spotted Redshank
 Red-necked Phalarope (away from
 traditional breeding areas)
 Long-tailed Skua (imms only)
 Sabine's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Yellow-legged Gull #
 Caspian Gull #
 Black Tern
 White-winged Black Tern #
 Roseate Tern
 Little Owl
 Nightjar
 Alpine Swift #
 European Bee-eater
 Wryneck
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker #
 Red-backed Shrike
 Great Grey Shrike
 Woodchat Shrike #
 Firecrest
 Crested Tit
 Willow Tit

Marsh Tit
 Bearded Tit
 Short-toed Lark #
 Wood Lark #
 Shore Lark
 Red-rumped Swallow #
 Cetti's Warbler #
 Greenish Warbler #
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler
 Yellow-browed Warbler
 Radde's Warbler #
 Dusky Warbler #
 Arctic Warbler #
 Barred Warbler
 Lesser Whitethroat
 Dartford Warbler #
 Subalpine Warbler
 Icterine Warbler
 Melodious Warbler #
 Blyth's Reed Warbler
 Marsh Warbler
 Reed Warbler
 Rose-coloured Starling
 Common Nightingale
 Bluethroat
 Red-flanked Bluetail #
 Red-breasted Flycatcher
 Tree Sparrow
 Yellow Wagtail (all races)
 Citrine Wagtail #
 Richard's Pipit
 Olive-backed Pipit
 Rock Pipit (Scandinavian race *littoralis*)
 Water Pipit
 European Serin #
 Common Redpoll (all races other than
 Lesser)
 Scottish Crossbill #
 Parrot Crossbill #
 Common Rosefinch
 Hawfinch
 Cirl Bunting #
 Ortolan Bunting #
 Little Bunting
 Corn Bunting

Sighting Highlights of 2019

~ January ~

GREEN-WINGED TEAL A male from 2018 remained at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* until 17 Jan. **RING-NECKED DUCK** Three from 2018 remained at Loch Bhasapol, *Tiree* until 5 Mar with two staying to 2 May. **RING-BILLED GULL** One from 2018 remained at Sandaig, *Tiree* until 12 Feb. **'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** One from 2018 remained at Caoles, *Tiree* until 20 Jan. **COMMON POCHARD** A male was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 2 Jan. **LITTLE AUK** Three were off Aird, *Tiree* on 7 Jan. **'EUROPEAN' WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** One was at Cuddypool Bay, Gigha, *Kintyre* on 19 Jan.

~ February ~

CAKCLING GOOSE One was at Bridgend Merse, *Islay* on 4 Feb. **'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** One was at Leorin, *Islay* on 5-27 Feb. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male was at Gruinart Floods, *Islay* on 8-26 Feb. **PIED-BILLED GREBE** The long staying male was back at Loch Feorlin, *Mid-Argyll* from 19 Feb.

~ March ~

GREEN-WINGED TEAL A male was at Port Charlotte, *Islay* on 2 Mar. **'KUMLIEN'S' ICELAND GULL** An adult was at Machrihanish SBO, *Kintyre* on 3 Mar.

~ April ~

GREEN WOODPECKER One was at Ardalanish Bay, *Mull* on 7 Apr. **BLACK-WINGED STILT** One was at Heylipol, *Tiree* on 16-19 Apr. **BLACK REDSTART** One was at Campbeltown, *Kintyre* on 17 Apr. **HAWFINCH** One was at Bellochantuy, *Kintyre* on 19 Apr. **AVOCET** Three were near Laggan Point, *Islay* on 19 Apr. **HOBBY** One was near Glendaruel, *Cowal* on 22 Apr. **SNOWY OWL** One as at Grishpoll Farm, *Coll* on 23 Apr. **SABINE'S GULL** One was at sea off NE *Colonsay* on 26 Apr. **GREATER YELLOWLEGS** One was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 28 Apr.

~ May ~

GARGANEY A pair were at Caignure, *Mull* on 1 May and a male at Oronsay, *Colonsay* on 2-7 May. **'DARK' BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** One was at Loch Gruinart, *Islay* on 5 May. **COMMON CRANE** One was at East Backs Farm, *Kintyre* on 6 May. **GREY PHALAROPE** One, in breeding plumage, was off Machrihanish SBO, *Kintyre* on 6 May. **LITTLE STINT** One was at Loch Gruinart, *Islay* on 7 May. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** One was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 8 May. **WOOD SANDPIPER** A pair were at Loch Tulla, *North Argyll* on 9 May. **BLACK REDSTART** One was at Balemartine, *Tiree* on 12 May. **HOOPOE** One was at Blairmore, *Cowal* on 13 May. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Carnan Mor, *Tiree* on 13 May. **GARGANEY** A male was at Gruinart Floods, *Islay* on 13 May and a male at Kilmoluaig, *Tiree* on 16 May. **MARSH HARRIER** Four reports 17 May- 6 Jul with singles, possibly the same bird, on *Islay*, *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Mull*. **GULL-BILLED TERN** One was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 17 May and remained on *Tiree* until 27 May. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** One was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 21 May. **HAWFINCH** One was on Iona, *Mull* on 21 May. **LESSER WHITETHROAT**

One was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 23 May. **GOSHAWK** One was at Loch an Torr, *Mull* on 26 May. **RED KITE** One was at Craignure, *Mull* on 30 May. **GOLDEN ORIOLE** One was at Crinan, *Mid-Argyll* on 30 May.

~ June ~

HOBBY One was at Milton, *Tiree* on 7 Jun and this or another was at Grasspoint, *Mull* on 8 Jun. **EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE** One was at Salen *Mull* on 8 Jun and one at Heylipol *Tiree* on 8-10 Jun. **LITTLE STINT** One was at Sorobaidh Bay, *Tiree* on 9 Jun. **GREEN WOODPECKER** One was at Cairmbaan, *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jun. **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** One was at Risabus, The Oa, *Islay* on 13 Jun. **HONEY-BUZZARD** One was in central *Kintyre* on 13 Jun. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** One was in north *Colonsay* on 13 Jun. **ROSY STARLING** One was at Esknish Farm, *Islay* on 17 Jun and this or another at Toberonochy, Luing, *Mid-Argyll* on 18-24 Jun. **COMMON QUAIL** Calling males were at Crossapol, *Tiree* on 18 Jun and Treshnish Farm, NW *Mull* on 19 Jun. **GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO** One was on Iona, *Mull* on 23-26 Jun.

~ July ~

GOLDEN ORIOLE One was at Avonvogie, *Islay* on 4 Jul. **ROSY STARLING** One was at Craighouse, *Jura* on 6-13 Jul. **COMMON QUAIL** Two calling males were at Langa Quarry, *Kintyre* on 6 Jul. **GOSHAWK** One was at Loch Nant, *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 28 Jul. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** One was at The Reef, *Tiree* on 30 Jul. **WOOD SANDPIPER** Two were at The Reef, *Tiree* on 30 Jul.

~ August ~

SOOTY SHEARWATER Singles were off *Tiree* on eight dates from 4 Aug with two on 21 Aug. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Gruinart Floods, *Islay* on 5 Aug. **TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL** One was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 10 Aug. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Salen, *Mull* on 30 Aug.

~ September ~

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER One was at Vault, *Tiree* on 3-12 Sep. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** One was at Carnain, Loch Indaal, *Islay* on 4 Sep. **LAPLAND BUNTING** Singles were on *Tiree* on 5 and 7 Sep. **COMMON NIGHTHAWK** One was at Loch Laich, *North Argyll* on 11 Sep. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** One was at Loch na Keal, *Mull* on 12-16 Sep. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** One was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 15 Sep. **EURASIAN REED WARBLER** One was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 19 Sep. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** A juv was at Machir Bay, *Islay* on 20 Sep. **EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE** One was at Octofad *Islay* on 20 Sep. **GREAT WHITE EGRET** One was at Bunessan, *Mull* on 20-26 Sep. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** One was at Carnain Mor, *Tiree* on 25 Sep. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** An adult was at Baugh, *Tiree* on 26 Sep. **COMMON POUCEAD** One was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 26- 27 Sep. **ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** One was at Langamull, *Mull* on 27 Sep. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Dervaig, *Mull* on 27 Sep. **YELLOW BROWED WARBLER** One was at Vault, *Tiree* on 28 Sep, one was at Port Righ, *Kintyre* on 28 Sep, two at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 29 Sep with three there on 30 Sep. **RED- BACKED SHRIKE** One was at Glenastle, The Oa, *Islay* on 29 Sep.

~ October ~

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER One was at Craignure, *Mull* on 2 Oct and another was at Duart Castle, *Mull* on 4 Oct. **GREAT WHITE EGRET** One was on Luing then Seil, *Mid-Argyll* 3 Oct-27 Nov. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** One was at Sandaig, *Tiree* on 5 Oct-8 Nov. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** One was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 7 Oct and one was at Port Righ, *Kintyre* on 13 Oct. **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** Two juvs were at Sanaigmore, *Islay* on 12-13 Oct. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** A juv was at Middleton, *Tiree* on 12-14 Oct and a different juv at at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 14 Oct. **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** One was at Balephetrish and Vaul, *Tiree* from 14 Oct. **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** One was at Balepuill, *Tiree* on 14 Oct. **RED-NECKED GREBE** One was off Bruichladdich, *Islay* on 14 Oct. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male was at Gruinart Floods, *Islay* from 16 Oct. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** One was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 16-18 Oct. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Lochdon, *Mull* on 17 Oct. **RICHARD'S PIPIT** One was on Oronsay, *Colonsay* on 18 Oct. **RED KITE** One was at Kilmelford, *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct and one was wandering in *W Mull* on 29-31 Oct. **CACKLING GOOSE** One was at Bridgend Merse, *Islay* from 21 Oct. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** One was at Loch Gruinart, *Islay* on 22 Oct. **RING-NECKED DUCK** A juv female was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 25-28 Oct. **COMMON POCHARD** Two males were at Loch Gorm, *Islay* on 27 Oct -3 Nov.

~ November ~

'DARK' BELLIED BRENT GOOSE Four were at Coull Farm, *Islay* on 3 Nov. **LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at Vaul, *Tiree* on 4 Nov. **LITTLE AUK** One was at Campbeltown Loch, *Kintyre* on 8 Nov and two were off Machrihanish SBO, *Kintyre* on 11 Nov. **RING-NECKED DUCK** An adult pair were at Loch Bhasapol, *Tiree* from 8 Nov. **COMMON POCHARD** A male was at Loch Awe, *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov. **'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** Four were near Campbeltown airport, *Kintyre* on 30 Nov-1 Dec.

~ December ~

GREEN-WINGED TEAL The male at Gruinart Floods, *Islay* stayed in to 2020. **CACKLING GOOSE** One on Oronsay, *Colonsay* stayed in to 2020. **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** The bird at Balephetrish and Vaul, *Tiree* stayed in to 2020. **RING-NECKED DUCK** The pair at Loch a' Phuill and Loch Bhasapol, *Tiree* remained in to 2020.



GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO Iona, *Mull* June 2019 Rudolf Hummel

Symbols and abbreviations

ABR	<i>Argyll Bird Report</i>
ABRC	Argyll Bird Records Committee
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
AOB	apparently occupied burrows
AON	apparently occupied nest-sites
AOS	apparently occupied sites
BBRC	<i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
b/3 etc	brood of 3 etc
ca	<i>circa</i> = approximately
cf	<i>confer</i> = compare
et al.	et alia = and others
ff, mm	females, males
imm.	immature
inc.	including
juv./juvs.	juvenile/juveniles
Machrihanish SBO	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory
max.	maximum
min.	minimum
NNR	National Nature Reserve
nr.	near
pr	pair
SBO	Seabird Observatory
SBR	<i>Scottish Bird Report</i>
SBRC	<i>Scottish Birds</i> Records Committee
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
Taynish NNR	Taynish National Nature Reserve
SRMS	Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme
Ters.	Territories
TIARG	Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
2CY, 3CY etc	Bird ages: second-calendar year, third calendar year etc.
>	Flying direction

Birds of Conservation Concern. (BoCC 4) was published in *British Birds* (December 2015 Vol.108) and the updated species status has been applied to this report.

RED LIST is the highest conservation priority with species needing urgent action.

AMBER LIST is the next most critical group followed by Green (not given here) species that don't fall into the Red or Amber category.

Systematic List for 2019

The following systematic list includes entries for 237 Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2019 (*cf.* average 222 species during the years 1993- 2018). This is eleven more than last year but just short of the record 240 species in 2014. Five new species were added to the list in 2019.

All records are listed where 20 reports or fewer and marked with *. Observers names are given for description rarities accepted by rare bird committees.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

AMBER LIST A *passage migrant, in varying numbers: few in winter. Most birds seen in Argyll are of the Pale-bellied race B. b. hrota. Birds of the Dark-bellied race B. b. bernicla have occurred, mainly on Islay and Tiree, with less than 20 records. There has been one record of the Black Brant B. b. nigricans on Islay in winter 1989/90.*



'PALE-BELLIED' BRENT GOOSE Kintyre Mar Eddie Maguire

'PALE-BELLIED' BRENT GOOSE (*B. b. hrota*)

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Jura/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 91 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Apr, 16 at Glas Eilean *Jura* on 1 Mar and 5 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Apr. Last report was 1 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 3-6 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals were 9 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Sep then 40 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep which was also

the max count of this period. At least 30 birds remained at Loch Indaal *Islay* until the year end.



'DARK-BELLIED' BRENT GOOSE Islay May Angus Hogg

'DARK-BELLIED' BRENT GOOSE* (*B. b. bernicla*)

Winter/spring An adult was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 May.

Autumn/winter Four were reported at Coull Farm *Islay* on 3 Nov.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

The resident population on Colonsay was introduced in 1934. Regular breeding has taken place since 1992 in Mid-Argyll in increasing numbers, with increasingly frequent breeding attempts elsewhere. A transatlantic origin seems probable for at least some of the medium-sized and small individuals seen in winter goose flocks on Islay and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 236 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Etive Mid-Argyll on 19 Jan, 178 on Luing Mid-Argyll on 7 Mar and 148 at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 26 Apr.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). First successful breeding on Islay (attempted in 1984) with 10 ads & 10 goslings at Proaig, SW Islay on 4 Jun. Also, at Sound of Islay Jura 39 were seen on islets from the ferry on 10 Jun. First young noted at Loch Laich North Argyll on 8 May. Numbers increasing in Mid-Argyll and range expansion on Mull.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 462 at Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll on 14 Nov and 248 at Loch Laich North Argyll on 15 Nov. Remains scarce on Islay where a max of 7 at Loch Gruinart on 7 Oct.

LESSER CANADA and TODD'S CANADA GOOSE* *Branta c. parvipes/interior*

Lesser Canada B. c. parvipes and Todd's Canada B. c. interior are races considered by the BBRC. The race parvipes breeds W Alaska, E to Yukon Territory and most winter Washington and Oregon. The race interior breeds NE Canada from Hudson Bay to Baffin Island and NW Greenland wintering in SE USA. There is however some overlap in breeding ranges and variability in size and plumage of races, therefore separation is not always possible.

Winter/spring One at Caoles Tiree from Oct 2018 to 20 Jan, and one at Loerin Islay on 5-27 Feb are subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

Autumn/winter Four nr Machrihanish airport Kintyre on 30 Nov-1 Dec, and one at Balephetrish and Vaul Tiree on 14 Oct-31 Dec are subject to acceptance by the BBRC.



BARNACLE GEESE *Islay* Oct *Jim Dickson*

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

AMBER LIST *Approximately two thirds of the Greenland population winter in Argyll, mostly on Islay with smaller numbers elsewhere. Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree are sites of*

international importance for wintering birds of the Greenland population of this species. A few birds occasionally summer and a few introduced birds have bred on the Rinns of Islay.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Most on Islay with max count of 35,251 on 15-16 Jan and Tiree with 5,009 on 4-5 Mar. An all Argyll total of 36,571 in Mar (Int. Goose counts per SNH). Large nos departed on 6-7 Apr and most birds had left Islay by 12 Apr.

Breeding/summer One was paired with a Greylag on Tiree on 23 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). First arrivals in small nos from 30 Sep and first big arrivals on 10 Oct with 1,000 at Loch Gruinart Islay and 260 at Treshnish NW Mull, also 3,300 on Oronsay Colonsay by 14 Oct. Most were on Islay with max count 32,017 on 17-18 Dec, also 5,648 across Tiree on 17-18 Dec.

CACKLING GOOSE* *Branta hutchinsii/minima*

This species group has recently been accepted by the BOURC as a split from other 'Lesser Canada Goose' types. A transatlantic origin seems probable for most of these hutchinsii birds being from the Canadian High Arctic. The first accepted Argyll record was in 1984 and many subsequent records are still under consideration by the BBRC.

Winter/spring One at Bridgend merse Islay on 4 Feb is subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

Autumn/winter A returning bird from autumn 2018 again on Oronsay Colonsay on 17 Oct to 31 Dec.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

The small introduced population on Coll breeds on a small off-shore island and is now very sedentary and decreasing. Stragglers among wintering goose flocks of other species are probably often genuine vagrants.

All year The resident flock present on Coll continues to decrease with now only 10 birds. At least 3 prs were noted as likely breeding on Soa Island Coll on 11 May however no reports of young later in the year.

Autumn On Islay 2 were at Bridgend Merse on 10-14 Oct, then at Sanaigmore and Sunderland on 15-18 Oct.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

AMBER LIST A resident: with an increasing breeding population. Some may be native birds that have colonised from the Outer Hebrides, while birds of introduced origin breed in Mid-Argyll. Now that it is no longer possible to distinguish between them, WeBS refers to them as 'British/Irish' and identifies Tiree as a site of national importance. Migratory flocks are also reported from most areas.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,870 on Tiree on 4-5 Mar and 775 on Islay on 12-13 Mar. An Argyll total in Mar of 4,350 (Int. Goose counts per SNH).

Breeding Reported breeding in all areas. On Colonsay (excluding Oronsay) 62 broods found. Mean brood size in Jun = 3.36 (sample of 22 broods). Tiree all-island count on 26-28 Aug – of the 1,384 birds aged, 570 (41.2%) were juvs, with mean brood size of 2.47 (N = 247 broods). First juvs noted on Colonsay on 28 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts on 17-18 Dec with 2,253 on Tiree (all island) and 1,056 on Islay.

TAIGA BEAN GOOSE* *Anser fabalis*

AMBER LIST A scarce winter visitor and less than annual. Split from Tundra race Bean Goose in 2018 and now treated as a separate species.

No reports, however in 2018: Five at Kilmichael floods, N of Campbeltown Kintyre on 11 Nov have now been accepted of which one was assigned to 'Taiga' [Pete Nash *et al*]. Accepted by the ABRC.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

AMBER LIST There are variable numbers on passage, with occasional large flocks but relatively few overwinter.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura). Small nos of 1-6 birds wintered in (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Return passage flocks noted heading NW from 28 Mar. Max counts of 332 at Craignure Mull on 10 Apr, 200 at Eorabus Mull on 9 Apr and 160 at Kerrera Mid-Argyll on 20 Apr.

Summer In May 1-5 birds noted at six sites, singles at three sites in Jun-Jul and 1 at Balure, Loch Etive Mid-Argyll on 6 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura). Return passage from 12 Sep when a noisy flock of 40+S at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre, then 10 flew over Balephetrish Tiree on 27 Sep. A remarkable period of heavy passage started on 29 Sep with 338 over Lower Ardtun Mull and 388 over Tiree, then during 30 Sep-1 Oct, numerous flocks of 50-300+ birds were noted passing over most Argyll regions. At least 1,300 flew over Tiree on 30 Sep and 1,750 on 1 Oct and many birds also landed. Flocks of up to 200 birds remained on Islay and Tiree for most of Oct and smaller nos across Argyll until the year end, with most noted; 90 at Drumlemble Kintyre on 9 Dec.



'GREENLAND' WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Islay Oct Jim Dickson

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

RED LIST *Both the nominate European and the Greenland races have occurred in Argyll. The Greenland race A. a. flavirostris winters in a small number of traditional haunts and is also a passage migrant. Argyll holds about 50% of the world population of this race in winter and all the locations where they occur regularly are sites of international importance in the UK.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura). Max counts of 6,771 on Islay on 12-13 Mar (all island count), 2,518 in Kintyre in Mar, 237 in Mid-Argyll in Mar and 1,026 on Coll/Tiree in Mar. Argyll total counts in Mar of 10,682 (8,412 in Mar 2018) per Int. Goose counts (SNH).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura/Cowal). First arrivals noted were 6 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 11 Oct then 140>S over Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 12 Oct. Max counts of 6,335 on Islay on 17-18 Mar (all island count), 750 on Tiree on 17-18 Dec and 630 at the Laggan Kintyre on 5 Nov. No SNH counts received for Kintyre.

'EUROPEAN' WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE* *A. a. albifrons*

The European race A. a. albifrons is a scarce visitor in small numbers.

Winter One report – an adult at Cuddypool Bay, Gigha Kintyre on 19 Jan [David Jardine]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

AMBER LIST *A widespread and fairly common breeding species on the mainland and Tiree: scarcer on the other large islands. Not recorded recently on Colonsay until 1999. Flocks gather at favoured localities throughout the year, especially during moult but in decreasing numbers in autumn and winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay). Max counts of 48 on Tiree on 19 Feb then 7 at Ulva Lagoon Mid-Argyll on 20 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of up to 6 birds, with most counts of 1-2 birds.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay). On Tiree 11 nests at 8 sites and max count of 42 birds on 5 Aug – noted to be a poor breeding season there. First broods noted on Tiree on 3 Jun and Portavadie Cowal on 14 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Colonsay). Max counts of 50 on Tiree on 13 Dec, 41 at Ulva Lagoon Mid-Argyll on 13 Oct and 25 at Loch Skerrols Islay on 28 Oct.



WHOOPER SWANS Islay Oct Jim Dickson

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

AMBER LIST A *common passage migrant: smaller numbers wintering. Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) is a site of national importance for wintering birds. A few birds summer in most years and breeding has been recorded.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Jura). Max counts of 182 on Tiree on 15 Jan, 72 at Kiloran Bay Colonsay on 31 Mar and 56 over the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 30 Mar. Most passage N noted mid-Mar to early Apr and flocks counted were of 18-72 birds.

Summer/breeding Up to 9 on Tiree and 2 on Islay during the summer. A pr bred at a site in Kintyre however the eggs were predated by 13 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. First arrivals were 8>S past Hynish Tiree and 22>S over Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 30 Sep, also 23 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 30 Sep. Most passage and arrivals noted during 1-24 Oct with max counts of 342 (in total) over Islay on 24 Oct, 200 at West Parkfergus Kintyre on 12 Oct and 166 on Tiree on 24 Oct.



COMMON SHELDUCK Kintyre Mar Eddie Maguire

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

AMBER LIST A *widespread, but not very numerous, breeding species around sandy coasts. The majority are absent from mid-Aug to late Oct when they migrate to moulting grounds.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 208 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 15 Feb, 35 on Oronsay Colonsay on 2 Feb, 27 at The Laggan Kintyre on 5 Mar, 20 at Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 26 Apr and 17 at Loch Spelve Mull on 5 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports received from (Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree). First ducklings at Loch Indaal Islay on 21 May and at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 23 May where mean brood size 6.3 (3 broods). At the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll a pr with creche of 22 young on 30 Jun. Breeding population appears to have crashed on Tiree in recent years.

Autumn/winter Most reports from (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll). Max counts of 31 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 15 Nov and 13 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 22 Dec. Nos generally 1-8 birds elsewhere.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

An introduced species which has bred regularly, at Loch Eck (Cowal), in recent years. The present size of the Argyll population (whose origin is unknown) suggests that it may well now be self-sustaining.

Winter/spring Several reports from Loch Awe with a max of 8 at Braevallich Mid-Argyll at the end of Jan. No reports were received from the usual strongholds in Cowal. A female seen and photographed in a ditch at Cornaigmore Tiree on 20 Apr was a new species for the island.

Autumn/winter There was no further monitoring of this species at Braevallich Mid-Argyll during this period. No reports from Cowal, a usual stronghold. Two at Dalmally Mid-Argyll on 5 Oct was the only report.



MANDARIN DUCK Tiree Apr John Bowler

GARGANEY* *Spatula querquedula* **AMBER LIST** **A regular spring visitor to Islay and Tiree and has bred in Kintyre in 1994, on Islay in 1997, and on Coll in 2004.**



GARGANEY Mull May Lizzy Grieve

Spring A pair were at Craignure Bay Mull on 1 May, a male was on Oronsay Colonsay on 2-7 May and again on 15 May, a male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 13 May and a male was at Kilmoluaig Tiree on 16 May with presumably the same bird at Loch a' Phuill Tiree that evening.

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*

AMBER LIST *A scarce and localised breeding species restricted to Islay and Tiree. It is more numerous as a passage migrant and winter visitor: also largely restricted to Islay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (Islay/Kintyre/Tiree). On Islay a max of 48 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 16 Feb. On Tiree max count of 35 with 19 at Loch Riaghain and 16 at Loch a' Phuill on 17 Jan. In Kintyre 2 were at Machrihanish SBO on 12-19 Apr and 1 was on Gigha on 19 Jan.

Breeding Breeding reported on Islay and Tiree.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Islay/Kintyre/Tiree). Max counts of 35 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 13 Dec, 25 on Tiree lochs on 13 Dec and 2 at The Laggan Kintyre on 9 Dec.

GADWALL *Mareca strepera*

AMBER LIST *A scarce but regular passage migrant and winter visitor with most recent records from: Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree. Breeds sporadically on Islay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (Colonsay/Islay/Tiree). A max count of 8 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 2 Jan.

Breeding Up to 4 prs on Tiree and 1 pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Islay/North Argyll/Tiree). A max count of 8 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 16 Aug and 5 at Cnoc Fada Islay on 28 Oct, also 3 were at Balnagown Loch, Lismore North Argyll on 19 Nov.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Mareca penelope*

AMBER LIST *A scarce and local breeding species: common passage migrant and winter visitor to all areas.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 271 on Tiree WeBS counts on 22 Jan, 162 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 17 Jan, 160 at Loch Indaal Islay on 19 Feb, 127 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Etive Mid-Argyll on 19 Jan and 114 at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 16 Feb.

Breeding Likely breeding prs were noted on Tiree and inland North Argyll.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. First returning single bird at Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 30 Jul. Max counts of 385 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 15 Nov, 365 on Tiree WeBS counts on 13 Dec, 315 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 13 Dec, 309 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 14 Nov and 285 at Loch Skerrols Islay on 31 Oct. Many other counts of up to 100, mostly in Kintyre.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

A common breeding, passage and wintering species

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 135 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 17 Jan, 85 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Etive Mid-Argyll on 19 Jan, 65 at Loch na Keal Mull on 19 Jan, 62 at Holy Loch Cowal on 22 Jan and 59 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 17 Feb.

Breeding/summer Reports from all areas. Ducklings noted in Mid-Argyll from 30 Apr. Max counts of 43 at Ardencaple, Seil Mid-Argyll on 15 Jul and 41 at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 24 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 217 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 15 Nov, 162 at Ardencaple, Seil Mid-Argyll on 27 Nov and 116 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 15 Sep.

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

AMBER LIST *A very scarce breeding species on Tiree and a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor: regular only on Islay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (Coll/Islay/Tiree). Most reports from Islay and max counts of 87 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 19 Mar.

Breeding Up to 7 prs on *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max count of 56 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Nov.

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca*

AMBER LIST A *widespread but uncommon breeding species: common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 901 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Jan and 295 on *Tiree* across two sites on 17 Jan, 94 at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 4 Feb and 90 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 22 Jan.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally low nos.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 961 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Dec, 230 at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 17 Dec, 118 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct, 117 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Oct and 91 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Dec. Many other sites held up to 90 birds.



GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Islay* Oct Jim Dickson

For a video link click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2eW_bVDZzg

GREEN-WINGED TEAL* *Anas carolinensis*

A rare visitor: Thirty or more records since 1980, mostly on Islay or Tiree: some records may well involve returning individuals.

Winter/spring A male remained at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 2018 until 17 Jan [John Bowler] and a male (returning bird?) was at RSPB Gruinart floods *Islay* on 8-26 Feb at least [A Saunders *et al*] and probably the same male at Port Charlotte pond on 2 Mar [Mike Peacock *et al*].

Autumn/winter A male was at RSPB Gruinart floods *Islay* from 16 Oct until year end [Peter Roberts *et al.*]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON POCHARD* *Aythya ferina*

RED LIST *An increasingly scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, in small numbers, particularly to: Tiree, Islay, and a few Mid-Argyll lochs. There has been no confirmed breeding in recent years.*

Winter/spring Only one report – a male at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Jan.

Autumn/winter A 1cy was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 26-27 Sep, 2 males were at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 27 Oct -3 Nov and a male was at Kilchurn Castle, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov. *The downward trend of records for this species continues.*

RING-NECKED DUCK* *Aythya collaris*

A rare visitor: 26 previous records.

Winter/spring Three birds – adult pr with a 2cy male, frequented Loch Bhasapol and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 12 Nov 2018 to 5 Mar and the adult pr remained until 2 May [John Bowler *et al.*].

Autumn/winter A 1cy female was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 25-28 Oct. The adult pr from last winter returned to Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 8 Nov and seen frequently there and Loch a' Phuill until the year end and into 2020 [John Bowler *et al.*]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

A widespread winter visitor: most numerous on Islay and Tiree. Breeds in small numbers on: Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tiree with scattered pairs found throughout mainland Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts on *Tiree* with 142 across island WeBS sites on 22 Jan and 24 at Loch Finlaggan *Islay* on 5 Mar.

Breeding Breeding reported on *Tiree* with 12-15 prs. No data from *Islay*. At least two sites in *Mid-Argyll* and first broods noted on *Tiree* where f with b/2 on 11 Jul and Seil *Mid-Argyll* 2ff with b/3 and b/3 on 15 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Kintyre*). Max counts of 112 on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 27 Oct and 97 on *Tiree* across island WeBS sites.

GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila*

RED LIST *A winter visitor and passage migrant with most winter reports at Loch Indaal, Islay but scarce and irregular elsewhere. Small flocks of migrants are sometimes seen during autumn sea-watches.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). Max count of 25 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 17 Jan and 2 on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* Jan- Feb, also a Tufted x Scaup hybrid present there.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). First arrivals were 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Sep, 1 past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Oct and 18 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Oct. A max count of 25 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Oct.



GREATER SCAUP *Islay Oct Jim Dickson*

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

AMBER LIST A *resident breeding bird: common on all suitable coasts, especially on the Clyde. The Firth of Clyde is a site of national importance for Eiders. Large flocks of moulting drakes and first-year birds gather at some sites during Jun to Sep.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 130 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar, 115 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Apr and 68 off Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb. Counts of up to 50 birds from many other sites.

Breeding Breeding reports from all coastal areas. First ducklings noted in *Cowal* on 22 May, on *Mull* on 26 May and on *Tiree* on 28 May. Max counts of 160 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 21

Jun, 151 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 16 Aug and 71 at Rubha Glas, The Oa *Islay* on 17 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 410 off Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov, 153 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Nov, 122 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov and 115 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 14 Nov.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

RED LIST *Scarce but regular in and around the Sound of Gigha, and in smaller numbers, at Loch Indaal, Islay. The wintering population in the Sound of Gigha is now much reduced from the population in the 1970s when over 50 were present.*

Winter/spring One was at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 6 Jan and 2 (m+f) were at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Apr.

Summer A male was at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 19 May and possibly the same long stayer, of possibly captive origin, was at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 2 Jun at least. A remarkable 21 birds (16 m+5f) >S off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Jun. *This is the largest count in Argyll since the 1970's.*

Autumn/winter In *Kintyre* 4 were at the Sound of Gigha on 13 Jul and 2 there on 10 Nov, also 2 f/1cy >S past Machrihanish SBO on 11 Oct. On *Mull* 2 were at Loch na Keal on 25 Jul and 1 was at Aros on 9 Dec.



VELVET SCOTERS *Kintyre Jun Eddie Maguire*

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

AMBER LIST *Present throughout the year at Loch Indaal, Islay and in the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre - a scarce winter visitor elsewhere and very rare breeding reports.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 151 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Feb, 36 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 19 Jan and 25 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Jun.

Summer/breeding Max counts of summering birds with 130 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Jul and 340 there on 3 Aug. Two prs bred at Loch Gorm *Islay*, both laid and a total of 8 fledged juvs.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 135 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Dec and 111 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 17 Dec.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

RED LIST *An uncommon winter visitor, most frequent in Sound of Gigha (Kintyre), Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Usually marine but occasionally seen on inland lochs. Occasional summer records.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Generally, 1-4 birds at sites and max counts of 12 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 19 Jan and 8 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Feb. Last report was of 2 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts were 23 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 29 Oct then 15 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 17 Dec. Only 1-3 birds noted elsewhere and a single record from *Cowal* with 1 at Loch Striven on 31 Dec.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

AMBER LIST *A common winter visitor: birds are regularly present in all areas from early Oct to late Apr with occasional summer records.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts of 66 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Jan, 38 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar, 33 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Jan, 22 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 17 Jan and 20 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Mar. Last were 2 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 21 May. Several birds noted to be displaying in Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First report was a f/imm on a flooded pool at Machir Bay *Islay* on 7 Oct. Max counts of 60 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec, 48 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 8 Nov. *Generally, nos have been steadily declining in recent years.*



GOOSANDER *Mid-Argyll Feb Jim Dickson*

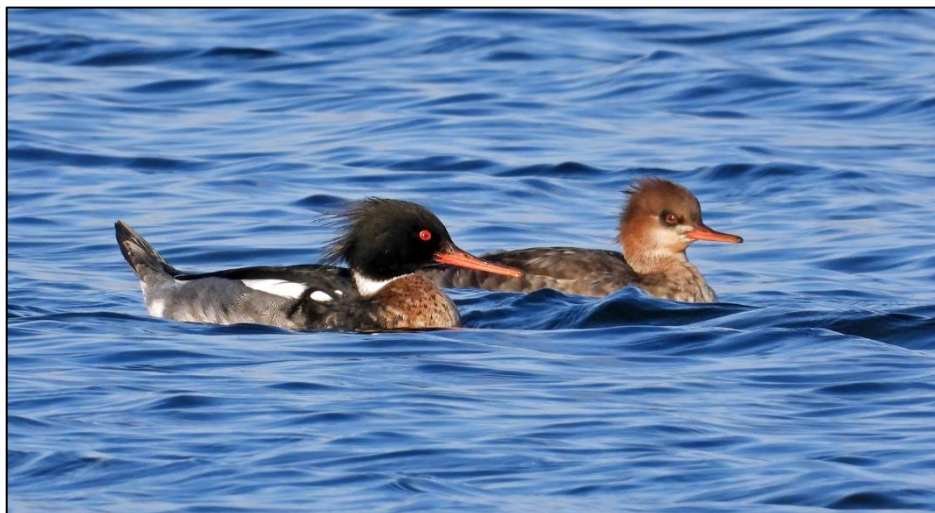
GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

A scarce breeding species mainly in: Cowal, Mid-Argyll, Mull and N Argyll. The population is more widespread in winter but in small numbers.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura/Kintyre/Tiree). Generally, only 1-5 birds reported mostly from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Max counts of 10 at Cairndow *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar, 8 at Java Point *Mull* on 7 Jan and 6 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 18 Feb.

Summer/breeding Reports from (Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Reports mostly of only 1-6 birds however 8 at Knock *Mull* on 12 May and 8 f/imms off Dunoon *Cowal* on 27 Jul. No reports submitted of the usually large post breeding moulting flock at Loch Riddon *Cowal*.

Autumn/winter Reports from (Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Generally, 1-6 birds however max counts of 10 at Dervaig *Mull* on 17 Nov, 9 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Sep, 9 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Sep and 8 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep.



RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS *Mid-Argyll* Nov Jim Dickson

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

A common resident breeder: large moulting flocks gather, particularly in Loch Indaal, Islay and Sound of Gigha, Kintyre during late summer. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre is a site of national importance for wintering birds. Small numbers are found on fresh water.

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 59 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 17 Jan, 44 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Apr and 34 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 9 Jan.

Breeding Breeding reports received from all areas. First young reported on 13 Jun in *Mid-Argyll*. On *Tiree* 10 prs noted at 4 sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 680 (post breeding flock) at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Aug, 135 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Nov and 52 on *Tiree* on 13 Dec.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

RED LIST A scarce, localised, resident breeder. Numbers still likely to be declining at a slower rate after a steep decline. Very thinly distributed in all mainland areas: with a few on Islay and Jura. All records required.

Winter/spring Reports from only (Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). Max count of 4 Balliemore, Kerrera Mid-Argyll on 4 Jan.

Summer/breeding No 2019 data provided from RSPB Scotland by Jun 2020. A total of 101 displaying males were recorded at 34 lek sites throughout Argyll in 2018.

Autumn/winter Only two reports, both in Mid-Argyll with a max of 3 at Lochan Anma, Knapdale on 21 Oct.



PTARMIGANS Mull Dec Ewan Miles

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus muta*

A localised resident breeding bird: generally above 800m in north and east Argyll and on Mull. All records required.

Spring/summer In North Argyll 2 were at Bienn Dorain on 17 Apr, a pr were at Beinn Fhionnlaidh on 4 May, 1 at Creach Bheinn on 10 May, 1 at Coire Bliochdaig on 21 May and 1 with young at Beinn Sgulaire on 21 Jun.

Autumn/winter On Mull 1 was at Beinn Bheag (E), Strath Bearnach on 14 Jul and 4 were at Beinn na Drise on 25 Dec. In North Argyll 1 was at Aonach Eagach on 30 Nov.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica*

AMBER LIST A sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird.

All year Reports from upland moorland areas on (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull). Only 11 reports in total received from across Argyll and all only of 1-2 birds. Most reports came from Islay.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Birds (some hybrids with Chukar A. chukar) have been introduced to several areas. Although this species is in Category C of the British list, populations in Argyll do not appear to be self-sustaining.

All year Reports from only (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull). Seventeen reports mainly of 1-2 birds, however larger counts noted near release sites e.g. counts of 40 on Luing Mid-Argyll, 25 at Island House and 15 at Rockmountain, both Islay.

COMMON QUAIL* *Coturnix coturnix*

AMBER LIST A rare and irregular summer visitor: mainly to Kintyre and the islands.

Summer Three reports of four birds. One was calling at Crossapol Tìree on 18 Jun, 1 calling at Treshnish Farm (NW) Mull on 19 Jun and 2 calling at Langa Quarry Kintyre on 6 Jul.

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

May be abundant, in those parts of Argyll, where birds are released for shooting. Reports from Jura and North Argyll are rare.

All year Reports from all areas. Several counts of 100+ birds near release sites in Kintyre and Mid-Argyll.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

A scarce widely distributed breeder (on moorland lochs), winter visitor, and passage migrant.

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 25 at Loch Indaal Islay on 31 Mar, 7 at outer Loch Melfort Mid-Argyll on 6 Apr and 6 at Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 5 Mar.

Summer/breeding Reports from likely breeding areas in (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). Juveniles noted on Mull from early Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura/North Argyll). Max counts of 63 in Loch Indaal Islay on 14 Oct and 18 >S past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 12 Sep with a total of 122 >S in Sep over 18 dates. A max of 9 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 14 Nov.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

AMBER LIST A very scarce breeder in Mid and North Argyll: scarce in winter but more numerous on passage. Breeding has been confirmed at 13 sites between 1985- 2017. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre and Kilfinan Bay, Cowal are sites of national importance for wintering birds.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura). Max counts of 18 at Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 5 Mar, 15 off Grogport Kintyre on 4 Jan and 10 off Brenfield, Inverneill Mid-Argyll on 20 Jan.

Breeding A few prs noted breeding in Mid & North Argyll.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura). Max count of 14 at Grogport Kintyre on 3 Nov, 8 at Oronsay Colonsay on 21 Oct and 6 at Cnoc Fada Islay on 1 Nov.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

AMBER LIST A numerous winter and passage visitor. Birds in breeding plumage are regularly recorded from Apr to mid-Jun. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in late Apr and early May and a few individuals summer. The Sound of Gigha and the seas around Tìree and Coll are sites of international importance for wintering birds and Loch na Keal on Mull, Loch Indaal on Islay, West Loch Tarbert in Kintyre and Lochs Beg & Scridain on Mull are sites of national importance.

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas. Most significant counts from the Sound of Gigha Kintyre, the Mull sea Lochs, Loch Indaal Islay and the Tiree coast. Max counts of 97 in Loch Indaal Islay on 25 Feb, 91 at Loch na Keal Mull on 3 Mar, 73 at Loch Tor Mull on 16 Mar, 59 at Loch Scridain Mull on 5 Mar and 36 at Balemartine and Gott Bay Tiree on 21 May.

Summer Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). Generally, only 1-3 birds at sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 52 at Loch Indaal Islay on 3 Nov, 42 at Loch na Keal Mull on 16 Nov and 32 >W in 1 hr off Aird Tiree on 10 Oct.



EUROPEAN STORM PETREL *Kintyre Aug Neil Brown*

EUROPEAN STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor. The main breeding colonies are on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles with a few pairs on Soa and Staffa. Breeding birds first come ashore in late May or Jun. Most sightings away from breeding colonies are during Jul-Sep, when non-breeders wander extensively. Breeding European Storm-petrel is a feature of Treshnish Isles SPA.*

Spring/summer/autumn Reported between 30 May and 13 Oct (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). A max count of 12+ at the entrance to Gott Bay Tiree on 30 May and 9 off Hynish Tiree on 17 Jul. Occasional sightings were made from Calmac ferries to/from Tiree, Colonsay & Mull of 1-4 birds during Jun-Aug. The last report was 1 at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 13 Oct.

Breeding In Jul a complete census of Bac Mór and Cairn na Burgh More, Treshnish Isles Mull estimated a population of 374 and 1,223 AONs. When combined with the estimated breeding

population of Lunga (3,262 AONs), Sgeir a' Chaisteil (262) and Fladda (5,151) surveyed in 2018, this represents over a 113% increase in the species' estimated population of the Treshnish Isles from the only complete census of the islands in 1996, which estimated 5,040 AONs (per TIARG). No data were obtained from Sanda Isle *Kintyre* where the population is thought to be around 200 pairs.

LEACH'S STORM PETREL* *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

AMBER LIST A *scarce, but regular, autumn passage migrant off western headlands; particularly after strong westerlies. There are occasional reports in spring and summer.*

Winter/spring One during a storm was close in at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Mar.

Autumn In *Kintyre* 1 was off Machrihanish SBO on 4 Sep. On *Tiree* 3 were off Aird on 4 Sep, 1 >W Aird on 5 Sep, 1 was off Hynish on 10 Sep, and 1 was between *Mull* and *Coll* on 26 Sep.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

AMBER LIST A *common but localised breeding species in all areas apart from Cowal and North Argyll. Large numbers occur on passage off western headlands.*

Winter Only reports during Jan-Mar from (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Four reports of 2-4 birds in Jan from *Islay* and *Tiree* and 100 birds returning to breeding cliffs on *Tiree* during calmer days in Jan increasing to 700 in Feb. On *Islay* 45 were at Rubha Glas, The Oa on 18 Feb. At Southend *Kintyre* 9 ashore were displaying on 5 Mar.

Spring/breeding Only breeding reports received from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). Max Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) of 1,143 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* with mid-sized young noted on 11 Jul, 212 AOS at Uragaig and 12-16 at four other sites on *Colonsay*, 273 AOS at Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil, Treshnish Isles *Mull* and 40 AOS on Sanda Is. *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Only records were from (*Coll/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 75 past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 4 Sep, 79 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 4 Sep, 98 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 10 Sep and 800+ around cliffs of Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* during Dec.



SOOTY SHEARWATER *Mull Sep Mike Pearson*

SOOTY SHEARWATER*

Puffinus griseus

A passage migrant: almost exclusively recorded Jul-Oct. Sometimes seen in large numbers from western headlands, islands and on ferry crossings during Aug-Sep.

Autumn Only records were from *Mull* and *Tiree*. Singles were off NW *Mull* on 19 Aug and 2 Sep, and off W Iona on 3 Sep. Single birds were off *Tiree* on 8 dates between 4 Aug -7 Oct and 2 >SW off Hynish on 21 Aug.

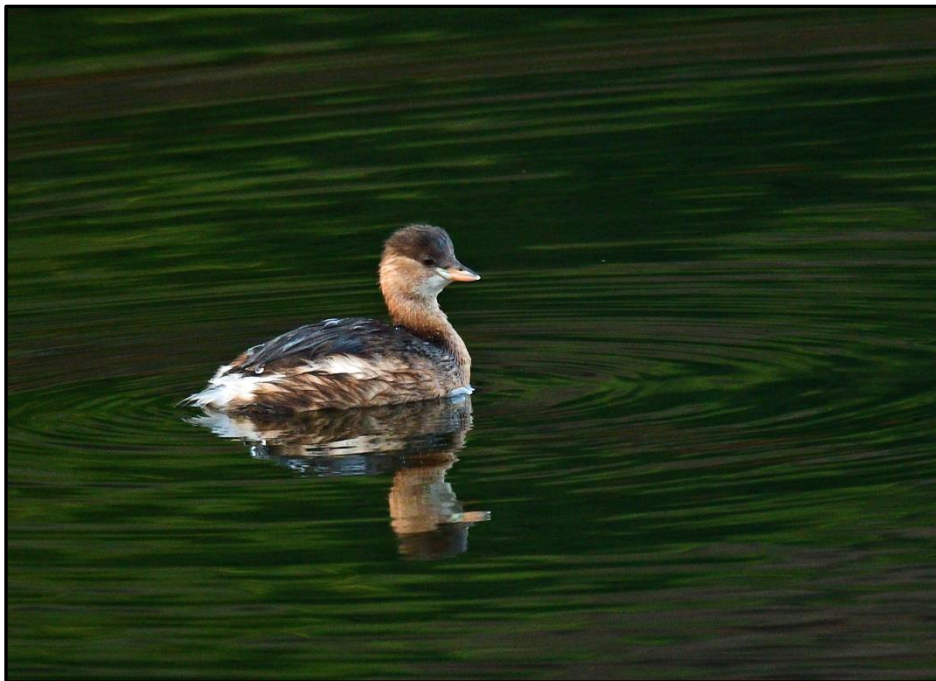
MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

AMBER LIST *Breeding colonies have been confirmed only on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Large numbers are seen on passage, especially during Aug-Sep.*

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First report was 4 off Frenchman's Rocks Islay and 300 off SW *Coll* (from ferry) on 2 Apr.

Breeding No population estimate this year from Lunga, Treshnish Isles *Mull* (est. 1,992 prs based upon AOSs in 2018 per TIARG). No counts from Sanda Is. *Kintyre* where the est. population thought to be around 300 prs.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max count was 4,917 >W in 1 hr past Aird Teree on 5 Sep. Also 1,200 off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Jul, 362 off Iona *Mull* on 3 Sep and 350 off SE *Islay* on 30 Aug. Last report was 5 off Milton *Teree* on 24 Oct.



LITTLE GREBE *Mid-Argyll* Nov *Bill Anderson*

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A local breeder in small numbers: widespread in sheltered coastal waters in winter with concentrations at Loch Etive, North Argyll and at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Most reports from *Mid-Argyll* and max counts of 20 at Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan, 10 at Holy Loch Cowal on 17 Feb and 6 birds at other sites in *Colonsay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*. Many coastal sites had 1-4 birds.

Breeding Breeding reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Six prs were noted on *Colonsay*. First young noted at Loch Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 11 at An Lodan, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov, 11 at Dervaig *Mull* on 31 Dec, 10 at Holy Loch Cowal on 17 Nov and 8 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Sep.

PIED-BILLED GREBE* *Podilymbus podiceps*

A vagrant: *Three records; one at Loch Peallach, Mull in Jun 1998, one at Salen Bay, Mull on 22 Mar to 6 Apr 2011 and a long stayer/returning male at Loch Feorlin, Mid-Argyll from at least 2014 until 2017 and paired with a Little Grebe producing one young in 2017.*

All year The long staying adult male at Loch Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* was there again from at least 19 Feb until at least 18 Jul [David Jardine *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC as returning bird.

RED-NECKED GREBE* *Podiceps grisegena*

RED LIST *A scarce winter and passage visitor: Most records are in Sep-Mar; at least 45 records.*

Autumn/winter One was off Bruichladdich, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 14 Oct [Robert Davison, Peter Roberts]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE* *Podiceps cristatus*

An uncommon winter and passage visitor: with 1-8 records annually since 1984 and recorded in all months except Jun.

Winter/spring On *Islay* singles reported from Loch Indaal on 2 Feb and Ardbeg on 16 Mar.

Autumn/winter Singles were at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 26 Oct and 2 Nov and at Blairmore Cowal on 19 Oct.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

RED LIST *A regular winter and passage visitor to sea lochs and sounds: occasionally on inland waters. The Sound of Gigha, Loch na Keal, Mull and Loch Indaal, Islay are sites of national importance for wintering birds.*

Winter/spring Reports only from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts of 34 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 31 Mar, 17 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Feb, and 12 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Apr. Last report was of 1 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports only from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 39 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Nov and 23 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 13 Dec.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 15 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan, 12 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 23 Mar and 12 at Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr. Most other reports were of 1-8 birds.

Breeding Breeding data only received from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max colony counts were 32 AONs at Ardachy *North Argyll*, 18 at Appin *North Argyll* and 15 at Ballachuan Hazel Wood (SWT) *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 22 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 14 Oct, 20 at Loch Tarbert Boathouse *Jura* on 1 Sep, 17 at Appin *North Argyll* on 15 Sep and 14 at Carsaig Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov. Counts at many other mainly coastal sites of 1-12 birds.



GREAT WHITE EGRET *Mid-Argyll Oct John Speirs*

GREAT WHITE EGRET* *Ardea alba*

A rare visitor: Thirteen records between 1986 and 2017. This species is increasing as a breeding species in the Netherlands and France, and also in England since 2012.

Autumn/winter A non/br bird was at Bunessan Mull on 20-26 Oct [David Holden, Bryan Rains *et al*] then re-found at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Oct [L Leggett *et al*] remaining in the Luing and Seil island areas until at least 27 Nov. Records were accepted by the ABRC.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzeta*

A scarce visitor: No records prior to 1958 but several since, mostly in spring and autumn. It has been seen more frequently in Argyll since breeding colonies have become established in England and Ireland.

Winter/spring Seven reports of singles, perhaps involving up to 7 birds; in *Kintyre* at West Loch Tarbert on 2 Jan-28 Mar and Peninver on 1 Apr; in *Mid-Argyll* at Ulva Lagoon on 8 Jan-10 Feb and at Balvicar on 16-18 May; on *Islay* at Loch Gruinart and Bridgend Merse on 7 Feb-4 May; in *North Argyll* at Loch Laich on 27 Feb-17 Mar; on *Coll* at Acha on 7 May and perhaps the same bird at three sites on *Tiree* on 8-28 May.

Autumn/winter Probably many wandering birds, with up to 10 or more in total. First report, in *Mid-Argyll* of a 1cy at Loch Gilp on 19 Jul until year end, joined by another 1cy on 30 Nov. Also 1 at the Add Estuary on 22 Aug to the year end, joined by another (L Gilp bird?) on 30-31 Dec. Other singles at Toberonochy, Luing on 26 Aug, at Ardspatrick on 20 Oct and Loch Feochan on 29 Nov to year end. In *Cowal* 1 was at Holy Loch on 7 Sep, 2 on 9 Sep, 4 on 13 Oct, 5 on 2 Nov and a record Argyll peak of 6 on 5 Nov after which they dispersed then four reports of singles across *Cowal* to year end. On *Mull* 1 was at Loch Beg on 26 Sep. In *Kintyre* 1 was at Kennacraig on 12 Aug-29 Nov with 2 there on 31 Oct and perhaps the same 2 at West Loch Tarbert on 2 Nov. On *Islay* 1 was at Bridgend merse on 12 Oct, also at Rockside, Loch Gruinart and Loch Gorm until year end. In *North Argyll* 1 was at Port Ramsay, Lismore on 26 Oct and 1 at Benderloch on 30 Dec.



LITTLE EGRET *Mid-Argyll Dec Jim Dickson*

NORTHERN GANNET *Morus bassanus*

AMBER LIST *Most Gannets in Argyll waters probably come from Ailsa Craig (30 km east of Mull of Kintyre) and St Kilda (190 km northwest of Tiree). Gannets are common inshore in Argyll waters from Apr to Oct, often seen high up sea lochs and some birds travel inland to cross between Campbeltown Loch and Machrihanish. They are also reported in small numbers Nov to Mar.*

Birds recorded in all months of the year with most seen Apr to Oct. There are routine (mainly Apr to Sep) one-way overland flights (8 km) to the west from Campbeltown Harbour to Machrihanish Bay apparently by breeding adults from the nearby Ailsa Craig colony. A total 2,062 birds on 231 days Mar-Oct (per Machrihanish SBO warden Eddie Maguire).

Winter/spring Regular sightings of 1-10 birds off *Tiree* in Jan and 8 from the Mull of Kintyre on 1 Jan. Max count of 60 from the Oban to *Tiree* ferry SW of *Coll* on 2 Apr.

Summer/breeding No breeding records. Max count of 1,170 >S in 5 hrs at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 18 Jul.

Autumn/winter Max count of 688 past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* in 2 hrs on 4 Sep and 333 in 1 hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Oct. Numbers declined sharply after mid-Oct.

EUROPEAN SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

RED LIST A *common resident, breeding on the mainland coast, outer isles and on islands in sea lochs. Widespread in winter and spring but very rare inland.*

Winter/spring Records from all coastal areas. Max counts of 200 (some on nests) at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree on 8 Apr, 97 in 1 hr passing Aird Tìree on 7 Jan, 74 at Hynish Tìree on 2 Mar and 70+ at Ulva Mull on 10 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding data only from (*Colonsay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tìree*). Max counts of 411 AONs on Sanda Is. *Kintyre*, 81 AONs (mean brood size = 1.63, N = 30) at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree and 21 AONs at two monitoring sites on *Colonsay/Oronsay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,600 at Gunna Sound Tìree on 5 Aug, 300 at Loch Eathama Coll on 15 Aug and 100 at Laggan Point Islay on 21 Jul.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Breeds in: *Cowal, Jura, Kintyre (including Gigha), Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll, with around 230 pairs in recent years. Less numerous than Shag, but numbers have increased recently. Small numbers occur on some inland waters.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 24 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan, 19 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 23 Mar, 1-11 birds at other sites, however most reports of just 1-2 birds.

Summer/breeding Only data received; 14 AONs on Sanda Is. *Kintyre* and a pr with 3 young in a Shag colony off Ardbeg – the first confirmed breeding (in recent times?) for *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 35 over Brock Rock Tìree on 17 Dec, 21 at Aros Mull on 15 Dec and 17 at Holy Loch Cowal on 15 Sep.



GBB GULL and OSPREY *Mid-Argyll Apr John Speirs*

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

AMBER LIST A *summer migrant, breeding in small but increasing numbers. Occurs more widely on passage.*

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). First arrival of singles at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar then reports from three sites on 31 Mar.

Breeding Of the 27 Argyll sites checked 18 sites were occupied by prs and 3 more by single birds. Ten pairs went on to have 17 large young (average = 1.70 young/successful nest, cf 2.00 in 2018) (ARSG).

Autumn After mid-Sep reports from only Loch Gruinart Islay of a single and last report of 1 at Gartnatra Islay on 30 Oct.

EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD* *Pernis apivorus*

AMBER LIST A rare passage migrant: Thirteen records since 1980.

Summer An adult female was seen on 13-14 Jun at a location in Kintyre. Record was accepted by the ABRC. *Note – a National census of this species is planned for 2020 if Covid-19 restrictions allow.*



GOLDEN EAGLE Islay Oct Jim Dickson

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

A scarce, but widespread, resident breeding species. Immatures tend to wander and may be recorded in areas where breeding does not occur.

All year Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-2 birds however up to 5 birds, usually involving ads + juvs seen in many areas.

Breeding Of the 83 sites checked 63 sites were occupied and 2 more had single adults. A total of 18 fledged young (ARSG).

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

A widespread, resident, breeding species.

All year Reports from all areas. Fewer sightings noted during May and Jun. Sightings all of 1-2 birds.

Breeding Of the 26 sites checked 16 had nests with adult pairs and 10 nests had young from which 10 young fledged (ARSG).



EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Mid-Argyll* Mar John Speirs

NORTHERN GOSHAWK* *Accipiter gentilis*

A sporadic visitor of uncertain status.

Spring/summer One, prob female, was at Torr nan Damh, NE of Dervaig Mull on 26 May [A Douglas] and a 1cy was in the Loch Nant area of *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jul [Blair Urquhart]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC. *The true status of this species in Argyll is made difficult due to the secretive nature of the species coupled with under reporting and in some cases misidentification and inadequately documented records. Satellite-tagged birds in central Scotland are now being tracked into Argyll.*

WESTERN MARSH HARRIER* *Circus aeruginosus*

AMBER LIST *A scarce, but recently more or less annual, passage migrant: records in every year but one since 1986. Most records Apr-Jun.*

Spring/summer Four reports of singles some of which may involve the same bird. A fem/2cy was at Gruinart floods *Islay* on 17 May, a fem/2cy was at Bousd Coll on 19 May, 1 was at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 31 May and 1 was at Treshnish Farm NW *Mull* on 6 Jul.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

RED LIST *A sparse but widespread breeding species: Argyll holds around one quarter of the Scottish breeding population. Seen regularly: away from breeding areas, on migration, and in winter with reports from all recording areas.*

All year Reports from all areas. Fewer reports during Jun and Jul. Most reports from *Islay* then *Mull*. No roost count data received. Max counts in the field of 5 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in May. Up to 6 birds on *Tiree* in Nov.

Breeding For the 43 sites checked 22 were occupied, 15 prs laid eggs and 19+ young fledged (ARSG).

RED KITE* *Milvus milvus*

A re-introduction programme in Scotland since 1996 has involved releases in Highland, central, and south west Scotland. Genuine vagrants have occurred in the past, but most recent Argyll records involve these re-introduced birds.

Spring One was at Mam Lirein (7 km SW of Craignure) *Mull* on 30 May.

Autumn Singles were at Kilmelford *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct, and on *Mull* at Treshnish Farm on 29 Oct, Fishnish Bay on 30 Oct and then at Buessan on 31 Oct.



WHITE-TAILED EAGLE and OSPREY *Mid-Argyll* Jun John Speirs

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

RED LIST A rare but increasing resident breeder in Argyll: wandering immatures (and sometimes adults) occur widely.

All year Reports from all areas with most from *Mull* and *Islay*. Fewer reports during Jun and Jul. Max counts of 10 at Gruline *Mull* in Apr and 8 (4 ads + 4 juvs) at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Dec.

Breeding Of the 33prs that laid eggs 24 prs fledged a min of 31 young (ARSG).

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

A resident breeding bird: common in all areas and the most abundant raptor in Argyll.

All year Reports from all areas. Max counts of 45 on The Oa *Islay* in Feb and 34 on *Tiree* in Mar.

Breeding Reports from all areas. Of the 110 sites checked 47 sites were occupied and fledged a min of 27 young (ARSG).

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

AMBER LIST *A secretive and under-recorded resident: occurs at low density on the mainland but in larger numbers on the outer islands. Immigration is thought to occur in winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from areas at 14 sites except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Max counts (birds heard) with 9 at Rubh' Ard an Duine, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 5 at Poltalloch marsh *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr, 4 Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jan and 3 at Ardlamey, Gigha *Kintyre* on 19 Jan, also 1-2 birds reported at the other sites.

Summer/breeding Breeding reported (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). Max counts of 7 Ters on *Colonsay* (incomplete survey) and from at least 5 sites on *Tiree*. At 16 sites, 1-4 birds heard calling.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas at 20 sites except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/Mull*). Max counts of 10 birds across 6 sites on *Colonsay* on 15-18 Oct and 9 at Lochan Luing *Kintyre* on 14 Nov, also 1-3 birds noted at the other sites.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*

RED LIST *A localised summer visitor, now breeding mainly on: Coll, Colonsay, Iona (Mull), Islay and Tiree. Following recent conservation activities, a long-term decline in numbers has being reversed, although numbers still fluctuate annually.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/North Argyll*). First arrivals were singles at Portnahaven on 12 Apr and at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 13 Apr both *Islay*. At least 20 calling males on *Tiree* by 30 Apr.

Summer/breeding Calling male counts: *Tiree* (300), *Coll* (47), *Iona* (15), *Colonsay/Oronsay* (20), *Islay* (54), 'other' *Argyll* (3). Total was 439. Numbers down all areas except *Iona Mull*. *Argyll* total in 2018 was 487 and an *Argyll* peak was 702 in 2014.

Numbers of calling males declined by almost 10% (9.8%) with declines across all the islands by differing degrees. The largest decrease was on *Colonsay/Oronsay* 51%; *Islay* and *Coll* showed declines of c.10% and *Tiree* 6.8%. Yet again no birds were reported from *Mull* out with *Iona*. Total for UK in 2019 = 887 (per RSPB).

Autumn/winter Still 4 calling at The Reef *Tiree* on 15 Aug and 5 singles seen on *Tiree* in Sep, with last bird noted at Barrapol on 16 Sep.

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

A localised, sparsely distributed, resident breeding species: most numerous on Islay and in Mid-Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from 19 sites except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Kintyre*). Max counts of 5 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Apr, elsewhere 1-3 birds at sites and most from *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Reports from 28 sites in total.

Autumn/winter Reports from 21 sites except (*Jura/Mull*). Max counts of 6 at Ardtur, Appin *North Argyll* on 17 Nov and 4 Port Charlotte *Islay* on 29 Dec.

COMMON COOT* *Fulica atra*

A former scarce and irregular breeder and an uncommon winter visitor.

Winter/spring One was at Lochan Ceann a' Choin, nr Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 1-18 Jan. Three were on *Tiree* at Loch a' Phuill/Loch Bhasapol on 2 Jan, then 2 until 26 Feb and 1 at Loch Bhasapol

until 27 Apr. One was at Loch Loskin, Dunoon *Cowal* during Apr and 1 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart floods *Islay* on 28 Apr.

Autumn/winter One was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 19 Aug and a 1cy bird was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Oct.



COMMON CRANE *Kintyre May Kevin Hamilton*

COMMON CRANE* *Grus grus*

AMBER LIST A *rare visitor: nineteen records; some records of up to three together between 1966-2018. Up to nine individuals were recorded in 2012.*

Spring An adult was feeding in a field at Eastbacks Farm, Moss Road nr Machrihanish airport *Kintyre* on 6 May [Kevin Hamilton]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

AMBER LIST A *widespread and common breeding species: in all recording areas. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and numbers often rise noticeably during spring and autumn passage.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 474 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 17 Jan, 346 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan, 242 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 17 Feb, and 225 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Feb.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from all *Argyll* areas. On *Tiree* 170 prs at The Reef and many fledged young by 2 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with 626 >S during Jul with a peak of 229 on 29 Jul and 1,017 >S during Aug with a peak of 316 on 8 Aug. Max

counts of 420 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jul, 350 at Killail Cowal on 21 Nov, 320 at Holy Loch Cowal on 13 Oct, 294 at Campbeltown Loch Kintyre on 8 Nov and 273 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct.

BLACK-WINGED STILT* *Himantopus himantopus*

A vagrant to Scotland with ten previous records however becoming more frequent in England where it has bred. No previous Argyll records.

Spring A 2cy bird was at Heylipol pools *Tiree* on 16-19 Apr [G Todd, J Bowler, J Hunter, J Dickson *et al*]. Record was accepted by the SBRC and becomes a new species for Argyll (Article: *Scottish Birds* Vol 39 (3) pp 262-5).



BLACK-WINGED STILT *Tiree* Apr *Jim Dickson*

For a video link click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeshVEw4MyE&feature=youtu.be>

PIED AVOCET* *Recurvirostra avosetta*

AMBER LIST A vagrant: Four records; at Loch Seil, Mid-Argyll in 1936, Mull in 1977 and Kintyre in 1986 and 2002.

Spring Three were at SE corner of Lochan na Nigheadaireachd (5km SW of Bowmore) *Islay* on 19 Apr [Christina Tracey]. Record was accepted by the ABRC and becomes the first record for *Islay*.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

RED LIST A localised breeder and widespread wintering species: numbers highest on Tiree and Islay.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Highest nos all *Tiree* and *Islay*. Max counts of 2,485 on *Tiree* all island counts on 14-15 Jan and largest group there of 1,500 at Loch a' Phuill on 25 Jan, also 399 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Feb. Elsewhere counts of up to 50 birds.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). On *Tiree* 314 prs on The Reef where good success but less than in 2018. At RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* 196 prs, and on *Colonsay* (except *Oronsay*) 27 prs noted, with 68 prs at RSPB *Oronsay*. At Barsloisnoch and Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* 3-4 prs are starting to re-establish in this area.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 4,200 on *Tiree* all island counts on 26-27 Nov and largest group there of 960 at Loch a' Phuill on 13 Dec, also 1,330 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Dec, 390 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 20 Oct, 99 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 14 Nov and 83 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 16 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of up to 40 birds.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

AMBER LIST A *moderate but probably decreasing number breed on moorland in several parts of Argyll. Large numbers are present at traditional sites by the coast in winter, also during spring and autumn passage, especially on Islay, Tiree, and Mull.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 4,350 at The Reef *Tiree* on 18 Apr, 1,665 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Jan and 370 at *Oronsay Colonsay* on 22 Apr.

Summer/breeding Casual reports of breeding in upland areas where in *North Argyll* at 5+ sites, in *Mid-Argyll* at 5 sites and on *Mull* at 3 sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 2,895 on *Tiree* all island count on 26-27 Nov, 2,120 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Nov and 860 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 20 Oct.



AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Tiree Sep Jim Dickson*

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER* *Pluvialis dominica*

A rare autumn visitor: 25 records; all 2001-2018.

Autumn A 1cy was at Machir Bay and later between Saligo and Ballinaby *Islay* on 20 Sep [Jim Dickson, David Jardine *et al*], an ad was at Baugh *Tiree* on 26 Sep [J Dickson, J Bowler, S Gibson, R Wesley], a 1cy was at Middleton *Tiree* on 12 & 14 Oct [John Bowler] and another 1cy was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14-15 Oct [John Bowler]. All four records were accepted by the ABRC.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

AMBER LIST An uncommon passage migrant, recorded most frequently in *Kintyre* and on the islands: also, a winter visitor in small numbers, mostly on *Islay* and *Tiree*.

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*) of single birds however 4 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Feb.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 2 were at Loch Gruinart on 3 Aug, however no other reports there until 11 on 7 Oct, then 6 until late Oct and 1 until year end. Different singles on *Tiree* on 1 and 5 Oct and 3 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Sep.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

RED LIST A widespread and fairly common breeding species: present throughout the year. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and especially on passage.

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas. Most wintering birds on *Tiree* and *Islay* Jan-Feb with several flocks of 80-180 birds. Smaller nos Mar-early Apr, then increased nos with passage birds late Apr and May, with max counts of 369 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Apr, 297 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Apr, 265 across 3 sites on *Tiree* on 23 May and 70+ on *Iona Mull* on 28 May.

Breeding Limited data received. On *Tiree* 48 prs at The Reef. First newly fledged young in *Kintyre* on 14 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas. Return passage increased from late Jul. Max counts of 290 across 2 sites *Tiree* on 14 Oct, 275 on 26 Aug, 170 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 15 Oct, 117 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Nov, 100 at Killail *Cowal* on 21 Nov and 67 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 14 Nov.



EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Tiree* May John Bowler

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

RED LIST *A scarce migrant: mostly seen in late Apr and May. There are occasional breeding records in North Argyll.*

Spring A good showing in spring this year with at least 29 birds. On *Islay* 3 were at Kinnabus, The Oa on 23-25 Apr and 1 was at Borichill, nr Carrabus on 5 May. In *North Argyll* 4 (2mm, 2ff) were at Stob Coir' an Albannaich on 29 Apr. On *Colonsay* 4 were on Oronsay on 4-8 May and 2 were at the golf course *Colonsay* on 5-6 May. On *Mull* 5 (4ff, 1m) were at Maol nan Uan (2 km SW of Craignure) on 6 May. On *Tiree* 4 (3ff, 1m) were at The Reef on 8 May and 1f was at Loch a' Phuill on 9 May. In *Cowal* 5 were on Beinn Ime on 11 May.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

RED LIST *A regular passage migrant: usually in small numbers and mainly on the islands. More frequent in spring (Apr-May) than in autumn (Jul-Oct) and is recorded regularly in summer but rarely in winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. One winter report at Garmony *Mull* on 12 Feb. First migrant was a single >N over Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Mar, then 2 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 12 Apr and 6 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr. Most passage between 24 Apr and 10 May. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 81 birds >N in late Apr with a peak daily count of 18 on 30 Apr. Max counts of 52 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 3 May, 51 on *Tiree* on 12 May and 40 at Fidden *Mull* on 7 May, however 20 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Jun.

Summer Up to 4 birds on *Tiree* in Jul and a single at Lochdon *Mull* in early Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Return passage with a single at Duart Bay *Mull* on 14 Aug and 4 >S at The Reef *Tiree* on 15 Aug. Most passage from 23 Aug, although only 1-6 birds from most sites, and a max of 13 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 28 Aug. Reports of singles on *Islay* in Oct, on *Mull* in Nov and on *Islay* in Dec.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

RED LIST *An increasingly rare breeding species in suitable habitat: more numerous on passage and in winter. All breeding records of this declining species are welcome.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 430 on *Tiree* all island count on 11-12 Feb, 166 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 22 Jan and 127 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Feb. Many other sites help up to 50 birds.

Summer/breeding Limited data. On *Islay* 11 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and birds in suitable habitat on The Oa. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 prs in upland areas and 2 prs at coastal areas, and at least 1 pr noted at sites on *Mull* and in *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 171 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Oct, 161 at Machrihanish links *Kintyre* on 19 Dec, 120 on *Tiree* on 26 Nov, 111 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Sep and 92 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 1 Dec. Many other sites held up to 70 birds.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

AMBER LIST *A mainly autumn migrant and winter visitor: the largest numbers occurring on Islay. Birds are also regular on Tiree and at a few other island and mainland sites.*

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 258 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Feb, 120 at head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 10 Mar and 14 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 14 Jan. On *Tiree*, *Islay*, at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* and at Loch Don *Mull* small nos of non-br birds remained until Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First returning birds from mid-Aug at *Islay* *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. Max counts of 368 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Nov, 41 on *Tiree* on 18 Oct and 15 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec.



BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Islay Sep Jim Dickson*

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa islandica*

RED LIST A regular passage migrant, especially on Islay, Tiree and south Kintyre with occasional winter records. Most Argyll records have been presumed to relate to the Icelandic race *L. l. islandica* but at least one individual of the nominate race *L. l. limosa* has been identified (a bird leg flagged as a chick in The Netherlands and seen on Tiree in 2009).

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). First report of 2 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Apr then 1 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 9 Apr with 14 there on 10 Apr and 59 on *Tiree* by 12 Apr. Max count of 165 on *Tiree* on 20 Apr. A few birds remained on *Tiree* until late Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura/North Argyll). First returning reports of autumn passage with 20 ads on *Tiree* on 10 Jul and 17 on 18 Jul, also 7 ads >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Jul, 14 ads at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jul and 13 ads at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Jul. First juvs noted by mid-Aug on *Tiree* and *Islay*. Max counts of 115 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Aug, 48 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Sep and 25 on *Tiree* on 1 Sep. Reports decreased after early Sep and 1-2 birds remained at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* until mid-Dec.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

AMBER LIST A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor: mainly from mid Jul to early Jun. Mid-summer records are not unusual.

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts from *Tiree* with high counts at several sites and a max 85 at Sandaig on 26 Feb. Elsewhere, 67 at Toward Point *Cowal* on 14 Apr, 55 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Feb and 35 at Garmony *Mull* on 19 Mar. Most birds had left by mid-May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas. First arrivals back were 2 at Gott Bay Tiree on 8 Jul then 1 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 24 Jul with 17 there on 25 Jul and up to 10 birds at three sites Cowal and Mull by end of Jul. Max counts of 135 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 20 Dec, 107 at Campbeltown Loch Kintyre on 18 Nov and 82 at Dunoon Cowal on 17 Dec.



RED KNOT Islay Sep Jim Dickson

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus*

AMBER LIST An uncommon passage migrant: mostly in autumn, and mainly on Islay and south Kintyre. A few winter, mainly on Islay, and occasional birds occur in summer.

Winter/spring/summer Reports from (Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree). Max counts of up to 52 at Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal Islay Feb-Mar. Elsewhere, 8 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 30 May, 3 at Gunna Is. Coll on 28 May, 2 at Loch Don Mull on 19 Apr, 1 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 19 May and 1 at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 25 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from (Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree). First returning singles at Gott Bay Tiree on 8 Jul and at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 19 Jul. Strong passage at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre with 552 >S during Aug, with a max of 147 >S on 30 Aug. Elsewhere, max counts of 112 juvs at Loch Gruinart Islay on 31 Aug, 48 juvs over Balephuill Tiree on 9 Aug and 12 juvs at Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 12 Aug. Nos reduced after Oct, however 12 remained at Loch Indaal Islay through Dec and 1 was at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 24 Dec.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

RED LIST An uncommon passage migrant with most records in autumn.

Winter/spring Singles were at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 26 Apr and 13-14 May, at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 15 May, and at Oronsay Colonsay on 27 May.

Summer/breeding Up to 7 males and a female were at one site from early-May until late Jul but successful breeding was not confirmed.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). On *Tiree* a juv was at Loch a' Phuill on 4 Aug and 1-3 birds on the island until 16 Oct, however a max of 6 juvs across *Tiree* on 3 Sep. One was at Ardanish Bay *Mull* on 10 Aug, 1 on *Iona Mull* on 2 Sep, 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Aug, with 4 juvs there on 31 Aug, and a max of 8 there on 1 Sep, and last bird reported on 15 Nov. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* a max of 5 >S on 22 Aug.

CURLEW SANDPIPER* *Calidris ferruginea*

AMBER LIST A *scarce but annual passage migrant: most records in autumn.*

Spring A 2CY was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 10 May.

Autumn Two were at Carnain *Islay* on 10 Oct.

A very poor show of records this year.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

AMBER LIST A *mainly passage migrant, most numerous in Islay, south Kintyre, and Tiree. Regular wintering is confined to Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree. A few non-breeders occur on the islands in summer.*

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max counts included 405 on *Tiree* on 23 May, 98 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Feb, 64 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 2 Feb and 41 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 2 Jan.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max counts of 616 on *Tiree* on 5 Aug, 280 >S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Jul and a tot of 504 >S there during Aug, 104 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Nov and 50 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Oct.



DUNLIN *Mid-Argyll* May John Speirs

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

AMBER LIST A *very localised breeding species mainly on Tiree. Numbers are highest on passage but large numbers winter on Islay and Tiree with smaller numbers elsewhere.*

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all coastal areas except (*Jura*). Nos generally low Jan-Mar with increased nos during spring passage from late Apr and May. Max counts of 3,628 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 May, 620 on *Tiree* on 30 Apr and 200 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 25 May.

Breeding On *Tiree* 67 prs at The Reef (a high number), several breeding prs noted in five other areas of *Tiree*, five sites in *North Argyll*, and at RSPB *Ardnave Islay*. Fledged chicks noted on *Tiree* from 3 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 2,900 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Jul, 690 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 5 Aug, 494 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* during Jul with max 150 there on 25 Jul and 599 >S there during Aug with a max 118 on 4 Aug. Elsewhere, max of 60 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Aug and 54 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jul. Generally, nos decreased during Sep however up to 900 birds remained at Loch Gruinart *Islay* to Dec.



PURPLE SANDPIPER *Kintyre Mar Eddie Maguire*

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

AMBER LIST A *widely, but sparsely, distributed winter migrant along rocky coasts from Sep to May.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Max counts of 95 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 11 Jan and 71 at Croggan, Loch Spelve *Mull* on 26 Feb. Last report was of 3 at Gunna Coll on 12 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrival was early with 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Aug and next not until 18 Oct. Max count was 27 at Dunoon Cowal on 18 Dec.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER* *Calidris bairdii*

A vagrant: Ten records; four on Islay (in Jun 1979, Sep 1999, Sep 2005 and Sep 2011), five on Tiree (in May/Jun 2007, Sep 2009, Sep 2011, Sep 2013 and Sep 2015) and one at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll in Sep 2008.

Autumn A 1cy was at Vaul golf course on 4-7 Sep then nearby at Gott Bay Tiree on 12 Sep [Keith Gillon, J Bowler, A O'Connor, G Todd]. Another 1cy was at Loch Gruinart Islay on 22 Oct [James How]. Both records were accepted by the BBRC.

LITTLE STINT* *Calidris minuta*

A scarce but annual passage migrant: with the majority of records in autumn.

Spring Only 2-3 records. One was at Killinallan, Loch Gruinart Islay on 7 May and singles at Sorobaiddh Bay Tiree on 9 Jun and perhaps the same at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 10 Jun.

Unusually no autumn records.



WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER Islay Oct *Peter Roberts*

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER* *Calidris fuscicollis*

A vagrant: Six records of singles; on Islay in Aug 2000 and Oct 2005 and on Tiree in Aug and Sep 2011, Aug 2012 and Aug 2014.

Autumn Two 1cy birds were together at Sanaigmore Islay on 12-13 Oct [Richard Belter, Ian Brooke, Peter Roberts *et al*]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER* *Tryngites subruficollis*

A rare spring and scarce autumn visitor: at least 40 records of up to 54 birds since the first in 1971.

Autumn A 1cy was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 15 Sep [John Bowler]. Records was accepted by the ABRC.



PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Mull Sep Andrew Allport*

PECTORAL SANDPIPER* *Calidris melanotos*

A scarce mainly autumn visitor: At least 60 records.

Autumn A 1cy was at Carnain, Loch Indaal Islay on 4 Sep [Jim Dickson] and a 1cy was at Traigh Doire Dhubhaig (south Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 12-16 Sep [Mel & Mike Ricketts *et al*]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.



LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Tiree Oct Jim Dickson*

For a video link click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHHI1FVa2aE&feature=youtu.be>

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER* *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

A vagrant: Three records; on Islay in June 1986, Apr 2009 and May 2013. There are also four acceptable records (1891-2009) of unidentified to species (Long or Short-billed).

Autumn A 1cy was at Sandaig Tìree on 5 Oct with further sightings around Sandaig, Middleton and Balephuill until 8 Nov [John Bowler, Jim Dickson et al].

EURASIAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

RED LIST A widespread, but probably under recorded breeder. Numbers are augmented in winter by immigrants from Scandinavia and other parts of Scotland. A small proportion of native birds leave for Ireland and possibly elsewhere.

Roding birds are under recorded and all records are welcome for this species, which is believed to have declined as a breeding species in Argyll (Bird Atlas 2007-11).

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura). Generally, 1-2 birds noted and max counts of 18 at Braevallich, E side of Loch Awe Mid-Argyll on 28 Jan and 4 on Oronsay Colonsay on 9 Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited data. On Colonsay 12 'registrations' during a survey. Elsewhere only 1-2 birds noted from 8 sites. No reports during Jul or Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura/Kintyre). Max counts of 15 at Beinn na Drise Mull on 25 Dec, 11 along E side of Loch Awe Mid-Argyll on 24 Nov and 9 at Appin North Argyll on 24 Nov. Elsewhere, reports of 1-5 birds from end of Oct -Dec at 22 sites.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

A scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, which is greatly under recorded: most records are from Islay, Mid-Argyll, and Tìree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/North Argyll) with single birds from 7 sites and a max of only 2 birds from Tìree on 10 Jan.

Autumn/winter Only 6 reports of singles between 17 Oct and 24 Dec from all areas except (Cowal/Jura North Argyll). Anecdotal reports from Cowal saying birds are 'regularly flushed' during Common Snipe shoots.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

AMBER LIST A widespread and locally common breeding species: particularly on the outer islands. Higher numbers occur on passage and as winter visitors: mainly on the islands.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 36 at Heylipol Tìree on 2 May, 30 at Dervaig Mull on 7 Feb, 19 at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert Kintyre on 19 Jan and 15 at Loch an Eilein Tìree on 22 Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited data but presumed widespread. At RSPB Totronald Coll 21 Ters, 44 Ters at RSPB Gruinart reserve Islay and 148 Ters at The Reef Tìree.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,000+ across Tìree on 8 Oct in flocks of up to 120, with a notable 800 in the Baugh area Tìree on 9 Oct and high nos across Tìree during Oct. Elsewhere max counts received only of 20+ at Loch Lussa Kintyre on 8 Nov, 15 Loch Gruinart Islay on 27 Sep and most other reports of just 1-14 birds.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE* *Phalaropus lobatus*

RED LIST A very rare breeding species and irregular passage migrant.

Breeding Birds were noted at confidential breeding sites between 15 May and 31 Jul. Up to 22 (10 mm, 12 ff) birds were present and up to 9 broods were produced.

GREY PHALAROPE* *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales: rare in winter and spring.
Spring One, in breeding plum, was off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 26 May.

Autumn Singles were at Hynish on 21 Aug and Aird on 4 Sep both *Tiree*, and off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 4 Sep and 11 Nov.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

AMBER LIST A *widespread and common breeding summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant in small numbers: occasional mid-winter records.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. One at Dervaig *Mull* on 23 Mar could relate to a wintering bird. First arrival at Craignure *Mull* on 6 Apr and most arrivals after mid-Apr. Max counts of 15 on Iona *Mull* on 30 May and 12 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 2 May.

Breeding Limited data. On *Islay* 18 prs located on RSPB Oa reserve, 18 prs on *Colonsay* and at least 5 prs on *Tiree* where it is increasing. Small chicks noted in *Cowal* from 25 May.

Autumn/winter No reports from (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts total of 22 >S at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 30 Jul where total of 116 >S during Jul. Max count of 16 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jul. Reports decreased during Aug and only one confirmed report after 31 Aug with a single at Blairmore *Cowal* on 5 Nov.



GREEN SANDPIPER* *Tringa ochropus*

AMBER LIST A *scarce, but almost annual passage migrant, with majority of records in autumn.*

Autumn Four reports of singles, at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Jul, at Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 5 Aug, at Salen *Mull* on 30 Aug and at Dervaig *Mull* on 27 Sep.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

AMBER LIST A *localised breeder, mainly on the islands: widespread passage migrant and wintering species.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 64 at Loch

GREEN SANDPIPER *Mull Sep Mike Pearson*

Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Apr and 41 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 24 Mar.

Summer/breeding Breeding data received; 94 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 52 prs at The Reef *Tiree*, 46 prs at RSPB Totronald *Coll*, 6 prs on *Colonsay* (ex Oronsay) and 13 prs on Oronsay *Colonsay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 250 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Oct and 84 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Oct. At Machrihanish SBO Kintyre passage >S with 263 total birds in Jul, max 90 on 24 Jul and 301 in total in Aug with daily max of 77 on 8 Aug.



COMMON REDSHANKS *Tiree Oct Richard Whitson*

WOOD SANDPIPER* *Tringa glar*

AMBER LIST A *scarce passage migrant: recorded in 22 of the 30 years 1980-2009, and majority of records in late spring.*

Spring A male was observed singing and displaying at Loch Tulla North Argyll on 9 May and later joined by a second bird and last reported on 28 May. *This is the first record of likely breeding in Argyll.*

Autumn Two 1cy birds were at The Reef Tiree on 30 Jul.

SPOTTED REDSHANK* *Tringa erythropus*

AMBER LIST A *scarce passage migrant, almost annual in autumn.*

Autumn An adult was at The Reef Tiree on 30 Jul [J Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

AMBER LIST A *scarce breeding species: only in Mull and North Argyll in recent years. A widespread migrant: more numerous in autumn than spring and regular winter records in some localities.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Reports mostly of singles however up to 3-4 birds at several sites in *Islay, Mull* and *North Argyll* and most reports were from *Mull* at 24 coastal sites.

Summer/breeding At least 3 prs in *North Argyll* and 4 prs in *Mid-Argyll* in upland areas, however very incomplete coverage, and no breeding data from *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally, 1-6 birds at sites with max counts of 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Oct, 8 at Dervaig *Mull* in Nov-Dec and 7 on *Tiree* on 29 Jul. Most reports were from *Mull* at 22 sites then *Islay* at 10 sites.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS* *Tringa melanoleuca*

A vagrant: Two records; on Islay, in Oct 1985 and May 2002.

Spring One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Apr [John Bowler]. Record was accepted by the BBRC. (Article: *Scottish Birds* Vol 39 (4) pp 366-7)

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

RED LIST *Normally a strictly marine species. The main breeding area is on Colonsay, with other colonies on Islay, Treshnish Isles and Tiree. Scarce in winter and very scarce inland. Breeding Kittiwakes are a feature of North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal). Max counts of 230 flying up Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 5 Apr, 200 from the Oban to Tiree ferry on 8 Apr and 200 between the Garvellach Is. and Colonsay on 26 Apr.

Summer/breeding Only breeding data from (Colonsay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree). At Uragaig Colonsay monitoring site there were 30 AONs, on Sanda Is. Kintyre 30 AONs, on Lunga, Treshnish Isles Mull 843 AONs and at At Ceann a' Mhara Tiree 339 AONs. Max counts included 900 off Greenhill Tiree on 19 Jun and 1 Jul, also 550 feeding between Coll and Tiree with many 2CY on 10 Jun, and 260 foraging off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre with Manx Shearwaters and Gannets on 5 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura). Max counts of 2,200 mostly juvs between Coll and Tiree on 24 Sep, 900 >W off Aird Tiree in 1 hr inc 88 juvs on 9 Oct, 800 >S off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 2 Sep, 470 from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 30 Aug and 380 >S in 1 hr off Frenchman's Rocks Islay on 27 Oct.

SABINE'S GULL* *Xema sabini*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant mainly in autumn.

Spring A 2cy was seen from the MV Clansman midway between the Garvellachs Is. Mid-Argyll and Colonsay on 26 Apr [David Jardine]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

AMBER LIST *A patchily distributed resident breeder: reduced or absent at some sites due to mink predation and scarce in many areas in winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 236 on Tiree on 22 Apr, 189 at Loch Indaal Islay on 21 Jan and 150 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 17 Feb.

Summer/breeding Most breeding data from Tiree where ca 303 prs, however poor success.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 140 at Knock Mull on 13 Sep, 80 at Rhunahaorine Kintyre on 17 Dec and 79 at Loch Indaal Islay on 18 Sep.



LITTLE GULL* *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
An annual visitor, most frequently in autumn but may be encountered at any time of the year.

Winter/spring Two adults were at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 7 Jan -7 Feb, then a 2cy was there on 8-27 Apr. An ad was at Ormsary Mid-Argyll on 7 Feb. One (not aged) was at Otter Ferry Cowal on 24 Jan. One (not aged) was at Scalasaig Colonsay on 11 May. A 2cy was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 29 May then joined by another 2cy on 4 Jun and last sighting was at Cornaig on 9 Jun.

Autumn/winter Unusually only one report – 1 at Craignure Bay Mull on 10 Oct.

LITTLE GULL Tiree Jun Keith Gillon

MEDITERRANEAN GULL* *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

AMBER LIST A *scarce visitor mainly in autumn and winter.*

Winter/spring Unusually no reports.

Autumn/winter Nine birds in total. A 3cy was at Toward Point Cowal on 8 Jul. At Machrihanish SBO Kintyre a total of 5 birds with, a 2cy on 9-13 Jul, a 1cy (juv) on 27 Jul, a 1cy (first-winter plum) on 15 Aug and different 1cy birds on 18 and 25 Aug. A 2cy was at Bruichladdich Islay on 13 Jul. An adult was at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 25 Jul. A 1cy was at Machir Bay Islay on 29 Oct.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

AMBER LIST A *widespread and common resident breeding species but reduced or absent at some sites due to predation by mink.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 2,230 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 10 Feb and 300 at Loch Indaal Islay on 10 Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited number of breeding reports received apart from Tiree where ca 450 AONs, at Ardnave Islay with 22 AONs, Sanda Is. Kintyre with 28 AONs and Garvard Colonsay with 10 AONs.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 395 on Tiree on 19 Aug and 300 at Kilmartin Glen Mid-Argyll on 25 Dec. Numerous flocks of up to 200 birds across Argyll.



RING-BILLED GULL Tiree Feb John Bowler

RING-BILLED GULL* *Larus delawarensis*

A scarce to rare visitor: Almost annual and records for every month of the year.

Winter A 3cy from 2018 was at Sandaig Tiree to at least 12 Feb [John Bowler et al]. Record was previously accepted by the ABRC.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

AMBER LIST *A common resident: breeding widely but in small numbers on small islands along the coast.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 148 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Feb and 34 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding data only from (*Kintyre/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). The estimated breeding population on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* was only 24 pairs, cf 342 pairs counted by **Seabird 2000** in 1999. On *Islay* 15 AONs at RSPB Ardnave and 27 AON's on Sanda Is. *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 345 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug rising to a record 676 on 15 Sep after storms. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 55 birds.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

AMBER LIST *A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar.*

Winter/spring All reports given were of singles; on *Islay* (not aged) at Carnduncan on 6 Jan and a 2cy (juv) at Machir Bay on 12 May, on *Tiree* 2cy's at Loch a' Phuill on 11 Jan and Balephetrish on 11 Feb, and on *Mull* (not aged) at Fhionnphort on 13 Mar.

Autumn/winter All reports given were of singles; on *Islay* (not aged) at Ballinaby on 20 Oct and 1cy's (juvs) at Kintra on 18 Nov, Coull Point on 22 Dec and Gartbreck on 31 Dec, on *Tiree* a 3cy was at Loch a' Phuill on 4 Dec then 1cy's at Gott Bay on 21 Dec, Traigh Ghrianaidh on 26 Dec and The Reef on 31 Dec, in *Cowal* a 1cy was at Craigendive on 29 Dec.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides glaucoides*

AMBER LIST *A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar, with numbers varying widely from year to year. There are a few summer records.*

Winter/spring All reports given were of singles 2cy (juvs) and a below average show; at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, at Loch Scridain *Mull* on 12 Feb, at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Feb, at Mausdale *Kintyre* on 25 Feb and at Caliach Point *Mull* on 5 May.

Autumn/winter All reports given and a poor show with only four birds: 2 (not aged) at Fiddien *Mull* on 19 Oct and 1cy's (juvs) at Bowmore *Islay* on 26 Oct and Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 11 Dec.



‘KUMLIEN’S’ ICELAND GULL *Kintyre* Mar Eddie Maguire

'KUMLIEN'S' ICELAND GULL* *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

A sub-species of Iceland Gull, from arctic NE Canada, with no Argyll records prior to 2011 however an influx of eleven birds during late winter 2011/12 reflected record numbers in the UK and Europe.

Winter/spring An adult >S at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 3 Mar [Eddie Maguire].

EUROPEAN HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

RED LIST A *widespread and abundant resident breeding species that forms large flocks outside the breeding season. Recently several large colonies have been abandoned, and very few now breed inland.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 330 on The Oa Islay on 5 Mar, 300 on Gigha Kintyre on 19 Jan and 265 at Holy Loch Cowal on 22 Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited and incomplete breeding data. On Islay 31 AONs at RSPB Ardnave, 347 AONs on Sanda Is. Kintyre, 70 AONs at Bach Island, Kerrera Mid-Argyll and at least 73 AONs on Tiree.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 600 at Airds Point, Loch Etive Mid-Argyll on 7 Aug, 420 nr Tobermory Mull on 31 Dec and 284 at Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 15 Sep.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

AMBER LIST A *widespread breeding species: generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies are much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter. Seabird 2000 found 3,235 pairs in Argyll and Bute but numbers have since declined greatly.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. First report was an ad at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 14 Feb then 3 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 15 Feb. Max counts of 73 at Kinnabus, The Oa Islay on 20 May, 59 at RSPB Oa reserve Islay on 1 Apr, 56 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 14 Apr and 52 at Heylipol Tiree on 15 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited and incomplete breeding data. On Tiree 94 AONs, 9 AONs at RSPB Ardnave Islay and 17 AONs on Sanda Is. Kintyre.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Passage >S at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre started on 8 Jul where a max of 300+ on 12 Jul and 230 (only 18 were juvs) >S in 5 hrs on 20 Jul. Elsewhere, max counts of 37 on Tiree on 12 Sep and 30 nr Fiddon Mull on 4 Aug. Nos decreased sharply during Sep. Last 2 reported at Tobermory Mull on 23 Dec.



GULL-BILLED TERN Tiree May John Bowler

GULL-BILLED TERN*

Gelochelidon nilotica

A vagrant: Two records; both on Tiree, in Sep 2008 and in Apr 2010.

Spring An adult was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 17 May then also at An Fhoadhail and Loch Riaghain on three dates, last seen on 27 May [J Bowler, G Todd, C Verstraete]. Record was accepted by the BBRC. (Article: **Scottish Birds** Vol 39 (3) pp 271-3).



SANDWICH TERN *Kintyre Apr Eddie Maguire*

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

AMBER LIST A *regular passage migrant but very rare, and irregular, breeding species.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals were singles at West Loch Tarbert and Machrihanish SBO both *Kintyre* on 28 Mar. Higher counts included 12 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 6 Apr, 22 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 18 Apr and 38 at the Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 May (a total of 112 birds >S there in Apr), 11 at Toward Pt

Cowal on 11 Apr and 8 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 22 Apr.

Summer/breeding No confirmed breeding reports. An ad + juv were at Toward Pt *Cowal* on 27 Jul, 7 ads + a juv at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Jul with up to 9 ads + 3 juvs there in Aug, 3 ads + 1 juv at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 16 Aug and a juv off Bruichladdich *Islay* on 5-7 Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Only two reports after mid-Sep with 2 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Oct and 4 at NE *Tiree* on 19 Oct.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

AMBER LIST A *scarce summer visitor with regular breeding restricted to: Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Scarce passage migrant and irregular breeder elsewhere.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). First report was one at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 11 Apr. Most reports from *Tiree* otherwise 7 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Apr, 2 off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 May and 2 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Jun.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports only from; *Tiree* where 30 prs fledged 21 young, Gunna *Coll* with 33 prs and outcome unknown, and *Islay* with 4 AONs.

Autumn All birds had departed before end of Jul.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

AMBER LIST A *locally common summer visitor: considerably more numerous than Arctic Tern close to the mainland, but often less so on outer isles. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 found that Argyll held the second largest colony in Britain and the largest in Scotland. Breeding Common Terns are a feature of Glas Eileanan SPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas except (*Cowal*) with most reports from *Mull* and *Tiree*. First reports of singles at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 23 Apr and Feolin *Jura* on 29 Apr. Max counts of 25 off Craignure *Mull* on 15 May and 30 at the Cairns of *Coll* on 24 May.

Summer/breeding Breeding on many offshore islands for which little data. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* no breeding prs, cf 17 prs in 2018. On *Tiree* only 2 nests noted, producing 2 juvs and max count of 5 juvs at Gott Bay on 25 Jul. At least 10 prs at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll*. A max count of 200 at Scalliste beach *Mull* on 16 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Few reports after start of Aug and a max of 5 at Derryguag *Mull* on 2 Aug. Last reports were 3 juvs off Bruichladdich *Islay* after storms on 2 Sep and a juv at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 5 Sep.

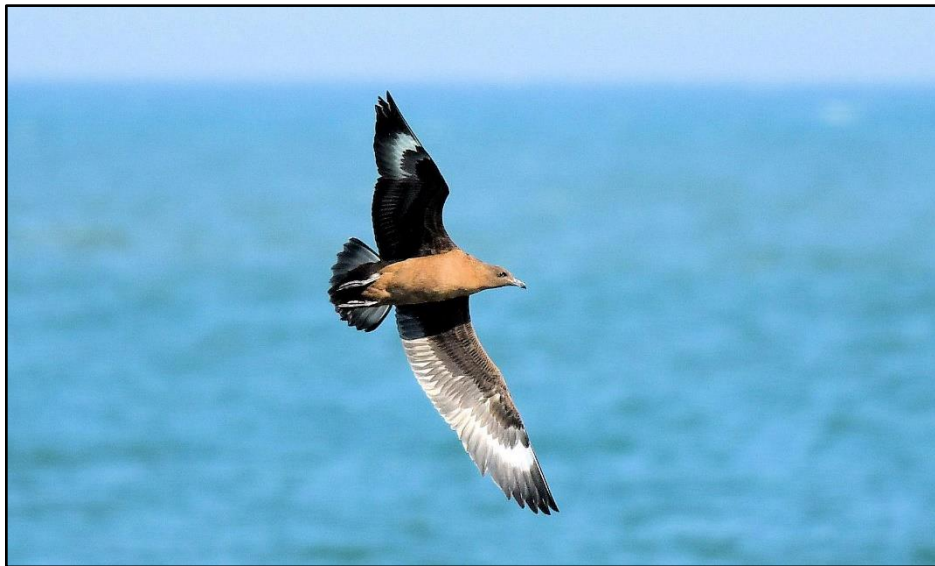
ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor and localised breeding species particularly on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and are often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 counted 1,823 pairs in Argyll & Bute.*

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas except (Cowal/Jura). First report of 1 from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 13 Apr then 3 at Traigh Bhaigh Tiree on 20 Apr and 1 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 30 Apr. Max count of 250 on rocks at Gunna Is. off Coll on 12 May.

Summer/breeding Incomplete data. On the Treshnish Isles Mull no birds were found to be breeding cf 127 pairs in 2018. On Tiree 333 nests at 11 sites produced fledged young from 8 Jul and a fair breeding year. Breeding success not known for additional 120 pairs nesting on Tiree islets. On Islay 43 nests at Ardnave.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas except (Cowal/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll). Larger counts from Mull, Islay and Tiree in Jul included fledged juvs. Small nos in Aug with max of 7 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 2 Aug, a max of 4 off Aird Tiree on 4 Sep, and last reports of singles off NW Mull on 2 and 8 Oct.



GREAT SKUA Mull Aug Mike Pearson

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

AMBER LIST *Previously an uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor but an increasing summer visitor which now breeds or holds territory in very small numbers on Coll, Treshnish Isles Mull, Tiree, Colonsay, Islay and Staffa.*

Winter/spring No winter reports. First report of a single off NW Mull on 1 Apr. Recorded from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). Only 1-2 birds noted however a max of 5 birds from sites on Mull and Tiree in May.

Summer/breeding Breeding/possible reports received from sites in (Coll/Colonsay/Mull/Tiree) with most on Oronsay Colonsay where 5 prs of which 3 prs nested.

Autumn/winter Passage birds noted from 15 Aug when a single off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* then generally 1-4 birds noted from coastal sites in all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*) and peak sea-watch counts, all from *Aird Tiree* in Sep of 7 on 4th, 12 on 5th and 24 on 6th. Last report was a single off Orsay *Islay* on 29 Oct.

POMARINE SKUA* *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A scarce but regular passage migrant; mainly seen in autumn but has been recorded in all months.

Autumn/winter On *Tiree* 1 was off the Ringing Stone (N coast) on 16 Sep, a 1cy was off Balevullin on 30 Sep, a 1cy off Hynish on 5 Oct and 4 >W off *Aird* on 9 Oct. Two were seen from the Oban to *Colonsay* ferry on 14 Oct and a 1cy was off *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 24 Oct.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

RED LIST *Previously the most common skua in Argyll with small numbers regularly seen in summer near large seabird colonies, this species has become scarce. The small breeding colonies on Jura and Coll have been in serious decline in recent years. Passage birds can be widespread in spring and especially autumn, but variable in numbers from year to year.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). First report of 2 between the Garvellach Is. and *Colonsay* on 26 Apr then singles from N *Islay* and NW *Mull* on 2 May. Several other reports of 1-2 birds from sea areas off *Kintyre, Mull* and *Tiree* in May.

Summer/breeding One pair held a Ter on *Coll* and several reports of 1-2 dark-phase birds seen feeding offshore there. Two birds on *Treshnish Is. Mull* on 23-24 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from 16 sites during Aug-Oct of 1-4 birds and max counts of 10 off *SW Coll* (seen from ferry) on 24 Sep and 5 there on 9 Oct, 7 >S off *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 28 Aug and 5 from there on 7 Aug. Last report of 3 >W off *Aird Tiree* on 9 Oct.

LITTLE AUK* *Alle alle*

A scarce and irregular winter visitor: usually seen during sea-watches or after severe gales.

Winter Only report was of 3 >W off *Aird Tiree* on 7 Jan.

Autumn/winter Only two reports, both *Kintyre* with 1 was at mouth of *Campbeltown Loch* on 8 Nov and 2 >S off *Machrihanish SBO* on 11 Nov.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

AMBER LIST A *highly colonial, and locally abundant, breeding species. Adults with small young appear on the sea far from colonies in late summer. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands and smaller numbers are regular in sea lochs in winter. Breeding Common Guillemots are a feature of North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas with most counts of 1-40 birds, however 600 at sea from the *Coll to Tiree* ferry on 10 Apr.

Summer/breeding Birds were back at breeding colonies from early Apr and a notable count of 2,000 at *Ceann a' Mhara Tiree* on 9 Apr and 2,871 on cliffs there plus 1,500 on sea below. No chicks noted on 14 Jun however some 415 mid-sized chicks by 11 Jul. On *Sanda Is. Kintyre* a count of 5,500 birds in Jun. On the *Treshnish Is. Mull* breeding was confirmed on *Lunga* and *Sgeir a' Chaisteil* with the main concentration within the vicinity of *Harp Rock* where 10,073 adults were estimated. The total for *Lunga* and *Sgeir a' Chaisteil* combined was 10,687. The mean count for the past five years is 9,153 birds (range 7,360-10,687) (TIARG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all coast areas. Max counts of 1,000-1,500 large auks, mainly Guillemots with large young from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 30 Aug and 1,350 >S in 1 hour off Frenchman's Rocks Islay on 27 Oct.



COMMON GUILLEMOTS *Mull Jun John Speirs*



RAZORBILL *Mull Jun John Speirs*

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

AMBER LIST A locally common breeding species, although much less numerous and with smaller colonies than Common Guillemot. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands with smaller numbers regular in sea lochs in winter.

Winter/spring Reports only from (Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max count of 196 >W in 1 hr off Aird Tiree on 7 Jan. A count of 800 from the Oban to Tiree ferry on 9 Apr. On Islay 64 were off Bruichladdich Loch Indaal on 2 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree). At least 300 birds back at cliffs of Ceann a' Mhara Tiree on 8 Apr and still 291 birds, some with large chicks on 11 Jul. On the Treshnish Is. Mull breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. A total of 734 birds on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (TIARG). At least 500 birds at Sanda Is. Kintyre in Jun/Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (North Argyll). Most high counts were from sea areas around Coll and Tiree with 900+ from the Oban to Tiree ferry on 24 Sep and an impressive 7,485 >W off Aird Tiree in 1 hr (mostly this species) on 10 Oct.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*

AMBER LIST A widespread, resident breeding species: on coasts, islands, and in sea lochs. Black Guillemot is a protected feature of Clyde Sea Sill MPA.

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts included 23 at Oban Bay Mid-Argyll on 18 Mar, 22 at Ceann a' Mhara Tiree on 8 Apr and 318 on a coastal survey of The Oa Islay on 11 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. On the Sanda Is. Kintyre 207 birds on 23 Apr. Max count of 25 at Oban Bay Mid-Argyll on 12 Jul. At Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll 5 ads + 6 juvs on 4 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas. Counts from most coastal sites usually 1-10 birds and a max count of 22 at Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 14 Nov.



BLACK GUILLEMOT Mid-Argyll Jul John Speirs

ATLANTIC PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

RED LIST *A very localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles: only very occasionally recorded in winter.*

Winter/spring No reports from (Cowal/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). A dead bird was found at Sandaig Tiree on 18 Feb. One was off Calgary Mull on 24 Mar. Seen in higher nos from early Apr e.g. 150 from the Oban to Tiree ferry on 9 Apr and 100+ Staffa Mull on 10 Apr. Most reports were birds seen from headlands or the island ferries.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. On the Treshnish Isles Mull the estimated breeding population on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil was 3,135 AOBs. Numbers since 2004 have fluctuated between 2,423 and 3,349 AOBs, with the exception of the comparatively low estimates of the two years 2010-2011; 1,705 and 1,611 AOBs respectively (TIARG). On Sanda Is. Kintyre a count of 75 AOBs.

Autumn/winter Birds moved away from breeding colonies in by late Jul to early Aug and last reports were off Tiree with 12 off Hynish on 21 Aug and last single at sea between Coll and Tiree on 24 Aug.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*

A resident breeder except in Cowal: concentrated on the islands and in Kintyre. Large flocks often gather on arable fields out with the breeding season. The genetic integrity of most populations is now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons. Those on the islands being probably nearest 'pure' Rock Dove. Feral Pigeons are recorded from most areas, but there is little information on population size.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal). Max counts of 45 at Ruaig Tiree on 14 Jan, 30+ at Salen Mull on 26 May and 26 at Rockside Islay on 16 May.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal). Max counts of 440 on Tiree (across 5 sites) on 16 Sep, 261 at Carnain Islay on 8 Nov and 230 at Sunderland Islay on 7 Nov.

FERAL PIGEON Small groups reported from the larger towns in Argyll with max counts of 50+ in Oban.

STOCK DOVE* *Columba oenas*

AMBER LIST *A very scarce and local resident: only regularly reported from Cowal and Mid-Argyll in recent years. All records required please.*

Winter/spring Five were at Killail Cowal on 1 Jan, 2 were at Ardtur, Loch Laich North Argyll on 17 Apr and 2 were at Croggan, Loch Spelve Mull on 13 May.

Autumn/winter One was at Baluachraig, nr Slockavullin Mid-Argyll on 8 Jul, 2 were at Carradale Bay Kintyre on 22 Sep and a remarkable count of 12 at Torrisdale Kintyre on 25 Sep.

COMMON WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

A common resident breeding species: less numerous on Mull, scarce on Coll, and rare on Tiree. Large flocks which form on the mainland in winter may include immigrants.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max count of 25 at Inverchapel Cowal on 14 Feb. On Tiree 9 on 16 May inc a flock of 7 that flew off SW.

Summer/breeding On Islay 4 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart was only breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 45 at Dalmally Mid-Argyll on 29 Dec, 40 at Loch Allan Islay on 1 Nov and 38 at Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll on 17 Dec.

EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

RED LIST A scarce but almost annual passage migrant: most frequently recorded during May and Jun.

Spring Single birds were at Salen Mull on 8 Jun and at Heylpol Tiree on 8-10 Jun.

Autumn A single bird was at Octofad farm Islay on 20 Sep.

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

A widespread but sparsely distributed species throughout Argyll usually associated with human settlement. It is resident at many locations however is mainly a late spring migrant or summer visitor to some islands.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Under reported. Max counts received were 31 in one Bruichladdich garden Islay on 12 Jan and 14 at Gigha Kintyre on 19 Jan.

Summer/breeding No specific breeding data received. Juvs noted in Mid-Argyll from 2 Jun. Widespread counts of up to 10 birds.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 57 at Octofad farm Islay on 20 Sep and 35 at Laphroaig Islay on 30 Dec.



GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO Mull Jun Jim Dickson

For a video link click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kElW1uKOz4>

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO* *Clamator glandarius*

A vagrant from southern Europe, with only one previous Scottish record: Rendall, Orkney 14-30 Aug 1959.

Spring/summer An adult was at Lagandorain, Iona Mull on 23-26 Jun [Rudolf Hummel, Phillip Higginson *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC and becomes a new species for Argyll. (Article: *Scottish Birds* Vol 39 (3) pp 278-80).

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

RED LIST A *common summer visitor that is more frequent and widespread on the mainland: less numerous on the outer islands.*

Spring Reports from all areas. First reports of singles from Lismore North Argyll and High Lossit, Machrihanish Kintyre on 16 Apr. Widespread arrivals across Argyll from 17 Apr.

Breeding Noted calling at sites in; Coll (3), Colonsay (20), Cowal (16), Islay (24), Kintyre (10), Mid-Argyll (49), Mull (98), North Argyll (19) and Tiree (5).

Autumn Seven reports in Jul, three in Aug, none in Sep and the latest ever report from Tiree of one feeding on hairy caterpillars at Loch Stanail, Kilmoluaig on 17 Oct. *The latest ever in Argyll was on 7 Nov 1935.*



BARN OWL Kintyre Jun Neil Brown

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

A patchily distributed breeding species: probably most numerous in Kintyre. It is widespread on Cowal, Islay, and Mull but only a rare visitor to Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree. All records are requested.

All year Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll/Tiree). Most reports from Islay, Mull and Mid-Argyll. Reports mainly of singles in all months with more reports during Jan-May then fewer thereafter and only one report in Jul and none in Sep.

Breeding Data from the ARSG; 109 sites were checked (out of a total of 135). No fresh signs were found at over half of these (55 sites). Six sites were occupied by single birds, with pairs being found at the remaining 39 sites [39 sites occupied by pairs in 2018]. Eggs were known to have been laid at 26 sites and at seven sites no eggs were laid; the outcome is not known at the remaining sites. The fledging outcome was known at 26 sites, where 50 % of nests were successful [56.5% in 2018]. The mean young per successful nest was 3.00 [1.85 in 2018].

SNOWY OWL* *Bubo scandiacus*

A vagrant: Seven records; a male on Coll on 27 Jan 2007, an immature female on Tiree on 29 Jan 2007 and an adult male in mountains NW of Tyndrum, North Argyll on 27 Feb 2016. Four old records between 1870 and 1892 are also considered acceptable.

Spring A female was at Grishipoll Coll on 23 Apr [D & R Wainwright]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.



TAWNY OWL *Kintyre Jun Neil Brown*

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

AMBER LIST A widespread and common resident breeding bird: absent from Coll and with only single records for Colonsay and Tiree.

All year Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Tiree). More frequent reports during Mar-Jun and in Dec however no reports in Jul and mostly from sites in Mid-Argyll (16), Mull (13) and Cowal (8). Most reports of birds calling as expected and only a few sight records.

Breeding Data from the ARSG; 70 sites were checked (out of a total of 85). No signs or birds were found at 40 sites and only fresh signs were found at 7 sites. Three sites had single birds and breeding pairs were found at 20 sites [17 sites in 2018]. The fledging outcome was known at 12 sites, where 75% of nests were successful. The mean young per successful nest was 1.44 [1.00 in 2018].

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

A very scarce resident breeding bird and winter visitor: almost certainly under recorded. All records are requested.

All year Only reports received were singles at Glen More Mull on 4 Apr, at Airleod Coll on 11 May, location not stated Mull on 13 Jun and at Kintra Mull on 6-7 Jul.

Breeding Six regularly checked sites were unoccupied. A new site was located on Mull which reared at least four young (ARSG).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

AMBER LIST A widely but thinly distributed breeder and winter visitor. Numbers fluctuate and distribution varies with the abundance of small rodents, especially field voles (*Microtus agrestis*).

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Colonsay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Most reports were from *Mull* (9 sites) of 1-4 birds and max counts of 3 at Achnahard on 20 Feb and 4 at Ensay NW *Mull* on 18 Apr and 3 May. On *Jura* up to 4 birds seen in Apr-May. A single was at Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 21 May.

Summer/breeding Eleven sites were checked; nine had no signs of occupation. The breeding outcome was unknown at the site occupied by a pair. A single bird was present at the other site (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Only reports were singles at Ruaig *Tiree* on 18 Sep and at Machrihanish airfield *Kintyre* on 18 Nov.



SHORT-EARED OWL *Mull* Aug Mike Pearson

COMMON NIGHTHAWK* *Chordeiles minor*

A vagrant with only one previous Scottish record: one in Kirkwall, Orkney on 12 Sep 1978.

Autumn An adult was seen briefly in flight at Loch Laich, Portnacroish *North Argyll* on 11 Sep [Ashley Cooper]. Record was accepted by the BBRC and becomes a new species for Argyll.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

AMBER LIST A summer visitor, breeding locally on the mainland: wandering birds and passage migrants may occur anywhere.

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). First arrivals were 2 at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May when back at nest boxes and 2 in Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 10 May. Noted from sites in; Cowal (4), Islay (4), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (20), *Mull* (9), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (3). Max counts of 12 in Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 15 Jul, 25 in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul and 10 in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jul. Between 2 and 11 birds on three dates over

Lunga, Treshnish Isles *Mull* in late Jun (TIARG). Higher counts in Jul reflect the appearance of fledged young.

Breeding Limited data. Nesting noted in Dunoon *Cowal*, Campbeltown *Kintyre*, Kilmichael Glassary, Lochgilphead, Kilmelford and Oban *Mid-Argyll*. Last seen going to a nest in Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 8 Aug.

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Jura/North Argyll, Tiree*). Twelve reports in Aug with max of 20 in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Aug and 10 in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug. No reports in Sep and a report of a late single at Loch Don *Mull* on 17 Oct.



COMMON KINGFISHER *Mid-Argyll* Oct Jim Dickson

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

AMBER LIST A scarce but regular visitor with most records in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. The only proven breeding record was in *Kintyre* in 1993.

Winter/spring Reports of single birds only from; *Cowal* at River Eachaig on 29 Mar, in *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Gilp on 1- 4 Jan, at Connel on 11 Jan and at Caol Scotnish on 28 Feb.

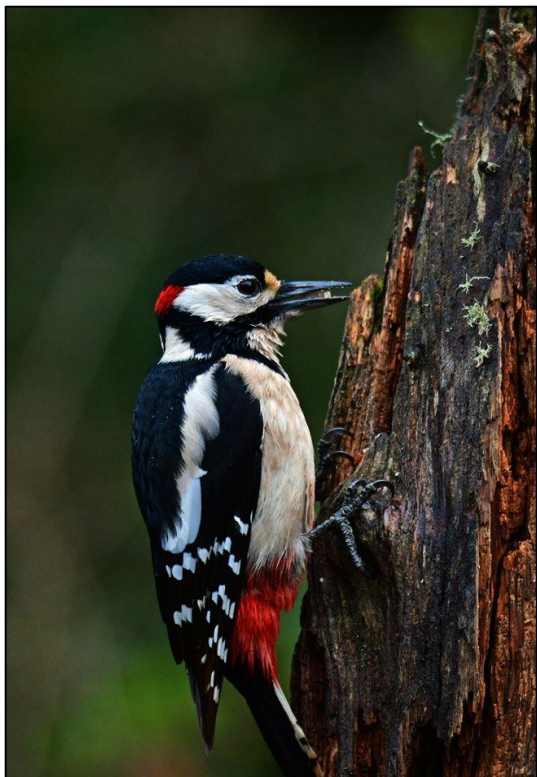
Summer/breeding No confirmed breeding reports and no sighting reports received between 29 Mar-15 Jul. Singles at Loch Don *Mull* on 15 Jul and Blackmill Loch *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jul.

Autumn/winter More widespread with reports of singles from; *Cowal* at Holy Loch on 7 Sep-2 Nov, at Kilfinan on 30 Nov and at Gairletter on 20 Dec. On *Islay* reports from Bridgend Woods and Carnain on 25 Sep-3 Nov and at Ardistry Bay, nr Ardbeg on 28 Oct. On *Jura* at Inverlussa on 30 Sep. In *Kintyre* at Machrihanish golf course on 2 Nov, at Loch Lussa on 5 Nov and at Carradale on 6 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* at Cairnbaan on 12 Sep then at Loch Gilp on 16 Sep-31 Dec with 2 there on 22 Dec, also at Loch Feochan on 16 Oct-3 Nov and Ballachuan Loch, Seil on 18 Nov. On *Mull* at Loch Don on 15 Jul and 2 Oct- 25 Dec.

EURASIAN HOOPOE* *Upupa epops*

A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.

Spring One was at Blairmore golf course, Loch Long Cowal on 13 May.



GREAT SPOTTED

WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

A resident breeder: widespread on the mainland and Mull, with occasional records on Islay.

Winter/spring Reports from and sites reported; Cowal (11), Islay (4), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (15), Mull (14), North Argyll (2). Generally, 1-2 birds reported and a max of 4 together in Tayvallich Mid-Argyll in Jan. Drumming heard from early Feb.

Summer/breeding Although breeding long suspected on Islay confirmed breeding at three sites with active nests from 4 Jun. First fledged young noted at Tayvallich Mid-Argyll on 10 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from and sites reported: Cowal (3), Islay (2), Kintyre (3), Mid-Argyll (7), Mull (4) and North Argyll (2).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Mid-Argyll* Bill Anderson

GREEN WOODPECKER* *Picus viridis*

Rare: infrequent in Cowal in recent years as well as in Mid-Argyll, Mull and N Argyll. Breeding may have occurred in Kintyre in 1998. All records required.

Spring Only two reports with singles at Ardanish Bay Mull on 7 Apr and at Cairnbaan (north side of canal) Mid-Argyll on 11 Jun.

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

AMBER LIST A widespread, but declining, breeding bird. There is emigration from some areas in autumn and immigration to others.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Jura/North Argyll). All reports of 1 -2 birds in Jan (12), Feb (5), Mar (10), Apr (15), May (18) and report from sites in; Coll (1), Colonsay (1), Cowal (2), Islay (8), Kintyre (6), Mid-Argyll (5), Mull (28), and Tiree (9). Most frequent reports were in Mar and May. The number of reports on Mull increased markedly in Apr-May whereas most

reports from *Tiree* were in Jan. Unfortunately, no data from *Jura* where usually a good number of reports.

Summer/breeding Data from the ARSG; 25 sites were checked of which only 2 occupied and one site produced 1 young.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Reports of 1-2 birds in Aug (6), Sep (5), Oct (19), Nov (13) and Dec (4) and from sites in; *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (19), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (4).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

RED LIST *Breeds very locally on open moorland and bogs: more widely distributed on passage and in winter on low coastal ground and farmland.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Most reports of single birds mainly in Feb (17) then Mar (10). Most reports were from *Islay* (20), *Mull* (16), *Tiree* (10), *Colonsay* (3), *Kintyre* (3) and *Cowal* (1).

Summer/breeding Only three reports in Jun-Jul with singles from *Coll*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. Occupied sites were noted in *North Argyll* (2) and *Islay* (1).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports of singles and max counts of up to 4 on *Tiree* in Oct. Reports by month were; Aug (6), Sep (13), Oct (30), Nov (14) and Dec (18). Reports from sites in; *Coll* (4), *Islay* (36), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (8) and *Tiree* (21).

EURASIAN HOBBY* *Falco subbuteo*

A rare visitor: Mostly in spring and autumn.

Spring/summer An adult was at Cnocan Sgeir'e (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 2 Apr [Duncan Cameron], a 2cy+ was at Milton *Tiree* on 7 Jun [C Verstraete] and a 2cy+ was at Grasspoint *Mull* on 8 Jun [S Milton]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.



PEREGRINE FALCON *Mull Sep Mike Pearson*

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

A widespread but scarce breeding species in all areas of Argyll, with about 70 occupied territories in 2005. There have been indications of a decline in numbers breeding away from coastal areas. Found throughout the year in most areas.

All year Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds at sites across Argyll and most reports from *Islay*.

Breeding Data from the ARSG; 19 sites were checked, six sites were occupied and raised a min. of 8+ large young.



RED-BACKED SHRIKE* *Lanius collurio*

RED LIST *A rare passage migrant: 20 records between 1954 and 2018.*

Spring A 2cy+ female was at Balephuil Tíree on 21 May [John Bowler].

Autumn A 1cy was at Glenastle, The Oa Islay on 28-29 Sep [Bonnie Wood, Phill Catton]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE Islay Sep Phill Catton

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE* *Oriolus oriolus*

RED LIST *A rare and irregular passage migrant, mainly in spring.*

Spring/summer Two reports of adult males, at Crinan Mid-Argyll on 30 May and at Avonvogie plantation Islay on 4 Jul.



EURASIAN JAY Mid-Argyll Oct Bill Anderson

EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

A widely distributed (but scarce) woodland resident on most of the mainland: rarely reported from the islands. There is some immigration in autumn.

Winter/spring Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (5), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (13) and *North Argyll* (8).

Summer/breeding All reports from mainland Argyll and *Mull* with 1-2 birds at sites, however no specific breeding reports.

Autumn/winter Reports of 1-3 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (5), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (11) and *Mull* (7). Max counts of 6 at *Loch na Keal Mull* on 10 Aug, 6 at *Torrisdale Kintyre* on 25 Sep and 6 at *Loch Tulla North Argyll* on 17 Nov.

EURASIAN MAGPIE *Pica pica*

A local breeder restricted to Cowal. Elsewhere, has been a scarce and sporadic visitor (mainly in spring): in recent years appearing to be becoming more widespread.

Winter/spring Reports from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). *Cowal* had most reports, although likely under reported and only a max of 3 birds noted at sites. Only noted in *Kintyre* at *Campbeltown* on 11 Apr and *Peninver* on 15 Apr-12 May. Only 3 reports of singles from *Mid-Argyll* at *Balvicar*, *Ellery* and *Ford*. On *Mull* 1 was at *Salen* on 18 Apr. In *North Argyll* 1 was at *Barcaldine House* on 8 Jun.

Summer/breeding No breeding reports out with *Cowal*.

Autumn/winter Only reports away from *Cowal* were 1 at *Dalmally Mid-Argyll* on 7 Aug-1 Sep and 1 at *Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll* on 3 Dec into 2020.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

The Argyll islands hold almost the entire Scottish population. Islay is the stronghold, with smaller numbers on Oronsay and Colonsay. All records away from Islay are appreciated.

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay*). Max counts on *Islay* with 8 at *The Oa* on 29 Mar, 42 at *Ardnave* on 2 Feb and 35 at *Machir Bay* on 21 Feb. On *Oronsay Colonsay* 11 birds were present.

Summer/breeding On *Islay* 64 known sites were visited, prs were present at 45 sites and at least 31 nests fledged young; 71 nestlings were ringed at 24 of these sites. At least 7 nesting attempts resulted in no young being fledged, 4 sites had birds that were regarded as “prospecting” as no eggs were laid or no nest built. At 3 sites the outcome was not known. At least 13 young were fledged from the 7 sites where there was no ringing of nestlings (per Eric Bignal). On *Colonsay* there were 5 confirmed prs of which 4 successful pairs and reared at least 9 young (2.25 yng / successful nest), outcome from other pair unknown (per David Jardine).

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay*). Few counts received, however max counts on *Islay* of 39 at *Ardnave* on 27 Oct and 19 at *Machir Bay* on 20 Sep. On *Colonsay* a max of 4 during Oct-Dec and a max of 16 on *Oronsay Colonsay* in Sep-Oct.

WESTERN JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

A resident breeder, common throughout much of mainland Argyll: scarce on Mull and does not breed on Coll or Tiree. Breeding colonies are often located in towns and villages.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Higher counts received included 160 going to roost in *Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 100 at *Toberonochy*, *Luing Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb and 50 at *Toward point Cowal* on 14 Apr. A group of 18 wandered around *W Tiree* during Jan-Mar.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received. Reports all less than 30 and generally of 1-6 birds. Max counts were 200 at *Kilchoman Islay* on 3 Aug and 40 at *Kames Cowal* on 2 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Higher counts included; 400 at *Loch Sween Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct, 282 at *Kiloran meadows Colonsay* on 15 Oct, 160 at *Gartnatra Islay* on 30 Oct and 150+ at *Kilkivan Quarry Kintyre* on 7 Nov.



WESTERN JACKDAW *Kintyre May Eddie Maguire*

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

A resident breeder, common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on: Colonsay, Coll or Tiree. There can be a post breeding influx of juveniles to some islands, e.g. Mull and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Few higher counts received particularly from *Kintyre* where large flocks are common. A max count of 100 at *Gruinart Islay* on 23 Apr and 54 on *Iona Mull* on 8 Apr. Two singles on *Tiree* with a 2cy at *Loch an Eilein* on 1 Jan and an adult at *Balephuill* on 16 Apr.

Summer/breeding Few specific breeding data received. Birds on nests from early Mar and juv birds noted in *Mid-Argyll* in mid Jul. A count of 162 nests at RSPB *Loch Gruinart Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Max count received of 680 at *Carrabus Islay* on 5 Sep. A single was at *Loch an Eilein Tiree* on 8 Nov.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

A sedentary resident: mainly in east Cowal and parts of Mid-Argyll, in a variety of mainly low ground habitats. It hybridises readily with Hooded Crow where ranges overlap.

Winter/spring Most reports from usual strong hold areas of *Cowal* where max counts of 30+ at *Sandbank* on 14 Feb and 10 at *Inverchapel* on 14 Feb. Smaller nos elsewhere, with 1-2 birds at sites in *Coll, Kintyre, Islay, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Most reports again from *Cowal* where max counts of 25 at *Tighnabruaich* on 22 Dec and 20 at *Kilfinan* on 8 Dec. Reports of 1-2 birds elsewhere, however a high count of 10 at *Kildalloig Kintyre* on 17 Dec. Birds noted flying in off the sea at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* with 2 on 16 Oct and 3 on 18 Oct.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

A widespread, and very common, resident breeding species.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Numbers reported generally low, with 1-10 birds from sites however higher counts included 24 at Bunessan *Mull* on 1 Apr, 20 at Kilinver *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan and 20 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 20 Mar.

Summer/breeding Only breeding data received; 40 Ters on *Colonsay* (of 16 monitored nests - 4 failed, 3 with b/1, 8 with b/2, 1 fledged (no brood count), mean brood = 1.27). First fledged on *Tiree* on 1 Jun. Max count of 52 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 1 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 90 at *Sleivemore Islay* on 7 Nov, 84 at *Kilchoman Islay* on 5 Nov and 72 at *Ormsary Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec.

HYBRID CROW *Corvus corone x cornix*

Hybrids between Carrion and Hooded Crow are most prevalent where the ranges of the two species overlap. Any records are welcome as they will help to document the change in position of the hybrid zone, which is known to have moved north westwards in the past.

All year Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Counts of up to 8 reported from 12 sites.

NORTHERN RAVEN *Corvus corax*

A common resident breeding species on both the mainland and islands: large flocks may occur, especially in winter.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts received of 83 in *Glen Orchy North Argyll* on 18 Jan and 40 at *Crossapol Tiree* on 22 Feb. Most counts elsewhere of 1-10 birds.

Summer/breeding Prs and displaying bird noted from Jan. On *Tiree* 11 active nests at 10 sites in Apr. On *Colonsay* 8 prs located, 7 prs reared 20 young (final pair outcome unknown, but 2 large young in nest). Data from the ARSG; of 62 *Argyll* sites checked they produced a min 81 young and 2.62 young per successful nest.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts included 35 at *Crossapol Tiree* on 27 Sep, 35 nr *Tobermory Mull* on 31 Dec, 33 at *Ardnave Point Islay* on 2 Nov and 32 at *Ulva Lagoons Mid-Argyll* on 22 Sep.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING* *Bombycilla garrulus*

An irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year but some large influxes have occurred recently.

Winter/spring No reports.

Autumn/winter First report was of 8 on rowans in *Campbeltown Kintyre* on 2 Oct, then 2 at *Balephuil Tiree* on 24 Oct with 1 there on 6 Nov, 2 at *Loch Buie Mull* on 29 Oct, 12 at *Carradale Kintyre* on 7-27 Nov, 12 at *Southend Kintyre* on 14 Nov, 3 at *Tayvallich Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov, 1 at *Connel Mid-Argyll* on 26 Nov and 2 at *Redhouse Kintyre* on 27 Nov.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

A widespread and abundant resident breeder: except on Coll and Tiree. Found almost exclusively in woodland: especially conifers.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, 1-3 birds noted however 10 at *Inverchapel Cowal* on 5 Mar.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received. Two ads feeding 2 juvs in *North Argyll* on 8 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, 1-6 birds noted however 10 nr *Jura House Jura* on 29 Oct.

EURASIAN BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A widespread and common resident breeder: an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Tiree). Generally, 1-6 birds at sites and a max flock of 12 at Rhudle Mill *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May.

Summer/breeding Generally, 1-8 birds noted at sites and first fledglings noted on 16 Jun. A flock of 30+ at Taynish House *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Tiree). Generally, up to 12 birds at sites however 40 at Gartnagrenoch, Loch Coillie-Bharr *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov and 19 at Calgary *Mull* on 6 Oct.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

A widespread and common resident breeder: only an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura). All reports of 1-6 birds. One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 Apr. Birds noted with avian pox in *Mid-Argyll* in Feb.

Summer/breeding No specific breeding data.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura/Tiree). All reports of 1-9 birds however 20+ birds in a mixed tit flock at Inverchapel *Cowal* on 4 Oct.

EURASIAN SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

RED LIST A widespread breeding species: common in some areas. Many emigrate in winter, with remaining birds mainly in coastal and low-lying localities.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas mostly from sites in; *Mull* (76), *Mid-Argyll* (20), *Islay* (14) and *Kintyre* (11). Small flocks of up to 20 noted particularly on *Islay* and *Tiree* in Jan-Feb however 80 were at RSBP Oa reserve *Islay* on 27 Feb then notable passage from early Mar with 162 birds passing through RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Mar. Song noted on calmer days from early Mar.

Summer/breeding Little specific breeding data. A count of 35 Ters on Oronsay *Colonsay*. More records from the islands than mainland *Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Visible migration noted from mid-Sep and heavy passage from 25 Sep until early Oct. Max counts of 225 >SSW over *Tiree* on 25 Sep and 140 on a beach at Ard Mor *Tiree* on 1 Oct, also 75 wintered on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Smaller nos of 20 or less noted during Nov-Dec from 5 locations.



SAND MARTIN *Kintyre* Jul Neil Brown

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor: localised breeding species and passage migrant. All breeding records required.*

Spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals noted with 1 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 27 Feb, 2 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar and 1 at Kellan, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 24 Mar. More widespread arrivals from end of Mar and arrived in larger numbers from 5 Apr. Higher counts included 60 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 22 Apr and 60 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited data on breeding colonies received. On *Tiree* 127 prs across 8 sites and 40 AONs at Kilchoman *Islay*.

Autumn Reports from all areas. Numbers decreased during early Sep and last report was of 30 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 11 Sep.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival was of 1 at Lochgilphead caravan park *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar then 1 at Salen *Mull* on 21 Mar and 15 at Corran View *Mull* on 2 Apr. Small nos noted across Argyll until the main arrivals during 17-19 Apr. Max counts of 19 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Apr and a peak there of 42 >N in 4hrs on 1 May. Generally thought to be less about than 'usual'.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. First fledged birds noted on *Tiree* on 6 Jul, *Islay* on 21 Jul and *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jul. Post breeding flocks building up from late Jul-early Aug and a count of 90 at Barloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jul. Two prs at Balephuill *Tiree* abandoned their (8) young in nests on 6 Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 350 at Dalvore, Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug, 120 at Keills *Islay* on 7 Sep, 100 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 13 and 18 Sep. Six reports during Oct and last single at Dunoon golf course *Cowal* on 29 Nov.

COMMON HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

AMBER LIST A *common summer visitor on the mainland: less numerous on the islands with only one recently recorded breeding attempt on Tiree.*

Spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). First report was an exceptionally early single at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 19 Feb, however tied in with other early UK reports. The next was not until 1 at Loch Loskin *Cowal* on 3 Apr, then 1 at Pennyghael *Mull* on 10 Apr. Most arrivals were not until after 26 Apr. Highest count was 10 at Toward Point *Cowal* on 5 May.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. Nested at 3 sites on *Tiree* and appeared to be successful. At least 10 nests at Oban Hospital *Mid-Argyll* of which 6 appeared to be successful. Fledged young being fed while on the wing at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 8 Jul.

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max count of 80 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug, 55 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Sep and 20 at Clachaig *Cowal* on 3 Aug. Last report was of 4 at Kildalton *Islay* on 9 Oct.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Islay/Jura/Tiree*). Max counts of 12 nr Loch Eck *Cowal* on 1 Jan and 10 at Java Point, Craignure *Mull* on 13 Jan. Generally, counts of 1-8 elsewhere with most at sites in *Mid-Argyll* (14) and *Mull* (8).

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. Juvs noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* from early Jun. A count of 14 nr Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 35 at Glen Lonan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Dec, 16 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec and 16 in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov. Most reports from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (16) and *Islay* (14). Six were at The Lodge *Coll* on 4 Nov and a flock of 10 arrived at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Oct with 2 remaining to 7 Nov.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

RED LIST A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands. Infrequent on *Islay* and *Jura* and only occurs as a rare passage migrant on *Coll* and *Tiree*.

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Kintyre*). First reports at Quinish *Mull* on 21 Apr and Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr. Singing males reported from sites in; Cowal (2), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (9) and *North Argyll* (6). A passage bird was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 May.

Autumn One at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18-20 Sep was the latest ever in *Argyll*.



YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Tiree* Sep John Bowler

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER* *Phylloscopus inornatus*

A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals: at least 79 records between 1954 and 2018, the majority on *Tiree*.

Autumn Up to 7 birds on *Tiree* with 1 at Carnan Mor/Balephuill on 25-26 Sep, 1 at Vaul on 26 Sep, 2 at Balephuill on 29-30 Sep and another at Main Rd farm on 30 Sep, 1 at Balephuill on 7 Oct and 1 there on 16-18 Oct [John Bowler, Jim Dickson *et al*]. One was at Port Righ (Carradale) *Kintyre* on 28 Sep and another there on 13 Oct [Alasdair Paterson]. One was at Java Beach,

Craignure *Mull* on 2 Oct [Nancy Somerville] and 1 was at Duart Castle *Mull* on 4 Oct [Anne Sinclair]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread and abundant summer visitor.*

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 6 Apr then 2 at Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr and more widespread arrivals in Argyll from 8 Apr with heavy arrivals from 11 Apr.

Summer/breeding Singing males widespread across Argyll from mid-Apr. Higher breeding counts included; 34 Ters at Kilmichael Forest BBS *Mid-Argyll*, 25 at Bellanoch BBS *Mid-Argyll* 14 Ters at 6 sites on *Tiree*, 14 Ters at Loch Striven *Cowal*, 10 Ters at Rhudle BBS *Mid-Argyll*. Fledged young noted on *Tiree* from 24 Jun.

Autumn/winter Number of reports decreased during Aug. A few reports of only singles in Sep from *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*. A single remained at the Glebe *Tiree* on 26 Sep-4 Oct and an exceptionally late bird was at Glenbranter *Cowal* on 15 Nov with identity confirmed from photographs provided.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

A summer visitor and local breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). No winter reports. First arrivals of singles at Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Mar then at Java, Craignure *Mull* on 25 Mar. Max count of 3 at several sites.

Summer/breeding Reports from breeding sites (singing males); *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (7 Ters), *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (18), *Mull* (11), *North Argyll* (6) and *Tiree* (3).

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First migrant was a single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Aug. Max count of 6 on *Tiree* on 29 Oct, also two reports there in Nov and last single there on 6 Dec. Several single birds on *Tiree* during Oct-Nov were of the Scandinavian race *abietinus*.

‘SIBERIAN’ CHIFFCHAFF* *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

A rare visitor: an eastern race of Chiffchaff, still regarded as a sub-species of Common Chiffchaff, rather than a distinct separate species. Rare in Argyll, although small numbers of this race occur during late autumn in Scotland.

Autumn At least one was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 10 days between 25 Oct and 22 Dec [John Bowler].

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A locally common summer visitor, breeding in suitable habitats.

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas. First arrivals of singles in *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Craignish on 20 Apr and Castle Sween on 21 Apr. Four reports on 22 Apr then more widespread arrivals from 23 Apr. Max count of 9 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 May. Limited breeding data received of this widespread species. Many fledglings noted on *Tiree* on 2 Jul.

Autumn Most birds departed during Aug and last 2 noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1-2 Sep.

EURASIAN REED WARBLER* *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A rare visitor in spring and summer: Fifteen records; 13 from the islands and two from Aros Moss, Kintyre.

Autumn One was at Balephuill Tíree on 19 Sep [John Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

RED LIST A summer visitor: breeding locally in open habitats with dense ground vegetation, including young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival of one at Lochgilphead meadows Mid-Argyll on 16 Apr, thereafter widespread arrivals across Argyll from 18 Apr.

Summer/breeding Most reports of singing males e.g. 10 Ters on Colonsay, 8 Ters in Glendaruel Cowal, 3 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay and 4 at a Moine Mhor NNR Mid-Argyll BBS site.

Autumn Reports decreased during Jul and last report was of 1 at Balephuill Tíree on 18 Aug.



EURASIAN BLACKCAP *Mid-Argyll* Apr Jim Dickson

EURASIAN BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

A common summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn: an increasing number winter in Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Only winter report of 1 at Innellan Cowal on 11 Jan. First arrivals of singles at Kilmartin Mid-Argyll and The Oa Islay on 3 Apr, thereafter more widespread arrivals. A max count of 7 at Balephuill Tíree on 23 Apr.

Summer/breeding Widespread reports of males in song across Argyll with most in mainland areas particularly Mid-Argyll where high densities (45 sites e.g. 12 Ters Taynish NNR), also Colonsay (13 Ters), Cowal, Kintyre, Islay (e.g. 10 Ters Bridgend Woods) and Mull.

Autumn/winter Reports of 1-3 birds across Argyll with an increase in records during Oct and a max count of 7 at Balephuill Tíree on 18 Oct. Only six reports in Nov and last report of 1 at Southend Kintyre on 29 Nov.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

A scarce but increasing summer visitor: breeding in woodland and scrub habitats.

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from sites in: Cowal (3), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (16), Mull (3), North Argyll (4) and Tiree (2). First arrivals of singles at Scotmill Kintyre on 28 Apr and Glen Nant Mid-Argyll on 30 Apr, with most arrivals noted after 1 May. On Tiree single migrants were at Balephuill on 1 May and in song at The Glebe on 9 Jun. Highest density of singing birds noted in Mid-Argyll between Cairnbaan and Bellanoch with at least 6 Ters.

Autumn Only report was a single, with a Blackcap, at Balephuill Tiree on 16 Sep.

LESSER WHITETHROAT* *Sylvia curruca*

A rare/scarc passage migrant in both spring and autumn: most recent records have been from the islands.

Spring One was at Carnan Mor Tiree on 13 May and another at Balephuill Tiree on 23 May [J Bowler].

Autumn One was at Lochdon Mull on 17 Oct [A & J Harden]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

A summer visitor with numbers fluctuating from year to year: breeding is most widespread in low lying areas, particularly in coastal scrub.

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas. First arrival was of 1 at Port Charlotte Islay on 19 Apr then at Mausdale Kintyre on 22 Apr, 2 at Balephuill Tiree on 23 Apr, 1 at Gruinart Islay on 23 Apr and 1 at Dervaig Mull on 23 Apr. Most arrivals after 25 Apr and a max count of 11 migrants at Kilmolluaig Tiree on 16 May. Most region reports from sites in; Mull (49), Mid-Argyll (32), Kintyre (12), Cowal (11) and Islay (10). On Colonsay 57 Ters excluding Oronsay and at RSPB Loch Gruinart reserve Islay 26 Ters. First fledged young noted on Islay on 27 Jun and Tiree on 2 Jul.

Autumn Reports decreased during Aug and last reports were of 2 at Fanmore Mull on 31 Aug, 2 at Scarinish Tiree on 1 Sep and 1 at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 1 Sep.



GOLDCREST Mid-Argyll Oct Jim Dickson

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

A common resident breeding species: augmented by passage migrants in spring and especially autumn but scarce on Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds from sites and max counts of 6 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Apr, 6 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 21 Apr and 5+ at Loch an Torr *Mull* on 8 Apr. One at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Feb was the earliest spring record for the island.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Singing birds noted from mid-Apr until early Jul. A pr with 6 fledged young at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 20 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas with counts of 1-10 birds. Max counts of 20 at Kiloran Farm Colonsay on 18 Oct, 13 at Torrisdale *Kintyre* on 25 Sep, 12 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Oct and 12 at Foreland *Islay* on 29 Oct.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A common resident breeder in all areas: numbers often decline following hard winters; additional birds winter on the islands.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites however 7 at Loch Frisa *Mull* on 24 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. On *Tiree* 24 males in song at 12 sites in Apr and 30 at 16 sites in May (a high total) with first fledged group noted on 20 Jun. At Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* BBS site 18 birds noted on 7 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-6 birds noted at sites.



EURASIAN NUTHATCH Cowal Aug George Newall

EURASIAN NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

A rare but increasing visitor: currently spreading north and west in Scotland.

All year Becoming more established and recorded in all months with most reports in Apr (7), Jul (5) and Oct (5) from sites in Cowal (7), Mid-Argyll (7), Mull (5) and North Argyll (3). In some areas where now regular often birds are no longer being reported. Most reports are from wooded gardens, and in particular, when visiting bird feeders.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.

Winter/spring Reports only from (Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Counts of 1-2 birds however 5 at Kilmory Woods, Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll on 23 Mar.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Counts of 1-2 birds however 5 at Bridgend Woods Islay on 7 Nov.



ROSY STARLING *Islay* Jun Jenny Woodward

ROSY STARLING* *Pastor roseus*

A rare summer and autumn visitor: More frequent in recent years.

Summer An ad male was at Esknish Farm (nr Ballygrant) *Islay* on 17 Jun [M & J Woodward], an ad male was at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 18-24 Jun [W Young, R Wesley, B Wilson *et al*] and an ad male was at Craighouse *Jura* on 6-13 Jul [J Turton, G Turnbull *et al*]. All three records were accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

RED LIST A common resident on: Coll, Islay, part of Kintyre, and Tiree, less common on most of the mainland. Flocks containing juveniles appear in many parts in late summer and numbers are boosted by immigration in winter from north-west Europe.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Largest flocks generally noted on *Tiree* and *Islay*. Several flocks of 600-1,300 birds across *Tiree* Jan-Mar. On *Islay* up to 800 at Gruinart in Jan. Also 200 at Southend *Kintyre* in Jan. Generally, much smaller nos elsewhere.

Summer/breeding Nesting during late Apr-Jun with fledged birds in *Mid-Argyll* on 27 May and *Tiree* from 30 May. Flocks of juveniles built up in numbers from mid-Jun. Max counts of 400 at several sites on *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most flocks of >100 birds were from the island regions. Several flocks of 700+ reported from *Kintyre* with a max count of 1,300 at the Laggan on 8 Nov. Several flocks on *Tiree* of 500+ and a max count of 1,200 at Balephetrish on 6 Nov. Max count on *Islay* of 900 at Ballygrant on 7 Nov.

RING OUZEL* *Turdus torquatus*

RED LIST A summer visitor; breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in numbers: more widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required please.

Spring/summer A male was at Risabus, The Oa *Islay* on 10-11 Apr, 1 was at Balure, Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, 2 were at Beinn Narnain *Cowal* on 14 May and 2 were at Beinn an Dothaidh *North Argyll* on 8 Aug.

Autumn On *Tiree* single 1cy birds with other thrush species were at Balephuill on 15 Oct, Heylipol on 18 Oct and Carman Mor on 30 Oct. One was at Slatrach Bay, Kerrera, *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Oct.



COMMON BLACKBIRD *Mid-Argyll* Oct Jim Dickson

COMMON BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

A widespread breeding species: common and locally abundant resident. There is immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years with some remaining during winter.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally low nos of only 1-5 birds and a max count of 14 at Lochbuie Mull on 2 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data. First fledglings noted on Colonsay from 30 Apr and Mid-Argyll on 5 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-8 birds until an influx from 25 Oct onwards with 20 at Kilchoman Islay on 25 Oct, 32 at Kilsleven Islay on 1 Nov and 50 at Mid-Argyll Hosp grounds, Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll on 3 Nov then smaller nos noted until end Dec.



FIELDFARES Mid-Argyll Oct John Speirs

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

RED LIST A passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or passing through in spring.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/North Argyll). Generally low nos with higher counts including; 29 at Foreland Islay on 3 Feb, 25 at Inverneil Cowal on 22 Jan and 20 at Drimvore Mid-Argyll on 10 Apr. Last report was a single at Jura House Jura on 2 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. First arrival was 13 at Inverchapel Cowal on 1 Oct. Main arrivals after mid-Oct and larger movements during 20-26 Oct. Max counts included 500 at Fearnoch, Knapdale Mid-Argyll on 24 Oct, 600 at Mid-Argyll Hosp grounds, Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll on 3 Nov and 500 at Lephensrath Farm Kintyre on 11 Nov. Several other reports of flocks with 50-300 birds. Only a few reports and low nos during Dec.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

RED LIST A *passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals are recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally low numbers Jan-early Mar of 1-40 birds however higher nos on *Tiree* and *Mull* where max counts of 1,000 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 Apr, 400 at inner Loch Scridain *Mull* on 30 Mar and 300 at Bunessan *Mull* on 1 Apr. Return passage birds widely noted from mid-Mar to early Apr. Last report of a single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 May. A colour-ringed bird at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 Apr was from Höfn, SE Iceland.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. First arrivals on 30 Sep when up to 8 at Balephuill *Tiree*, followed by 2 at West Hynish and 3 at Baugh *Tiree* on 1 Oct. Most arrivals from 5 Oct with nos peaking between 18-26 Oct. Max counts of 1,000 over Cairnbaan and 450 at Crinan, both *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Oct and 1,000 across *Tiree* on 24 Oct. Numbers dropped during Nov-Dec however still several flocks of 300-500 birds in *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and on *Tiree*.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

RED LIST A *widespread and common resident breeding species with some locally bred birds departing in the autumn. There is a noticeable autumn passage, with other birds arriving for the winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of only 1-4 birds with a max of only 6 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 29 Apr. A continental type bird was noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited data reported. First bird on eggs noted at Foreland *Islay* on 31 Mar. Fledged young noted on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* from 22 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Only small numbers noted, generally 1-4 birds and a max of only 10 at Balnahard *Colonsay* on 16 Oct.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

RED LIST A *widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species. On Coll and Tiree it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks are sometimes seen on passage.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Kintyre/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, sightings of 1-5 birds, most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (21), *Mull* (20) and *Cowal* (13). Max counts of 25 at Inverneil *Cowal* on 22 Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited data reported. Ads carrying food for young in *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max counts of 30 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 16 Sep, Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 13 Oct and 18 at Gearach *Islay* on 1 Sep. Generally, sightings of 1-10 birds, most reports from sites in *Islay* (21), *Mid-Argyll* (13) and *Mull* (7).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

RED LIST A *summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely, in mature woodlands; particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges. Regular passage migrant on the islands.*

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). First report was one at Crinan Wood *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May and most arrivals were from 10 May onwards. Migrant birds on *Tiree* reported 14 May-19 Jul, with peaks of 5 on 17 May and 6 Jun. Most reports from breeding areas came from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (23), *Mull* (20) and *North Argyll* (8).

Autumn Only reports of migrants were singles on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 24-27 Sep and at Caoles on 25 Sep.

EUROPEAN ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

A widespread and common resident breeder: a migrant only on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. Autumn passage is noticeable on the islands with many migrants overwintering.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, only 1-4 birds at sites. Max count of 20 at Castle Stalker North Argyll on 7 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Five males in song around Arinagour and the Lodge Coll in May. First juv noted at Caimbaan Mid-Argyll on 21 May and last juv noted at Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 3 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-5 birds. Max counts of 30 at Carradale Kintyre on 24 Sep.



EUROPEAN PIED FLYCATCHER *Tiree Sep Jim Dickson*

EUROPEAN PIED FLYCATCHER* *Ficedula hypoleuca*

RED LIST A scarce summer visitor and passage migrant breeding very locally in oak woods in parts of the mainland and possibly Mull. An increase in the breeding population in the 1990s-2000s was attributable to the Argyll Bird Club nest-box scheme but numbers have since declined; possibly due to Pine Marten predation of boxes, with no confirmed breeding records in recent years. Rare but near-annual on passage on the islands, especially Tiree.

Spring/breeding The only report was of a singing male at Inveroran North Argyll on 25 May then later paired with a female at a nest box and breeding confirmed, with last sighting on 13 Jul.

Autumn A male was seen at Craighouse Jura on 2 Aug. On Tiree 1cy birds were at Balephuill on 16 Sep, 30 Sep, 14 Oct and another at The Glebe on 14 Oct.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER* *Ficedula parva*

A rare passage migrant: Twelve records; on Islay in Nov 1974 and Oct 1975, Colonsay and Gigha in 2010, two singles on Tiree in Oct 2012, two in Jun and two Sep/Oct on Tiree in 2014, singles on Tiree in Oct 2016 and Sep 2017.

Autumn A 1cy was at Balephuill Tiree on 14 Oct [J Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

BLACK REDSTART* *Phoenicurus ochuros*

RED LIST A less than annual passage migrant: most records have been in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).

Spring A male was in a garden in N Campbeltown Kintyre on 17 Apr, and an adult male was at Balemartine Tiree on 12 May.

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

AMBER LIST A summer visitor: locally common in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree.

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). First reports were a female at Balevullin Tiree on 11 Apr and a male in song at Dunoon Cowal on 12 Apr. Most reports from breeding site areas were from Mid-Argyll (8), Cowal (3), Mull (3) and North Argyll (3). A pr were feeding small young at Loch Tulla North Argyll on 28 May and a juv was seen at Lochdon Mull on 5 Aug. Last report was one at Glen Nant Mid-Argyll on 7 Aug.

Autumn No reports.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

RED LIST A sparse but widespread, summer visitor.

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas. First arrival was 1 at Balephuill Tiree on 20 Apr followed by 2 at Glendaruel Cowal on 21 Apr and 2 on The Oa Islay on 22 Apr. Most arrivals noted after 26 Apr. Only 1 pr noted on Colonsay (ex Oronsay), 11 Ters were at RSPB Loch Gruinart, 10+ Ters at Moine Mhor area Mid-Argyll and a count of up to 11 birds at Glendaruel Cowal on 2 Jul. Fledged birds noted in Mid-Argyll from 30 Jun. A count of 10 birds made along a 10 mile stretch of road on Jura on 19 Aug.

Autumn Reports reduced during Aug and only a few reports of juvs on Islay at the end of Aug with last juv noted at Craigens, Gruinart on 5 Sep. Two juvs were at Blackmill Bay Luing Mid-Argyll on 26 Aug. A late single was at Scarinish Tiree on 18 Oct.

EUROPEAN STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus*

A widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds from numerous widespread sites.

Summer/breeding On Colonsay (except Oronsay) 20 Ters located, 16 Ters on Tiree, 15 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay and 10+ Ters at Moine Mhor area Mid-Argyll. First fledged young noted on 12 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds from numerous widespread sites and 8 birds recorded at sites in Cowal, Coll and Islay.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival of an early single at Tayinloan Kintyre on 27 Feb with the next not until 1 at Loch Spelve Mull on 21 Mar with birds reaching most areas by the end of

Mar. Max counts noted were 7 at The Oa Islay on 26 Mar, an obvious influx on Tiree on 23 Apr, 12+ at Gruinart Islay on 28 Apr and a notable 'fall' of 100+ on N Iona Mull on 1 May.

Summer/breeding Widespread breeding mainly on the islands in low numbers. First fledglings on Tiree on 24 Jun, in Mid-Argyll on 25 Jun and in North Argyll on 26 Jun.

Autumn Reports from all areas. Small nos noted with highest count of 5 at Gott Bay Tiree on 27 Sep. Last report was of 1 at Ardnave Point Islay on 14 Oct.



NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Tiree Sep Jim Dickson*

'GREENLAND' WHEATEAR *Oenanthe. o. leucorhoa*

A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.

Spring Only reports of singles on Islay, Kintyre and Tiree between 23-28 Apr.

Autumn Max counts of 100+ around Tiree on 29-30 Aug and good nos on Islay with 12+ birds noted at several sites 31 Aug-6 Sep. Last report was of 2 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 14 Oct.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR* *Oenanthe isabellina*

A vagrant from SE Greece to Turkey and eastwards with no previous Argyll records. One record, at Machir Bay, Islay on 27 Nov to 3 Dec 2016.

Autumn A 1cy was at Langamull Mull on 27 Sep [David Hatfield]. Record still subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

WHITE-THROATED DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

AMBER LIST A widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from only (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Noted at 37 sites in total where 1-2 birds.

Breeding Birds noted singing in Jan and at nest sites from Mar.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull). Reports all months Jul-Dec with 1-2 birds noted. Song and display noted in Mid-Argyll on 30 Nov.



WHITE-THROATED DIPPER *Mid-Argyll Apr Jim Dickson*

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

RED LIST A *resident breeding bird commonly associated with human habitation. Distribution is rather localised in sparsely inhabited areas. Larger flocks gather in late summer and autumn where traditional agriculture persists.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Largest counts included; 80 at Gialum Bay, Gigha Kintyre on 19 Jan, 55 at Balephuill Tìree on 1 Jan and 50+ at Bruichladdich and Port Charlotte Islay on 12 Jan.

Summer/breeding First fully-fledged birds noted at Bridgend Mid-Argyll on 5 May and at Balephuill Tìree on 16 May. Max count of 90 at Ruaig Tìree on 26 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Largest counts included; 120 at Ruaig Tìree on 7 Oct, 120 at Arinagour Coll on 18 Oct and 60 at Gialum Bay, Gigha Kintyre on 3 Aug.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW* *Passer montanus*

RED LIST *Nowadays mostly a very scarce migrant but after a gap of nearly 30 years breeding was recorded on Islay in 2009.*

Spring Three were at Hynish Tìree on 28 May and 1 was at Calgary Mull on 29 May.

Autumn Five were at Octofad Islay on 20 Sep and 1 was at Balephuill Tìree on 2 Oct.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

AMBER LIST A *widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura and does not breed on Tiree. Recent observations would suggest that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats. Increased numbers in autumn presumably relate to migrants.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds noted. Most reports from Cowal, Mid-Argyll and Mull.

Summer/breeding Singing birds noted from early Mar. First fledglings noted at Caimbaan Mid-Argyll from 21 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas with most reports from Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll and Mull generally of 1-4 birds and max count of 6 at Cnoc Fada Islay on 30 Oct.

WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

RED LIST A *scarce passage migrant: birds of the Blue-headed race M. f. flava occur from time to time, and there have been at least two records of the Grey-headed race M. f. thunbergi (in 1985 and 2005).*

Spring A male *flavissima* was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 8-10 May [E & E Prince, J Bowler, I MacArthur]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



GREY WAGTAIL *Mid-Argyll Nov John Speirs*

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

RED LIST *Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tiree and Coll; some emigration in winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree). Generally, sightings of 1-2 birds however 4 birds at Loch an Torr Mull on 8 Apr. Most reports from sites in Mid-Argyll (20) and Mull (14).

Summer/breeding Limited data received. Some in prs from Mar and juvs noted from late Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Most reports from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (22), *Islay* (20) and *Kintyre* (10). Generally, only 1-2 birds noted however 4 at *Lagganulva Mull* on 13 Sep. One was at *Balephuill Tiree* on 20 Sep.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

A widespread and common breeder: absent from many areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive in late Feb to early Mar and depart Aug-Oct.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 40 at *Dervaig Mull* on 20 Mar and 11 at *Point Sands Kintyre* on 2 Jan.

Summer/breeding Prs noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May. Fledged juvs noted at *Lochbuie Mull* on 30 May, at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* on 1 Jun, at *Bridgend Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun and at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 7 Jun. Family groups noted from Jun and widespread Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max count of 65 at *Sandaig Tiree* on 8 Aug, 60 at *Dalvore*, *Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug, 45 at *Gruinart* and 35 at *Ardnave*, both *Islay* on 4 Sep and included some 'White' Wagtails.



'WHITE' WAGTAIL *Islay* Sep *Jim Dickson*

'WHITE' WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*

A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring and extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.

Spring First arrivals with 1 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 9 Mar, 2 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 25 Mar, 1 at *Stonefield Kintyre* on 31 Mar and 1 at *Sorobaiddh Bay Tiree* on 5 Apr. Exceptionally heavy passage was noted at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* during Apr/May with a total of 490 birds > N in 22 days in Apr with peak daily counts of 112 in 5hrs on 21 Apr and 80 on 25 Apr. In May 111 birds > N in with a peak daily count of 40 on 7 May. Elsewhere, higher counts included; 9 at *Sorobaiddh Bay Tiree* on 10 Apr, 10 at *Mausdale Kintyre* on 22 Apr, 17 at *Tayinloan Kintyre* on 1 May and 14 at *Portnahaven Islay* on 3 May. Last report of 1 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 11 Jun.

Autumn/winter First report of 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Aug and an Aug peak there of 12 on 26 Aug, 188 tot birds there in Sep with a daily peak of 40 on 20 Sep and a peak of 10 there on 4 Oct. Elsewhere, max counts of 15 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Sep and 10 at Rockside *Islay* on 25 Sep.

RICHARD'S PIPIT* *Anthus richardi*

A vagrant: Three records; singles on Islay, on 28 Sep 1971 and 10 Sep 1973 and on Colonsay on 18 Oct 2013.

Autumn One was by the Oronsay track, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 Oct [David Jardine, Andy Knight, Ryan Woodcock]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

AMBER LIST *An abundant breeding species: most leave higher ground and some islands in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those wintering in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low lying localities.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Only small nos during Jan-Feb. Numbers increased and passage flocks noted from late Mar to early Apr, with max 100 nr Benmore *Cowal* on 29 Mar. Flocks noted generally of 20-30 birds.

Summer/breeding Good numbers and widespread. Often the main host species of Common Cuckoo. Birds noted on eggs from mid-Apr. Large numbers of active nests on *Tiree* during May with many fledglings noted during Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Increase in numbers noted from late Jul with many flocks of 20-50 birds. Max counts were 300 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Aug and 80 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug. Numbers decreased steadily during Sep and only a few reports by Dec.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

RED LIST *A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland: also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.*

Spring summer/breeding Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First reports from Clachaig *Cowal* with 1 on 31 Mar and 3 there on 2 Apr. Most arrivals after 11 Apr on *Mull* and *Mid-Argyll*. Most reports were of birds singing in suitable habitat from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (24), *Mull* (23), *North Argyll* (11) and *Cowal* (10). Most noted at one site was 10 at Blackmount, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 21 Apr. Single birds were noted at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 18 Apr and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 Apr. Very few reported after early Jul however last bird was at Glen Lonan *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Aug.

EURASIAN ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus petrosus*

A common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn: scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 20 at Gribun *Mull* on 17 Mar and 10 at Point Sands *Kintyre* on 2 Jan. Elsewhere, counts generally low with only 1-5 birds reported at sites. One at the top of Beinn Hough *Tiree* (>100m) on 1 Jan was unusual.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Three prs at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in Jun with numerous young fledged. A count of 12 on Lunga, Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 1 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 26 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 17 Dec, 25 at Point Sands *Kintyre* on 14 Nov, 21 at Claonaig *Kintyre* on 21 Oct and 14 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-12 birds reported at sites.

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (breeds only in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather out with the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 200 at Loch Skerbolin Kintyre on 2 Jan, 60 at Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jan, 50 at Grogport Kintyre on 1 Jan and 40 at RSPB The Oa reserve *Islay* on 14 Feb.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. Birds present in breeding areas throughout Argyll and first song heard in Feb. First fledged young noted in *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jun. Max count of 30 at Bridgend *Islay* on 30 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 220 at Nearabus *Islay* on 20 Sep, 65 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Dec and 63 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers: there have been a few summer records.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). A less than average show with only single birds noted at 12 sites and most reports came from *Mid-Argyll*. Last was at Milton *Tiree* on 24 Apr, one of three passage birds noted on *Tiree* 16 Feb-24 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Mull/North Argyll*). First report of 1 at The Glebe *Tiree* on 29 Sep. Generally low numbers with only 1-5 birds noted at 12 sites however a report of 20+ birds at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 17 Nov.



HAWFINCH *Mull* May Laurence Potter

HAWFINCH* *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

RED LIST *A rare visitor: 37 records between 1953 and 2018.*

Spring A male was at Bellochantuy Kintyre on 19 Apr [Sally Nicholson] and a male was at Baile Mor, Iona Mull on 21 May [Neil Verlander, Laurence Potter *et al*]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

EURASIAN BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

AMBER LIST *A widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull. Flocks occur in winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree). Max counts of 6 at Innellan Cowal on 8 Jan, 5 at Bolsay Islay on 1 Jan and 5 at Glenegedale Islay on 17 Feb. Elsewhere, 1-4 birds at 28 sites, mostly Mid-Argyll then Mull.

Summer/breeding Limited data received. Prs noted and breeding mainly from mainland Argyll and Mull. Fledged young noted in Mid-Argyll in Jun. A female at the Glebe, Scarinish Tiree on 3 Jun is a rarity for there.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll/Tiree). Max counts of 12 at Loch Skerrols Islay on 31 Oct and 10 at Glen Finart Cowal on 19 Dec. Elsewhere, 1-4 birds at 24 sites, mostly Islay and Mid-Argyll.

COMMON ROSEFINCH* *Erythrina erythrina*

A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred: 28 records between 1989 and 2018, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.

Spring/summer A 2cy male was in song briefly at Loch an Sgoltaire Colonsay on 13 Jun [M Davison, D & J Jardine, A Middleton]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



EUROPEAN GREENFINCH *Kintyre Neil Brown*

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*

A locally common resident and partial migrant: with fewer breeding on the islands than on the mainland. Small groups are widespread outside the breeding season.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). Max counts of 8 at Glean Mor, Port Charlotte Islay on 25 Mar. Elsewhere, counts of 1-6 birds at sites in; Cowal (3), Islay (4), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (14), Mull (5), North Argyll (3) and Tiree (2).

Summer/breeding Limited data received. Juvenile birds noted on Mull from early Jun. One on Colonsay on 16 Jun was the only island record.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay). Max counts of 25 at Portavadie Cowal on 2 Nov and 6 at Craignure Mull on 21 Dec. Counts of 1-5 birds at sites in; Cowal (3), Islay (6), Jura (1), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (8), Mull (3), North Argyll (1) and Tiree (7).

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris*

RED LIST A *local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrant birds.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). All higher counts were on *The Oa Islay* where peaks of 380 on 8 Jan and 250 on 15 Mar. Away from *The Oa* 25 were at *Arднаve Islay* on 5 Jan and first returning bird at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* was on 1 Mar.

Summer/breeding Prs noted and heard singing at sites in (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*) from early Apr. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 14 Jun and young being fed on *Colonsay* on 16 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Max counts included of 340 at *Kinnabus*, *The Oa Islay* on 25 Sep, 200 at *Gruinart Islay* on 20 Sep, 120 *The Reef Tiree* on 15 Dec, 40 wintered on *Oronsay Colonsay*, 35 at *Ardalanish Bay Mull* on 15 Aug and 30 at *Connel Mid-Argyll* on 3 Dec.



COMMON LINNET *Kintyre* Mar Eddie Maguire

COMMON LINNET *Linaria cannabina*

RED LIST A *sparsely distributed partial migrant, breeding mainly on Islay, Tiree, and in Kintyre. Flocks occur locally in some areas in autumn with most reports from Colonsay, Islay and Kintyre.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/North Argyll*). All higher counts from *Islay* and peaks of 215 at *RSPB Loch Gruinart* on 14 Feb and at *RSPB Oa reserve* on 15 Mar. Elsewhere the highest count was only 8 at *Bleachfield Kintyre* on 18 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data however birds present in all areas during the summer and noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May. Fledged birds noted on *Tiree* from 31 May and at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* from 8 Jun. Higher counts all *Tiree* and *Islay*. Elsewhere, max counts of 25 at *Slockavuillin*, *Kilmartin Glen Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug and on *Luing Mid-Argyll* on 19 Aug. Flocks (up to 30 birds) noted on *Islay* from 4 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 240 at *Meningie Tiree* on 23 Aug, 240 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 29 Sep, 180 at *Saligo Bag Islay* on 2

Sep, 110 at each of The Reef *Tiree* on 16 Sep, Balemartine *Tiree* on 14 Oct and Kilnave *Islay* on 29 Dec. Max mainland count was 40 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec.

COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*

Includes Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea* & **Greenland Redpoll** *C. f. rostrata* (latter now sometimes known as *North-western Redpoll*, which includes *islandica*). A scarce passage migrant: and irregular winter visitor. Mealy has bred on *Tiree* and also suspected of breeding on other islands.

Spring/summer First arrival of 2 at The Glebe *Tiree* on 22 Apr then at four other *Tiree* sites during May. A few reports of 1-2 birds from *Mull* and *Colonsay* during May-Jun.

Breeding All reports from *Tiree*. Prs thought likely to be nesting at Balephuill/Carnan Mor, Heylipol and The Glebe in May- Jun. Fledged young noted at The Glebe from 29 Jun.

Autumn/winter All reports *Tiree* where numbers increased during Sep to a peak of 23 including juvs at Balephuill on 18-20 Sep then numbers decreased during Oct with last report of singles at The Glebe and Balephuill on 18 Oct.

Larger 'Greenland' *rostrata* type birds noted at Balephuill *Tiree* with 1 on 12th and 2 on 13 Oct.

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

RED LIST A locally common partial migrant, breeding locally: numbers fluctuate from year to year. Post breeding flocks gather from July and most birds move south for the winter.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Kintyre*). Only one report in Jan, a bird at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, one in Feb at Dervaig *Mull* on 7 Feb and 1 in Mar at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 25 Mar. Birds returned in small numbers from early Apr and higher counts of 13 at Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr and 15 at The Lodge *Coll* on 11 May.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Prs noted from suitable areas across *Argyll*. Juvs noted from early Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Flocks from early Sep. Higher counts later in the year mostly on mainland. Max counts of 140 at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Dec, 100 at Laggan wood, Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Dec, 80 nr Tarbert *Kintyre* on 21 Nov and several flocks of 50 in *Mid-Argyll* during Dec.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years, but few stay when cones are scarce.

Winter/spring No reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). No reports in Jan then most reports Apr-Jun with max counts of 31 at Achnabreck *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jun, 15 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 29 Apr and 10 at Scotmill *Kintyre* on 14 May.

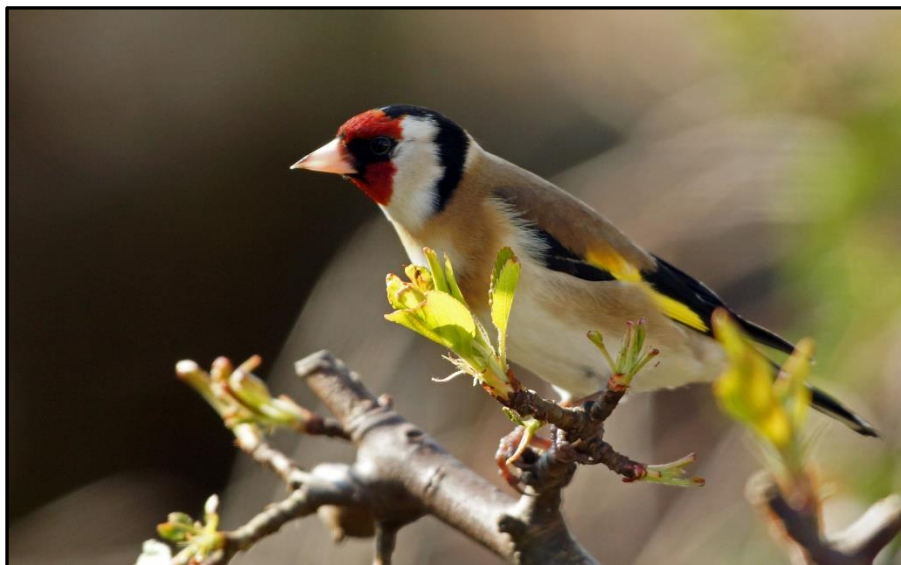
Summer/breeding No breeding data received or reports of juvenile birds.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max counts of 22 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec, 30 at Finlaggan *Islay* on 31 Dec and 15 at Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec. A single was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Aug and numbers generally low elsewhere with 1-6 birds.

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL* *Loxia leucoptera*

A scarce migrant to Scotland often following autumn irruptions from Finland and NW Russia. No previous Argyll records.

Autumn An adult female was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 10 Aug [John Bowler, Janet Hunter]. Record was accepted by the BBRC and becomes a new species for *Argyll*.



EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Mid-Argyll* Apr *Jim Dickson*

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

A widely distributed resident with recent breeding on Coll, Colonsay and sporadically on Tiree. Flocks occur in autumn.

Winter/spring No reports from (*Colonsay*). Several reports of small nos in Jan including 20 at *Innellen Cowal* on 11 Jan and unusually high numbers for *Tiree* with 15 at *Balinoe* on 21 Jan. Numbers remained low until early Apr then higher counts of 30 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 5 Apr and 30 at *Kilchoman Islay* on 30 May.

Summer/breeding No breeding data other than fledglings noted from late Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Flocks sizes increased during late Aug-Sep, most of 20-40 birds and max counts of 110 at *Loch Gorm Islay* on 2 Sep, 86 at *Carsaig Bay Mull* on 16 Nov and 50 at *Port Righ, Carradale Kintyre* on 21 Aug.

EURASIAN SISKIN *Spinus spinus*

A locally common partial migrant: present in all areas apart from Coll and Tiree where it is an occasional visitor. Numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on cone crops.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (25), *Mull* (20) and *Cowal* (11). Generally low numbers reported with a max of only 10+ noted at *Loch an Torr Mull* on 8 Apr. One report from *Tiree* of a male at *Carnan Mor* on 24 Apr.

Summer/breeding Higher counts, all *Mid-Argyll*, included 20 at *Minard* on 4 Jul, 15 at *Arduaine* on 6 Jul and 14 at *Balvicar* on 30 Jun. Several prs with juvs noted at *Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll* from early Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Ten flocks of 30 or more noted. Max counts of 100+ at *Craigendive, Loch Striven Cowal* on 15 Dec and in *Mid-Argyll* with 80 at *Inverneill* on 10 Dec and 80 at *Crinan* on 11 Dec. A flock of 30 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 29 Oct was notable.



EURASIAN SISKIN *Mid-Argyll Jun Jim Dickson*

LAPLAND BUNTING* *Calcarius lapponicus*

AMBER LIST A scarce *passage migrant*: recorded most frequently in autumn.

Autumn/winter Only three reports, all singles from Tìree at Beinn Hough on 5 Sep, at West Hynish on 7 Sep and at Vaul on 4 Nov.



SNOW BUNTING *Tìree Oct John Bowler*

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

RED LIST Occurring annually in varying numbers (on passage and in winter); along the coast and in the hills and has probably bred in North Argyll.

Winter/spring Only four reports. Singles at Clachandhu, Gribun *Mull* on 17 Mar, Craignure *Mull* on 4 Apr, at the summit of Beinn a Lochain *Cowal* on 12 Apr and 2 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 11 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrival of 1 at Beinn Hough *Tiree* on 1 Oct. Elsewhere, 20 reports generally of 1-4 birds and peak counts of 6 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 18 Oct, 15 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 21 Oct, 62 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 30 Oct, 6 at Meal Mor, Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov and 26 at Machrie *Islay* on 23 Nov.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

RED LIST A *localised resident which is absent from Coll and Tiree and appears to be declining elsewhere. Currently, most birds breed near the coast. All records are welcome.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max count of 7 at Ardnahoe *Islay* on 25 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of only 1-4 birds at 12 sites.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received. No reports received during May. A juv was at Rhuvaal lighthouse *Islay* on 27 Jun. Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in *Islay, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts of 12 at Kildalton *Islay* on 22 Oct and 7 at Ormsary *Kintyre* on 27 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of only 1-5 birds at 10 sites.

COMMON REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

AMBER LIST A *locally distributed resident breeder: while nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas and generally widespread with mostly 1-3 birds at sites. Max counts of 20 at Achafolla, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb, 10 at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay* Jan-Mar and 8 at Gott tip *Tiree* on 11 Feb.

Summer/breeding Singing males noted from early mid-Mar. On *Colonsay* (excluding *Oronsay*) 29 Ters located late Apr, 27 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 15 scattered prs noted across *Tiree* and 3 Ters at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas and generally widespread in small nos of 1-6 birds at sites. Max counts of 20 at Kilnave *Islay* on 24 Oct, 16 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct, 12 at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay* on 27 Sep and 10 at the Glebe, Scarinish *Tiree* on 18 Oct.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW* *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

A North American vagrant: Four previous Scottish records and no Argyll records..

Spring/summer An adult was at Risabus, The Oa *Islay* on 12 Jun [Bonnie Wood]. Record was accepted by the BBRC and becomes a new species for Argyll. (Article: **Scottish Birds** Vol 40 (1) pp 79-80)



WHITE - CROWNED SPARROW *Islay Jun Bonnie Wood*

Escapes and Introductions

This section includes species which are not on the British list or whose occurrence in the UK is EXCLUSIVELY within Categories B, D or E. Other species, whose occurrence in Argyll arises partly or wholly from introduced birds which may not or do not form self-sustaining breeding populations, include White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin Duck, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). These are dealt with in the main systematic list.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus astratus*

Summer/autumn One was at Linne na Craige, Loch Etive Mid-Argyll Jul – Oct at least.



BLACK SWAN *Mid-Argyll* Oct John Speirs

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Winter A pair were at Cornabus, The Oa Islay on 16-18 Dec (Ed Burrell).



RUDDY SHELDUCKS *Islay* Dec Ed Burrell

List of Rejected Records, Pending Records and Records for which Details are Still Awaited

Please note that the records below are listed for information purposes only, and do not form part of the data set for the years in question.

The following records of species on the ABRC, SBRC or BBRC lists have been found ‘not proven’ since the publication of ABR 30.

Species	Recording area	Date(s)	Committee
White-billed Diver	<i>Kintyre</i>	13.02.08	BBRC
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Kintyre</i>	08.06.19	BBRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>North Argyll</i>	10.08.19	ABRC
Marsh Tit	<i>Islay</i>	07.09.19	ABRC

Most records are found ‘not proven’ not because the committee in question is convinced that a mistake has been made, but because the evidence provided is insufficient to establish the identification.

Details of the following claimed 2019 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.

Species	Place	Recording Area	Date(s)
‘Todd’s’ Canada Goose	Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	20.10.19
Cackling Goose	Loch Indaal	<i>Islay</i>	21.10.19
Lesser Whitethroat	Nr Craignure	<i>Mull</i>	14.05.19
Yellow Wagtail	Location?	<i>Mull</i>	02.05.19



CURLEWS *Tiree Oct Richard Whitson*

Getting Involved

Argyll Bird Club The ABC is a registered charity with membership open to all. The club aims to promote an interest in birds in Argyll. We are a friendly club for anybody interested in wild birds, living in, or visiting, Argyll, irrespective of their level of knowledge, experience or skill. Visitors are more than welcome to our two annual indoor meetings which are all-day events held on a Saturday in spring and autumn. The club produces a quarterly magazine, '*The Eider*' and also has a website with sections on 'Recent Sightings' with photographs, News with details of upcoming meetings and trips, 'Publications' and 'Surveys'. Volunteers are always welcome to help with committee matters, bird recording and the website and to contribute to *The Eider*.

Scottish Ornithologists Club The SOC exists to promote the study, enjoyment and conservation of wild birds and their habitats across Scotland and is a birdwatching club with 15 local branches across the country and a growing membership of over 3,000. Like-minded individuals with a passion for birds, nature and conservation are brought together through a programme of talks, outings, conferences and via the Club's quarterly members' journal, *Scottish Birds*. The SOC acts as the umbrella organisation for bird recording in Scotland, managing the network of recording birds in Scotland, or the Local Recorders' Network and the Scottish Birds Records Committee, the latter of which maintains the official Scottish List on behalf of the Club. The database of information Local Recorders collect is an extremely important archive of local bird information – a critical tool for their future conservation.

British Trust for Ornithology Through the efforts of volunteers participating in BTO surveys, the bird populations of the British Isles have been monitored more effectively and for longer than those of most other parts of the world. This has produced a uniquely rich and detailed body of scientific work. This will help us to understand the complex challenges facing wild birds at a time of great change in the environment. Volunteer surveyors, members and staff work in partnership to provide unbiased information about birds and their habitats.

In Argyll we have many volunteers who participate in the following surveys and you can get involved by contacting the bird recorder or any of the BTO representatives given on page 2:

BirdTrack is an exciting project, through a partnership between the BTO, the RSPB, Birdwatch Ireland, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society, that looks at migration movements and distributions of birds throughout Britain and Ireland. BirdTrack provides facilities for observers to store and manage their own personal records as well as using these to support species conservation at local, regional, national, and international scales.

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common breeding birds. It is a national volunteer project aimed at keeping track of changes in the breeding populations of widespread bird species in the UK. Wild bird populations are an important indicator of the health of the countryside, and knowing to what extent bird populations are increasing or decreasing is fundamental to bird conservation.

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and identify important sites for waterbirds.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to all those individuals who submitted records in various formats to either the BTO BirdTrack, the Argyll recording system or to the Argyll bird recorders directly. Also, to the various organisations including, the RSPB, BTO, SNH, SOC, Forestry Commission/Land Scotland, Scottish and Argyll raptor monitoring schemes, Treshnish Isles Auk ringing group and Lorn Natural History Group. Grateful thanks to the volunteers who placed records onto the Argyll bird database; Morag Rea (from Eddie Maguire's Machrihanish SBO and John Bowler's Tiree monthly reports) and Peter and Dorothy Hogbin (for Mull records from Alan Spellman's Mullbirds website). Ian Brooke provided many Islay records from his Islay birds blog. Richard Wesley kindly submitted many records to BirdTrack from various bird and wildlife facebook groups in Argyll. John Bowler provided Tiree reports and checked Tiree bird data, David Jardine provided raptor study group and Colonsay Chough data as well as Colonsay breeding bird data and Eric Bignal provided the Islay Chough data. Many thanks also to Malcolm Chattwood who ably manages the database putting all the above records which are in various formats together, and to the Argyll Bird Records Committee which in 2019 comprised, John Bowler, Stuart Crutchfield, David Jardine, Malcolm Ogilvie and Andy Robinson.

The following folk kindly gave permission for their photographs to be used and greatly enrich this report; Bill Anderson, John Bowler, Neil Brown, Ed Burrell, Phill Catton, Keith Gillon, Lizzy Grieve, Kevin Hamilton, Angus Hogg, Rudolf Hummel, Eddie Maguire, Ewan Miles, George Newall, Mike Peacock, Mike Pearson, Laurence Potter, Peter Roberts, John Speirs, D & R Wainwright, Richard Whitson, Bonnie Wood and Jenny Woodward.

Jim Dickson (May 2020)

Argyll Bird Club

Scottish Charity Number SC008782

Founded in 1985, the Argyll Bird Club aims to promote interest in and conservation of Argyll's wild birds and their natural environment. The rich diversity of habitats in the county supports an exceptional variety of bird life. Many sites in Argyll are of international importance. The Club brings together people with varied experience, from complete beginners to experts, and from all walks of life. New members are particularly welcome.

Activities

Every spring and autumn there is a one-day meeting with illustrated talks and other activities. These meetings are held in conveniently central locations. Throughout the year there are field trips to local and more distant sites of interest.

Publications

The annual journal of the Club is the *Argyll Bird Report*, containing the Systematic List of all species recorded in the county during the year, together with reports and articles. The less formal quarterly newsletter, *The Eider*, gives details of forthcoming events and activities, reports of recent meetings, bird sightings, field trips, articles, and shorter items by members and others.

Website

www.argyllbirdclub.org

ARGYLL BIRD CLUB Membership Application Form

www.argyllbirdclub.org
Scottish Charity number SC008782



To apply for membership, please complete this form and send it to the Membership Secretary Dorothy Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8XN

Tel: 01499 500665 e-mail: membership@argyllbirdclub.org

I/we wish to apply for membership of the Argyll Bird Club

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone number(s) _____

e-mail: _____

Please pay by bank transfer to Argyll Bird Club

Sort code 80-08-86 account number 00121406

or by cheque payable to Argyll Bird Club and post to the above address

or by standing order – please complete the form and return to the Membership Secretary

Annual subscription (please tick box)

Ordinary	£10	[]
Junior (25 and under)	free	
Family	£15	[]
Corporate	£25	[]

Main Argyll Birdwatching Sites

Listed under the ten regions of Argyll (see map, next page)

COLL 1.Tottronald RSPB Reserve

TIREE 2.Balephetrish Bay 3.Balephuill & Carnan Mor 4.Gott Bay 5.Loch a' Phuill 6.Loch an Eilein 7.Loch Bhasapol 8.Sorobaidh Bay 9.Traigh Bhagh/The Reef

COLONSAY 10.Colonsay House Woodlands 11.Loch Fada (East, Middle & West) 12.Oronsay 13.The Strand & Garvard

COWAL 14.Benmore Gardens 15.Holy Loch & Dunoon coast 16.Loch Eck & Glenbranter Forest 17.Loch Long, Strone Point to Ardentinn 18.Otter Ferry & Loch Fyne 19.Tighnabruaich, Kames & Kyles of Bute

ISLAY 20.Ardnave Loch & Point 21.Bridgend Woods & Loch Skerrols 22.Frenchman's Rocks 23.Loch Gorm 24.Loch Gruinart 26.Machir Bay 27.The Oa peninsula

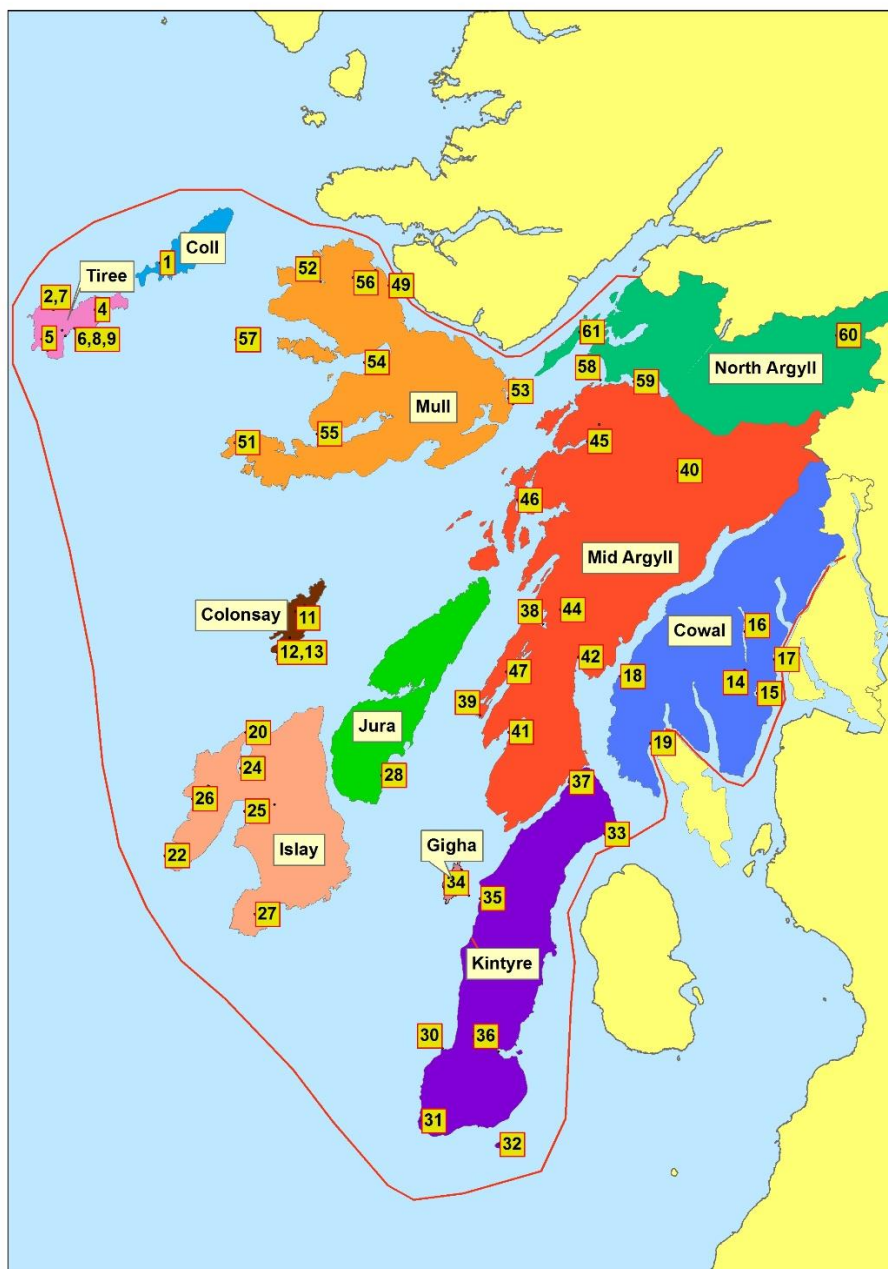
JURA 28.Craighouse & Small Isles Bay

KINTYRE & GIGHA 29.Campbeltown Loch 30.Machrihanish SBO (Seabird Observatory) 31.Mull of Kintyre 32.Sanda Islands 33.Skipness & Bay 34.Sound of Gigha 35.Tayinloan & Rhunahaorine Point 36.The Laggan 37.West Loch Tarbert

MID-ARGYLL 38.Add Estuary & Loch Crinan 39.Loch Sween, Danna & Ulva Lagoons 40.Loch Awe 41.Loch Caolisport 42.Loch Gilp 43.Loch Nell 44.Moine Mhor NNR (National Nature Reserve) 45.Loch Feochan 46.Seil Island & Isle of Luing 47.Taynish NNR

MULL 48.Aros Park & Tobermory 49.Calgary & Treshnish 50.Grasspoint 51.Iona 52.Loch a' Chumbahainn ('Loch Cuin') 53.Loch Don 54.Loch na Keal 55.Loch Scridain 56.Mishnish Lochs 57.Treshnish Isles

NORTH ARGYLL 58.Ledaig Point & Ardmucknish Bay 59.Loch Etive 60.Loch Tulla 61.Lismore 62.Loch Creran & Loch Laich



Ten regions of Argyll and main birdwatching sites