

# Argyll Bird Report

## 2020



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**The Thirty Second  
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT  
With Systematic List for the year  
2020**



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**FRONT COVER:** Red-throated Diver *Tom Lilley*

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# Introduction

Welcome to the 2020 (32<sup>nd</sup>) Argyll Bird Report and a big thank you to everyone who has kindly provided a total of 40,000+ records over the year to make this report possible. Feedback on this PDF format had been very positive and one of the several benefits enables a production almost a year earlier than for previous 'hard' copies. Also, by concentrating solely on the systematic list of species, papers, articles and ringing report summaries can now appear in the quarterly bird club 'Eider' magazine.

Birdwatching and bird recording in 2020 was challenging for everyone due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, particularly in early spring, just as summer migrants were arriving and the breeding season was getting underway. Visits to monitor seabirds on the Sanda and the Treshnish Isles perhaps felt the main impact as did the cancellation of other survey work and the early Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) however the later visits thankfully were allowed. On a more positive note, there were numerous examples and anecdotal reports of more people enjoying bird song and engaging with birds and nature and often experiencing a deeper appreciation of locations closer to home.

During the summer, bird club volunteers carried out a useful survey of the Common Swift which are just hanging on as a breeding species in Argyll. This has highlighted the need for more nest box provision, which the bird club has agreed to help provide if requested by members. It appears that some owl and raptor species had a good productive breeding season due to plentiful food availability in summer. Nuthatches continue to extend their range and a survey is being undertaken during March to June 2021. A national survey of the Honey-buzzard had been planned for summer 2020 but was partially curtailed, again due to travel restrictions, and is now extended to summer 2021. Despite several visits to a few suitable areas none were found in 2020 but this secretive raptor could well occur in some Argyll forests and volunteers are encouraged to get in touch regarding survey areas in 2021.

Rare bird highlights of the year exceeded all expectations for one dedicated and skilful observer on Tiree, who not only added four potential new species to the Argyll list in as many weeks, but found a real gem, which was not only new for Britain but also the Western Palearctic!

On the flip side some expected species failed to appear such as Red-necked Grebe, Green Woodpecker, Hobby, Golden Oriole and Reed Warbler while others such as Common Pochard, Quail, Little Stint and Waxwing just scraped in an appearance. North American waders were in short supply and numbers of wintering duck species such as Scaup and Goldeneye continue to decline in some places. Yellow-browed Warblers put in a record appearance and there were much higher than average numbers of Green Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Pied Flycatcher, Hawfinch and Rosy Starling. Hopefully, these accounts and excellent photographs in this report, will inspire you to record and submit your sightings this year.

Jim Dickson (March 2021)

# 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 40,000 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 3, 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 #

Taiga Bean Goose

Tundra Bean Goose

European White-fronted Goose

(race *albifrons*)

Bewick's Swan

Egyptian Goose

American Wigeon

Green-winged Teal

Garganey (lone females/juveniles)

Red-crested Pochard

Ring-necked Duck

Surf Scoter (except adult males)

Smew

Ruddy Duck

White-billed Diver

Wilson's Petrel #

Cory's Shearwater #

Great Shearwater #

Balearic Shearwater

Great Cormorant (race *sinensis*)

Eurasian Bittern

Night-heron #

Cattle Egret #

Great White Egret

Purple Heron #

White Stork  
Glossy Ibis  
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 2020

~ January ~

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male from 2019 remained at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* until 30 Mar. **RING-NECKED DUCK** A pair from 2019 remained at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* until 15 Apr. **'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** One from 2019 remained around north *Tiree* until 19 Mar. **CAKCLING GOOSE** One from 2019 on Oronsay, *Colonsay* remained until 12 Jan at least and one was at Redhouses to Ballygrant area *Islay* from 2019 until 17 Mar. **RUDDY SHELDUCK** Two were at Clochkeil, north Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 10 Jan-5 Feb. **'DARK'-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** Four were at Gartbreck *Islay* on 8 Jan. **WAXWING** One was at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan. **MEDITERANEAN GULL** An adult was at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Jan. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** A peak of eight were at Loch Long *Cowal* on 23 Jan.

~ February ~

**LITTLE AUK** One was off Aird *Tiree* on 4 Feb. **PIED-BILLED GREBE** The long staying male was again at Loch Feorlin, *Mid-Argyll* from 7 Feb. **TREE SPARROW** One was at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* from 19 Feb.

~ March ~

**MARSH HARRIER** A male was at Ardmaddy *Mid-Argyll* on 3-6 Mar and a female was at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 11 Mar and a male nearby on 13 Mar. **LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at Coullabus *Islay* on 9 Mar. **RED KITE** One was at Dervaig *Mull* on 21 Mar, nr Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 21 Mar and one was at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 22 Mar. **SAND MARTIN** and **WHEATEAR** First reports from 21 Mar. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** Another male joined the long staying male at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Mar. **STOCK DOVE** One was at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay* on 26 Mar. **MARSH HARRIER** A male was at Sunderland *Islay* on 29 Mar. **HAWFINCH** One was at Melldalloch *Cowal* on 30 Mar. **LITTLE EGRET** Up to 11 birds reported this month from across Argyll.

~ April ~

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** One was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 1-28 Apr. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Apr. **RED KITE** One was at North Connel *North Argyll* on 12 Apr. **PIED FLYCATCHER** First of several spring reports from 15 Apr. **WILLOW WARBLER** A 'fall' of at least 100 birds around Machrihanish links *Kintyre* on 17 Apr. **BLACK REDSTART** One was at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 17 Apr. **LITTLE GULL** An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr. **STONE-CURLEW** One was at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 19 Apr. **MARSH HARRIER** a female was near Heylipol Church *Tiree* on 21 Apr. **HAWFINCH** One was at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 23-24 Apr and one was at Arinagour *Coll* on 18-23 Apr. **WAXWING** One was at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 20-24 Apr. **'DARK'-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** One was off Port Ellen *Islay* on 23 Apr.

~ May ~

**COMMON CRANE** One was nr Stewarton *Kintyre* on 4 May. **GARGANEY** A pair were at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 5 May. **HAWFINCH** One was at Salen *Mull* on 9 & 21 May. **HOOPOE**

One was at Lochdon *Mull* on 13 May. **RUDDY SHELDUCK** One was at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 14-15 May. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 May. **DOTTEREL** One was in central *Cowal* on 15 May. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** A first-year male was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 19 May. **ICTERINE WARBLER** One was at Meningie *Tiree* on 21 May. **MARSH HARRIER** One was at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 21 & 28 May.

~ June ~

**BLACK REDSTART** One was at Balinoe *Tiree* on 1 Jun. **TURTLE DOVE** One was at Lochdon *Mull* on 1 Jun. **WOOD SANDPIPER** Two were at a site in *North Argyll* and one was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Jun. **ROSY STARLING** One was at Torrisadale *Kintyre* on 2-5 Jun and one was at Friesland Bay *Coll* on 4 Jun. **GARGANEY** A male was in central *Tiree* on 8 Jun. **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 12 Jun. **HAWINCH** One was nr Colintrave *Cowal* on 15-16 Jun. **ROSY STARLING** One was in Bowmore *Islay* and remained until Oct. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** One was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun. **BONAPARTE'S GULL** One was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun until 25 Aug. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** An adult male was in Salen *Mull* on 23 Jun. **ROSY STARLING** One was on Oronsay *Colonsay* from 24 Jun, one was at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* from 27 Jun and one was near Bunesan *Mull* on 29 Jun. **QUAIL** One was heard at a site in *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 28 Jun. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** One was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Jun and a new bird was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jun.

~ July ~

**MARSH HARRIER** One was near Bunesan *Mull* on 2 Jul. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** One was at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jul. **ROSY STARLING** One was at Carradale *Kintyre* on 13 Jul and one was at Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jul.

~ August ~

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** One was at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* 6 Aug. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 6 Aug. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** Two were seen from the ferry between *Mull* and *Coll* on 8 Aug. **LITTLE GULL** A 2cy was at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* from 14 Aug. **GREAT WHITE EGRET** One was at the head of Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug -9 Sep. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** One was off Iona *Mull* on 17 Aug. **WRYNECK** One was at St Columba's Bay Iona *Mull* and a **GREEN SANDPIPER** on Iona *Mull* on 18 Aug. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** One was off Inverneil *Mid-Argyll* and three were off Hynish *Tiree* on 20 Aug. **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 20 Aug. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** A 1cy was at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug. **LITTLE STINT** One was at Vault *Tiree* and a **CURLEW SANDPIPER** at Gott Bay *Tiree* both on 24 Aug. **TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL** A male was at Dervaig *Mull* on 24-28 Aug. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** One was at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 24-25 Aug. **MARSH HARRIER** One was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug and again nearby at Drimvore on 26 Aug. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** One was at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 28 Aug. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Sorisdale *Coll* on 26 Aug and one was at Craignes, Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Aug. **BONAPARTE'S GULL** An adult was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Aug -11 Sep **SABINE'S GULL** A juv passed Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 28 Aug. **WHITE-BILLED DIVER** An adult flew south at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 29 Aug. **CURLEW**

**SANDPIPER** Two were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Aug and one was at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 31 Aug.

~ *September* ~

**GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 1 Sep. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 1 Sep and up to fifteen seen from *Tiree* in Sep-Oct. **SABINE'S GULL** Two juvs were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and a juv passed Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 4 Sep. **LEACH'S PETREL** One passed Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 4 Sep and 22 passed Aird *Tiree* on 5 Sep. **ROSEATE TERN** One was off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Sep. **LAPLAND BUNTING** Singles were at Sandaig *Tiree* on 5 Sep and at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Sep. **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** A juv was at Loch na Cille, Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 8-17 Sep. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** Two were off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*, two off Caliach Point *Mull* and two off Aird *Tiree* on 9 Sep. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** Seven juvs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep. **LEACH'S PETREL** One was off Vaul *Tiree* and two off Caliach Point *Mull* on 9 Sep. **GREY PHALAROPE** One was off Caliach Point *Mull* on 9 Sep. **GLOSSY IBIS** A 1cy was at Craigens *Islay* on 11-15 Sep. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** Singles were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 10-17 and 19-24 Sep. **LITTLE GULL** One was at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Dervaig *Mull* on 14 Sep. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** A juv was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Sep. **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15-23 Sep. **TURTLE DOVE** One was at Caliach *Mull* on 16 Sep and one was at Arinagour *Coll* on 17 Sep. **LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at Crossapol *Coll* on 18 Sep. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** An adult was at Sandaig *Tiree* on 21-22 Sep. **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** A 1cy was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 22-23 Sep. **MARSH WARBLER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 Sep. **HOOPOE** One was at Bridgend *Islay* from 25 Sep. **SURF SCOTER** A 1cy was at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 27-30 Sep. **LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at Balnahard *Colonsay* on 27 Sep. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** The first of 37 *Argyll* records this autumn was a single at Heylipol *Tiree* on 27 Sep. **GOSHAWK** One was at Dereach *Mull* on 29 Sep. **RING-NECKED DUCK** A 1cy fem was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 29 Sep.

~ *October* ~

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** Record numbers with four on *Coll*, 16 on *Islay*, one on *Mull* and 16 on *Tiree*. **CACKLING GOOSE** Two were at Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Oct then various reports of singles across *Islay* Oct-Dec. **POCHARD** A male was at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 1 Oct. **SABINE'S GULL** A juv was off Caliach Point *Mull* on 9 Oct. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** One was off Aird *Tiree* on 9 Oct. **RING-NECKED DUCK** A 1cy male was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 11-15 Oct. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Meningie *Tiree* on 11 Oct and one was at the Glebe *Tiree* on 12 Oct. **RED KITE** One was at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Oct and one was at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 12 Oct. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* 11-30 Oct. **RED KITE** one was at Salen *Mull* on 13 Oct. **MARSH HARRIER** One was at Auchalick Bay *Cowal* on 13 Oct. **DUSKY WARBLER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct. **RING OUZEL** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Oct and one was at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 25 Oct. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** One was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Oct and two there on 18 Oct. **LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at Kinnabus *Islay* on 16 Oct. **'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** Two noted across *Islay* from 18 Oct. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** A 1cy was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Oct. **COMMON SWIFT** One was at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 22 Oct and a recently dead bird was found at Ardrihaig *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct. **SOOTY**

**SHEARWATER** Two passed Aird *Tiree* on 26 Oct. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Oct. **SABINE'S GULL** An adult was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Oct. **LEACH'S PETREL** One passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and also **LITTLE GULL** adult there on 26 Oct. **AMERICAN WIGEON** A male was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* from 27 Oct. **BLACK-HEADED BUNTING** A 1cy was at Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Oct. **LEACH'S PETREL** One was at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 28 Oct. **RING-NECKED DUCK** An adult fem was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* from 30 Oct. **LITTLE GULL** A 1cy was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Oct. **LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at Loch Tarbert *Jura* on 30 Oct.

~ *November* ~

**HUME'S LEAF WARBLER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Oct -3 Nov. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 and 13 Nov. **BLACK REDSTART** One was at Totronald *Coll* on 3 Nov. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** A juv was at Crossapol *Tiree* on 4-9 Nov. **'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** A returning bird was in NW *Tiree* from 5 Nov with another in East *Tiree* from 9 Nov. **RED KITE** One was at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov. **FIRECREST** A male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 & 15 Nov. **GREY PHALAROPE** One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 11 Nov. **BLACK REDSTART** One was at Finlaggan *Islay* on 13 Nov. **SNOW BUNTING** Two were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Nov. **'CONTINENTAL' CORMORANT** One was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov. **RING-NECKED DUCK** The adult fem at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* was joined by a drake from 19 Nov and by a second adult fem from 25 Nov. **PINE BUNTING** A 1cy male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Nov.

~ *December* ~

**LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 3 Dec. **JACK SNIBE** At least seven were around Kinnabus farm, The Oa *Islay* on 6 Dec. **CAACKLING GOOSE** A returning bird again on Oronsay *Colonsay* from 9 Dec. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** An adult was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Dec. **LITTLE GULL** An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec. **RING-NECKED DUCK** Three (male and two fems) remained on *Tiree* in to 2021. **BONAPARTE'S GULL** An adult was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 17-18 Dec.



**Little Egret** *Steve Carter*

## 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                                   |
| n/c              | no count  |
| 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. |
| > SW 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 2020

The following systematic list includes entries for 236 Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2020 (*cf.* average 222 species during the years 1993- 2018). This is the same total as last year (adjusted after removing Isabelline Wheatear which was later found 'not-proven' by the BBRC), but just short of the record 240 species in 2014. Four new species were added to the list in 2020 (Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Dusky Warbler, Hume's Leaf Warbler and Pine Bunting) two of which are still subject to acceptance by the BBRC. If all are accepted that would take the Argyll list to 365 species.

*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** (*B. b. hrota*)

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Max counts of 741 on *Tiree* on 15 Apr (555 at The Green, 170 at Vaul, 16 at Hynish) were unusually high nos of return passage birds. On *Islay* a max of 52 at Loch Indaal on 12 Jan. Elsewhere, 2 at were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5-9 Apr, and 1 >S there on 18 Apr, 1 at An Lodan, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 8-10 Mar and 2 at Easdale, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May. Last report was of 4 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 20 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals were 2 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Aug, 9 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 4 Sep, 34 >S at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 4 Sep and 19 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Sep. Max counts of 121 (grounded in mist) at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, 100 at Gartmain *Islay* on 3 Oct and 35 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Sep. Reports of only 1-2 birds from sites Nov-Dec.

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

**Winter/spring** Four were at Gortain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 Jan. One, with a 'Pale-bellied' bird, at Kilnaughton Bay, Port Ellen *Islay* on 23 Apr.

### **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 except (*Jura*). Max counts of 410 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 174 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Mar, 124 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Mar, 120 at Kilmore *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan, 103 on *Colonsay* on 9 Jan, 98 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Jan and 82 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 1 Feb. Generally, counts of only 1-50 elsewhere but included 15 on *Coll* on 17 Mar. Max of 8 appeared on *Tiree* on 14 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Most reports from mainland Argyll. Most breeding reports from *Mid-Argyll* where first occupied nest noted on 14 Apr, 10 prs at the Add Estuary and first broods seen on 2 May. A pr with a b/3 at Loch Cliad *Coll* on 11 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Most reports from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Max counts of 390 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Nov, 300 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 5 Nov, 241 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct, 182 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Dec, 170 at Loch Laich, Appin *North Argyll* on 13 Dec, 150 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov and 132 at Gorsten *Mull* on 14 Dec.

**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 Todd's type was reported from several sites on *Islay* 17 Jan-20 Mar. One (from 2019) remained on *Tiree* until 19 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** Up to 3 Todd's type birds on *Islay* on 18 Oct-19 Nov. One at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 18 Oct showed a black throat stripe similar to a Taverner's type, but is included here as Todd's due to size and was reported again at Bridgend on 23 Oct and possibly same at The Oa in Nov. Two together at Bridgend on 24 Oct, otherwise all reports across several locations were of singles. One, presumed returning, Todd's type was at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 5 Nov then seen at various sites across NW *Tiree* until the year end with a second almost identical bird at sites in East *Tiree* from 9 Nov until the year end. All reports subject to acceptance by the BBRC.



**Barnacle Geese** *Islay* Mar 2020 *Steve Carter*

**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*). Max Argyll total count (per NatureScot/ International goose counts) of 43,782 on 17-18 Mar. Max regional counts of 33,202 on *Islay* on 17-18 Mar and 5,656 on *Tiree* on 19-20 Mar. Elsewhere, 540 on Island of

Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan, 490 nr Golf Cse *Colonsay* on 10 Jan and 340 on Isle of Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Feb. Most birds had departed by mid-Apr. Last report of 11 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 May.

**Breeding/summer** One (injured?) was at Vaul *Tiree* on 2 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrival of 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Sep then 189 there by 26 Sep, 1,075 by 2 Oct and first big arrivals of 9,320 by 6 Oct and 20,740 by 27 Oct. Elsewhere, max counts on *Tiree* of 5,557 on 14-15 Dec, 475 on Isle of Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov, 400 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 13 Oct and 300 at Island of Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov.

### **CAACKLING 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** Singles from 2019, with one in the Redhouses to Ballygrant area, then at Bridgend merse *Islay* from 1 Jan-17 Mar and one on Oronsay *Colonsay* from 1-12 Jan. Records subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

**Autumn/winter** Two were reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Oct, then numerous reports of presumably the same 1-2 birds ranging from the Loch Gorm area across to Ballygrant, where last report was on 8 Dec. One was again on Oronsay *Colonsay* from 9 Dec. Records subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

### **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 on *Coll* continues to decrease with now only 8 noted on 11 Mar and 7 on 20 Oct. No reports of breeding.

### **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** Max Argyll total count (per NatureScot/ International goose counts) of 5,747 on 17-18 Mar. Higher regional counts of 2,879 on mainland Argyll on 5 Feb, 2,243 on *Tiree* on 22 Jan and 2,223 in *Kintyre* on 18 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding reports only from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) however presumably present in all regions. First broods noted at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May and on *Tiree* on 14 May. Higher WeBS counts on *Tiree* with many young noted of 435 on 8 Jun and 646 on 6 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Winter counts across Argyll incomplete or suspended. Max count of 2,704 on *Tiree* (all island) count on 14-15 Dec.

## **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 (*Jura*). Small nos of 1-12 birds wintered in some areas and a max of 30 at Drumlemble *Kintyre* in Jan. Return passage flocks noted heading NW from 27 Mar, with 60 over Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* and a max over there of 150 on 3 May. Elsewhere, higher counts of 60 >N at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 3 Apr, 58 at Treshnish Farm *Mull* on 13 Apr, 55 >N at *Tiree* on 13 Apr and 55 >N at Kilmory Bay, Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May.

**Summer** Single birds noted at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* (sick) on 14 Jun, at head of Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 9 Jul and at Loch Peallach *Mull* on 13 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Autumn arrivals from 10 Sep with 1 at Drumlemble *Kintyre*, 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Sep and 4 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 Sep. Notable passage over Argyll with many flocks noted from (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) totalling 488 on 16 Sep. On *Tiree* an island count of 700 on 23 Sep (departed overnight) and 609 on 24 Sep in flocks of up to 288 >S. Elsewhere, highest counts of 150 >S over Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Sep and 130 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Sep. Only small nos of 1-15 birds noted at sites until year end.

## **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 Argyll total count (per NatureScot/ International goose counts) of 9,585 on 18-19 Mar. Max regional counts of 5,910 on *Islay* on 17 Mar, 3,234 on mainland Argyll on 9 Jan, 2,348 in *Kintyre* on 18 Mar, 1,011 on *Coll & Tiree* on 17-20 Mar, 116 nr Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb and 28 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 20 Jan. Only 5 at the Moine Mhor area *Mid-Argyll*. Most departing passage from late Mar and most away by 10 Apr, with last report of 2 at Kenovay *Tiree* on 20 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Cowal*). First arrivals noted were 19 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Oct, 40 there on 8 Oct and 3 at Hynish *Tiree* on 9 Oct. Max counts of 6,350 on *Islay* on 15 Dec, 1,794 on mainland Argyll on 13 Dec, 1,050 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 15 Nov, 886 on *Tiree* on 14-15 Dec, 256 on *Coll* on 14 Dec, 116 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec and a total of 33 in *North Argyll* in Nov. On *Mull* 16 were at Craignure Golf Cse on 2 Nov and 5 at Loch Pottie on 6 Dec. At the Moine Mhor area *Mid-Argyll* only 4 (2 ads+2 juvs) there from 22 Nov.

## **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 (*Colonsay/Jura*). Max counts of 37 on *Tiree* on 5 Feb, 12 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, 9 at Ardencaple Ho., Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan and 7 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of up to 6 birds, with most counts of 1-2 birds.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). On *Tiree* 10 prs at 7 sites and a max count of 35 birds on 6 Jul. First broods noted on *Tiree* on 27 May and an ad

with 6 cygnets at Tarbert *Kintyre* on 27 May. At least one brood of 8 and two of 7 noted, however most broods noted were 4-6 young.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Max counts of 67 on *Tiree* on 26 Aug, 27 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Oct, 19 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Nov, 18 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 27 Oct and 16 at Loch Caithlim, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov.



**Mute Swans** *Mid-Argyll* Oct 2020 *Jim Dickson*

### **WHOOPER 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/North Argyll*). Max counts of 202 >N at the Sound of *Islay* on 20 Mar, 143 (inc 25 cygnets) on *Tiree* on 23 Jan, 52 over Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 27 Mar, 50 at the Sound of *Mull* on 26 Mar and 50 over Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 27 Mar. Most return passage noted between 22 Mar and 8 Apr with many flocks up to 40 birds.

**Summer/breeding** No reports of breeding. Summering birds included; 8 on *Tiree*, 1 at Crosshill Loch, Campbeltown *Kintyre* in May, 1 at Dervaig *Mull* in May-Jun, 1 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 13 Aug and 1 at Loch Airigh Meall Bhreide, Arinagour *Coll* Jun-Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. First arrivals noted were 4 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Sep, 7 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 23 Sep and 8 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 29 Sep. Most arrivals were after 8 Oct. Max counts of 600+ over Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Nov and probably the same birds counted with 573 over Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Nov, also 343 over *Tiree* on 22 Oct and a peak count of 186 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 100 and most flocks flying over were of 20-50 birds.

### **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 except (*Jura*). Max counts of 134 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Feb, 53 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 Mar, 47 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 Mar, 39 at Loch Don *Mull* on 18 Feb and 27 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports received from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First ducklings at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 11 May. Prs widespread around *Tiree* in May. A fem with a creche of 28 young at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Most reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Max counts of 18 at Gorsten *Mull* on 14 Dec, 13 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Dec, 12 at Bridgend merse *Islay* on 27 Oct and 11 at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 30 Dec. Counts of up to 10 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** Fewer reports than usual. A pr was at Braevallich, Loch Awe on 23 Jan and was the only report from *Mid-Argyll*. All other reports were from *Cowal* with 2 at Cambusdhu, N Loch Eck on 7 Feb and several reports around the Holy Loch to Little Eachaig River area in Mar-Apr, with max of 4 on 21 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Nine (pr with 7 ducklings) were at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 27 May. Reported from Cambusdhu, N Loch Eck *Cowal* in Jun and 2 ff there with 2 ducklings on 1 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** No reports received.



**Garganey** *Tiree* May 2020 *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.

*Spring* A pair was at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 5 May with the fem still there on 14 May. A male was at The Reef *Tiree* on 8 Jun.

**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 (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). On *Islay* a max of 53 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 16 Feb. On *Tiree* max count of 20 during island WeBS counts on 5 Feb. A pr were at Strath Farm, The Laggan *Kintyre* on 7-8 Jan, a fem was at Loch a Keal *Mull* on 24 Jan and 1 was at Port na Luing *Coll* on 9 Mar.

*Breeding* Breeding reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and on *Tiree* with 12 prs at 8 sites.

*Autumn/winter* Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max counts of 35 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Oct and 25 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 25 Nov. A fem was at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov-14 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 (*Islay/Tiree*). Only 1-2 birds seen at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in Jan-Mar.

*Breeding* Up to 4 prs on *Tiree* where a fem with a brood on 28 Jun.

*Autumn/winter* Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). A fem was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 Sep, a male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 30 Sep and 2 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Sep-1 Nov and 3 there on 19-20 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 except (*Jura*). Max counts of 375 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Feb, 343 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 12 Jan with a max site count of 230 at Loch a' Phuill on 5 Feb, 219 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 190 at Gartbreck, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Jan, 78 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb and 72 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 8 Mar. Elsewhere, many counts across *Argyll* of up to 50 birds.

*Breeding* A likely breeding pr was noted on each of *Islay* and *Tiree*.

*Autumn/winter* Reports from all areas. Single males, possibly from the summer, at Machrihanish *Kintyre* in Jul-Aug, at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 5 Aug and at Garmony *Mull* on 30 Jul. First returning birds with; 12 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 19 Aug and 6 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug. Max counts of 470 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28 Oct, 424 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Nov, 286 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 15 Dec and 199 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov. Elsewhere, many counts across *Argyll* of up to 80 birds.

**AMERICAN WIGEON\*** *Mareca americana*

*A rare visitor: 16 or more records.*

*Autumn/winter* An adult male was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 27 Oct-11 Nov [D Brown *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

*A common breeding, passage and wintering species*



**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 189 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan, 106 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Jan, 84 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Jan, 81 at Ardencaple Ho., Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan and 70 at Ardlarach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 60 birds.

**Breeding/summer** Reports from all areas. Ducklings noted in *Mid-Argyll* from mid-Apr and a max brood count of 15 noted. Max counts of 60 at Blackmill Bay, Luing, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jun and 60 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 147 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 14 Oct, 137 at the Holy Loch *Kintyre* on 20 Sep, 74 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Nov, 73 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 21 Sep and 63 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 20 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 60 birds.

### **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 (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay* and max counts of 80 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Feb. On *Tiree* only 1 at Loch Bhasapol in Jan-Feb and 2 at Loch a' Phuill in Mar. A fem was at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 7-8 Jan and 2 mm & 1 f >N at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 May.

**Breeding** Up to 7 prs on *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max count of 97 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Oct, and on *Tiree* a max count of 7 at An Fhaodhail on 17 Dec. In *Kintyre* 6 >S at Machrihanish SBO on 4 Oct and 1 >S on 26 Oct.



**Shoveler & Teal** *Islay* Feb 2020 Steve Carter

### **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 870 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan and 463 on *Tiree* across WeBS sites on 12 Jan, 86 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 Feb, 72 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan and 65 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 9 Mar. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 50 birds.

**Breeding** Breeding reports from all areas except (*Jura*). At least 21 prs across 8 sites on *Tiree* in Apr. Generally, low nos elsewhere.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,555 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Oct, 370 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Nov, 260 at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 26 Nov, 172 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28 Oct, 84 at Lochan na Nigheadaireachd, nr Laggan point *Islay* on 11 Sep and 82 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 80 birds.



**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 RSPB Loch Gruinart floods *Islay* from 2019 until 30 Mar and joined by a second male there on 24 Mar [J How *et al*].

**Autumn/winter** A male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart floods *Islay* on 25-26 Oct [D Brown *et al*]. A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 & 12 Nov [J Bowler]. 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.**

**Autumn/winter** A male was at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 1 Oct then 2 males there on 20-29 Oct. *These are the only reports and the downward trend of records for this species continues.*

**RING-NECKED DUCK\*** *Aythya collaris*

**A very scarce North American visitor: 27 previous records.**

**Winter/spring** A pair from 2019 remained at Loch Bhasapol & Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* until 15 Apr [J Bowler *et al*].

**Autumn/winter** A 1cy female was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 29 Sep-2 Oct [J Bowler, J Dickson]. A 1cy male was at Loch Bhasapol on 11-15 Oct [D Jardine, J Bowler]. An adult female, presumably a returning bird, was at Loch Bhasapol on 30 Oct and 4-25 Nov, then joined by an adult male, presumably a returning bird, from 19 Nov and a second female from 25 Nov, with all three remaining into 2021 [J Bowler]. 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 (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts on *Tiree* with 99 across island WeBS sites Jan-Mar and a peak site count of 70 at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Jan and 17 at Loch Finlaggan *Islay* on 12 Apr. On *Coll* 1 was at Ballyhaugh Loch on 10 Feb. In *Cowal* 2 at Lock Loskin, Dunoon on 23 Apr. In *Mid-Argyll* only 1-3 birds at 4 sites and a max count of 5 at Loch Ederline on 20 Apr. On *Mull* 2 at Loch Pottie on 5 Mar.

**Breeding** Breeding reported on *Tiree* with 10+ prs and a fem with b/4 at Loch an Eilein on 17 Jun, also present at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*. In *Mid-Argyll* a fem with a b/3 at Beinn Dearg on 7 Jul, and 2 were at Ellary, Loch Caolisport on 17 Aug. On *Colonsay* a male was at East Loch Fada on 13 Jun. A male was at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jul & 22 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Coll/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 147 on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 1 Oct and 83 on *Tiree* across island WeBS sites on 16 Nov. On *Mull* max count of 9 at Loch Pottie on 15 Nov and in *Mid-Argyll* a max count of 4 at Ballachuan Loch, Seil on 3 Nov.

**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 12 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Jan. A 2cy fem was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* 1-12 Jan. Last reports were from *Islay* on 4 Mar

**Summer** One was at RSPB Loch Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 22 Jun and 4 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on the unusual date of 28 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). In *Kintyre* 40 >S at Machrihanish SBO after a squall on 8 Oct. On *Mull* a fem was at Loch an Torr on 25-27 Aug and 1 was at Loch Don on 28 Sep. On *Islay*, first report of 12 at Loch Indaal on 23 Sep and a max count there of 14 on 2 Nov. A 1cy fem was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Oct-28 Nov.

**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 250 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 5 Mar, 100 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 8 Apr, 98 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 12 Feb, 70 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 18 Feb, 51 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 18 Feb and 42 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 26 Apr. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll coasts of up to 40 birds.

**Breeding** Breeding reports from all coastal areas. First ducklings noted at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 20 May and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 May. Many coastal areas with females and ducklings May-Jul. Max flock counts of 317 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 19 Aug, 268 eclipse males at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 Jul and 217 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 8 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 320 off Inverneill, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct, 200 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 21 Nov, 170 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec and 190 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Sep. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 120 birds.



**Surf Scoter** Colonsay Sep 2020 David Jardine

**SURF SCOTER\*** *Melanitta perspicillata*

*A rare visitor: At least 19 previous records.*

**Autumn** A 1cy was at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 27-30 Sep [D & J Jardine, P Madden, E Mackay]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**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 the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Jan.

*Summer* A male was at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 8 Jun and presumably the long stayer, of possibly captive origin.

*Autumn/winter* In *Kintyre* 1 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Oct and a 1cy male was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov.

**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 only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Max counts of 224 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 5 Mar, 69 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 Mar, 14 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Mar and 10 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 17 Mar.

*Summer/breeding* Max counts of only 36 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 21 Jul. Elsewhere, 4 were at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 27 May and 28 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Jun.

*Autumn/winter* Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 132 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 19 Aug and 70 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 15 Oct. Elsewhere, 12 were at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* in Dec and 11 were off Dunoon *Cowal* late Nov to 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*). Most reports from *Islay, Kintyre* and *Tiree*. Max counts of 20 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Jan, 11 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 20 Mar and 6 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Jan. Also 2 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan. Last report of 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Apr.

*Autumn/winter* Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First reports; 4 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 14 Oct, 1 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 15 Oct and 3 at The Oa *Islay* on 16 Oct. Max counts of 10 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Nov, 10 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 22 Dec and 9 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 Dec. Elsewhere, 1-6 birds noted at sites. Only *Mid-Argyll* record was 1 at Ulva Lagoon on 29 Nov.

**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 101 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jan, 53 across island WeBS sites on *Tiree* on 12 Jan including 45 at Loch a' Phuill, 31 at Loch na Keal *Mull* in Jan-Feb, 21 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Jan, 21 at Gartbreck, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Jan and 14 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 15 Mar. Elsewhere, counts of 1-13 at many sites. A 2cy male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8-9 Jun.

*Autumn/winter* Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First of autumn was a 1cy at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 21 Sep and 8 there by 14 Oct. A 1cy was at Loch Loskin, Dunoon *Cowal* on 11 Oct. Max counts of 87 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec, 43 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Dec, 10 at Loch Poit na h-I (*Pottie Mull*) on 6 Dec and 10 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 30 Dec.

Elsewhere, widespread reports of 1-9 birds. *Nos have been steadily declining in recent years at mainland sites.*



**Goldeneye** *Mid-Argyll* Jan 2020 *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/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree/North Argyll*). Only 1-6 birds reported mostly from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Max counts of 6 at Knock, Loch na Keal *Mull* in Mar and 5 at An Lodan, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar. Some birds in prs from Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Most reports of prs from sites in (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Fems with ducklings noted at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* with a b/6 and at Auchalick Bay, Loch Fyne *Cowal* with a b/12. A post breeding moulting flock of 40 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 1 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Reports mostly of 1-6 birds at sites. Max counts of 10 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Sep, 9 at Dervaig *Mull* on 15 Nov, 8 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Sep, 8 at Loch Don *Mull* on 14 Sep and 8 at Scallaste *Mull* on 22 Oct. A fem was at Finlaggan *Islay* on 24 Oct and perhaps the same bird at Loch Gruinart on 28 Oct.

**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 48 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 5 Mar, 22 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar and 21 at Pennyghael *Mull* on 24 Jan. Elsewhere, counts up to 20 however most flocks were of 8 or less.

**Breeding** Limited breeding data other than 10 prs from 4 sites on *Tiree* and prs noted mainly from (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). First young reported at Otter House, Kilfinan *Cowal* where a fem with b/3 on 18 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 622 (post breeding flock) at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Jul, falling to 356 on 21 Jul. Max counts elsewhere included; 57 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec, 56 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 7 Nov, 55 at Kintra, Laggan Bay *Islay* on 24 Aug and 42 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 1 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/Mid-Argyll*). In *Mid-Argyll* 4 mm were noted at the Moine Mhor NNR on 10 Jan & 14 May, 5 were at Feorlin, nr Minard on 13 Mar, 1-2 were at Ganavan, nr Oban late Mar-Apr, 1 was at Stroneskar, nr Ford on 10 Apr and 1 m was calling at Kilmartin between 4-15 May. In *Cowal* 3 mm were at An t-Suil, nr Stronfian between 5-15 May and 1 was at Balliemore, Loch Striven on 21 May.

**Breeding** No breeding data received.

**Autumn/winter** Two were N of Strachur *Cowal* on 4 Aug and up to 7 were at Feochag, S of Campbeltown *Kintyre* between 15 Sep- 6 Oct.



**Ptarmigan** *Mull* Jul 2020 *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** Two were at Creach Bheinn *Mull* on 2 Jul and 2 were at Fraochaidh, Appin *North Argyll* on 14 Jul. An estimated population on *Mull* thought to be in the region of 25-50 birds (*per Ewan Miles*).

**Autumn/winter** Seven were at Beinn Narnain *Cowal* on 15 Oct, 1 was at Stob Coire Cragach *Cowal* on 18 Oct and 7 were at Ben Buie *Mull* on 6 Dec.

**RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus scotica*

AMBER LIST A *sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird.*

**All year** Reports from moorland areas on (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Few reports in total from across Argyll, generally of 1-5 birds, and a max of 8 at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 16 Sep. Under reported and all future reports encouraged.

**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 18 sites in (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Most reports of just 1-2 birds, however larger counts noted near release sites e.g. counts of 50+ at sites on Luing *Mid-Argyll* in Sep.

**COMMON QUAIL\*** *Coturnix coturnix*

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

**Summer/breeding** One report (location withheld) from north *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun. One was heard calling at Aros, The Laggan *Kintyre* on 15 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 except (*Coll/North Argyll*) however greatly under reported. Several counts of 25+ birds near release sites.



**Red-throated Diver** *Mull* Jul 2020 *Mike Murphy*



**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 15 at outer Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 May. Only 5 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Mar. Some in breeding plumage from early Mar.  
**Summer/breeding** Reports from likely breeding areas in (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Juvs noted in *Mid-Argyll* at hill lochans from early Jul.  
**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 41 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 17 Oct and 27 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 17 Oct. A total of 49 birds >S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in Oct with peak count there of 14 on 10 Oct.



**Black-throated Diver** *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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 12 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 28 Feb and 7 at the Sound of Islay *Islay/Jura* on 23 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of only 1-6 birds.

**Breeding** No breeding data received, although juvs noted at a few inland lochs.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max count of only 4 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 28 Dec. *Numbers have been well down this year.*

**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 Tiree 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 on Mull (of roosting flocks) with 123 at Loch na Keal on 21 Mar and 64 at Loch Scridain on 22 Mar. Also, 64 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 5 Mar and 55 off Baugh Tiree on 24 Apr. Only 36 were at Loch Indaal Islay on 30 Mar, also 28 at Kilmory Bay, Knapdale Mid-Argyll on 16 Apr.

**Summer** Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). Reports of 1-13 birds from coastal sites. Last report was on 15 Jun off Colonsay then none until autumn.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. First autumn birds were 3 at mouth of Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 15 Aug. Max counts of 88 at Loch na Keal Mull on 9 Nov, 76 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 17 Oct, 50 at Loch Indaal Islay on 23 Sep and 48 at Loch Scridain Mull on 6 Nov.



Great Northern & Red-throated Divers Kintyre Oct 2020 Eddie Maguire

**WHITE-BILLED DIVER\*** *Gavia adamsii*

*A vagrant: Eleven records; all since 1986, most recently on Mull in 2009, off Tiree in Oct 2011 and off Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre in Mar 2013.*

**Autumn** An adult flew SW past Frenchman's Rocks Islay on 29 Aug [J Sweeney]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**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 12 Jun and 9 Sep (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). First report was 1 off NE *Colonsay* on 12 Jun. A few counts of 1-3 birds, mostly late Aug-early Sep, off *Tiree* and Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* and max counts of 6 off Hynish *Tiree* on 20 Aug and 5 off Frenchman's Rock's *Islay* 30 Aug.

**Breeding** No counts or data from the known breeding colonies on Sanda *Kintyre* or Treshnish Isles *Mull* as no visits due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Leach's Storm Petrel *Kintyre* Oct 2020 *Eddie Maguire*

**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.*

**Autumn** Two >SW off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 3 Sep and 1 off there on 4 Sep. On *Tiree* 19 >W off Aird on 5 Sep and 3 >W off Vaul on 5 Sep, 1 >W off Aird on 9 Sep and 1 >W off Vaul on 9 Sep. Two >SW off Caliach Point *Mull* on 9 Sep. One >S off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Oct. One was off Carraig Fhada, Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 28 Oct.

**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** Small nos ashore on calmer days from Jan-Mar from (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*) and a max count of 700+ at Ceann a' Mhara cliffs *Tiree* on 12 Jan.

**Spring/breeding** Only breeding reports received from (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). Max Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) of 844 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 19 Jun (905 in Jun 2019) and 97 at RSPB Oa *Islay* in Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Only records were from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 300 in 4 hrs past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 4 Sep, 98 in 1 hr past Hynish *Tiree* on 10 Sep and 125 in 2 hrs past Aird *Tiree* on 5 Sep. Reports reduced from early to mid-Sep. Noted from *Tiree* in Nov-Dec including 800+ at Ceann a' Mhara cliffs on 12 and 30 Dec.

**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** One was off NW Mull on 8 Aug, 2 were off NE Coll on 15 Aug, 1 was off Iona Mull on 18 Aug, 1 >S off Inverneill L Fyne Mid-Argyll on 20 Aug, 3 >SW off Hynish Tiree on 20 Aug, 4 were between Coll and Tiree on 20 Aug, 1 >SW off Hynish Tiree on 1 Sep and 2 >SW there on 2 Sep, 1 >W off Aird Tiree on 5 Sep and 2 >W there on 9 Sep, 5 >SW off Frenchman's Rocks Islay on 3 Sep and 2 >SW there on 9 Sep, 2 were off Caliach Point Mull on 9 Sep, 1 >W off Aird Tiree on 9 Oct and 2 >W off there on 26 Oct.

**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 only (Colonsay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). First reports; 39 in 1 hr off Hynish Tiree on 24 Mar and 1 off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 5 Apr. Higher counts all from Tiree with 300 on 19 Apr, 1,200 on 24 Apr and 3,000 on 8 Jun.

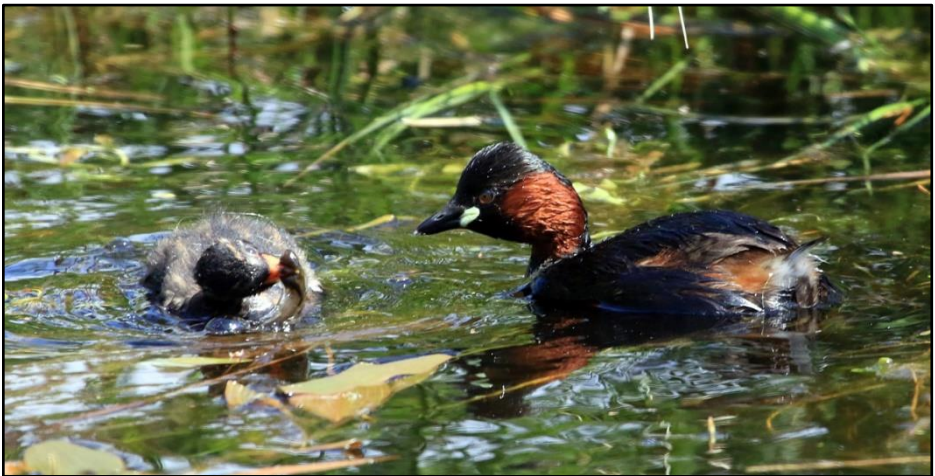
**Breeding** No population estimate this year from Lunga, Treshnish Isles Mull (est. 1,992 prs based upon AOSs in 2018 per TIARG). No counts from Sanda Is. Kintyre where the previous est. population thought to be around 300 prs.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Jura). Higher counts all Tiree with max of 6,500 in 2 hrs off Aird on 5 Sep. Also, max counts from Islay with 705 in 1 hr off Frenchman's Rocks on 5 Sep and 500 in 2 hrs off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 5 Sep. Last report was 2 off Aird Tiree on 9 Oct.

**BALEARIC SHEARWATER\*** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

*RED LIST A scarce passage migrant (Aug-Dec) since 1992 but in very small numbers: usually seen with Manx Shearwaters.*

**Autumn** Only one report. A single passed Hynish Tiree on 20 Aug.



**Little Grebe** Cowal Jul 2020 Leif Brag

**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 *Cowal, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* and max counts of 15 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Jan and 11 at *Dervaig Mull* on 19 Feb. No reports of the usual high nos from Loch Etive *North Argyll*. Many coastal sites had 1-5 birds.

**Breeding** Limited breeding data. Birds noted on nests from 4 May. Max count of 5 at Loch Loskin, *Dunoon Cowal* on 24 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 14 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 30 Nov, 9 at Loch na Cuilce, *Dervaig Mull* on 21 Sep and 7 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of 1-6 at coastal sites.

**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 2019 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 7 Feb until at least 6 Nov. Paired again with a Little Grebe but was unsuccessful. [D Jardine *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC as a returning bird.



**Pied-billed Grebe** *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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** Regular reports from Loch Long *Cowal* (mainly off *Blairmore*) with 1 on 9 Jan rising to 8 on 23 Jan, then 5 on 4 Feb, 6 on 27 Feb and last report of 1 on 10 Mar. One at *Balephetrish Bay Tiree* on 1-28 Apr was only the third for *Tiree* in 20 years.



*Autumn/winter* One was at Garmony *Mull* on 8 Sep, 1 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Sep, 2 at Loch Long *Cowal* on 21 Nov and a peak of 3 there from 27 Nov and through Dec.

**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 from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max counts in each region were; 1 at Loch Long *Cowal* on 6 Jan- 3 Mar, 9 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 5 Feb, 35 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 5 Mar and 36 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Mar. Last report was 1 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 4 Apr.

*Autumn/winter* Reports only from (*Coll/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals were 13 together at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Aug and was also a max count there, equalled on 2 Nov. Max area counts elsewhere; on *Colonsay* 1 at Feall Bay on 18 Sep, *Cowal* 1 at Kilfinan on 21 Sep and 1 at Sandbank on 15 Oct, in *Kintyre* 19 at Sound of Gigha on 11 Dec, in *Mid-Argyll* 2 at Loch Gilp on 24 Dec, on *Mull* 26 at Loch na Keal on 7 Nov and on *Tiree* 1 at Balephetrish Bay on 6 Sep, 1 at Vaul Bay on 11 Sep and 1 at Loch Bhasapol on 19 Nov.



**Glossy Ibis** *Islay* Sep 2020 *Alex Radcliffe*

**GLOSSY IBIS\*** *Plegadis falcinellus*

*A vagrant: Thirteen records of up to 20 birds since 1901; the most recent being; one at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll on 25 to 26 Sep 2009, Colonsay from 27 Dec 2013 to 5 Feb 2014, Tiree on 13 Jan 2014, and a remarkable influx of up to 8 birds from 21 Dec 2017, with birds reported from Islay (1), Mull (6) and Tiree (1) into 2018 with last report from Tiree on 19 Apr 2018.*

*Autumn* A 1cy was at Craighens *Islay* on 11-15 Sep [A & N Radcliffe *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

*A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*) and most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (32), *Mull* (24) and *Cowal* (23). Max count of 9 at Ballachuan Loch, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Mar.

**Breeding** Limited breeding received from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll*) where up to 8 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and up to 3 AONs elsewhere. No data from the usual larger colonies in *North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 23 at *Gorsten Mull* on 14 Dec, 22 at *Duine, Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll* on 18 Sep and 16 at *Appin North Argyll* on 15 Nov. Counts at many other mainly coastal sites of 1-15 birds.

**GREAT WHITE EGRET\*** *Ardea alba*

*A rare visitor: Fourteen records between 1986 and 2019. This species is increasing as a breeding species in the Netherlands and France, and also in England since 2012.*

**Autumn** A non-br plumaged bird was at the head of *Loch Fyne* (opposite the *Oyster Bar Mid-Argyll*) on 14 Aug-8 Sep [A Hamilton, J Dickson *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



**Great White Egret** *Mid-Argyll* Aug 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Mull/Tiree*). Total numbers uncertain as birds frequently move around the region, however a min of 9 and a max of 12 birds probably involved. Reports of 1-3 birds from 'sites in'; *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (9) and *North Argyll* (3). Most sites only recorded singles and max count of 3 birds at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9-25 Apr and 3 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 29 May. Two together were recorded at five sites across Argyll. Most sightings were in Jan to Mar reducing in Apr and only one report in May, none in Jun and one report in Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Mull*). Again, total numbers uncertain, however a min of 14 and a max of 18 birds probably involved. Reported from 'sites', with 1-8 birds in; *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (1). Many sites had 1-2 birds present and an Argyll record count of 8 was at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15-19 Oct after a steady increase from 4 there in late Aug. There were 4 at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* in late Aug to early Sep, a max of 3 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* in Oct-Dec and a max of 3 at Carnain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 10 Nov. *As elsewhere in the UK this species continues to increase in Argyll, particularly in the autumn and winter months and we can speculate that they may perhaps breed here within the next few years.*



**Little Egret** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *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.*

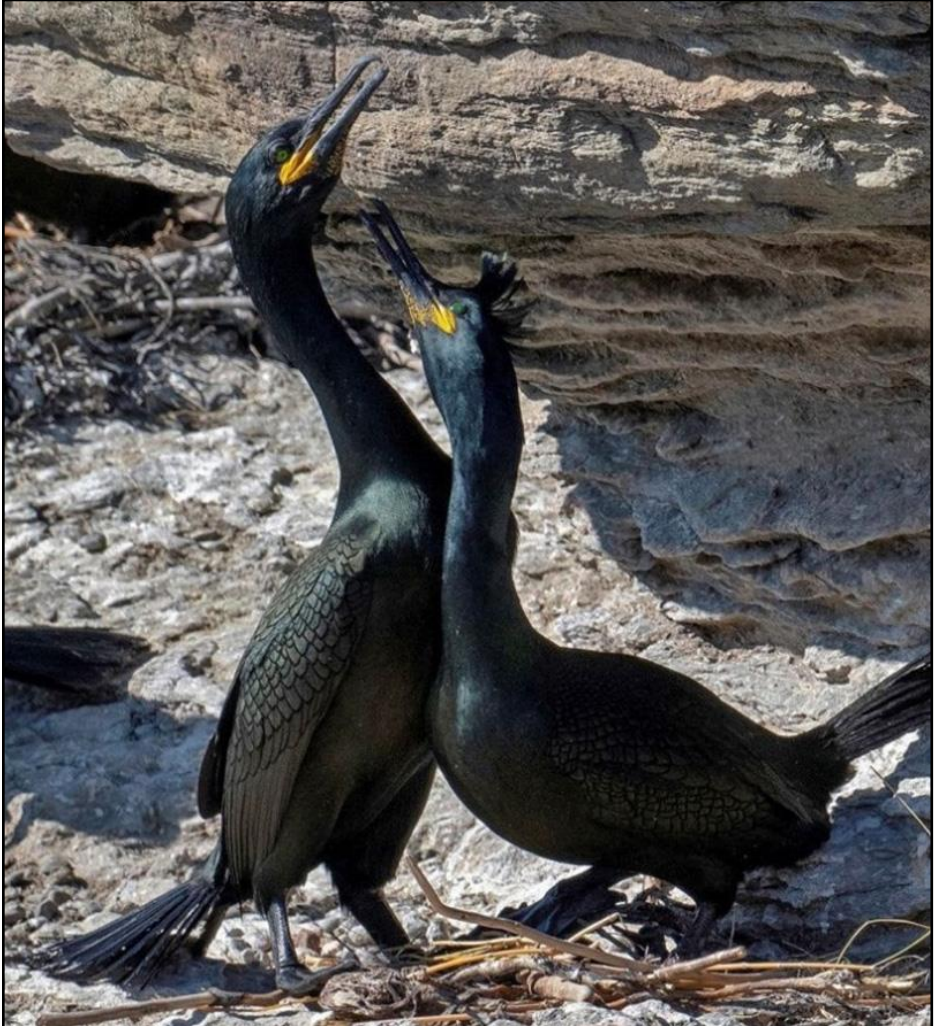
**Winter/spring** Generally small numbers noted Jan-Mar, however higher counts of 44 in 1 hr past Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Jan and 124 >SW in 1 hr off Aird *Tiree* on 4 Feb. Overland flights from



Campbeltown to Machrihanish (crossing the Laggan) *Kintyre* with peak totals of 122 birds in Apr and 1,045 in May.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding records. Max counts of 400 feeding in the Lynn of Lorne *North Argyll* on 28 Jul and 390 at Gunna Sound *Coll* on 24 Aug. Overland birds crossing the Laggan *Kintyre* peaked at 622 in total during Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Max counts of 568 >W in 1 hr at Aird *Tiree* on 9 Oct, 510 off Caliach Point *Mull* on 9 Sep and 250 >W in 1 hr off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 5 Sep. Overland birds crossing the Laggan *Kintyre* peaked at 524 in total during Sep. Reports decreased after Oct, although included 208 >SW in 1hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 11 Nov, and only four reports of 1-2 birds during Dec, all from *Tiree*.



**European Shag** *Kintyre* Mar 2020 *Eddie Maguire*

**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 212 passing in 1 hr off Hynish Tìree on 13 Jan, 69 at Loch Don Mull on 24 Mar, 51 at Bunnahabhain Islay on 9 Jan and 49 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 5 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. 15 AONs on Oronsay Colonsay, 22 AONs at RSPB Oa Islay in Jun and 83 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree on 19 Jun. A feeding group of 50+ mostly juvs at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll in Aug is suggestive of good local breeding success.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 400 at Gunna Sound Tìree on 24 Aug, 250 at Arinagour Coll on 3 Oct, 126 >S at Port Mor Colonsay in 90 mins on 5 Sep and 84 >S at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre in 90 mins on 4 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of 1-80 birds.

**GREAT CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

**Breeds in:** Colonsay, 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 16 at Aros Mull on 12 Jan, 12 at Braevallich, Loch Awe Mid-Argyll on 23 Jan, 11 at Bunnahabhain Islay on 9 Jan, 10 at West Loch Tarbert Kintyre on 1 Feb and 10 at Loch na Keal Mull on 12 Feb. Reports of 1-9 birds at other sites, however most reports were of just 1-2 birds.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts included an unusually high count of 120 (confirmed and seen with Shags) at Arinagour Coll on 8 Oct. Also 34 at Loch na Keal Mull on 7 Nov, 25 at Scallastle Bay Mull on 19 Nov and 21 at Cretshengan Bay, nr Kilberry Kintyre on 18 Aug. Reports of 1-20 birds at other sites.

**GREAT (Continental) CORMORANT\*** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

A rare but increasingly frequent visitor to Scotland. Increasing as a breeder at inland sites in England where some hybridisation occurs with nominate Atlantic Great Cormorant. One record, at Loch a' Phuill Tìree on 13 Oct 2014.

**Autumn** An imm (2cy) was seen and photographed at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 18 Nov [J Dickson]. Record was accepted by the ABRC. In addition, a photograph of a bird came to light on facebook of a 1cy at Kilmartin Burn, Poltalloch Mid-Argyll on 22 Nov and judged by the ABRC to be most probably this sub-species.

**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/Colonsay/Jura). First arrivals of singles at Tayvallich Mid-Argyll on 28 Mar and at Sorobaidh Bay Tìree on 31 Mar. Most arrivals were during first two weeks of Apr.

**Breeding** Of the 23 sites checked, 17 sites were occupied by prs, 15 prs laid eggs and 15 prs hatched eggs of which 13 pairs went on to have 23 large young (average = 1.77 young/successful nest cf 1.70 in 2019) (ARSG). On Islay 1-2 birds noted 30 Apr to 12 Sep but no evidence of breeding.

**Autumn** After mid-Sep, only one report of a single, fishing at Sorobaidh Bay Tìree on 12 Oct.



**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 except (*Tiree*). Most reports of 1-2 birds however up to 4 birds together reported from (*Islay/Jura/Mull*) in Jan-Feb and Nov.

**Breeding** Of the 56 sites checked 52 sites were occupied. A total of 17-18 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 of 1-2 birds, however 4 together at Kilchiaran *Islay* on 9 Jan. Prey items noted included Rock Dove, Chaffinch and Redwing.

**Breeding** Of the 4 sites checked, 2 nests had young from which 8 young fledged (av no of young per nest = 4.00) (ARSG).



**Sparrowhawk** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *Bill Anderson*

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK\*** *Accipiter gentillis*

*A sporadic visitor of uncertain status.*

**Autumn** One, presumed juv female, was at Dereach (NE Loch Scridain) *Mull* on 29 Sep [D & J Dimmock]. Record was 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** A sub-adult male was at Ardmaddy Bay and occasionally Seil Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 3-22 Mar. A male was at Bleachfield *Kintyre* on 11-13 Mar. A male was at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 29 Mar. A fem was near Heylipol Church *Tiree* on 21 Apr. A fem was at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 21 & 28 May.

**Autumn** A fem was at Dervaig *Mull* on 2 Jul. A fem was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug and also nearby at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug.



**Marsh Harrier** *Kintyre* Mar 2020 *Kevin Hamilton*

**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* of 1-4 birds at sites. Max count was of 5 using a roost nr The Laggan *Kintyre* in Nov.

**Breeding** For the 41 sites checked 39 were occupied, 29 prs laid eggs and 60 young fledged (*cf* 19+ in 2019) (ARSG). *A notably good breeding season presumably reflecting food supply.*

**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** Singles were at Dervaig *Mull* on 21 Mar, S of Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 21 Mar, Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 22 Mar and possibly same bird at Achnacreebeag, North Connel *North Argyll* on 12 Apr.

**Autumn** Singles were at Barsloisnoch, Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Oct, Benderloch *North Argyll* on 12 Oct and E of Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov.



**Hen Harriers** *Mid-Argyll Apr 2020 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 and most reports from *Mull* and *Islay*. Fewer reports during Jun and Jul. Max counts of 6 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Nov-Dec, 5 at Loch na Keal *Mull* in Mar and Nov-Dec, and 5 imms nr Loch Avich *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul.

**Breeding** Of the 43 Ters checked, 35 prs laid eggs 29 prs fledged a min of 34 young (ARSG).



**White-tailed Eagles** *Mid-Argyll Apr 2020 Ann McGregor*

## **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 23 during *Tiree* goose survey on 22-23 Jan and 15 around Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Mar.

**Breeding** Reports from all areas. Of the 104 sites checked 44 sites were occupied and fledged a min of 63 young (*cf* 50 in 2019) (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 all areas and at 8 sites except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts (birds heard) with 8 at Loch na Cuilce, Dervaig *Mull* on 8 Apr, 3 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 9 Jan and 3 at Balephuill *Tiree* during Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reported (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). On *Islay* up to 6 calling at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* birds heard calling from 11 locations and chicks observed at Balephuill on 14 May. An adult with 3 small chicks was at the head of Loch Gilp, Corran area *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas at 20 sites except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/Mull/North Argyll*). Max counts of 6 at the reedbed on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Dec and 1-3 birds elsewhere.

## **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 Friesland *Coll* and at Loch Gorm area *Islay* both on 9 Apr. Next report was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Apr and most arrivals were during last week of Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Calling male counts: *Tiree* (294), *Coll* (43), *Iona* (16), *Colonsay/Oronsay* (17), *Islay* (44), 'other' *Argyll* (2). A total of 416. *Argyll* total in 2019 was 439, in 2018 was 487 and an *Argyll* peak was 702 in 2014 (*per* RSPB). First (large) chick was noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Last bird noted was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 17 Sep.

## **COMMON MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from 21 sites except (*Colonsay/Jura/Kintyre*). Max counts of 7 at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 May and 4 at Port Charlotte pond *Islay* on 25 Feb. Elsewhere, 1-3 birds at sites and most from (*Coll/Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll*)

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Reports from 12 sites in total. Most broods reported were of 4 young.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from 20 sites except (*Colonsay/Jura/Mull*). Max count of 4 at Kilmahumaig, Crinan Wood *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Aug.





**Moorhen** *Mid-Argyll* Sep 2020 *James Lehmann*

**COMMON COOT\*** *Fulica atra*

*A former scarce and irregular breeder and an increasingly scarce to rare visitor.*

*Autumn/winter* A 1cy was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 27 Oct-17 Nov. One was at Glenfeochan House, Balinoe *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Sep.



**Coot** *Mid-Argyll* Sep 2020 *John Speirs*

**COMMON CRANE\*** *Grus grus*

**AMBER LIST** A rare visitor: twenty records; some records of up to three together between 1966-2019. Up to nine individuals were recorded in 2012.

**Spring** An adult was feeding in a short grass field just south of Stewarton (nr Campbeltown) Kintyre on 3 May [S MacKinnon]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

A very similar occurrence to a record in Kintyre on 6 May 2019.



Stone-curlew Mull Apr 2020 Nigel Shannon

**STONE-CURLEW\*** *Burhinus oedicnemus*

**RED LIST** A vagrant: One at Loch Gruinart Flats, Islay on 23-24 May 1997.

**Spring** An adult (2cy+) was at Ardalanish Bay, Ross of Mull Mull on 19 Apr [Nigel Shannon]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

**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 315 on Tiree on 6 Mar, 280 at Loch Indaal Islay on 8 Mar, 273 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 12 Jan and 232 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 12 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from all Argyll areas. On Islay 23 prs at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa. In Mid-Argyll birds on eggs from late Apr and large young noted by mid-Jun. First chicks noted on Tiree on 26 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Passage at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre with a total of 850 >S during Jul and a peak of 190 on 30 Jul. Max counts of 382 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 17 Oct, 315 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 13 Dec, 240 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 24 Aug and 37 at Loch Indaal Islay on 31 Jul.

**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 on *Tiree* and *Islay*. Max counts of 2,600 on *Tiree* all island counts on 22-23 Jan, 675 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan, 100 at Machrihanish airfield site *Kintyre* on 23 Jan, 76 at RSPB Totronald *Coll* on 14 Jan, 76 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 5 Feb, 35 at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 9 Jan and 27 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar. Elsewhere, counts of up to 20 birds.

**Summer/breeding** At RSPB Oronsay *Colonsay* 72 prs. On *Tiree* 50 prs on partial (wetland compartment) survey at The Reef *Tiree*. At RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (n/c) 196 prs in 2019. At Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* 5 prs laid but failed due to mowing and nearby 2+ prs at the Moine Mhor NNR to Drimvore raised young.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 3,065 on *Tiree* all island counts on 14-15 Dec, 560 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Oct, 500 at Bleachfield *Kintyre* on 12 Dec, 147 at RSPB Totronald *Coll* on 14 Dec and 120 at Arinagour *Coll* on 8 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of up to 75 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 5,500 at The Reef *Tiree* on 16 Apr, 3,000 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Feb, 318 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 29 Jan, 94 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 9 Jan and 80 at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 16 Apr. Generally, only 1-3 birds reported away from (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*)

**Summer/breeding** Casual reports of breeding in upland areas, with 2 birds noted at Beinn Narnain *Cowal* on 31 May, 7 prs in *Mid-Argyll* and a flock of 25 nr Beinn Dearg on 8 Jul, 3 prs on *Mull* and chicks noted on 3 Jul and 2 prs in *North Argyll* and a flock of 11 on 10 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 2,950 on *Tiree* all island count on 16-17 Nov, 2,010 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Nov, 750 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 3 Oct and 135 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 27 Oct.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER\*** *Pluvialis dominica*

*A rare autumn visitor: 29 records; all 2001-2019 and mostly from Tiree.*

**Autumn** An adult was at Sandaig and Greenhill *Tiree* on 21-22 Sep [J Bowler, R Jones, S Nichols, K Shaw] and a juv (1cy) was at Crossapol and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4-9 Nov [J Bowler]. Both 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** On *Islay* a max count of 10 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 2 Feb. Only other reports were singles at Loch Don *Mull* on 17 Mar, at Miodar *Tiree* on 19 Mar, at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr, at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 20 Apr and at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 12-14 May.

**Autumn/winter** First reports were on *Islay* of a juv at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 30 Aug, a juv at Bridgend Loch Indaal on 8 Sep and max counts of 9 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 30 Sep and 18 on 24 Oct. On *Coll* 3 were at Breachacha on 17 Sep. On *Colonsay* 4 were at Traigh nam Barc on 26 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 were at Ardpatrik, West Loch Tarbert on 20 Oct. On *Mull* 2 were at Loch

na Keal on 23 Sep with 1 until 12 Dec. On *Tiree* single juvs were at 8 sites from 26 Sep to 28 Nov with 4 at Gott Bay on 8 Oct and 4 at Clachan on 28 Nov.



**Grey Plover** *Tiree* Sep 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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. Winter max counts of 145 on *Tiree* on 4 Jan, 120 at Skipness *Kintyre* on 4 Jan, 81 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 9 Jan, 70 at Loch Breachacha *Coll* on 25 Feb and 51 at Bridgend, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Feb. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 35 birds. In May nos increased with passage through Argyll and max counts of 2,220 across *Tiree* on 11 May, 280 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 May, and 53 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May. Last passage birds noted on *Tiree* on 12 Jun.

**Breeding** Limited data received. Prs noted in Apr, birds on eggs at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and Benderloch *North Argyll* from early May and broods/chicks noted in *Tiree*, *Cowal* and *Kintyre* from 7 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. Return passage increased from late Jul including 67 on *Tiree* on 31 Jul and 65 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Jul. In Aug a total of 154 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with a peak of 30 on 13 Aug and 110 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Aug. Late autumn/winter max counts of 460 across *Tiree* on 30 Dec, 189 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Oct, 118 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 28 Sep, 109 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 Dec and 70 at Southend *Kintyre* on 5 Nov. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 60 birds.

**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** After reports of at least 29 birds in 2019, only one report this year. A single was nr A' Chruach, Craigeivendive *Cowal* on 15 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 except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Winter reports of singles at Salen Bay *Mull* on 9-12 Jan and the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 23 Feb. First migrants; 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Apr, 1 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr with 25 there on 17 Apr and 7 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 16 Apr and 14 there on 18 Apr. Max counts of 45 on *Tiree* on 24 Apr, 22 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 26 Apr and 20 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 21 Apr. Elsewhere, several counts of up to 20, however most reports were of 1- 4 birds, and most passage between 16 Apr and 13 May. Most birds had moved through by late May however 3 were at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). First return passage with 1 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 20 Jun, 3 at the Maze *Tiree* on 21 Jun and 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Jun. Max counts of 17 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 31 Jul and 14 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 29 Jul. Elsewhere, only 1-3 birds at sites from 1 Aug-18 Oct. Winter reports of 1-2 at Loch Don & Java Point *Mull* on 14-25 Dec.



**Whimbrel** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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 165 on *Tiree* (across two sites) on 20 Feb, 151 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 11 Jan, 145 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Jan, 124 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 Feb and 79 at Loch Don *Mull* on 18 Feb. Many other sites help up to 70 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data. On *Islay* 14 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and birds in suitable habitat on The Oa. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 prs noted in upland areas nr Musdale.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Return passage from late Jun. Max counts of 168 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 26 Sep, 161 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 28 Nov, 127 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug and 100 at Loch Don *Mull* on 17 Sep. Many other sites held up to 60 birds.



**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Mid-Argyll* May 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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/Jura*). Max counts of 355 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan, 80 at Ardnave *Islay* on 29 Jun, 54 on *Tiree* on 20 Feb, 18 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb and 11 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 Mar. In summer, 213 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Jul and 21 were at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 8 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First returning birds from early Jul. A s/p male with 4 Black-tailed at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul was presumably an early returning bird. Most reports from (*Islay/Tiree*). Max counts of 257 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Oct, 55 on *Tiree* on 22 Dec and 29 at Duart Bay *Mull* on 7 Sep.

**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 only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). First reports of 4 at Craignure Bay *Mull* on 21 Mar, 5 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 22 Mar and 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Mar. Max count of 105 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Apr and nos falling there in early May although still 4 on 28 Jun. In *Kintyre* 3 >S on 27 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). In *Kintyre* a total of 35 ads > S in Jul, with a peak of 19 on 30 Jul. In *Mid-Argyll* 4 ads were at Loch Gilp on 10 Jul. On

*Mull* 17 ads were at Bunessan on 23 Jul. On *Tiree* 35 ads in total on 31 Jul. First juvs were 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Aug, a single at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug then 17 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Aug with 35 on 31 Aug and a peak of 49 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Sep. On *Tiree* small numbers in late Aug and early Sep with a peak of 10 on 15 Sep. Reports decreased after mid-Sep, then only 1-4 birds noted (*Islay/Tiree*) until last on 4 Nov.

**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. Most high counts from *Tiree* and a max count of 175 at Loch a' Phuill on 30 Jan. Elsewhere, higher counts included; 70 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 23 Jan, 50 at Scallastle *Mull* on 13 Mar, 48 at Ardrishaig, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan and 45 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Feb. Most birds had departed by mid-May, however 1-6 birds from sites on *Mull* and *Tiree* until 22 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. First arrivals back were 1 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 12 Jul, 2 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Jul and 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Jul. Max counts of 142 at Kirn, Dunoon *Cowal* on 17 Aug, a total of 71 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in Sep with a peak of 20 there on 4 Sep, 70 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Dec and 69 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 31 Aug.



**Red Knot** *Islay* Sep 2020 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 only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts on *Islay* of 64 at Loch Indaal on 22 Mar and 50 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Feb. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was at Loch

Gilp on 12 Jan-13 Feb, 1 at Easdale, Seil on 6 May and 1 at Loch Crinan on 8 & 22 May. On *Mull* 3 were at Garmony on 3 Feb, and on *Tiree* 1 was at Gott Bay on 22 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Coll/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First returning single ad was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 13 Jul and 11 on 31 Jul. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* a total of 46 >S in Aug with a peak of 20 on 21 Aug and a total of 117 >S in Sep with a peak of 54 on 3 Sep. On *Islay* a max count of 218 (mostly juvs) at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 28 Aug. On *Tiree* a max count of 31 juvs at Vault Bay on 4 Sep. Elsewhere, 22 were at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Nov, 10 at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 28 Aug, 4 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug and 3 on Iona *Mull* on 16 Aug. Singles were noted in *Cowal* in Aug and Nov. Only report in Dec was 1 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 1 Dec.

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*

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

**Winter/spring** Only report was a single at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Up to 5 males and a female were at one site from 5 May until mid-Jun and up to 5 males were at another site from 20 May until 8 Jun. Breeding was thought to be unsuccessful.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). On *Tiree* first juv was at Vault on 21 Aug then 1-2 birds across island sites, and a max of 3 on 31 Aug, with last single on 30 Sep. On *Islay* 1 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 22 Aug, 2 at Bridgend merse, Loch Indaal on 3 Sep, 2 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 3 Oct and last single there on 6 Oct. In *Kintyre* singles were at Machrihanish SBO on 4 & 15 Sep and 2 at Strath pools, The Laggan on 6 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was at Loch na Cille, Keills on 22 Aug, and on *Mull* singles were at Ardanish on 17 Sep, at Calgary on 20 Sep and 5 at Fidden on 23 Sep.



**Curlew Sandpiper with Dunlin** *Islay* Sep 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**CURLEW SANDPIPER\*** *Calidris ferruginea*

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

**Autumn** All reports were of juvs (1cy). One was at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 24-25 Aug. One was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 24 Aug. On *Islay* 1 was at Loch Indaal on 28 Aug, 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart



on 30 Aug, 2 there on 6 Sep with a peak of 7 on 9 Sep, also 1 there on 15-31 Oct, 2 on 18 Oct and last single there on 1 Nov. One was at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 31 Aug and 5 Sep.

### **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/North Argyll*). Largest nos were on *Tiree*, with higher nos Mar-May and max counts of 550 on 22 Apr. On *Islay* 153 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 7 Feb. On *Colonsay* 45 were at The Strand on 12 Jan. Peak passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* of 40 on 1 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 438 on *Tiree* on 7 Aug. Passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with total of 330 >S in Aug and a peak of 70+ on 24 Aug, and 340 >S total in Sep and peak of 70+ on 15 Sep. On *Islay* 220 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 22 Aug and on *Colonsay* 51 were at Traigh nam Barc on 3 Sep.

### **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 (*Cowal/Jura*). Nos generally low Jan-Feb with increased nos during spring passage from late Apr and May. Max counts of 3,440 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 May, 2,130 on *Tiree* on 11 May, 130 at Calgary Bay *Mull* on 8 May, 128 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May and 85 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May.

**Breeding** On *Tiree* 43 prs on partial survey at The Reef (wetland compartment) and noted at five other island sites. Breeding prs at RSPB Ardnave and Loch Gruinart *Islay*. No breeding data from *Mid & North Argyll* or *Mull*. Fledged chicks noted on *Tiree* from 6 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas except (*Jura*). Return passage noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with 10 >S on 24 Jul, 393 >S there in Jul with a peak of 90 on 30 Aug and 452 >S in Aug with a peak of 140 on 23 Aug. Max counts of 1,600 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Aug and 215 on *Tiree* on 21 Aug. Elsewhere, away from *Islay* and *Tiree* counts of up to 60 birds. Generally, nos decreased during Sep however up to 850 birds remained at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Dec and 164 on *Tiree* on 30 Dec.

### **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 (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 40 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 9 Mar, 26 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 3 Apr, 21 at Croggan, Loch Spelve *Mull* on 26 Jan and 20 at Bruichladdich Pier *Islay* on 27 Feb. Also 11 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Mar and smaller nos elsewhere. Last report was of 1 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 18 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Max count was 25 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 25 Nov & 14 Dec. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* a total of 53 >S during Oct and 9 there on 22 Dec, also 13 nr Craignish Point *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov and 7 at Arduaine Point, Loch Melfort *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Nov.

**LITTLE STINT\*** *Calidris minuta*

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

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Salum Bay Tiree on 24 Aug. A very poor year.



**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Mid-Argyll* Sep 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER\*** *Calidris pusilla*

*A vagrant: Six records (nine birds) all in Sep; Tiree in 1999 (2), 2012, 2013 and 2016 (2), Islay in 1999 (2), and on the Isle of Luing, Mid-Argyll in 2013.*

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Loch na Cille, Danna Island causeway *Mid-Argyll* on 8-17 Sep [A Russell, J Dickson *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.

**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 (*Jura*). Generally, 1-2 birds from across 22 Argyll sites and max counts of only 3 at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 3 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data. On *Colonsay* 4 ‘roding’ birds at Colonsay House grounds on 14 Jun. Elsewhere, only singles birds noted from sites at Portfield *Mull* on 21 May and Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jun. No reports during Jul, Aug or Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/Kintyre*). First report of 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18 Oct. Generally, only 1-2 birds from across 14 Argyll sites and max counts of 4 at Milton to Ruaig *Tiree* on 10 Dec and 3 at Glen Aros *Mull* on 19 Nov.

**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

**Winter/spring** Singles from 'sites' in; Cowal (1), Mull (3) and Tiree (1) and a max of 2 birds at Caliach Point Mull on 19 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** First report was at Hynish Tiree on 10 Oct. On Islay several reports from RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa Islay and a max of 7 on 6 Dec. Elsewhere, only 8 reports of singles from sites in Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (1), Mull (1), Tiree (4).

**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 15 at Crossapol Tiree on 21 Jan and 9 at Caliach Mull on 19 Mar. Counts of only 1-5 birds elsewhere.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data but presumed widespread. On Islay at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa 13 Ters in Jun and on Tiree 148 Ters on partial survey at The Reef (wetland compartment) in Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. All higher counts noted were from Tiree. Max counts of 43 at Balephuil on 28 Sep and 42 at Heylipol on 17 Nov. Elsewhere, 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 20 May and 17 Jul. Up to 12 breeding males produced at least 11 broods.

**GREY PHALAROPE\*** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

*Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales: rare in winter and spring.*

**Autumn** One flew SW off Caliach Point Mull on 9 Sep. One flew SW off Hynish Tiree on 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 except (Jura). First arrivals; 1 at Ford Mid-Argyll on 5 Apr, 1 at Loch Feochan Mid-Argyll on 5 Apr, 1 at Ardrishaig, Loch Fyne Mid-Argyll on 9 Apr and 2 at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 9 Apr. Most arrivals noted in the period 13-25 Apr and max counts of 24 at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa Islay on 28 Apr, 8 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 2 May and 6 at Ardachy, Loch Etive North Argyll on 24 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data. On Islay 21 prs were at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa Islay in Jun. On Tiree 10 prs at 9 sites in Jun. Small chicks noted in Mid-Argyll on 5 Jun. Max count (inc juvs) of 13 at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 29 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** No reports from (Jura). A total of 194 >S at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre in Jul with peak of 26 on 24 Jul and total of 96 >S there in Aug with peak of 20+ on 10 Aug. Also, 18 at Loch Feochan Mid-Argyll on 7 Jul, 10 at Tayinloan Kintyre on 2 Jul, and 10 at Blairmore Cowal on 4 Jul. Reports decreased during Aug and only one report in Sep of a single >S at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 6 Sep.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER\*** *Actitis macularius*

*A vagrant: three records; at Loch Indaal, Islay in Jun 1984, at Heylipol, Tiree in Aug 2009 and at Ard Mor, Tiree in Aug 2016.*

*Autumn* A Icy (juvenile) was at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 22-23 Sep [S Nichols, J Bowler *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.



**Spotted Sandpiper** Tiree Sep 2020 Gary Pullan

**GREEN SANDPIPER\*** *Tringa ochropus*

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

*Spring* One was at Kilchoman Islay on 5 Apr.

*Autumn* Seven reports of singles at; Machrihanish SBO Kintyre >S on 28 Jun, at An Fhaodhail Tiree on 6 Aug, at Mill Burn, Machrihanish Kintyre on 10 Aug, at St Columba's Bay, S Iona Mull on 18 Aug, at Sorisdale Coll on 26 Aug, at Craigens Islay on 28 Aug and at Cornaigmore Tiree on 1 Sep. *A much higher than average number of reports.*

**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*). Widespread at coastal sites usually in small nos. Max counts of 88 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan, 48 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Jan and 18 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. At RSPB Oronsay *Colonsay* 13 prs, at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (n/c) cf 94 prs there in 2019 and on *Tiree* 40 prs on partial survey at The Reef (wetland compartment). Chicks noted on *Tiree* from 18 May and juvs at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 29 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 180 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Aug, 55 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Dec and 34 at Appin *North Argyll* on 23 Aug. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* passage >S with 155 total birds in Jul, a peak of 33 on 26 Jul and 134 in total in Aug with a peak of 35 on 6 Aug. Elsewhere, widespread counts of up to 30 birds.

### **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 pair were at a site in *North Argyll* on 2 Jun and a migrant bird was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Jun.

**Autumn** One was at Dervaig *Mull* on 14 Sep and 1 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11-30 Oct.

### **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 1-3 birds at several sites in *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Max counts of 11 at the Strand, *Colonsay* on 12 Jan, 10 at Dervaig *Mull* on 10 Feb, 6 at Balinoe, Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar and 5 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Breeds on *Mull*, *Mid & North Argyll* however restricted data due to Covid constraints. A pr on *Mull* hatched 2 eggs on 25 May. Birds were on territory in an area of *North Argyll* and at least one site in *Mid-Argyll* in Jun. Max counts of 6 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jun and 4 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jun were likely post breeding adults.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Return passage in many areas from early Jul. Max counts of 9 at Dervaig *Mull* on 25 Aug, with 14 there on 24 Sep, 14 at Loch Eatharna *Coll* on 16 Sep, 6 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 31 Jul, 4 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Aug and max there of 8 on 3 Nov. Elsewhere, many sites with 1-4 birds.

### **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/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 770 >S in 4 hrs at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Mar, 361 >W in 1 hr at Aird *Tiree* on 4 Feb, 348 >SW in 1 hr at Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Jan and 150 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Only breeding data from (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). At Uragaig *Colonsay* monitoring site there were 26 AONs. At RSPB The Oa *Islay* 55 AONs. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 383 AONs on 19 Jun and 317 AONs on 8 Jul with ca 500 large chicks close to fledging. Max counts included; 1,500-2,000 at Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of *Jura Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jul, 600 feeding off Traigh Ghrianaid (Maze) *Tiree* on 21 Jun and 150 at the Lynn of Lorne *North Argyll* on 28 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 601 >W in 90 mins at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 7 Oct, 460 >S in 3 hrs (inc 137 juvs) at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Sep and 301 >SW in 1 hr (inc 49 juvs) at Hynish *Tiree* on 20 Aug.

**SABINE'S GULL\*** *Xema sabini*

**A scarce and irregular passage migrant mainly in autumn.**

**Autumn** Single juvs (1cy) flew past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 28 Aug and 4 Sep [J Sweeney], 2 juvs were off Guinart Farm, Loch Guinart *Islay* on 4 Sep [J How], a juv was off Caliach Point *Mull* on 9 Oct [A Brown] and an adult was off Guinart Farm, Loch Guinart *Islay* on 26 Oct [D Brown, J Wilkinson]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.



**Bonaparte's Gull with Black-headed Gulls** *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**BONAPARTE'S GULL\*** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

**A vagrant: Nine or ten previous records. Most recent were in 2018; a 2cy at Heylipoil, Tiree on 31 May-1 Jun and an adult at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll on 20 Dec.**

**Summer/autumn** A 2cy (first-summer then moulted to second-winter) was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun-25 Aug, also seen nearby at Loch Gilp on 13-14 Aug [J Dickson *et al*]. A 2cy (second-winter) was at Loch Guinart *Islay* on 28 Aug- 11 Sep [J How, J Dickson, P Roberts *et al*].

**Winter** An adult was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 17-18 Dec [N Hammatt]. All records were accepted by the BBRC. *The Islay bird was the first report on the island since one in 1975 and the Cowal report was a first for that region.*

**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 495 on *Tiree* on 20 Apr, 130 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 15 Jan, 120 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Mar and 100 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 2 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Most breeding data from *Tiree* where ca 296 AONs across 11 sites, however poor success. First juv > Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 317 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Aug, 100 at Dunaverty *Kintyre* on 19 Aug and 80 at the Halibut Fish Farm outlet, Gigha *Kintyre* on 26 Nov.

**LITTLE GULL\*** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

**Winter/spring** An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb and 18 & 21 Apr. One (not aged) was at Dunbeg *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar. A 2cy was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 27 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** A 2cy was at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 6-17 Aug. A 1cy was off Craignure Mull on 23 Aug. An adult was off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Oct. A 1cy was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Oct. One (not aged) was at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 7 Nov. An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec and same bird at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec.

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL\*** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

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

**Winter/spring** An adult was at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** A 2cy, with yellow c/r on L leg, was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun, also an adult was there on 29 Jun, a new 2cy there on 5 Jul and a 1cy there on 24 Aug. A 2cy flew S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Jun. A 2cy was at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Aug. An adult was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 & 17 Dec.



**Common Gulls** *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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 1,510 across *Tiree* on 22 Jan, 436 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 Mar, 395 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 5 Feb and 380 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll*

on 28 Feb. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 300. Birds returned to some *Tiree* breeding sites in late Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Limited number of breeding reports received apart from; *Tiree* where ca 437 AONs, at Ardnave *Islay* with 5 AONs and at Egg Shed site, Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* with 25 AONs. First fledged young at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* in mid-Jun and on *Tiree* in late Jun. Passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from mid-Jul and max count of 430 >S (inc 32 juvs) on 15 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most higher counts were from *Tiree* where a max of 480 at Ruaig on 20 Oct. Elsewhere, a max of 203 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug and counts in (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) of up to 140 birds.

## **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 82 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 30 Jan, 37 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Mar and 34 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Small nos of juvs noted on *Islay* and *Tiree* from early Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 79 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 Sep, 66 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Nov and 51 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 42 birds.

## **GLAUCOUS GULL\*** *Larus hyperboreus*

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

**Winter/spring** A better than average showing with ca 21 birds. An ad was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Jan, a 2cy at Balliemore, Loch Striven *Cowal* on 6 Jan, a 2cy at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan, an ad at Bunnahabhain *Islay* on 9 Jan, a 3cy at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 11-12 Jan, a 2cy at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 14 Jan with another at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Jan, 2 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 30 Jan, an ad at Ruaig *Tiree* on 20 Feb-5 Apr, 1 at Calgary Bay *Mull* on 26 Feb, 1 at Backs Water *Kintyre* on 28 Feb, a 2cy at Cornabus, The Oa *Islay* on 1 Mar, a 2cy at Machrihanish on 2 Mar, an ad >S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Mar, 1 at Derrygualaig *Mull* on 13 Mar, a 3cy at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 29 Mar-6 Apr, a 2cy at Ruaig *Tiree* on 20 Apr, an ad at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 21-22 Apr, a 3cy at Balevuillin Pools *Tiree* on 28 Apr, a 2cy at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 27 May and 1 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 28 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** All reports given with 6-7 singles. A 1cy was at Bowmore *Islay* on 31 Oct, an ad >S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Nov, a 1cy was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Nov, a 1cy was at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 4 Nov, a 2cy >N past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Nov, a 1cy was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 24 Dec and a 1cy was at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 31 Dec.

## **ICELAND GULL\*** *Larus glaucooides glaucooides*

**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** A better than average showing with 13 singles. A 2cy was at Craigendive, Loch Striven *Cowal* on 2-9 Jan, an ad was at S Loch Scridain *Mull* on 14 Jan, an ad was at Craignens, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 15 Jan, a 2cy was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 19 Jan, a 3cy at Ardinamir, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 1-4 Feb, 1 at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Feb, 1 at Clachan, Head of Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Mar, a 2cy at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 8 Mar, 1 at Garmony *Mull* on 14-15 Mar, a 3cy at Scallastle *Mull* on 9 Apr and a 2cy at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 20 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** At least 6 or 7 birds reported. One was at Machir Bay *Islay* on 22 Oct, a 1cy at Loch Gruinart on 26 Oct, a 1cy >S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Nov & >E past on 5 Nov,

a 1cy at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 12 Nov perhaps to end of Dec, an ad/3cy was at Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov, an ad at E Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec and 2 were at Cragabus, The Oa *Islay* on 22 Dec.

### **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 540 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Feb, 460 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 5 Feb, 450 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar, 360 across *Tiree* on 22 Jan, 259 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Jan and 251 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Limited and incomplete breeding data. At least 53 AONs on *Tiree* and first chicks noted on 1 Jun. At least 10 prs on Campbeltown roof tops *Kintyre* in Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 385 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct, 350 at Gialum Bay *Kintyre* on 26 Nov, 304 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Oct and 270 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 11 Dec.

### **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. Presumably wintering birds in the Clyde area noted in *Cowal* with 1-2 birds at Blairmore and Innellan in Jan-Feb. More typical 'arrivals' in Feb with 1 at Tarbert Harbour *Kintyre* on 1 Feb, 1 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 6 Feb, also 6 there on 13 Feb and 1 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb. Max counts of 60 at Milton *Tiree* on 21 Apr, 60 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 19 May and 40 >W over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr. Elsewhere, other than *Tiree*, counts generally of 1-20 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited and incomplete breeding data. On *Tiree* 69 AONs.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Nos declined from late Aug. Max counts of 24 >S off *Colonsay* on 4 Sep and 23 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Sep after which reports of only 1-3 birds mainly from (*Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll*). Only two reports in Dec, with 3 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 15 Dec and 2 at Blairmore *Cowal* on 22 Dec.

### **SANDWICH TERN** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals of 1 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 6 Apr, 3 at Kirm *Cowal* on 8 Apr and 6 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Apr. Thereafter, more widespread reports from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). A max count of 120+ at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 23 Apr. Most reports were from S *Kintyre* and single figure nos from *Cowal, Islay* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding reports. Higher counts at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with 43 (8 juvs) on 18 Jul, 55 (20+ juvs) on 30 Jul and 34 (8 juvs) on 22 Aug. Elsewhere, higher counts of 10 (4 juvs) at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug and 5 at Innellan Pier *Cowal* on 27 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Higher counts included; 45 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 28 Aug and a total of 66 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in Sep, with a peak daily count of 18 on 4 Sep and the last report of 2 there on 27 Sep.



**Sandwich Tern** Kintyre Jul 2020 *Eddie Maguire*

**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 (Islay/Tiree). First report was of 1 at the Big Strand Islay on 7 Apr then 8 at Gott Bay Tiree on 12 Apr. Most arrived after 20 Apr and a max count of 20 at Gott Bay Tiree on 22 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from; Colonsay with 3prs (failed) at RSPB Oronsay, Islay with 4 prs at RSPB Ardnave and 1 pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart, and on Tiree where 21 prs produced a min of 9 fledged young and likely that others attempted to nest on Gunna. A count of 50 ads with 3 fledged young at Gott Bay Tiree on 6 Jul.

**Autumn** In Kintyre 7 ads >S at Machrihanish SBO on 29 Jul. On Mull 3 were at Iona on 1 Aug and last birds on Tiree with 11 (inc 5 juvs) at Gott Bay on 5 Aug and 3 (inc 1 juv) there on 7 Aug.

**ROSEATE TERN\*** *Sterna dougallii*

**RED LIST** A rare migrant; prior to 1980 it occasionally bred in Argyll. The most recent records were from Kintyre in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2012.

**Autumn** An adult was seen off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 6 Sep [E Maguire, G Crabtree]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**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 (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First reports of singles at Innellan *Cowal* and Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr, then 1 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 15 Apr. Higher counts of 33 at Duncuan Is, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 May, 20 at Scallastle *Mull* on 13 May and 12 at Java Point *Mull* on 6 May.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding on offshore islands for which little data. No data from Treshnish Isles *Mull*. On *Tiree* in early Jul 25 prs were at Milton and 5 prs at Caoles but all failed. In *North Argyll* 100 birds at South Shian with some juvs noted. Small nos elsewhere in *Cowal, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Max counts of 400 at Glas Eileanan, Sound of *Mull* on 27 Jul, 50 at Scallastle *Mull* on 13 Jun and 36 feeding at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Few reports after start of Aug. A max of 10 (5 juvs) at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 7 Aug and 7 (1 juv) at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug. Only up to 5 birds at sites on *Mull* in early Sep and last 2 birds at Largiemore, Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 19 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.*

**Spring** Reports from all coastal areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First reports on *Tiree* of 8 on on 20 Apr and rising to 56 at Traigh Bhaigh on 5 May.

**Summer/breeding** Incomplete data. On *Islay* 56 AONs at RSPB Ardnave. On *Tiree* 270 AONs at 17 sites producing ca 85 fledged young by mid-month. Small nos noted breeding on *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre* and *Mull*. No data this year from the Treshnish Isles *Mull*. A build up of 2cy birds on *Tiree* from first early bird at Loch Bhasapol on 27 May and then higher counts of 650 at Eilean Ghreasamuill, off Caoles on 6 Jul, 300 at Milton on 13 Jul and 60 at Gott Bay on 31 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Coll/Islay/Tiree*). Most birds had departed by mid-Aug and only small nos *Islay* and *Tiree* to early Sep with last report of 2 off Aird and 1 off Vaul *Tiree* on 5 Sep.

### **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** First report was of a single off Caliach Point *Mull* on 19 Mar. Only 1-3 birds noted in early spring from *Mull* and *Tiree*.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received from sites in (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). Five AOTs at RSPB Oronsay *Colonsay* with fledged young from 2 prs and at least 2 prs on *Tiree* and 1 pr on *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** Passage birds noted from 13 Aug when 1 >S off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, and only 1-4 birds noted from coastal sites, with max counts of 10 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 20 Aug, 12 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 5 Sep, 5 >S off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 5 Sep, 7 off Caliach Point *Mull* on 9 Sep and 8 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 9 Oct. Last report was a single from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 9 Nov.

### **POMARINE SKUA\*** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

**Autumn/winter** An ad >S at Crossapol Dunes *Coll* on 23 Aug, a sub-ad >W at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 4 Sep, a 1cy >W at Aird *Tiree* on 5 Sep, 1 >S at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 5 Sep, a



1cy >W at Aird Tiree on 9 Oct, 1 >W at Dun Mor, Vaul Tiree on 9 Oct and a 1cy >W at Aird Tiree on 26 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** Only four reports. Two were at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 18 Apr, 2 at Arinagour Coll on 22 Apr, 1 at Keills, Loch na Cille Mid-Argyll on 26 May and 1 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 29 Jun.

**Summer/breeding** No confirmed breeding data. A bird was seen inland on Coll on 22 Apr and may have been a potential breeder however no further information received.

**Autumn/winter** Three were at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 3 Aug, also 1 on 12 Aug, 3 on 4 Sep and 3 on 12 Sep. One was at Loch Eatherna Coll on 18 Aug, 1 was at The Reef, 2 at Hynish on 20 Aug and 1 at Hynish on 2 Sep, all Tiree, 1 was at Balnahard Bay on 3 Sep and 2 at Port Mor on 5 Sep, both Colonsay, 1 was at Frenchman's Rocks Islay on 3 Sep, also 2 on 5 Sep and 3 on 6 Sep, 1 was at Caliach Point Mull on 9 Sep, 1 seen from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 9 Sep, 1 was off Scarba Mid-Argyll on 23 Sep, 1 was at Aird on 9 Oct and 1 at Vaul Bay on 9 Oct, both Tiree and last report of 1 seen from the Kennacraig to Islay Ferry on 9 Nov.



**Long-tailed Skua** Islay ferry Aug 2018 Mark Lewis

**LONG-TAILED SKUA\*** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

*A scarce and irregular passage migrant: spring and autumn records off western coasts and islands.*

**2018. Autumn** A juv (1cy) was seen and photographed from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 23 Aug [M Lewis]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**LITTLE AUK\*** *Alle alle*

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

**Winter** Only report was of 1 >W off Aird Tiree on 4 Feb.

**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 1-25 birds, however higher counts of 215 in 1 hr passing Hynish Tiree on 24 Mar and 170 >S off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 12 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from (Colonsay/Islay/Tiree) with 279 on cliffs at RSPB The Oa Islay in Jun and on Tiree at Ceann a' Mhara on 19 Jun where 3,938 on cliffs with 400 small to mid-sized chicks and a further 2,100 on sea mostly this species, and on 8 Jul; 2,809 birds brooding some 280 mid-sized chicks, others had already left. A moderately good breeding year (some 400 chicks fledged in total).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas, with low nos of 1-40 birds. Few reports, and of only 1-7 birds after mid-Oct.



**Razorbill** Kintyre Mar 2020 *Eddie Maguire*

### **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** Most reports from (Kintyre/Mull/Tiree). Max counts of 2,400 >S in 3 hrs at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 6 Apr and 138 >W in 1 hr off Aird Tiree on 4 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from (Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree). At RSPB The Oa Islay 138 birds in Jun. On cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara Tiree counts of 384, with most on eggs (many more birds on the sea) on 30 Jun, and 409 adults, many with large young on 8 Jul. Begging juvs with adults on the sea off Tiree in mid-Aug. Many more reports around Argyll coasts during Aug than usual. A group of 46 adults were at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Aug. At Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* at least 11 juvs just off the front green from 25 Aug and several found dead in following weeks.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most high counts were from sea areas around *Coll* and *Tiree* during Sep-Oct with max count of 1,125 >W in 1 hr off *Aird Tiree* on 9 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 18 at *Oban Bay Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb, 12 at *Ardskenish Colonsay* on 9 Jan, 11 at *Sound of Gigha Kintyre* on 5 Feb and 10 at *Bunnahabhain Islay* on 27 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. Counts from most coastal sites, usually of 1-10 birds, and max counts of 28 at *Sound of Gigha Kintyre* on 15 Sep, 20 at *Appin North Argyll* on 17 Oct, 14 at *Loch na Keal Mull* on 7 Nov and 10 at *Tarbert Harbour Kintyre* on 7 Oct.

**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** A dead bird was found at *Gott Bay Tiree* on 23 Feb. One was off *Calgary Mull* on 4 Mar. No reports in Apr and only one report in May. Reports of only singles in Jun from (*Islay/Jura/Mull/Tiree*). Counts from the ferry between *Mull* and *Coll* gave 20 on 23 Jul and 30 on 28 Jul. 12 in 1 hr passed *Hynish Tiree* on 30 Jul.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding data from island colonies due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Autumn/winter** Only reports were of birds at the *Lunga, Treshnish Isles Mull* in early Aug, 3 off *NE Coll* on 28 Aug and last report of 1 from the *Kennacraig to Islay* ferry on 19 Sep.

**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 145 at *RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay* on 20 Feb, 50 at *Saligo Bay Islay* on 2 Feb, however many counts of up to 40 around *Tiree* Jan-Apr. Under reported.

**Summer/breeding** No specific breeding data received. Higher counts included 105 at *Balephetrish Tiree* on 8 Jun and up to 90 at *Laphroaig Islay* Jul-Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Max counts of 140 at *Drumlemble Kintyre* on 14 Sep (some feral types in flock), 130 at *RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa Islay* on 12 Nov, 125 at *Loch na Keal Mull* on 8 Sep, 105 at *Balevullin Tiree* on 11 Sep, 104 at *RSPB Totronald Coll* on 16 Nov and 100 at *Bellochantuy Kintyre* on 16 Oct. Elsewhere, many flocks of up to 50.

**FERAL PIGEON** Small groups reported, mainly from the larger towns in *Argyll* with max counts of 35+ in *Oban*. A flock of 22 around *Barnakill farm Mid-Argyll* and nearby a flock of 18 almost pure Rock Dove types have taken residence at the *Islandadd Bridge, Bellanoch Mid-Argyll*.

**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** One was at Kinnabus, The Oa Islay on 26 Mar, 1 was at Nether Largie, Kilmartin Glen Mid-Argyll on 19 Apr and 1 was at Toward Cowal on 11 May.

**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 except (Jura). Max counts of 60 >SE over Lingerton landfill, Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll on 12 Jan and 11 at Tayvallich Kintyre on 25 Jan

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received. Bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay. Usually breeds in low nos in Argyll.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Jura). Max counts of 270 >SW over Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll towards large forest area on 26 Oct, also smaller flocks of 30-35 over Cairnbaan on several days in late Oct and 200 over Drimlee, Glen Shira Mid-Argyll on 26 Oct. Counts of up to 33 on Colonsay in late Sep, otherwise 1-16 birds reported at sites elsewhere.

**EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE\*** *Streptopelia turtur*

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

**Spring** One was at Loch Don Mull on 1 Jun.

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Caliach Mull on 16 Sep and an adult was at The Lodge, Arinagour Coll on 17 Sep.



**Turtle Dove Mull Jun 2020** Steve James

**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 of 40 at Peninver *Kintyre* on 10 Apr, 15 at Mill Park *Kintyre* on 4 Jan, 14 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan and 11 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan

**Summer/breeding** No specific breeding data received. Widespread counts of up to 12 birds.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 36 at Octofad farm *Islay* on 7 Sep, 30 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 19 Sep and 30 at Loch Eatherna *Coll* on 30 Sep.

**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 Carradale *Kintyre* on 7 Apr, Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr and Ardbeg *Islay* on 8 Apr, followed by scattered reports until a notable increase from 13 Apr onwards, around four days earlier than 2019.

**Breeding** Noted calling at sites in; *Coll* (0), *Colonsay* (no survey cf 20 in 2019), *Cowal* (29 cf 16 in 2019), *Islay* (4 cf 24 in 2019), *Jura* (0) *Kintyre* (5 cf 10 in 2019), *Mid-Argyll* (42 cf 49 in 2019), *Mull* (21 cf 98 in 2019), *North Argyll* (5 cf 19 in 2019) and *Tiree* (6 cf 5 in 2019). Big reductions in reports in some areas this year presumably as a consequence of Covid-19 travel restrictions.

**Autumn** Last report of an adult was on 7 Jul, thereafter several reports of juvs on *Mull* to 12 Aug, at Croabh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug and at Vaul *Tiree* to 24 Aug.



**Cuckoo with Meadow Pipit Mull May 2020** Ewan Miles





**Barn Owls** *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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*). Most reports from *Islay, Kintyre, Mull* and *Mid-Argyll*. Reports mainly of 1-2 in all months with more reports during Jan-May then fewer during Jun-Jul. Several reports of fledged broods of 4-6 young. One on *Tiree* from 17 Oct into 2021 was unusual.

**Breeding** Data from the ARSG; 104 sites were checked [*cf* 109 in 2019]. Nine sites were occupied by single birds, and 66 breeding attempts (including second broods) were reported at 58 sites [39 sites occupied by pairs in 2019]. Eggs were known to have been laid at 64 sites. The fledging outcome was known at 30 sites, where 93.3% of nests were successful [50.0% in 2019]. The mean young per successful nest was 4.96 [*cf* 3.00 in 2019]. ( *Article: The Eider Dec 2020 pp 14 -16* )

**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/Jura/Tiree*). More frequent reports during Apr-Jun. Most reports from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (17), *Cowal* (12) and *Mull* (9) and most of birds calling with few sight reports.

**Breeding** Data from the ARSG; 38 sites were checked (*cf* 70 in 2019). No signs of birds were found at 14 sites. Two sites had single birds and breeding pairs were found at 19 sites [*cf* 20 sites in 2019]. The fledging outcome was known at 12 sites, where 83% of nests were successful. The mean young per successful nest was 2.00 [*cf* 1.44 in 2019].



**Tawny Owl** Kintyre Jun 2020 *Alasdair Paterson*

**LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

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

**All year/breeding** One was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Feb. Several reports of confirmed and also likely breeding birds from late May to early Jul from; *Uig Coll*, *Kiloran Colonsay*, *Moine Mhor* and *Kerrera Mid-Argyll*, *Southend* and nr *Campbeltown Kintyre*. One was at *Colonsay Hotel*, *Scalasaig Colonsay* on 26 Sep and 2 were at the *Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec. *Due to the nocturnal nature of this species they are presumably greatly under recorded.*

**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 three sites on *Mull* (nine sites in 2019) of 1-2 birds. No reports received from *Jura*. Two were on *Tiree* on 20 Jan and an injured bird was taken into care. One was at *Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb, 1 was on *Seil Is Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr, 1 was nr *Stronafian Cowal* on 15 May, 1 was at *Ballimore, Loch Striven Cowal* on 21 May.

**Summer/breeding** Data from the ARSG; twelve sites were checked. Three had no signs of occupation and two sites were occupied by a single bird. Pairs were present at seven sites. At these, the breeding outcome was unknown at three sites, one site failed and the remaining three sites fledged at least 5 young (ave = 1.66 young/successful nest and 1.25 young/monitored nest).

**Autumn/winter** One was at *Glen More Mull* on 5 Aug, 1 at *Scarinish Tiree* on 8 Aug, 1 at *Crossapol Coll* on 18 Sep, 1 at *RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay* on 14 Oct, 1 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 17 Oct and 2 at *Loch Spelve Mull* on 6 Dec.





**Long-eared Owl** *Mid-Argyll* May 2020 *David Jardine*



**Short-eared Owl** *Tiree* Jan 2020 *John Bowler*

**COMMON SWIFT** *Apus apus*

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

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). First arrivals on 5 May with; 3 in Cambeltown *Kintyre*, singles at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay*, also in Lochgilphead, Kilmichael Glassary and Oban all *Mid-Argyll*. One at Java Point *Mull* on 6 May and 5 over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* in low cloud on 7 May. Noted from 'sites' in; *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (20), *Mull* (9), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (3).

**Breeding/summer** In view of limited data in previous years and a known UK decline of up to 50% since 1995 the **ABC carried out an Argyll breeding survey** involving 40 volunteers (*Article: The Eider Sept 2020 pp 14 -15*). Overall total thought to be around 50 prs, with prs noted at: *Cowal* Carrick Castle (3), *Strone* (1), *Sandbank* (3), *Dunoon* (1-3) and *Tighnabruaich* (1); *Kintyre* Campbeltown (5+); *Mid-Argyll* Benderloch (1+), *Connel* (1), *Taynuilt* (3+), *Oban* (north (3) & south (4/5)), *Lerags* (3), *Kilmelford* (1+), *Portsonachan* (6), *Kilmartin* (1), *Slockavulin* (2), *Poltalloch* (1), *Kilmichael* (3+), *Lochgilphead* (4) and *Ardrishaig* (1). Max counts late summer; 21 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 20 Jul, 14 at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul, 35 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul and 12 at Lower Fernoch, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Reported from 13 locations in Aug with max counts of 20 in Campbeltown *Kintyre* 11 Aug and 7 at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug. Most birds had departed by late Aug however a juv in a nest box at Kilmichael Glassary was reluctant to leave until 9 Sep. One was at Balnahard Bay *Colonsay* on 3 Sep. One was seen briefly at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 22 Oct and Pallid Swift not ruled out. One was found (dead several days) at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct and confirmed as Common Swift.



**Kingfisher** *Mid-Argyll* Feb 2020 *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** Few reports; 1-2 (m+f) at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* between 2 Jan-13 Mar, a fem at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan, 1 at Loch Don *Mull* between 4 Jan-3 Mar and 1 at Ferlochan, Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 7 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** No confirmed breeding reports and no reports received between 13 Mar-17 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** More widespread, presumably involving post breeding movements from out-with Argyll. Reports of from; *Cowal* with 2 at Lochgoilhead on 22 Aug, 1 at Portavadie ferry slip on 30 Aug and 15 Oct, 1 at the Holy Loch on 26 Sep; in *Mid-Argyll* 1 just S of Cairnbaan on 17 Aug, 1 at Lochan Taynish on 21 Aug, 1 m at Loch Gilp on 22 Aug to year end, also a fem there from 8 Nov, 2 at Loch Sween on 7 Sep, 1 at Dalmally on 20 Oct, 1 at Kerrera slip on 15-16 Oct and 1 at Airds Bay on 29 Dec; on *Mull* 1 at Loch Don on 2 Nov-27 Dec.

**EURASIAN HOOPOE\*** *Upupa epops*

A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.

**Spring** One was in a garden at Lochdon *Mull* on 13 May.

**Autumn** One remained in the Bridgend/Whin Park area *Islay* on 25 Sep-23 Oct.



**Hoopoe** *Mull* May 2020 *Jen Swift*

**EURASIAN WRYNECK\*** *Jynx torquilla*

**RED LIST** *A rare and irregular passage migrant in spring and autumn; twelve records since 1969. Lasts record were at The Oa, Islay in Aug 2013 and Gribun, Mull in Sep 2017.*

**Autumn** One was at St Columba's Bay, Iona Mull on 18 Aug [Paul St Pierre]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from sites in; Cowal (18), Islay (7), Kintyre (3), Mid-Argyll (30), Mull (13), North Argyll (7). Generally, 1-2 birds reported and a max of 4 together in Tayvallich Mid-Argyll in Jan. Drumming heard from early Feb.

**Summer/breeding** First fledged young noted at Tayvallich Mid-Argyll on 13 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports and sites reported from only: Islay (6), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (14), Mull (7) and all of 1-2 birds.



**Great Spotted Woodpecker** Mid-Argyll Apr 2020 Bill Anderson

**COMMON KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (Colonsay/Jura). All reports of 1 -2 birds from 'sites' in Coll (2), Cowal (4), Islay (3), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (22), Mull (10), and Tiree (2). Most frequent reports were in Jan to Mar. Unfortunately, no data from Jura where they are known to occur.

**Summer/breeding** Data from the ARSG; 25 sites were checked of which 13 were occupied (*cf* 2 in 2019) and a min of 28 large young produced (*cf* 1 in 2019).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Reports from ‘sites’ in; *Coll* (5), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (23), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (4). Generally single birds, occasionally 2 and max counts of 5 at *Gribun Mull* on 8 Sep and 3 on *Luing Mid-Argyll* on 29 Dec.



**Merlin** *Mid-Argyll* Oct 2020 *Steve Carter*

**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 (*Colonsay/North Argyll*). Most reports of single birds by month mainly; in Feb (26) then Jan (11). Most reports were from; *Islay* (18), *Tiree* (10), *Kintyre* (8), *Mull* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (3) and *Cowal* (1).

**Summer/breeding** No reports in Jun and only 4 reports in Jul. No occupied territories were found at previously occupied sites (per ARSG). No other breeding reports were received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). All reports were of singles, however up to 3 across *Tiree* on 15 Nov. Most reports by month were in; Oct (18), Sep (14), Aug (8), Nov (8) and Dec (7). Most reports by region were *Tiree* (27), *Kintyre* (11), *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* & *Mull* (6), *Coll* & *Colonsay* (3). *Note - in some areas e.g. Tiree the same lingering birds may be reported many times during their stay.*

**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*. Reports from all months however a notable increase in sightings during Aug and Sep. Max



count away from nest sites of 5 in central *Tiree* on 29 Jul, 3 at Loch Buie *Mull* in Sep and 3 at Bunnahabhain *Islay* in Jul.

**Breeding** Data from the ARSG; 39 sites were checked, 15 sites were occupied and raised a min. of 19 large young.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER\*** *Empidonax flaviventris*

*No previous Western Palearctic records. A New World tyrant flycatcher which breeds across wet northern (spruce) woodland and bogs of Canada and NE USA migrating through central America and winters in southern central America.*

**Autumn** A 1cy was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15-23 Sep [J Bowler *et al*]. Record subject to acceptance by the BOU and BBRC. (*Article: Scottish Birds Vol 41 (1) March 2021 pp 78-80*)

*As a first record for the Western Palearctic this was a major find and attracted a lot of attention from far and wide across the birding world. A well-managed 'twitch' under Covid-19 guidelines ensued and allowed 120+ birders to get amazing views at close range (down to 2 metres!) as it fed on a good supply of flies during its stay. Almost £2,000 was given by visiting birders for Covid-19 related projects on *Tiree*.*



**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Tiree* Sep 2020 *John Bowler*



**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* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (19), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (1). Highest number of reports were in Apr (12) and May (11).

**Summer/breeding** All reports from mainland Argyll and *Mull* with generally 1-2 birds at sites and max counts of 9 at Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Aug, 5 at Benmore Botanic Gardens *Cowal* on 10 Jul and 4 at Dalsmirren *Kintyre* on 12 Jul. No breeding data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of 1-3 birds from 'sites' in; *Cowal* (6), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (10) and *North Argyll* (2). Max counts of 9 at Kilbride, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep and 4 at Garmony *Mull* on 26 Sep. Highest number of reports were in Sep (12).



**Jay** *Mid-Argyll* Aug 2020 *Sheila McKenzie*

**EURASIAN MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

*A local breeder restricted to Cowal. Reports scarce and sporadic elsewhere. There is some evidence to show that some birds arrive in early spring to Kintyre from Northern Ireland and move north through Argyll.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). *Cowal* had most reports, from 12 'sites', then *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (8) and *Mull* (5). Under reported from *Cowal* where only a max of 4 birds noted at sites. Elsewhere, max counts were 3 at Lossit House *Kintyre* on 28 May and only singles noted in *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

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

**Autumn/winter** Reports from 'sites' in *Cowal* (5), *Kintyre* (3) and *Mid-Argyll* (5) with max counts of only 4 at Kames *Cowal* on 4 Dec and 3 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* in Sep.

**RED-BILLED CHOUGH** *Pyrhocorax 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 36 at Ardnave in Jan-Feb.

**Summer/breeding** On *Islay* a full survey was not possible however from information gathered, of the 58 known sites were checked, prs were present at 36 sites of which 29 nests had a known outcome; 10 fledged no young and 19 sites produced 45 young (2.36 young per successful nest *cf* 2.53 in 2019)(per SCSC). No birds were ringed in 2020 due to Covid-19 travel restrictions. Limited permitted survey work on *Colonsay* in mid-Jun, breeding data; at least 8 young fledged from 3 nests, 1 failed, 1 outcome unknown.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay*). Few counts received, however max counts on *Islay* of 42 roosting at RSPB Smaull in Aug, a mobile flock of 50 at Eilean Mor on 8 Aug and 29 at Ardnave in Oct. On *Colonsay* in Sep, mostly 2 birds at sites and a max of 6 together on 6 Sep.



**Chough** *Islay* Nov 2020 *Dan Brown*

**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/Tiree*). Higher counts received included; 260 at Kilkivan Quarry *Kintyre* 10 Mar, 180 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan, 120 at Ardencaple House, *Seil Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan and 110 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding data received. Reports generally of 1-12 birds. Max count was 25 at Ledaig *North Argyll* on 9 Aug. Most reports from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Higher counts included; 254 going to roost in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov, 230 at Eallabus *Islay* on 7 Sep, 230 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 10 Sep, 230 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct and 100 at Torsa Beag *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Dec. Two at Loch an Eilein on 12-14 Dec was the only record from *Tiree* in 2020.

### **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/Tiree*). Few high counts received. Max count of 200 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* 1 Feb, 150 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Feb and 65 at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** On *Islay* 163 nests at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Most reports from (*Cowal/Islay*). Max counts of 110 at Laphroaig *Islay* on 27 Jul and 85 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Few counts received. Max counts of only 100+ at Ardnave *Islay* on 27 Sep, 100+ at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Sep and 67 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Dec. A group of 15 1cy birds arrived in East *Tiree* on 13 Nov and remained into 2021.

### **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 stronghold areas of *Cowal* however only single figure counts and a max of 8 at Inverchapel on 4 Mar. In *Mid-Argyll* 1-2 birds noted at 8 sites, also 1 at Kintra, The Oa *Islay* on 8 Jan and 1 at Knock *Mull* in Feb.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding data received. A pr present in Lochgilphead in summer.

**Autumn/winter** Most reports again from *Cowal* at 6 sites and a max count of only 6 birds. Reports of 1-2 birds elsewhere in *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*.

### **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 110 at a pre-roost Kiloran *Colonsay* on 5 Jan, 30 at Clachandubh Burn, nr Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar and 25 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 29 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding data received. Fledged young noted from 26 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 44 at pre-roost count A' Chroic *Coll* on 4 Oct and 28 at Ben Mannel *Tiree* on 17 Sep.

### **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 of small nos from (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll*).

**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 count received of 55 at the Lingerton landfill site *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, elsewhere counts on 1-24 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Prs and displaying birds noted from Jan. Data from the ARSG; of 60 *Argyll* sites checked they produced a min of 54 young and 3.06 young per successful nest.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts included; 97 at Lingerton landfill site, *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Nov, 80 going to roost at *Bridgend Islay* on 9 Nov, 60 at *An Crosan*, nr *Loch Assapol Mull* on 6 Sep and 32 *Heylipol Tiree* on 26 Aug.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING\*** *Bombycilla garrulous*

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

**Winter/spring** A 2cy was in *Oban Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan and an adult male was at *Kilmartin Mid-Argyll* on 20-24 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** No reports.



**Waxwing** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *David Jardine*



**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, 1-4 birds noted however 12 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 9 Jan and 6 at Inverchapel *Cowal* on 7 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** On *Mull* 25 Terns on a full survey of Aros Park in Apr-Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally, up to 10 birds at sites. On *Tiree* 2 were at The Glebe, Scarinish on 12 Oct, then an island record of 4 there on 13 Oct and 1 at Heylipol Church on 12 Dec.



**Blue Tit** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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/Jura/Tiree*). All reports of 1-6 birds however 26 birds at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on a lawn, mostly gathering moss on 14 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Generally, 1-8 birds noted at sites and first fledglings noted on 10 Jun in *Mid-Argyll*. 39 Terns on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* in Apr-Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally, up to 8 birds at sites. On *Tiree* 4 arrived at Balephuill on 14 Oct with Yellow-browed Warblers, and an island record of 6 there on 17-19 Oct with 2 remaining to 3 Dec and 1 into 2021 at Crossapol.

**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 (*Jura/Tiree*). All reports of 1-7 birds.

**Summer/breeding** On Mull 25 Terns on a full survey of Aros Park in Apr-Jun. Fledged birds noted from 10 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Tiree*). All reports of only 1-5 birds.



**Skylark Kintyre** May 2020 *Dave Millward*

**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* (17 cf at 76 sites in 2019), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Kintyre* (10) and *Islay* (7). Only three reports in Jan. Returning flocks noted from late Feb with 400 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 28 Feb also 200 >SE there on 2 Mar, 90 >N at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 2 Mar, 62 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Feb and 114 there on 11 Mar, 264 at Ardlarach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Mar and 500 at High Ranachan, N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 29 Mar. Singing was noted on calmer days from *Cowal* and *Tiree* from early Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Little specific breeding data. Around the Moine Mhor area *Mid-Argyll* 4 Terns at Dalnahaसाig, 5 at Dalvore and 4 at Dunadd in May-Jun. Fledged juvs noted around Keills *Mid-Argyll* from 2 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Visible migration noted from early Sep with small groups >S across *Tiree*. Most birds departing during Sep and early Oct. Higher counts in late Sep e.g. 260 Balephetrish *Tiree* on 28 Sep. Smaller nos during Nov with max counts of 50 at Sunderland *Islay* on 12 Nov, 80 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 15 Nov and 70 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 26 Nov. No reports received in Dec.



**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 (*Coll/Jura*). First arrivals noted; 3 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar, 4 at Calliburn *Kintyre* on 26 Mar, 1 at Dervaig *Mull* on 27 Mar. More widespread from 28 Mar when 60 at Dalvore, Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll*.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data on breeding colonies received. On *Tiree* 127 AOBs at 8 sites, most Loch a' Phuill (80+ AOBs), 4 AOBs Kiloran dunes *Colonsay*, 30 AOBs Auchgoyle Cottage *Cowal*, 300+ Langa Quarry *Kintyre* (noted as big increase from 2019), 12 AOBs Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* and 20 AOBs Connel *North Argyll*.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most birds had departed by mid-Sep. Highest counts of 40 at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 3 Sep and 30 at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 7 Aug. Last report was of 2 at Castle Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Oct.



**Sand Martin** *Mid-Argyll* May 2020 *James Lehmann*

**BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

*A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas. A very early bird at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Feb seen flying low into a strong cold wind. More typical early arrivals were 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Mar then 1 at Dervaig *Mull* on 4 Apr with more widespread arrivals from 5 Apr. Higher counts noted were 25 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr and 20 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. First broods on *Tiree* noted on 30 Jun. Young were still in nest at Auchgoyle *Cowal* on 13 Sep and gone by 27 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 80 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Aug, 70 at The Reef *Tiree* on 4 Sep, 65 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 19 Aug and 50 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 27

Sep. Most birds had departed by end of Sep, smaller nos until mid-Oct and scattered reports of 4 singles in Nov with last reports at Dervaig *Mull* on 26 Nov and at Kildalloig *Kintyre* on 30 Nov.



**Barn Swallow** *Mid-Argyll* May 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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/Colonsay/Jura*). First reports; 4 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 6 Apr, 1 at Dervaig *Mull* on 8 Apr and 6 at North Connel *North Argyll* on 9 Apr. Most arrivals were after 12 Apr and more widespread across Argyll from early May. Higher counts included 40 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 9 May and 22 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. Most site reports (usually houses) with 1-4 nests however 16 nests at Ugadale Hotel *Kintyre*. A nest at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* was successful and produced 2+ fledged young.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Max count of 40 at Java Point *Mull* on 1 Aug, 40 at Kames *Cowal* on 6 Sep and 30 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Aug. 16 feeding at Carnan Mor on 22 Aug was a record count for *Tiree*. Most birds had departed by end of Sep. Last reports were 3 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 6 Oct and 5 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 11 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/Tiree*). Most counts of 1-8 birds and six counts of 10 or more birds from mostly at sites in *Mid-Argyll* (16) and *Cowal* (9). Max counts of 15 at Dalsmirren *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 13 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan and 12 at Kilmory Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** On Mull 7 Terns on a full survey of Aros Park in Apr-Jun. An adult was carrying food in *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jun and fledged juvs noted on *Mull* on 19 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Tiree*). Most counts of 1-12 birds and mostly from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (11) and *Mull* (8). Max counts of 16 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct, 15 at Craignure *Mull* on 2 Nov, 14 at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 2 Oct, and 14 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 30 Dec.



**Long-tailed Tit** *Mid-Argyll* Nov 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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/North Argyll*). First reports at Taynish and Barnakill *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr and at Glenfinart *Cowal* on 27 Apr.

Singing males reported from 'sites' in; *Cowal* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11) and *Mull* (3). A passage bird was at Meningie *Tiree* on 6 May.

**Autumn** One was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 21 Jul.

**HUME'S LEAF WARBLER\*** *Phylloscopus humei*

*No previous Argyll records. A rare late autumn visitor to the Britain from breeding grounds of inner Asian mountain forests and winters in parts of Arabia to India.*

**Autumn** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Oct-3 Nov [J Bowler, J Hunter]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.

*This bird arrived during a southerly gale and heavy rain on 31 Oct and did not allow conclusive views until 2 Nov when it was also photographed and was heard calling on 3 Nov. This becomes the first Argyll record.*



**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Islay* Oct 2020 *David Wood*

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER\*** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

*A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals: at least 90 records between 1954 and 2019, the majority on Tiree.*

**Autumn** A new Argyll record total of at least 37 birds – previous high total of 23 birds in 2016. The first single of the autumn was at Heylipol *Tiree* on 27 Sep and the last report was of 2 at RSPB Gruinart woodland/moorland trail *Islay* on 30 Oct. Reports from *Coll* with singles at Sorisdale on 30 Sep, Totamore on 5 Oct and 2 at The Lodge plantation, Arinagour on 10 Oct; *Islay* with a total of at least 16 birds, with 8 across five sites on The Oa on 4-17 Oct, at Finlaggan on 6 Oct, up to 3 at RSPB Loch Gruinart woods/farm on 6-30 Oct and at Bridgend on 22 Oct; *Mull* with a single at Lochdon on 20 Oct; *Tiree* with at least 16 birds across six sites on 27 Sep-27 Oct, with peaks of 5 at Balephuill on 3 & 8-12 Oct and 3 at The Glebe/Manse, Scarinish on 3 & 10 Oct. No reports from *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mid* or *North Argyll*.

**DUSKY WARBLER\*** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

*No previous Argyll records. A rare late autumn visitor to Scotland from Siberian breeding areas and winters in Nepal, India and eastern Asia.*

**Autumn** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct [J Bowler, J Hunter]. Record was accepted by the SBRC. (Article: **Scottish Birds** Vol 41 (1) March 2021 pp 86 -89)

*The bird was located by call and then seen and photographed but was very skulking. It arrived after strong NE winds on 13 Oct along with arrivals of thrush species and Brambling. This becomes the first Argyll record.*





**Dusky Warbler** *Tiree* Oct 2020 *John Bowler*

**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**AMBER LIST** A *widespread and abundant summer visitor*.

**Spring** Reports from all areas. First arrival was an early male in song (our earliest) at Craignure *Mull* on 22 Mar and the next not until 1 at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr. More widespread arrivals from 7 Apr. Higher counts of 30 at Loch Frisa *Mull* on 16 Apr and a remarkable count of 100+ at Machrihanish airbase site *Kintyre* involving migrant birds on 17 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Singing males widespread across Argyll from mid-Apr. Higher counts and Ters included; 38-40 Ters/singing males on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* in Apr-Jun, 32 tot birds at Kilmichael Forest BBS *Mid-Argyll*, 21 birds at Bellanoch BBS *Mid-Argyll*, 17 birds at Rhudle BBS *Mid-Argyll* and 10 Ters at 5 sites on *Tiree*. Brood/4 noted on *Tiree* on 24 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Number of reports decreased during Aug with few reports by end of Sep. Last report was a juv at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Oct. A bird thought to be this species, but unconfirmed, was at RSPB Totronald *Coll* on 30 Dec.



**Common Chiffchaff** *Tiree* Mar 2020 *Hayley Douglas*

**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 (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). No winter reports. First arrivals of singles at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar, at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar and at Machrihanish airfield site *Kintyre* on 24 Mar. More widespread arrivals from 25 Mar. One at Aros Park *Mull* on 30 Apr was thought to be of the Scandinavian race *abietinus*.

**Summer/breeding** Reports at 'sites' in; *Colonsay* (n/a), *Cowal* (23), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (20), *Mull* (6), *North Argyll* (7) and *Tiree* (1). Five in song/Ters along the Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* between Cairnbaan and Crinan Wood on 10 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Local birds departed during Aug to mid-Sep then reports mainly from the island areas. A max count of 8 at Colonsay Hotel *Colonsay* on 24 Sep. Elsewhere, just 1-3 birds reported and last report of 1 on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov. Two at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Oct 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** Singles were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11-12 Oct and 19 Oct [John Bowler].



**Sedge Warbler** *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2020 *Steve Carter*

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*A locally common summer visitor, breeding in suitable habitats.*



**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals of 1 at Balvicar Lagoon, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, 2 at Ostel Bay *Cowal* on 21 Apr and 1 at Dervaig *Mull* on 21 Apr, thereafter more widespread arrivals from 22 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** On *Islay* (n/c) at RSPB Loch Gruinart. 20 Ters at Machrihanish airbase site *Kintyre* on 3 May with good nos fledged juvs in Jun. 15 Ters between Carnan Mor and Loch a' Phuill on 6 May with 12 Ters at Balephuill *Tiree* alone on 8 May. Six in song along the Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* between Cairnbaan and Lochgilphead on 8 May.

**Autumn** Most birds departed during Aug to early Sep and last 2 were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19-20 Sep.

**MARSH WARBLER\*** *Acrocephalus palustris*

**RED LIST A rare passage migrant: Five records; all on Tiree with one at Balephuill on 8-10 Jun 2007, one at Carnan Mor on 28 May 2012, one at Mannal, Tiree on 28 May 2014, one at The Glebe, Scarinish on 4 Jun 2016 and one at Balephuill on 3 Jun 2018.**

**Autumn** A 1cy was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 Sep [J Bowler]. Record was accepted by the SBRC. *This becomes the first autumn record for Argyll.*

**ICTERINE WARBLER\*** *Hippolais icterina*

**A rare passage migrant: Six records; Islay 28 Aug 1976; Taynuilt in Jun 1984; Tiree in Jun 1987, Islay on 4 to 5 Sep 1993, Tiree on 9 Jun 2016 and 7 Sep 2018.**

**Spring** An adult was at Meningie, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 21 May [J Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



**Grasshopper Warbler** *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2020 *Steve Carter*

**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 except (*Coll/Jura*). First arrivals of ‘reeling’ birds at Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr, 3 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr, 1 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 14 Apr and 1 at Glen Lean *Cowal* on 15 Apr, thereafter widespread arrivals across Argyll from 17 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Most reports of singing males e.g. at least 10 Ters on partial survey *Colonsay*, 8 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and at least 8 Ters around Moine Mhor NNR *Mid-Argyll* area. A fledged juv was noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Jul. One was still in song at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Jul and last report was of 1 at Ballachuan Loch, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug.

**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 except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Winter reports of a male at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 1-8 Jan and a male at Tobermory *Mull* on 29 Jan. First arrivals of 2 ff at Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 Apr then from more widespread locations from 6 Apr. Max count of 7 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23-25 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Widespread reports of males in song across Argyll with most in mainland areas particularly *Mid-Argyll* where high densities. 24-29 Ters on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* in Apr-Jun. Six in song along the Crinan Canal between Cairnbaan and Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr and 9 in song between Cairnbaan and Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May, also 5 in song at Blarantibert, Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr. A male was in song at Balephuill *Tiree* during Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of 1-3 birds across Argyll, with an increase in records during Oct and max counts of 6 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15-16 Sep and 5 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 19 Nov. Only seven reports in Nov and last report of 1 at Tobermory *Mull* on 16 Dec.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

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

**Spring/summer/breeding** Reported from ‘sites’ in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (6), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (2). First arrivals of singles at Machrihanish airfield *Kintyre* on 24 Apr, Black Crofts *North Argyll* on 27 Apr and Striven *Cowal* on 28 Apr. Most arrivals during first week of May. On *Tiree* single migrants were at Balephuill on 21 May and at The Glebe on 1 Jun. Highest density of singing birds noted in *Mid-Argyll* with 5 in song along the Crinan Canal between Cairnbaan and Bellanoch and 2 in song between Cairnbaan and Lochgilphead with 2 Ters. A nest with 4 eggs found at Blarantiberth, Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 25 May. A male was in sub-song at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Jul.

**Autumn** Four reports on *Tiree* between 28 Aug and the last Argyll sighting at Hynish on 30 Sep.

**LESSER WHITETHROAT\*** *Sylvia curruca*

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

**Spring** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 May.

**Autumn** At least four singles, all *Tiree*, were at Balephuill on 10-17 Sep, another there on 19-24 Sep, at Meningie on 11 Oct and prob same bird at Balephuill on 12 Oct, and another at The Glebe, Scarinish on 15 Oct. A 'probable' was at The Glebe on 17 Sep.

**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** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals of 1 at Innellan *Cowal* on 17 Apr and 2 at Bardrishaig, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr, then more widespread arrivals from 20 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Reported from 'sites' in *Mid-Argyll* (21), *Mull* (15), *Cowal* (13) and *Kintyre* (5). On *Islay* 36 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Kintyre* 10 in song at Machrihanish airbase site on 3 May with good nos of fledged birds there in Jun. On *Tiree* birds in song at Balephuill, Carnan Mor and Heylipol in May-Jun and a pr bred at The Glebe, Scarinish feeding young in the nest on 17 Jun and with 3 fledged juvs on 6 Jul.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Aug and most birds had departed by early Sep. Last reports of singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Sep, Laphroaig *Islay* on 29 Sep and a late bird at The Oa *Islay* on 21 Oct.



**Common Whitethroat** *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2020 *John Speirs*

**FIRECREST\*** *Regulus ignicapilla*

*A rare visitor with only eight previous Argyll records. The last record on Tiree in 2010.*

**Autumn** A male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 & 15 Nov [J Bowler, J Hunter]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**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 (passage) of 8 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 31 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** 34 Ters on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* in Apr-Jun. Singing birds noted from late Mar. Higher counts included 6 at Laphroaig *Islay*, Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* and at Loch Frisa *Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas with counts of only 1-8 birds. Max counts of 8 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 20 Sep. First migrant on *Tiree* was 1 at Balephuill on 15 Sep and max of 3 there on 23-26 Sep with 1 lingering to 31 Dec.

**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, 1-5 birds at sites. Birds singing from mid-Mar.

**Summer/breeding** On *Mull* 73-85 Ters at Aros Park. On *Tiree* 30 Ters at 16 sites on 1 May (a high total). In *Mid-Argyll* at BBS sites singing males in Jun with; 34 birds at Blarbuie, Kilmichael Forest, 25 at Bellanoch and 12 at Rhudle Mill. On *Coll* at least 3 Ters at The Lodge, Arinagour on 11 May. On *Tiree* fledged b/6 on 23 Jun and b/9 on 31 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-6 birds noted at sites and a max of 7 at Laphroaig woods *Islay* on 2 Nov.



**Nuthatch** Cowal Dec 2020 Andrew MacFarlane

**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 spring. Most reports from birds noted at 'sites' in Cowal (14), *Mid-Argyll* (25), *Mull* (5) and *North Argyll* (3).



In addition, the first record for *Islay* was at Bunnahabhain on 2 Jun. All reports are encouraged, and an Argyll is survey underway during spring 2021.

**EURASIAN TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

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

**Winter/spring** Reports of 1-2 birds from 'sites' in Cowal (8) *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (12) and *Mull* (7). Max count of 6 nr Salen *Mull* on 7 May. Birds noted signing from mid-Feb.

**Summer/breeding** A complete survey of Aros Park *Mull* with at least 9 Ters.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of mostly singles from 'sites' in Cowal (4) *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (7) and *Mull* (6). Max count of 6+ at Laphroaig woods *Islay* on 6 Nov.



**Rosy Starling** *Mull* Jul 2020 *Bryan Rains*

**ROSY STARLING\*** *Pastor roseus*

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

**Spring/summer/autumn** Reports of at least 8 birds. A male was at Torrisdale *Kintyre* on 2-5 Jun [V Cannell], a prob male was at Friesland *Coll* on 4 Jun [M Mitchell], an unsexed bird was at Bowmore *Islay* on 18 Jun-28 Oct [J & R McGowan, G Turnbull *et al*], an unsexed bird was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Jun-1 Jul [A Knight *et al*], a male was at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 25-29 Jun [V Johnson, J & S Blackwell *et al*], a male was at Uisken *Mull* on 29 Jun-1



Jul [D Holden, B Rains *et al*], an unsexed bird was at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 13 Jul [J McKinnon, A Charlwood] and a male was at Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* on 15-17 Jul [J & C Brown]. All 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 noted in *Kintyre, Islay and Tiree*. Several flocks of 400-1,200 birds across *Tiree* in Jan-Mar, 800 at Bleachfield *Kintyre* on 9 Jan and up to 500 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Feb and 300 at West Carrabus *Islay* in Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Flocks of juveniles built up in numbers from mid-Jun, with highest counts from *Tiree* where flocks of up to 600 at several sites and max counts of 800 at Hough on 21 Jun and at Meninge on 28 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Largest flocks generally noted in *Kintyre, Islay and Tiree*. Many flocks on *Tiree* of 300-900 and max counts of 1,700 at Ruaig on 9 Oct and 1,100 at Heylipol on 27 Oct. Several flocks of 150-600 reported from *Kintyre* and max counts of 1,000 at West Parkfergus on 24 Oct and 800 at Machrihanish SBO on 23 Sep. On *Islay* several flocks up to 600, and 903 birds counted using the Bruichladdich pier to roost on 18 Oct.

### **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 Meall Dhub, Beinn Mhor *Cowal* on 12 Jun.

**Breeding** Likely breeding at Beinn Buidhe, Glen Fyne *Mid-Argyll* where 3-4 birds on 3 Aug.

**Autumn** A 1cy was at Balephuil *Tiree* on 15 Oct. One was at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 25 Oct.

### **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 10 at Dervaig *Mull* on 26 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data. 36 Ters on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* in Apr-Jun. Present Eilean Mor, McCormaig Is., *Mid-Argyll*. First fledged birds on *Tiree* from 20 May. At Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* 6 males "lekking" on lawn watched by 8 fems on 6 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-10 birds. An influx from mid- Oct onwards with 40 at Oakfield, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct, 18 at Balephuil *Tiree* on 15 Oct and 16 at Laphroaig *Islay* on 12 Nov.

### **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/Jura*). Generally low nos of 1-25 with highest counts of; 100 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 50 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 15 Jan and 50 at Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar. Last report was 4 at Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 21 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). First arrival was 12 at Machrihanish airbase site *Kintyre* on 20 Sep, and main arrivals during 12-22 Oct. Max counts included; 1,000 at Southend *Kintyre* on 26 Oct, 500 at The Oa *Islay* on 18 Oct, 350 at Lothead,

Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, 170+ at Clunach *Islay* on 1 Nov, 140 at Bleachfield *Kintyre* on 22 Nov, 120 at Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov and 120 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct. Most birds had moved on by late Nov and only one report in Dec.



**Redwing** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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 except (*Jura*). Generally widespread, with low numbers of 1-30 birds and higher counts of only 100 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 9 Apr, 100 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 15 Apr and 70 at Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr. Few reports during Apr and last report was 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4-5 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). A very early arrival, or perhaps a bird that had summered, at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 30 Aug. More typical arrivals with 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Sep and 3 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 27 Sep. Most arrivals between 10 Oct to early Nov. Higher counts included 3,000 across *Tiree* on 22 Oct, 1,800 at The Oa *Islay* on 24 Oct, 1,100 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Oct, 600 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Oct and 460 at Lothead, Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct. Most birds had moved through by mid-Nov.

**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 Daill *Islay* on 13 Feb and 6 at Kirnan, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data reported. 16-18 Ters on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* in Apr-Jun. 30 Ters on *Tiree* in May where first fledged birds on 4 May. 6 Ters along the Crinan Canal from Cairnbaan to Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* in May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Only small numbers noted, generally of 1-5 birds and a max of only 10 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 7 Nov, 10 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 7 Nov and 8 at Keillbeg, Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug.



**Song Thrush** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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/Jura*). Generally, sightings of 1-2 birds, and reported from 'sites' in; *Cowal* (12), *Mull* (11) *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (3) and *North Argyll* (2). Max counts of only 8 at Kirnan, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb and 6 at Mingary *Mull* on 13 Mar. One was at Beinn Hough *Tiree* on 24 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data reported. Fledged young noted in *Mid-Argyll* from 6 Jun. Higher counts of 25 at Loch Finlaggan *Islay* on 17 Jul and 18 at Ardentallen, Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports were of 1-12 birds. Max counts of 46 Keills Hill, Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug, 15 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Aug and 15 at Mingary *Mull* on 24 Sep.

**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** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). An early first report was one at Ballymeanoch, N of Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr, then 1 at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May and several reports from *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May, including birds at 4 sites around the Moine Mhor NNR. Migrant birds on *Tiree* reported on 6 May-26 Jun, with a peak of 7 on 21 May.

**Breeding/summer** Most reports from breeding areas came from 'sites' in *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (35), *Mull* (8), *Cowal* (5) and *North Argyll* (4). A min of 9 Ters around the Moine Mhor NNR *Mid-Argyll*, 8-10 Ters on full survey of Aros Park *Mull* Apr-Jun. First eggs laid on 17 May at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* and birds fledged there on 15 Jun.

**Autumn** Local breeding birds had departed by 18 Aug. Only migrant was 1 at An Airidh *Tiree* on 9 Oct.



**Spotted Flycatcher** *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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 9 at Arduaine Gardens *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. A min of 54 Ters during a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* Apr-Jun. First fledged birds noted on 10 May at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-6 birds. Max counts of 20 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 26 Sep and 12+ at Laphroaig *Islay* on 27 Sep.

**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** First report was a male in song at Ballymeanoch, N of Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr where it remained in song until 20 May. A male was at Aros Park, Tobermory *Mull* on 16 Apr. A male was at Castle Lachlan *Cowal* from 6-25 May. A male was nr Carradale *Cowal* on 10 May and a male was at Lependrastrath, nr Southend *Kintyre* on 1-4 Jun. *A good show of reports this spring.*

**Autumn** Four different single 1cy birds were at Balephuill *Tiree* on; 16 Aug, 19 Aug, 27-28 Aug and on 20 Sep. A 1cy was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 27 Sep.



**Pied Flycatcher** *Mull* Apr 2020 *Stuart Gibson*

**RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER\*** *Ficedula parva*

*A rare passage migrant: Thirteen 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, Sep 2017 and Oct 2019.*

**Autumn** A fem/2cy male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 12 Jun [J Bowler, J Hunter]. 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).*

**Winter/spring** Fem/imm types were at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 17 Apr and at Balinoe *Tiree* on 1 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Fem/imm types were at Totronald *Coll* on 3 Nov and at the Finlaggan visitor centre *Islay* on 13 Nov.





**Black Redstart** *Islay Apr 2020 Bonnie Wood*



**Common Redstart** *Mull Jun 2020 Mike Murphy*

**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 only (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). First reports were singles at St Catherine's *Cowal* on 13 Apr and Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr. Most arrivals from 21 Apr onwards. Most 'reports of birds' from *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Cowal* (8) and *Mull* (4). A pr with fledged young at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jun and 6 (family) were at Fearnoch, Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jun.

**Autumn** A male at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 20 Sep was the only autumn report.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

**RED LIST** A *sparse but widespread, summer visitor.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). First arrival of singles at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 14 Apr (with 7 there on 18 Apr), at Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* and Stronafian *Cowal* on 21 Apr, at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 23 Apr and 3 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr. More widespread arrivals after 25 Apr. Most reports from 'sites' in *Mid-Argyll* (17), *Cowal* (6) and *Mull* (6).

**Breeding/summer** On *Islay* 17 Ters were at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Mid-Argyll* 9-10 Ters at the Moine Mhor area in May and in *Cowal* 6+ Ters in the Stronafian/Craigendive area. Fledged birds noted in *Mid-Argyll* from early Jun.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Aug, and only a few reports of juvs on *Islay* at the end of Aug with 4 juvs still at Craigens, Gruinart in early Sep. Last report of 1 at The Oa *Islay* on 11 Oct.



**Whinchat** *Kintyre* May 2020 *Jo Goudie*

**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 and a max count of 8 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb. Prs noted from mid-Mar.

**Summer/breeding** On *Tiree* 15 Ters at 12 sites in Apr-May. On *Islay* 15 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Kintyre* 6 Ters at Machrihanish airfield in May-Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* 10+ Ters at the Moine Mhor area in Apr. First fledged young noted at Dalvore, Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May. Max count of 10 nr Craignure *Mull* on 21 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-6 birds from numerous widespread sites and a max count of 8 at Craigen *Islay* on 28 Aug. Reports from only 3 sites in Dec out-with *Tiree*.



*Stonechat Mid-Argyll Apr 2020 Jim Dickson*

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

*A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*) Strong arrivals last week of Mar. First reports from *Mull* where 3 at Loch na Keal on 21 Mar, then 3 at Danna Island *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar, 3 nr Machrihanish airbase site *Kintyre* on 23 Mar and 1 at Keillbeg *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar. Max counts noted were 8 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 26 Mar, 30 on 11 Apr, 49 on 24 Apr and 80 on 3 May.

**Summer/breeding** Widespread breeding mainly on the islands (*Islay/Tiree*) in low numbers. First fledglings at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 30 May and on *Tiree* on 24 Jun.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from *Tiree* where an influx of 'Greenland' birds, and *Kintyre* where a max of 30 nr Machrihanish airbase site on 8 Aug. Elsewhere, only 1-3 birds noted at sites. Last report was of 4 singles across *Tiree* on 1 Oct.

**'GREENLAND' WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe. o. leucorhoa*

**A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.**

**Spring** Only 1-3 birds at sites on (*Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) between 16 Apr - 6 May.

**Autumn** First bird noted on *Tiree* on 14 Aug and an obvious influx from 27 Aug and 60+ counted across *Tiree* on 28 Aug, also good numbers in Sep with up to 15 noted from sites across *Tiree*. A 'significant' passage noted from the N coast of *Coll* on 30 Sep, however no counts given.



**Dipper** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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 36 sites in total, mostly 1-2 birds, however 3 on one occasion. Under reported from most areas.

**Breeding** Birds noted singing in Jan and at nest sites from Mar. Food being taken to a nest in Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Apr and fledged young being fed at Millhouse *Cowal* on 22 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Noted at 18 sites and of 1-2 birds. Under reported from most areas.

**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; 40 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Jan, 40 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 3 Feb and 30 at Strachur *Cowal* on 3 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** First fledged birds noted at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr. Several flocks of 40-90 around *Tiree*, 55 at Ferryfield, Connel *North Argyll* on 6 Aug, 40 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll*



on 5 Jun and 40 at Dunaverty Bay *Kintyre* on 12 Jul. Counts elsewhere generally of less than 20 birds.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Largest counts mainly on *Tiree* where many flocks of 40-90 birds and a max of 120 at Ruaig on 7 Oct. 100 were at Port Gerrard, Glenbarr *Kintyre* on 30 Sep and 70 at Strath, Laggan *Kintyre* on 30 Sep.

**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** One made occasional appearances in a garden at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb – 27 May.

**Autumn** Singles were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Oct and at Bowmore *Islay* on 27 Oct.



**Dunnock** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2020 *Bill Anderson*

**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 Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May. First confirmed breeding on *Tiree* where a pr fledged 2 young in Jun. Present on Eilean Mor, McCormaig Is, Sound of *Jura* in Jun. At Aros Park *Mull* a full survey gave 13-16 Ters.



**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas, with most reports from *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* generally of 1-5 birds.

**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).*

**Autumn** A 1cy bird of 'undetermined race' was at the north hide RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Oct [E & E Prince]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**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/Jura/Tiree*). Most sightings of just 1-2 birds however 4 were at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 6 May. Most reports from different 'sites' in *Mid-Argyll* (19) and *Mull* (14).

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received. Some in prs noted from Feb-Mar. Fledged family groups at four locations between Cairnbaan and Crinan (Crinan Canal) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 June. A fledged family at Aros Park *Mull* on 28 May where one pr found on a full park survey in May-Jun. Several reports of single breeding prs from sites in *Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports from different 'sites' on *Mull* (15), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Kintyre* (7) and *Islay* (6). Generally, only 1-2 birds noted however 3 were at Kilmartin gravel pits *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Sep and 3 at Colonsay Hotel *Colonsay* on 24 Sep. On *Tiree* singles at Balephuill and Hynish on 6 Sep and at Loch a' Phuill on 18 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. Generally, counts in single figures however 16 (mostly ad males) at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar and 15 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 7 Apr. Higher counts of birds going to reed bed roosts of 110 at Loch na Cuilce, Dervaig *Mull* end Mar-early Apr and 65 at Balephuill *Tiree* in early Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Prs noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May. Brood/6 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May. Ten 'families' with fledged young between Cairnbaan and Crinan (along Crinan Canal) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jun. Higher counts of 35 at Carnain *Islay* on 18 Jul and 22 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 2 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 80 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 31 Aug, 55 at Gott *Tiree* on 21 Aug, 42 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 Sep and 25 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 5 Sep.

**'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** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First arrivals; 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Apr, with peak of 25 there on 13 Apr, first on *Tiree* with 4 on 6 Apr and peaks of 45 at Baugh on 21 Apr and 42 at Sandaig on 2 May, also 20+ at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Apr rising to 50 on 16 Apr. Only 1-4 birds at sites in May-Jun and a report of 1 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 19 Jul.

**Autumn** First report of 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Aug where 81 >S in Aug and peak counts of 25 there on 24 Aug and 147 >S in Sep with peak count of 30 there on 18 Sep. Peak counts of 50 at Strath Farm, The Laggan *Kintyre* on 24 Aug and 26 there on 6 Sep. On *Islay* a peak count of 20 at Carnain on 5 Sep. On *Colonsay* 16 were at Traigh nan Barc on 6 Sep. On *Tiree* 20 at Hynish to Balemartine on 20 Sep and last reports on *Tiree* and for Argyll of 18 from across 4 sites there on 26 Sep.



**White Wagtail** *Kintyre* Apr 2020 Jo Goudie

**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. Often the main host species of Common Cuckoo.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, only small nos during Jan to early Feb however widespread groups of up to 30 birds on *Tiree* in Jan. Numbers increased and passage flocks noted from late Feb to early Apr, with max 60 (one field) at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Mar, 55 at Meningie *Tiree* on 24 Mar, 50 at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar and 50 at Kames *Cowal* on 12 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Good numbers and widespread. Birds noted on eggs from mid-Apr. Large numbers of active nests on *Tiree* during May with many fledglings noted from early Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Increase in numbers noted from early Jul with many flocks of 20-50 birds and max counts of 200 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* in early Sep, 120 at Loch Uisg *Mull* on 2 Jul, 80 at Kiloran dunes *Colonsay* on 3 Sep and groups of up to 60 around *Tiree* in Sep. Numbers reduced during Oct and only groups of up to 10 during in Nov-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/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). First reports from Balliscate, Tobermory *Mull* on 12 Apr, Glen Lean *Cowal* on 13 Apr and Duntrune *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr. Higher counts of 5 nr Salen *Mull* on 7 May and 4 at Rhudle BBS transect *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jun. Sightings well down across Argyll on previous years presumably due to Covid-19 restrictions in May. Only three reports in Jul and last report was of one killed by a car at Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug.



**Tree Pipit** *Mid-Argyll* May 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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 37 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 Mar, 15 at Calgary *Mull* on 21 Jan and 8 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 9 Jan. Elsewhere, counts generally low with only 1-5 birds reported at sites. One was at the top of Beinn Hough *Tiree* (>100m) on 23 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Fledged birds noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 2 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 24 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec, 18 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 7 Nov, 15 at Clachan *Tiree* on 28 Nov and 13 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 11 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-10 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 100+ nr Dervaig *Mull* on 8 Jan, 80 at Grogport *Kintyre* on 11 Jan, 75 Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb, 58 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Feb and 40 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of 1-20 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. 50-60 Ters on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* Apr-Jun. First fledged young noted in *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May at Keills, Loch na Cille and on 23 May at Tayvallich.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 500 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* in Oct, 100+ at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 4 Sep, 100 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7-18 Sep, 100 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 24 Dec, 100 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec, 70 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 25 Sep and 70 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-55 birds.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

**Winter/spring** A less than average showing. Single birds nr Dervaig *Mull* on 3 Jan, at Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 14 Jan, at Caol Ila *Islay* on 25 Feb and 6 at Glen Orchy *North Argyll* on 13 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** Generally low numbers with only 1-3 birds noted at 23 sites. No reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First report of 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Oct. Higher counts of 3 birds at Hynish *Tiree* on 10 Oct, Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 10 Nov and at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 16 Nov.



**Hawfinch** *Mull* May 2020 *Mike Murphy*

**HAWFINCH\*** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

**RED LIST** *A rare visitor: 39 records between 1953 and 2019.*



**Spring** One (unsexed) was at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 30 Mar [L Maw], a male was at Tobermory *Mull* on 16 Apr [J Clutterbuck], a fem was at Arinagour *Coll* on 18-23 Apr [P White], a fem was at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 23-24 Apr [C & H Maddox], a male was at Salen *Mull* on 9 & 21 May [J & M Murphy] and a male was near South Hall, S of Colintraive *Cowal* on 15-16 Jun [G John, G Clark, N Hammatt]. All six records were accepted by the ABRC.

*A well above average show of records and ties in with strong spring passage elsewhere in Scotland.*

**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 7 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Feb, 5 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Jan, 4 at Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 14 Jan, 4 at Stonefield Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb and 4 at Duntrune *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere, counts of 1-3 birds from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (19), *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (4), *Mull* (4), *Kintyre* (3) and *North Argyll* (2).

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received. Prs noted and breeding mainly from (*Mid-Argyll/Cowal/Mull/Kintyre*). 8 Ters on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* Apr-Jun. Fledged young noted in *Mid-Argyll* from early Jun and *Cowal* on 19 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Most reports in; Sep (17), Aug (9), Oct & Nov (3) and Dec (1). Max counts of 26 nr Strachur *Cowal* on 4 Aug, 10 nr Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 14 Nov and 8 at Fennachrochan, Lismore *North Argyll* on 9 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of 1-6 birds.



**Common Rosefinch** *Tiree* Sep 2020 *John Bowler*



**COMMON ROSEFINCH\*** *Erythrina erythrina*

*A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred: 29 records between 1989 and 2019, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.*

**Spring/summer** A 2cy male, occasionally in song, was at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa Islay on 19 May [D Wood]. An adult male was seen in two gardens at Salen Mull on 23 Jun [J Murphy, F Pollard].

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Balephuil Tiree on 14 Sep [J Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.



**Greenfinch** Kintyre May 2020 Jo Goudie

**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). Counts of 1-6 birds at sites in; Cowal (9), Islay (4), Kintyre (4), Mid-Argyll (14), Mull (7), North Argyll (2) and Tiree (3). Max counts of 16+ at Dervaig Mull on 8 Jan, 16 at Tayinloan jetty Kintyre on 15 Jan and 10 at Machrihanish Kintyre on 14 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received. Juvenile birds noted in Kintyre and Mull from early Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Colonsay/Jura). Counts of 1-6 birds at sites in; Coll (1) Cowal (5), Islay (4), Kintyre (3), Mid-Argyll (14), Mull (4), North Argyll (2) and Tiree (8). Max counts of 22 at Ballimore, Kerrera Mid-Argyll on 19 Nov, 14 at Port Righ Kintyre on 18 Dec, 11 at Vaul Tiree on 10 Sep and 9 at Gruline Mull on 2 Oct.

**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 (*Colonsay/Cowal/Jura*). All higher counts were on The Oa *Islay* where a peak of 155 on 15 Jan. Elsewhere on *Islay* higher counts of 40 at Sanaigmore on 2 Feb and 40 at Ardnave in Feb-Mar. On *Tiree* max counts of 55 at Hynish on 25 Jan and 50 at Crossapol on 22 Jan, with scattered flocks of 20-25 around the island Jan-Mar. Counts of only 1-9 from five sites on mainland Argyll.

**Summer/breeding** Prs noted and heard singing at sites in (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) from Apr. At least 6 prs at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay* and 16 birds in song at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 8 May. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 14 Jun. Max post breeding counts of 200 at Aros, Laggan *Kintyre* on 15 Jul, 100 at Finlaggan *Islay* on 21 Jul and 70 at The Reef *Tiree* on 5 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts included; 250 at The Reef *Tiree* on 9 Oct, 242 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 26 Nov, 150 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 18 Oct, 55 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 1 Sep, 50 at Ardnave *Islay* on 12 Oct, 30 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug, 25 at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Oct and 20 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 13 Oct.

**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 (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 90 at Machrihanish airbase site *Kintyre* on 24 Apr, 56 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Feb and 20 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 17 May. Most reports from different 'sites' in *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Tiree* (4). Greatly under reported this spring.

**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 21 May. A survey at Machrihanish airfield *Kintyre* gave 30 Ters in May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts from each region; 100 at Kiloran dunes *Colonsay* on 5 Sep, 400 at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 12 Aug, 295 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Oct and 250 nr Rockside *Islay* on 23 Oct, 50 at Machrihanish airbase site *Kintyre* on 8 Aug, 80 at Achafolla, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug, 6 at Gribun *Mull* on 8 Sep and on *Tiree* 275 at The Reef on 10 Sep, 220 at Meningie on 30 Sep and 120 at Hough on 23 Aug. Most birds had moved away from Argyll by 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.

**Winter/spring** First arrival of 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Mar with a peak there of 9 on 10 Apr. Reports from three other *Tiree* sites during Apr-Jun. A few reports of single birds from *Kintyre* and *Mull* in May.

**Summer/breeding** All reports from *Tiree*. At least 4 prs nesting; at Balephuill / Carnan Mor, Balephetrish, Heylipol and The Glebe in May- Jun. Fledged young noted from 15 Jun. Max count of 8 at The Glebe, Scarinish on 29 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Present on *Tiree* until 28 Oct and a max site count of 25 at Balephuill on 18-30 Sep.



**Lesser Redpoll** *Kintyre* Sep 2020 *Jo Goudie*

**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/Colonsay/Jura*). A few more reports in Jan-Feb than usual, with max counts of 15 at Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar and 12 at Kilmory Woodland, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan. One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Prs noted from suitable areas across Argyll with flight songs noted from early Apr. On *Islay* 12 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Mull* 4-9 Ters on a full survey of Aros Park in Apr-Jun. Juvs noted from early Jul. Higher post breeding counts included; 120 at Corran, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 17 Jul, 40 at Lower Fernoch, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul, 20+ at Machrihanish airbase site *Kintyre* on 17 Jun and 20 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 80 at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 19 Sep, 45 at Kames *Cowal* on 6 Aug, 42 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Aug, 22 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 6 Sep and 20 at Catchean, Fionnphort *Mull* on 3 Oct. Fewer reports during Oct and last report was of 30 at Machrihanish airbase site *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Nov.

**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/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max counts of 18 at Loch Coille-Bharr *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan and 13 at Finlaggan *Islay* on 5 Mar. Elsewhere, counts of only 1-9 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. Birds gathering nesting material at Ardkinglass Woodland *Cowal* on 3 Mar. A juv with ad fem at Kilmahumaig, Crinan Wood *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr. Max counts of 25 nr Dervaig *Mull* on 19 May and 11 at Inverchaolin Glen, nr Clachaig *Cowal* on 25 May. One flew south at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Low counts of only 1-8 birds. No reports in Oct or Dec.



**Common Crossbill** *Mid-Argyll* Feb 2020 *John Speirs*

**TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL\*** *Loxia leucoptera*

*A scarce migrant to Scotland often following autumn irruptions from Finland and NW Russia. A vagrant with one record, a female at Balephuill, Tiree on 10 Aug 2018.*

**Autumn** An adult (2cy+) male was at Ardrioch Farm, Dervaig *Mull* on 24-28 Aug [D Mitchell *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.

*This bird was observed well by many visiting birdwatchers at close range as it fed at peanut feeders.*

**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 (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Max counts of 100 at Machrihanish airfield *Kintyre* during Jan-early Mar, 87 at Kames *Cowal* on 18 Jan, 65 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 4 Feb and 36 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 22 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-30 mainly from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (26), *Cowal* (18), *Mull* (7) and *Islay* (6).

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Nine Ters on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* in Apr-Jun. First fledged juvs noted at Keills *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jun and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Flocks sizes increased from early Aug when 80 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 6 Aug and widespread larger flocks during Sep-Oct then fewer reports during Nov-Dec. Max counts included several flocks of 100+ and many flocks of 30-50 counted around the roads of the Rhinnns of *Islay* on 6 Sep, 85 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep, 70 at Lossit House *Kintyre* on 26 Sep, 60 at Killean, Lismore *North Argyll* on 9 Sep and 60 over central Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct. On *Tiree* first single of autumn noted on 8 Sep. Good nos noted during Oct to mid-Nov with a peak count of 32 at Balephetrish on 30 Oct and then single figures from late Nov to the year end.



**Two-barred Crossbill** *Mull* Aug 2020 *Alan Spellman*

**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 different 'sites' in; *Mid-Argyll* (23), *Cowal* (16) and *Mull* (15). Max counts of; 60 from each *Mid-Argyll* location of Barnluasgan on 5 Jan, Ardenshellach, nr Ardmaddy on 11 Jan and Cairnbaan on 20 Feb. Also, *Mid-Argyll* flocks of 40 at Stonefield Castle on 19 Jan and 23 at Ardrishaig on 11 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-20 birds. Generally, birds returning to breeding areas during Mar. On *Tiree*, 7 spring migrants between 24 Apr and 11 Jun.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. 4-12 Ters on a full survey of Aros Park *Mull* in Apr-Jun. A max post breeding flock count of 60 at Asknish, Loch Gair *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jul. First fledged juvs noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Generally, only small nos noted (<10). Most birds appear to have moved out-with Argyll by the end of Sep. Only reports in



Oct were from *Tiree* with up to 3 remaining until 15 Oct and 15 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct. Only two reports of singles in Nov and no reports in Dec.

**LAPLAND BUNTING\*** *Calcarius lapponicus*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.*

**Spring** A summer male was with Skylarks on the Coullabus to Loch Indaal track *Islay* on 9 Mar.  
**Autumn/winter** Singles were at Sandaig *Tiree* on 5 Sep, at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6-9 Sep, at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Sep, at Crossapol *Coll* on 18 Sep, at Balnahard *Colonsay* on 27 Sep, at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 16 Oct, 3 & 7 Dec and at Loch Tarbert *Jura* on 30 Oct.



**Snow Bunting** *Kintyre* Feb 2020 *Jim Dickson*

**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** Reports from sites in *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1) and *Mull* (1). Max counts of 5 at Beinn an Oir *Jura* on 12 Mar and 3 at Derryguais *Mull* on 13 Mar, with 1-2 birds noted elsewhere.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from different 'sites' in *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (5). First arrival of 1 at Carnain *Islay* on 27 Oct. In total only 12 reports and a max count of 7 at Ardnave *Islay* on 5 Nov, elsewhere only 1-2 birds.

**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 (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Max count of 7 at Kildalton *Islay* on 5 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of only 1-4 birds at 7 sites.

**Summer/breeding** Reports of 1-3 birds from different 'sites' in *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (9) and *Mull* (3), *North Argyll* (2).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts of 20 at Lergychoniemore, nr Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Nov, 15 at Caol Ila *Islay* on 10 Oct and 12 at Gartmain *Islay* on 2 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-7 birds at 12 sites.



**Yellowhammer** *Mid-Argyll* Oct 2020 *Darren Thomas*

**PINE BUNTING\*** *Emberiza leucocephalos*

*No previous records of this Siberian bunting.*

**Autumn** A 1cy male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Nov. [J Bowler, J Hunter]. This bird had a metal ring on the right leg and it transpired a bird fitting this description was ringed at Ardheslaig, Loch Torridon, Highland on 23 Nov. Record is subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

**BLACK-HEADED BUNTING\*** *Emberiza melanocephala*

*A vagrant: Eight records; all of singles, during May to Jul, the last record being on Colonsay in Jun 2005.*

**Autumn** A 1cy was seen briefly and photographed at RSPB Loch Guinart *Islay* on 28 Oct [J. Aitchison, D. Brown, J. Wilkinson]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.

**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 1-4 birds at sites. Max counts of 10 at Middleton *Tiree* on 24 Feb and 9 at Saligo *Islay* on 2 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Singing males noted from 5 Mar in *Cowal*. On *Islay* 34 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Mid-Argyll* 8 Ters at the Moine Mhor and 4 Ters nearby at Dalvore in May. On *Tiree* 15 scattered prs noted across the island. First fledged juvs on *Tiree* from 15 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas and generally widespread in small nos of 1-8 birds at sites. Max counts of 45 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Nov, 20 at Machrihanish airbase site *Kintyre* on 28 Nov, 12 at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 2 Oct, 12 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Dec and 10 at Ard Luing, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Dec.



**Black-headed Bunting** *Islay* Oct 2020 *Dan Brown*

## 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 St Catherine's Cowal on 15 Apr.



**Ruddy Shelducks** *Kintyre* Feb 2020 *Jim Dickson*

### **RUDDY SHELDUCK** *Tadorna ferruginea*

*Winter/spring* A pair were at Clochkeil, Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 10 Jan - 5 Feb and one was at Loch Crinan and the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 14-15 May. Presumably the same pair that visited the *Oa Islay* at the end of 2019.

*Ruddy Shelduck* is currently in Categories B, D, and E of the British List but is potentially also occurring in Britain as a vagrant from established naturalised populations on the near continent and must therefore be treated as a candidate for Category C5 (vagrant naturalised species from outside Britain). The British Ornithologists' Union's Records Committee (BOURC) are now gathering records of *Ruddy Shelduck* in Britain to aid the review and to help determine whether a change of category for this species is justified.

## 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 31.

| Species                                       | Recording area | Date(s)  | Committee |
|---|----------------|----------|-----------|
| Nightjar (2-3)                                | <i>Mull</i>    | 09.5.20  | ABRC      |
| Red-necked Grebe                              | <i>Mull</i>    | 18.10.20 | ABRC      |
| Isabelline Wheatear                           | <i>Mull</i>    | 27.09.19 | BBRC      |
| Todd’s Canada Goose 4 ( <i>B c interior</i> ) | <i>Kintyre</i> | 30.11.19 | BBRC      |

*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 2020 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.

| Species           | Place        | Recording Area    | Date(s)  |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|
| Goshawk           | Lochgoilhead | <i>Cowal</i>      | 16.02.20 |
| Firecrest         | Nr. Oban     | <i>Mid-Argyll</i> | 04.04.20 |
| Nightjar          | Salen        | <i>Mull</i>       | 08.05.20 |
| Rosy Starling     | Bunessan     | <i>Mull</i>       | 01.07.20 |
| Goshawk           | Loch Beg     | <i>Mull</i>       | 28.09.20 |
| Hobby             | Ardlussa     | <i>Jura</i>       | 18.10.20 |
| Great Grey Shrike | Craobh Haven | <i>Mid-Argyll</i> | 07.11.20 |



# 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 (several hundred) individuals who submitted records in various formats to either the BTO BirdTrack & WeBS, the Argyll recording system or to the Argyll bird recorders directly. Also, to the various organisations including, the BTO, Forestry & Land Scotland, NatureScot, the RSPB, Scottish Canals, Scottish raptor monitoring schemes and Argyll Raptor Study Group, the SOC and the Treshnish Isles Auk ringing group.

Grateful thanks to the volunteers who placed records onto the Argyll bird database; Morag Rea (from Eddie Maguire's reports at Machrihanish SBO and from John Bowler's Tiree reports). Dorothy and Peter Hogbin (from Mull records on Alan Spellman's Mullbirds website). Peter Roberts (from Ian Brooke's Islay birds blog and from the Islay Whatsapp group reports). Richard Wesley (from Argyll facebook wildlife groups and providing these to BTO Birdtrack). Also, thanks to; John Bowler (for Tiree reports and kindly checking Tiree and Coll data and the species text of this bird report). David Jardine (for Argyll Raptor Study Group and Colonsay Chough data and kindly checking the text of this bird report). Eric Bignal (for Islay Chough data). Neil Brown (for Kintyre owl project data). Nigel Scriven & Rab Morton (for Sanda Isles data).

Many thanks also to Malcolm Chattwood who ably manages the bird database putting all the above records which come in various formats together, also to the Argyll BTO representatives – John Bowler, Ewan Miles, Nigel Scriven & David Wood, to the Argyll Bird Club committee for their support, to the Argyll Bird Records Committee which in 2020 comprised, John Bowler, David Jardine, Malcolm Ogilvie and Andy Robinson, and also to the SBRC & BBRC for their work and feedback on Argyll records.

The following folk kindly gave permission for their photographs to be used and greatly enrich this report; Bill Anderson, John Bowler, Leif Brag, Dan Brown, Steve Carter, Hayley Douglas, Stuart Gibson, Jo Goudie, Kevin Hamilton, Steve James, David Jardine, James Lehmann, Mark Lewis, Tom Lilley, Eddie Maguire, Andrew MacFarlane, Ann McGregor, Sheila McKenzie, Ewan Miles, David Millward, Mike Murphy, Alasdair Paterson, Gary Pullan, Alex Radcliffe, Bryan Rains, Nigel Shannon, John Speirs, Alan Spellman, Jen Swift, Darren Thomas, Bonnie Wood and David Wood.

Jim Dickson (March 2021)

## *Argyll Bird Club*

### **OSCR**

Scottish Charity Regulator

[www.oscar.org.uk](http://www.oscar.org.uk)

Charity number SC 008782

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](http://www.argyllbirdclub.org)

# ARGYLL BIRD CLUB Membership Application Form

[www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://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](mailto: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)

|                              |      |     |
|------------------------------|------|-----|
| <b>Ordinary</b>              | £10  | [ ] |
| <b>Junior</b> (25 and under) | free |     |
| <b>Family</b>                | £15  | [ ] |
| <b>Corporate</b>             | £25  | [ ] |

# Main Argyll Birdwatching Sites

*Listed under the ten regions of Argyll (see map, next page)*

**COLL** 1.Totronald 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 Ardentinnny 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

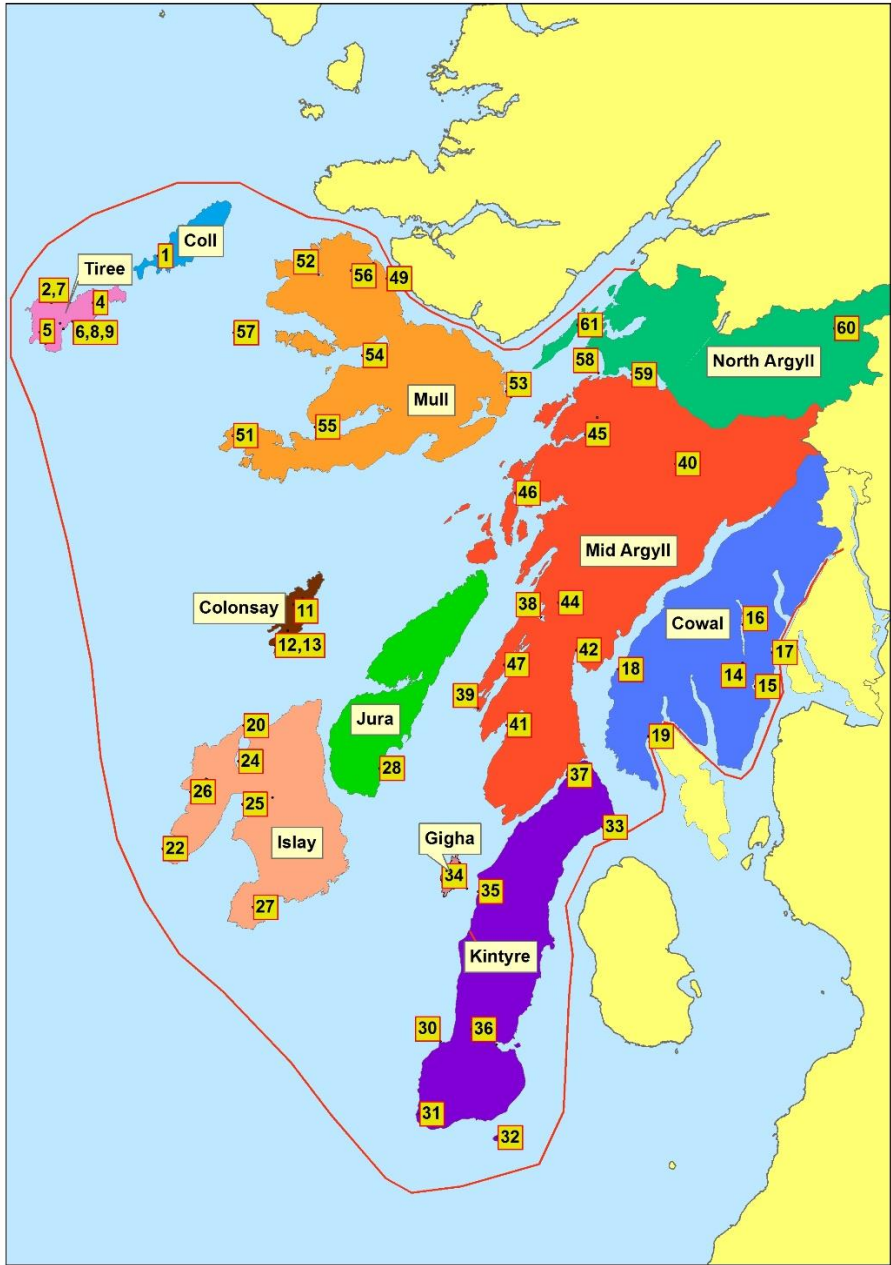
**KINTYRE & GIGHA** 29.Campbeltown Loch 30.Machrihanish SBO (Seabird Observatory) 31.Mull of Kintyre 32.Sanda Islands 33.Skipness & Bay 34.Sound of Gigha 35.Tayinloan & Rhunahaorine Point 36.The Laggan 37.West Loch Tarbert

**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*