

**The Twentieth  
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT  
With Systematic List for the years  
2004/2005**

Edited by  
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Assisted by  
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Systematic List by  
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and **Tom Callan**

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**Argyll Bird Club**  
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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 features. These meetings are held in conveniently central locations on the mainland. 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 and field trips, and articles and shorter items by members and others.

**Website**

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

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## EDITORIAL

Firstly, our apologies for the long delay in getting this report out. We are still catching up on the backlog of work that arose from the huge effort that went into producing the *Birds of Argyll* book. However this has had some advantages. Some crucial data was not available until as late as spring of 2008! e.g. many of the WeBS counts. The function of the annual Bird Reports is (we think) to give as comprehensive an overview of bird life in Argyll for the year in question as possible. It would be possible to produce a much briefer and partial picture considerably sooner after the event but this would have far less lasting value. Up to the minute news on rare birds and notable events is probably better presented through the medium of The Eider magazine and the club website.

There seems to be a developing trend whereby records of birds (especially from some of the islands) are only to be supplied via websites or through e-mail groups. The compilation of these reports already involves a vast amount of work and life is simply not long enough to spend much time trawling through websites for nuggets of information. The most useful information consists of sets of records for a particular local patch throughout the year. They do not just have to relate to rare birds. Without this kind of local information on the more common species it would have been impossible to compile *Birds of Argyll*. The BTO on-line system BirdTrack also aims to collect this kind of data. We are very happy if you prefer to use this method.. The BTO kindly enable us to extract bird records relating to Argyll from the system and the recorder does this regularly. It is important though to make your records as specific as possible. The BirdTrack system allows one to submit records for a 10km square but these are really of very limited use when compiling the bird report. What is needed are records relating to a 1km square or, failing this, a Tetrad. For those who don't use computers or the internet paper records are still quite acceptable. The standard form that is available from the recorder for this purpose is already used by several club members. At present we are particularly short of good local records from Islay (apart from RSPB reserve data) and Mull. Unless some relevant data is forthcoming shortly this will be reflected in the next report (ABR21 for 2006/2007), which we have already started on!

Please accept our apologies for any errors that remain despite the many hours that went into compiling and editing this report.

Lastly can we urge you to get involved with work on the 2007-11 Bird Atlas. It is going to be a real struggle to achieve full coverage for Argyll and the more help we get the better. The Atlas will potentially provide the most comprehensive picture we have ever had of bird distribution in Argyll at all times of the year.

Tom Callan/Paul Daw.

# Argyll Bird Report 20

## Systematic list for 2004-2005

### Paul Daw

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## INTRODUCTION

The following systematic list includes entries for 224 Category A, B and C species recorded in Argyll during 2004 and 219 such species recorded in 2005 (*cf* average 214 species during the years 1993 – 2003). Unusually no new species were added to the Argyll list, which remains at 328 species, in either year. However, a record of a Redhead (which would be a new species for Argyll) on Tiree in Dec 2005 is still in circulation with BBRC at the time of writing. Records for three category E species in 2004 and 2 in 2005 are also listed, as are 6 additional races in 2004 and 5 in 2005.

**For the information of readers we have included at least a status summary in the text of all species on the Argyll list except those in Category B** (see beginning of the systematic list).

**To save space we have dispensed with the month by month Ornithological Review for this issue.**

## BIRD RECORDING IN ARGYLL

### Advice to contributors

When submitting records, sightings should be listed in species order used in this report and should include the following details:

**Species name.** The commonly used English name is usually sufficient (*British Birds* – List of English Names), but scientific (Latin) name is helpful if reporting sub-species.

**EURING Code No.** If possible as this helps to speed up computer input.

**Date.** Please give exact date whenever possible (rather than ‘June’ or ‘Spring’) as this makes the record much more valuable and enables us to relate it to other records received.

**Grid reference** if known. The six figure ref. is preferred, but a four figure ref. is often sufficient.

**Location name.** Used in conjunction with the above to avoid ambiguity (e.g. there are umpteen Loch Dubhs in Argyll) but mistakes can also occur with grid refs!

**Number of individuals.** Precise number whenever possible or, failing this, an estimate. Even a rough estimate is more useful than ‘many’, ‘large flock’, ‘several’ or ‘few’, which are too subjective to have much value.

**Sex and age** if known.

Other interesting comments are always welcome e.g. indications of breeding, behaviour, food, interactions with other birds/animals etc. Individual anecdotes add value to what can otherwise be rather a ‘dry’ report.

### **Rare birds**

Details of all rare bird sightings should be sent in as soon as possible after the sighting to **Jim Dickson**, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8UF. Tel. 01546 603967

E-mail: j.dickson@tiscali.co.uk. Please use the standard form (available from Jim Dickson, Paul Daw or the club website [www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://www.argyllbirdclub.org)). They will be judged locally by the Argyll Bird Records Committee (whose members are listed on p. 3), sent on to the *Scottish Birds* Records Committee (SBRC), or sent on to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC), as appropriate.

The list below details rare species whose occurrence in Argyll needs to be fully documented. It is made up of the ABRC list of Argyll rarities and the SBRC list of Scottish rarities (those considered by SBRC marked #). UK rarities assessed by BBRC require the same treatment and are marked in the following Systematic List with an asterisk (\*) where they have already occurred in Argyll. In general any claims of birds belonging to unusual races e.g. the races of Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed, Grey Headed etc) must be supported by a description and any species not already on the Argyll list will also require a description before being accepted.

**No record of any of the species and plumage phases listed below will be published unless adequate supporting details (including a description) are available.** In addition, brief details may be requested for occurrences of scarce species not on the list where the circumstances appear to warrant this.

### **List of SBRC and ABRC species and sub-species 2007.**

American Wigeon	Great Shearwater#
Green-winged Teal	Balearic Shearwater
Red-crested Pochard	Eurasian Bittern (Bittern)
Ring-necked Duck	Night Heron#
Ferruginous Duck#	Little Egret
Wilson’s Storm-petrel#	Great White Egret#
Surf Scoter ( <b>except adult males</b> ) *	Purple Heron#
Smew	White Stork
Ruddy Duck	Eurasian Spoonbill (Spoonbill)
Black-necked Grebe	Bean Goose
Cory’s Shearwater#	

European White-fronted Goose (race  
*albifrons*)  
 Honey-buzzard  
 Black Kite#  
 Montagu's Harrier#  
 Goshawk  
 Rough-legged Buzzard#  
 Red-footed Falcon#  
 Hobby  
 Common Crane  
 Avocet  
 Stone Curlew#  
 Little Ringed Plover  
 Kentish Plover#  
 American Golden Plover#  
 Temminck's Stint  
 White-rumped Sandpiper#  
 Pectoral Sandpiper  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
 Red-necked Phalarope (**away from  
 traditional breeding areas**)  
 Long-tailed Skua (**except adult**)  
 Mediterranean Gull  
 Sabine's Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull#  
 Yellow-legged Gull#  
 Roseate Tern  
 Black Tern  
 White-winged Black Tern#  
 Little Owl  
 Alpine Swift#  
 European Bee-eater  
 Wryneck  
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker#  
 Short-toed Lark#  
 Wood Lark#  
 Shore Lark  
 Red-rumped Swallow#  
 Richard's Pipit  
 Tawny Pipit#  
 Red-throated Pipit#  
 Water Pipit#  
 Common Nightingale#  
 Bluethroat  
 Cetti's Warbler#  
 Aquatic Warbler#  
 Marsh Warbler#  
 Reed Warbler

Icterine Warbler  
 Melodious Warbler#  
 Barred Warbler  
 Lesser Whitethroat  
 Dartford Warbler#  
 Subalpine Warbler#  
 Greenish Warbler#  
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler  
 Yellow-browed Warbler  
 Radde's Warbler#  
 Dusky Warbler#  
 Firecrest  
 Red-breasted Flycatcher  
 Bearded Tit  
 Marsh Tit  
 Willow Tit  
 Crested Tit  
 Eurasian Nuthatch  
 Red-backed Shrike  
 Woodchat Shrike#  
 Rose-coloured Starling  
 European Serin#  
 Common Redpoll – all races (formerly  
 race of Redpoll)  
 Arctic Redpoll#  
 Scottish Crossbill  
 Common Rosefinch  
 Hawfinch  
 Cirl Bunting#  
 Ortolan Bunting#  
 Little Bunting#



## INTERPRETATION OF THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

As agreed by the Argyll Bird Club Committee the English and scientific names as shown in 'The *British Birds* list of Western Palearctic Birds' (Jul 2006) are used in the species accounts below. To avoid confusion, where there are changes, the 'old' name is shown in brackets after the 'new' name. The sequence of species follows the order in the same list.

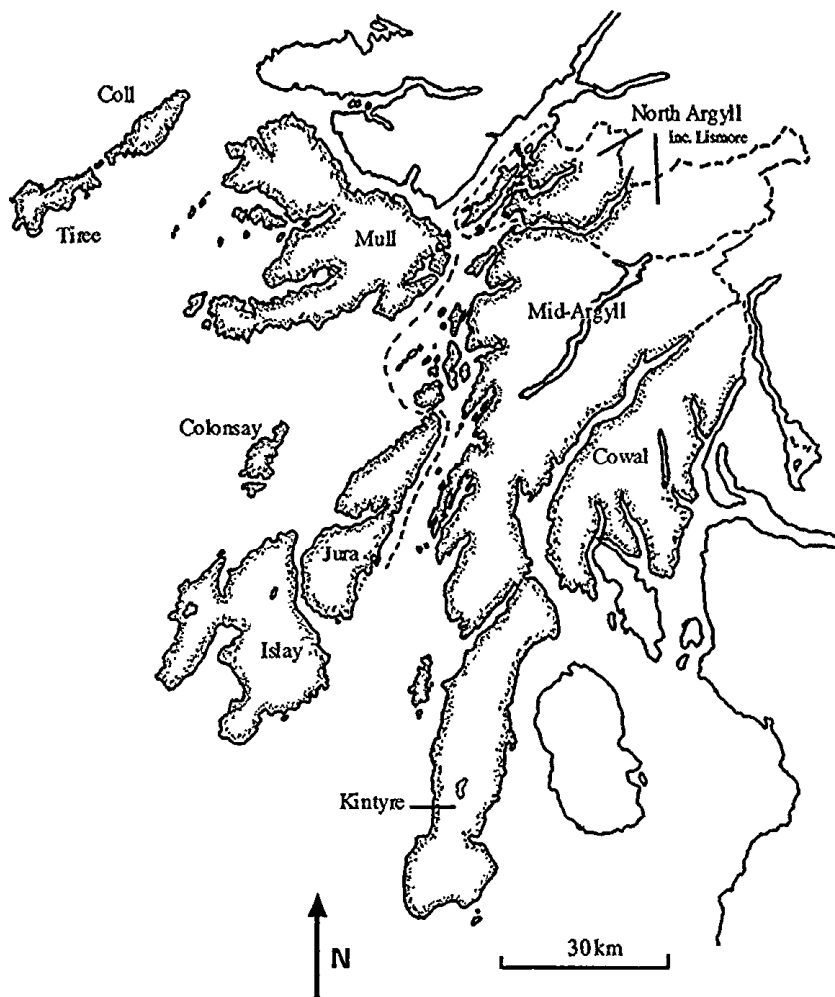
Each species heading in the report contains the following information:

Common name- new (old)	Scientific name	Gaelic name	EURING code
e.g. <b>COMMON RAVEN (RAVEN)</b>	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Fitheach	1572

Each heading is followed by a summary of the bird's known status and distribution within Argyll (*see* species status categories – below), together with any other relevant information. The information regarding sites of national or international importance for wintering/passage birds is taken from Musgrove, A. J. *et al.* (2007) *Waterbirds in the UK 2005/06: The Wetland Bird Survey*. The qualifying threshold for identification as such a site is generally that they hold, at some time during the qualifying period, at least 1% of the national (Great Britain) or international population of the species. The minimum qualifying count is normally 50 birds, although a lower figure has sometimes been chosen where the British population is very small. Significant 2004 and 2005 records are then listed in approximate chronological order. For scarcer species, records for 2004 or 2005 may be followed by late records or recent acceptances from earlier years.

For the purposes of this report, Argyll is divided into 10 areas, which are named on the accompanying sketch map. Because very few records have been received from Lismore in recent years, it is no longer considered a separate area but has been merged with North Argyll. For similar reasons Gigha is no longer considered as a separate area and records are included with those from Kintyre. Note that, for the moment at least, boundaries of the Argyll recording area remain unchanged despite local government reorganisation in 1996.

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 me), followed by the observer(s) who submitted details of the record, if different. Summarised data from many surveys of breeding birds are also accompanied by the initials of the observers or organisations responsible, in order to help readers who are interested in obtaining more detailed information.



Map showing the recording areas of Argyll used in this report

## Place names

An attempt has been made to ensure that all place names in the systematic list feature on the 1:50,000 (Landranger Series) Ordnance Survey maps. An exception is The Laggan (Kintyre), which refers to the roughly triangular area west of Campbeltown, bordered by the B843, the A83, and Machrihanish Bay. Campbeltown Airport (previously RAF Machrihanish) is in this area. The Machrihanish Seabird Observatory (SBO) is situated at Uisaed Point on the western outskirts of Machrihanish (NR628209). In Mid-Argyll, Kilmichael Glen extends north-eastwards from Kilmichael Glassary at NR8593. On Mull, the Mishnish Lochs are the series of lochs extending from NM4652 to NM4853.

On Islay, the term 'Loch Gruinart' may refer to the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve at Loch Gruinart, or to parts of the loch lying outside the reserve. When the observer has made a distinction and when presenting counts of breeding pairs within the reserve, the abbreviation '**RSPB L. Gruinart**' is used throughout. 'Loch Gruinart Floods' refers to the area of flooded fields to the south of Loch Gruinart. The same applies to the use of the terms 'Moine Mhor' and 'Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve (NNR)' (*Mid-Argyll*); I have used the former term to cover an area extending west to the landward edge of Loch Crinan and north to Barsloisnoch.

The following places are mentioned frequently in the text and are cited as shown in the first column. The relevant recording area is shown in the second column and a four figure Grid Ref. is given in the third. Where the location is a large feature (such as many of the sea lochs) the Grid Ref. is conventional and refers to approximately the centre of the feature.

Add Estuary	Mid-Argyll	NR8093
Ardnave L.	Islay	NR2873
Balephetrish Bay	Tiree	NM0047
Campbeltown L.	Kintyre	NR7220
Dunoon	Cowal	NS1776
Frenchman's Rocks	Islay	NR1554
Gigha	Kintyre	NR6449
Gott Bay	Tiree	NM0546
Holy Loch	Cowal	NS1681
Iona	Mull	NM2625
L. a' Phuill	Tiree	NL9541
L. Awe	Mid-Argyll	NN0016
L. Bhasapoll	Tiree	NL9747
L. Caolisport	Mid-Argyll	NR7475
L. Crinan (incl. Add Estuary)	Mid-Argyll	NR7994
L. Don	Mull	NM7332
L. an Eilein	Tiree	NL9843
L. Feochan	Mid-Argyll	NM8623
L. Fyne	Mid-Argyll	NR9386
L. Gilp	Mid-Argyll	NR8685
L. Gruinart	Islay	NR2868
L. Indaal	Islay	NR2961
L. na Keal	Mull	NM5038

L. Riaghain	Tiree	NM0347
L. Scridain	Mull	NM4525
L. Sween	Mid-Argyll	NR7484
Machrihanish SBO (Seabird Observatory)	Kintyre	NR6220
Moine Mhor (National Nature Reserve)	Mid-Argyll	NR8192
Oban	Mid-Argyll	NM8529
Oronsay	Colonsay	NR3489
Otter Ferry	Cowal	NR9284
Outer L. Etive (i.e. Connel Br. to Taynuilt)	North Argyll	NM9434
Sanda Island(s)	Kintyre	NR7204
Sorobaidh Bay	Tiree	NL9942
Sound of Gigha	Kintyre	NR6749
Sound of Jura	Mid-Argyll	NR6480
Sound of Mull	Mull	NM6144
Tayinloan (jetty)	Kintyre	NR6946
Taynish NNR (National Nature Reserve)	Mid-Argyll	NR7384
Treshnish Isles	Mull	NM2842

All other locations are given as a place name followed by the recording area in italics e.g. Minard *Mid-Argyll*. Occasionally, where the locality is not well known, a qualifier may be added in brackets, e.g. Kintallan (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll*.

## **Tables**

Tables 2.1 to 7.2 are derived chiefly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) goose counts.

Tables 1, 8.1-19.2, 29.1- 38.2, 41, 43 and 44 are based principally on data from the Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS), the *Islay* database for 2004 and John Halliday's (SNH) Moine Mhor NNR and Loch Crinan Bird Reports 2004 & 2005, although higher counts have been included where available. Some tables include 'monthly maximum day-counts' on *Tiree*. These may be at one site but often represent the total number of birds seen at two or more sites on the island on a given day.

Tables 21.1 -29.2 & 45.1- 48.2 and are based on the Argyll Raptor Study Group monitoring summaries produced by R. A. Broad.

Figures in these tables for 'Loch Gruinart' represent the total for Loch Gruinart proper (below high water mark). Where significant counts are available for RSPB Gruinart Floods (the area of flooded fields to the south of L. Gruinart) these are shown separately. Loch Crinan includes the outer Add estuary. In most cases the figures come from the respective WeBS counts for these areas although where higher counts are available these have been used. Also, 'outer Loch Etive' refers to WeBS counts covering the area from Connel Bridge to Taynuilt. '*Tiree*' refers to WeBS counts covering the four main freshwater lochs on the island *viz.* Loch an Eilein, Loch Bhasapoll, Loch Riaghain and Loch a 'Phuill unless 'monthly maximum day-counts' are specified. No WeBS counts were received for Holy Loch for 2004 or 2005; in fact very little information was forthcoming for this important site. For this reason no information for Holy Loch appears in any of the tables. At the time of writing WeBS counts are again being carried out at Holy Loch and figures will be included in future reports.

## **Special studies carried out in 2004 and/or 2005**

(1) Common Bird Census. This national scheme is run by the British Trust for Ornithology and involves mapping breeding territories of common and widespread birds in around 200 selected plots throughout the United Kingdom. The aim has been to quantify trends in bird populations and it has been instrumental, for example, in drawing attention to the declines among farmland birds. The scheme has been running since 1962 and from 1990 onwards two plots in the Tainish National Nature Reserve Mid-Argyll, one in woodland and one coastal, have been monitored by John Halliday. Because it is very labour intensive (involving around 10 detailed survey visits each breeding season) the CBC has been gradually replaced by the simpler BBS scheme, which requires only three visits. From 2001 the CBC has no longer been supported nationally. However a core of about 50 high priority sites continued to be supported and fortunately the two Tainish plots are among them. Because of the detailed nature of this survey and the continuity of the work (over 10 years now) at Tainish, the data provided are particularly significant for Argyll.

(2) Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) study of seabird breeding success [J. C. A. Craik]

As part of an on-going wider study of seabird breeding success, selected species were monitored in a study area along the west coasts of Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and N. Argyll (including Lismore), and at additional sites in Loch Fyne (Cowal/Mid-Argyll) and Mull.

Clive Craik drew particular attention to three important events/findings in 2005.

1. The discovery, in June 2005, of mink predation on Craro (Gigha) and the collapse of numbers of Shags and Black Guillemots breeding there (see respective species accounts in the following systematic list and *The Eider* Sep 2005 pp.18-19 for more details).
2. The collapse of numbers of Common Eiders breeding at three of the largest colonies in Argyll, and the apparent decline of Eiders breeding on Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute), all after years of mink predation.
3. The very large numbers of seabirds in the Firth of Lorn, the Sound of Jura, L. Crinan and elsewhere, in early July 2005; and the deaths of exceptionally large numbers of Common Tern chicks at the same time. Both events were believed to be due to a shortage of small fishes (see *The Eider* Mar 2006 for more details).

**For further details see: Craik, J. C. A. (2004 and 2005). Results of the mink-seabird project in 2004 and 2005. Privately Published (copies available from Dr J. C. A. Craik, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA.).**

(4) Systematic sea-watching at Machrihanish SBO (Kintyre) [E. J. Maguire].

Movements of seabirds, wildfowl and waders past this site are monitored regularly during certain months of the year. With a few exceptions, all individual birds flying past when the hide was manned are identified and logged. In the systematic list below, E. J. Maguire has provided all records relating to Machrihanish SBO. More comprehensive data for Machrihanish SBO during 2004 can be found in Maguire (2005).

(5) Woodland Bird Survey.

During 2003 and 2004 a total of 250 or so, mostly broadleaved woods in England, Scotland and Wales first surveyed in for the RSPB between 1982 and 1986 were revisited to get a more precise fix on where the species found in this habitat stand today in terms of distribution and population. In 2003, 16 of the 38 woods first visited in Mid-Argyll and North Argyll in 1985

were surveyed as part of the first phase of this work. The survey, carried out jointly by the British Trust for Ornithology and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, was completed in 2004 by which time 29 of the woods had been surveyed. The full results of the survey, as they relate to Argyll, are summarised in *Birds of Argyll*, ap Rheinallt, T., Craik, J.C.A., Daw, P., Furness, R.W., Petty, S.J. & Wood, D. 2007. Argyll Bird Club, Lochgilphead.

The final report on the survey as a whole was published as: Amar A, Hewson CM, Thewlis RM, Smith KW *et al.* (2006). *What's happening to our Woodland Birds? Long-term changes in the populations of woodland birds*. Sandy/Thetford: RSPB/BTO (RSPB Research Report 19/BTO Research Report 169).

#### (6) Breeding Birds Survey (BBS)

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), started in 1994. Its objective is to extend and improve the monitoring of population changes of common breeding birds. It now counts birds annually in more than 2,300 randomly chosen one-km squares in the UK, using a line-transect method. Results for one-km squares surveyed in Argyll have been referred to in previous reports but too few squares were covered during 2004 and 2005 to yield significant results for our area. **New recruits are always needed for the BBS.** If you think you might be interested but are not sure how much time it would take or how expert you need to be, or would like to know the location of the squares needing coverage, please contact your local BTO Representative (see p. 3 for details). It is hoped to include results for Argyll in future Argyll Bird Reports.

#### **Categories of the British list (as revised by the BOURC – Oct 2005):**

**Category A.** Species that have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1950. (The great majority of species recorded in Argyll naturally fall into this category.)

**Category B.** Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1<sup>st</sup> January 1800 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently. (The only species recorded in Argyll that falls into this category is White-faced Petrel although there are seven species (Red-crested Pochard, Wilson's Petrel, American Bittern, Sora, Little Crane, Great Snipe and Pallas's Sandgrouse) that have been recorded in Britain since 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1950 but only prior to that date in Argyll.)

**Category C.** Species that, although introduced now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.

**C1** *Naturalised introduced species* - species that have occurred *only* as a result of introduction e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*.

**C2** *Naturalised established species* - species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state e.g. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*.

**C3** *Naturalised re-established species* - species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*.

**C4** *Naturalised feral species* - *domesticated* species with populations established in the wild e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove)/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*.

**C5** *Vagrant naturalised species* - species from established naturalised populations abroad (e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelducks *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5).

**C6** (Subcategory added 2005) *Former naturalised species* – species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised population is either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct, e.g. Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*.

(There are less than 20 Argyll species that include Category C in their designated status although some may have a combined status e.g. Gadwall AC2 where birds were released or escaped in the past but also occur in a natural state.)

**Category D.** Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that; there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species placed in Category D form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals.

(The only Argyll species in this category are Ruddy Shelduck and Red-headed Bunting although there are records, not identified as to species, of Flamingo and Pelican.)

**Category E.** Species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees, or escapes from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species that have bred in the wild are designated as E\*. Category E species form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals (unless already included within Categories A, B or C).

(A dozen or so species have been recorded in Argyll which fall into this category although it appears that reporting of such species has been very patchy in the past. **Readers of this report are encouraged to submit records of any apparently escaped birds they see.**)

### Species status, categories: definitions

Resident	Resident and normally sedentary.
Breeding	Breeding and wintering ranges may differ.
Summer visitor	Breeds unless otherwise stated.
Passage migrant	Birds passing through en route to breeding grounds or winter quarters.
Winter visitor	Includes species that are also resident but whose numbers are augmented by immigrants during the winter months.
Introduced	Introduced species recorded in Argyll that may or may not breed here.
Vagrant	Five or fewer records since 1980.
Site of national importance	Sites of national importance in Great Britain (as defined by The Wetland Bird Survey).

### Symbols and abbreviations

*	Description required by BBRC
<i>ABR</i>	<i>Argyll Bird Report</i>
ABRC	Argyll Bird Records Committee
Ad(s).	Adult(s)
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
AOB	apparently occupied burrows
AON	apparently occupied nest-sites
AOS	apparently occupied sites
approx.	approximately
b/-	brood of...young
BBRC	<i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey
BOURC	British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
<i>ca</i>	<i>circa</i> = approximately
c/-	clutch of...eggs

<i>cf</i>	confer = compare
CBC	Common Birds Census
CES	Constant Effort (ringing) Site
<i>et al.</i>	at alii = and others
excl.	excluding
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
Gruinart Fl.	Gruinart Floods
hr/hrs	hour/hours
imm.	immature
inc.	including
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
juv./juvs.	juvenile/juveniles
L.	Loch
Machrihanish SBO	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory
max.	maximum (the highest of 2 or more counts at a given locality during the period being analysed)
min.	minimum
misc.	miscellaneous
Moine Mhor NNR	Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve
NCC	Nature Conservancy Council
NEWS	European Non-estuarine Coastal Waterfowl Survey
NNR	National Nature Reserve
n/r	not recorded (in tables of counts, where no count was made)
nr.	near
RSPB Loch Gr.	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve
SAMS	Scottish Association for Marine Science
Sd.	Sound
SBO	Seabird Observatory
<i>SBR</i>	<i>Scottish Bird Report</i>
SBRC	<i>Scottish Birds</i> Records Committee
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
Taynish NNR	Taynish National Nature Reserve
ters.	Territories
TIARG	Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey



## **ARGYLL BIRD RECORDS 2004/5**

The species accounts are summaries derived from the information in the Argyll Bird Club database. In recent years this has contained somewhere in the region of 18,000 records annually, from a variety of sources. More detailed information from this source is available from the Argyll Bird Recorder (contact details above).

**NB** The following species are on the Argyll list but have not been recorded since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1950 (Category B): **Red-crested Pochard, Wilson's Storm-petrel, White-faced Storm-petrel\*, American Bittern\*, Sora\*, Little Crake\*, Great Snipe\*, and Pallas's Sandgrouse\***. They are not referred to further in the following Systematic List.

**MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor* Eala

0152

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

**Jan-May 2004.** The highest count reported at Oban Harbour was only 24, on 1 Mar, while the peak WeBS count on *Tiree* was 28 on 23 Feb.

**2005.** The peak WeBS count on *Tiree* was 40 (incl. 31 at L. a' Phuill) on 10 Mar. The highest count elsewhere was 13 at L. Etive on 16 Jan. Numbers at Oban harbour seem to have declined markedly since regular feeding there ceased.

**Breeding 2004.** Of ten pairs known to have nested in the Argyll part of the SAMS study area: 5 pairs are known to have raised no young, 2 pairs each had one large young at the end of the year, one pair had three small young in Jul, and the outcome of the two other pairs was unknown. Another 10 pairs seen elsewhere in mid-late summer had no young. Thus of 20 pairs seen only 2 or 3 pairs reared any young. On *Tiree*, pairs at 3 sites on 23 Aug had broods: b/3 (dropping from 5), b/3, f/4, b/1 and b/2 (dropping from b/3).

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 16 pairs are known to have nested. The outcome of 6 was unknown, 6 pairs failed to rear young and 4 pairs had large young late in the year (1, 3, 5, 8 = 17 or 1.7 young per pair with known outcome). A brood of 8 was reared by a pair at Angus' Gardens (Taynuilt) where the adult male is crippled and unable to fly: see *The Eider* (December 2005) for more details on this exceptionally large brood. Female C51 of the pair that nested on the Saulmore Peninsula (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* during 1996-2004 died at Connel in April; the widowed male stood guard over the dead female for several days. On 25 Jul, broods noted on *Tiree* included: b/2 (from b/4) at L. an Eilein, b/3 (from b/6) and b/4 at L. Bhasapoll, b/3 (from b/5) at L. Riaghain, b/7, b/3, b/2 and b/1 at L. a' Phuill.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** The WeBS count on *Tiree* of 37 on 20 Sep included 2 broods of 3 fledged young and the WeBS count at L. Sween found 22 birds (incl. 3 juvs.) on 17 Oct. A count of 41 in Oban harbour on 29 Dec was the highest there for some time.

**2005.** The peak WeBS count on *Tiree*, of 63 on 10 Oct, included 19 cygnets. At L. Sween, the peak WeBS count total of 30 on 15 Oct included 28 at Ulva Lagoons.

**BEWICK'S SWAN** *Cygnus columbianus* Eala-bheag

0153

*Rare winter visitor. Less than annual, with records in 12 of the last 25 years. All but 4 of the records from 1970 to 2003 were in Kintyre or Islay.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** Four birds that arrived at Stewarton Kintyre on 15 Mar were the first Bewick's Swans to be recorded on the mainland since Oct 1996.

**Common on passage; smaller numbers winter. 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.**

**Jan-Apr 2004.** The peak count on *Tiree* was 201 on 22 Mar but most had gone by the following day. The largest number elsewhere was 27, seen flying N over Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb. There were widespread reports of migrants on the move at the end of Mar including: 135 flying N over L. Gruinart, 109 on L. Gilp and 11 on L. Tarsan *Cowal* on 27 Mar; 51 over *Tiree*, 18 at L. Restil *Cowal*, 43 at L. Gruinart, 9 on Oronsay and 36 flying off L. Gilp on 28 Mar as well as 27 flying N over Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* and 13 flying N over Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar.

**2005.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 109 on 10 Mar and the highest count on *Coll* was 91 on 23 Mar. Significant numbers elsewhere included: 35 in the Add Estuary on 17 Mar, 60 on L. Eck *Cowal* on 21 Mar, 37 flying over Kerrera on 24 Mar, a maximum of 48 during Apr at L. Gruinart and 22 flying over Otter Ferry on 17 Apr.

**Summering birds 2004.** A pair was present in Jun on Harrison's Loch, Mull but there was no evidence of breeding.

**2005.** Birds were present throughout the summer on *Tiree* and single birds were on *Islay* and *Mull*; there was no evidence of breeding.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The peak count on *Tiree*, of 281 on 20 Nov, included 84 cygnets (29.9%). Peak counts elsewhere included: 72 at L. Gruinart on 6 Oct, 30 on Oronsay on 6 Oct, 48 at Rockside *Islay* and 25 flying SW at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 20 Oct, 80 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 1 Nov, 15 at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 8 Nov, and 20 at the head of Linne Mhuirich, L. Sween on 13 Nov.

**2005.** The peak count on *Tiree*, of 352 on 29 Oct, included 88 cygnets (25%). Peak counts elsewhere included: a maximum of 173 during Oct at L. Gruinart, 198 flying over *Coll* on 11 Oct, 75 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 16 Oct, 40 at Ballachuan Loch (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct, 115 at Linne Mhuirich (L. Sween), 52 in the Add Estuary on 23 Oct, 54 at Lealt *Jura*, 33 on Oronsay on 25 Oct, 70 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 27 Oct, and 44 at Bridgend *Islay* on 24 Nov.

Table 1.1. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	26	90	201	31	2	2	2	1	12	165	281	226

Table 1.2. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree and at L. Gruinart in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	79	75	109	23	5	1	3	3	28	352	213	146
Gruinart	2	0	24	48	1	0	1	1	12	173	68	1

**Vagrant, recorded in only six of the 24 years 1980-2003.**

**2004.** The five birds of the race *fabalis* ('Taiga' Bean Goose) found on *Islay* in Nov 2003 remained at Cornabus until 15 Feb 2004 [T. ap Rheinallt *et al.*]. A single bird was first seen on Oronsay on 20 Mar. It was accepted as being a 'Tundra' Bean Goose (*Anser f. rossicus*), the first individual of this race recorded in Argyll, and remained until at least the end of Apr [M. Peacock *et al.*]. Six *fabalis* adults found at Arinagour *Coll* on 27 Mar were not seen after this date (S. Wellock]. All records accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**Variable numbers on passage, with occasional large flocks. Relatively few winter.**

**Jan-May 2004.** No more than one or two birds were reported in winter from: *Islay*, *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Larger numbers reported in spring included: *ca* 20 with Greenland White-fronted Geese on *Gigha* on 7 Apr, *ca* 80 flying N over *Coll* on 11 Apr, 11 with Greylag Geese at *Heylipol Tiree* on 22 Apr, 30 at *Gallanach Coll* on 11 May, and 15 at L. *Gruinart* on 17 May.

**2005.** No more than three birds were reported from: *Coll*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Hundreds passed over *Coll* on the night of 12/13 Sep, 65 flew S at *Machrihanish* on 25 Sep, 34 flew E over *Coll* on 10 Oct and 29 flew S on 22 Oct, 40 flew SW over *Heylipol Tiree* on 5 Nov, and 7 were at *Tayinloan* on 21 Nov. Elsewhere, no more than three were reported.

**2005.** A widespread movement was noted on 15 Sep when records included: 200 from the N at *Balevullin Tiree* in the afternoon, 300 flying S over *Coll*, 300-450 in 3 skeins heading SE over *Glen More Mull*, 70 on *Oronsay*, *ca* 175 in three skeins heading SSE over *Kames Cowal* in the afternoon, and *ca* 100 flying E over *Dunoon*. Elsewhere, apart from: 22 at *Miodar Tiree* on 26 Sep, 4 at L. *Etive* on 16 Oct, and 21 at *Loch Clach a' Bhuaile Islay* on 24 Oct; all other records were of one or two birds.

**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.**

**A small introduced population breeds on the Rinns of Islay. The European race *A. a. albifrons* is a rare vagrant.**

**Jan-May 2004.** The co-ordinated count in late Mar/early Apr produced a total of 14,180 birds in *Argyll* [Table 2.1]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: *The Laggan* (1,274), *Clachan* (171), and *Tayinloan* (1,018). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: *Danna* (151), *Keills* (92), *Ulva* (90), and *Moine Mhor* (23) [SNH Goose Project]. The main departure from *Islay* took place on 8 – 15 Apr and the last lone bird was at *Loch Bhirceapol Tiree* on 8 May.

**2005.** The co-ordinated count in late winter/early spring produced a total of 12,321 birds in *Argyll* [Table 2.2]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: *The Laggan* (1,407), *Clachan* (82), *Gigha* (139), and *Tayinloan* (894). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: *Danna* (106), *Keills* (118), and *Moine Mhor* (27).

**Breeding 2004/2005.** No reports were received concerning the introduced population on *Islay* or from elsewhere.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** Twelve returning birds were at L. *Gruinart* on 27 Sep and 185 were at *Rockside* on 29 Sep. The co-ordinated count in late Nov produced a total of 13,556 birds in *Argyll* [Table 3.1]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: *The Laggan* (1,103), *Clachan* (209), *Tayinloan* (870), and *Gigha* (25). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: *Danna* (91), *Keills* (224), and *Moine Mhor* (14). A family (pair with 3 goslings) with neck collars: N2P, N4P, N0T, N2T, and N4T were part of group of 50 birds at *Fidden Mull* on 5 Nov (they were originally marked, a pair with 4 goslings, at *Wexford slob*s, *Ireland* on 3 Dec 2003 and were recaptured there on 10 Mar 2004).

**2005.** Twenty flew over *Oronsay* in the direction of *Islay* on 15 Sep but first arrivals were not noted at L. *Gruinart* until 24 Sep. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 11,749 birds in *Argyll* [Table 3.2]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: *The Laggan* (1,236), *Clachan* (193), *Tayinloan* (565), *Glenbarr* (35), and *Gigha* (121). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: *Danna* (22), *Keills* (155), *Ulva* (114), and *Moine Mhor* (27). A flock of *ca* 80 at *Inverfollla (Appin) North Argyll* on 27 Dec included at least 6 birds with neck collars. Three of them; P5D, P5C, and P8S (originally

caught in W Iceland in autumn 2001) had been seen in Appin every winter since 2002. Another individual, (J3A) caught in West Greenland in summer 1997, has been present on *Tiree* in every winter subsequently and was at Heylipol in Nov and Dec.

Table 2. *Numbers of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in spring.*

2.1 – 22 to 31 Mar 2004.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,558	356	n/r	41	495	954	0	27	9,653	96

2.2 – 22 to 25 Mar 2005

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,522	251	145	49	814*	1,133	152	17**	7,152	86

\* counted 18 Feb \*\* counted 2 Apr

Table 3. *Numbers of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in winter.*

3.1 – 19 Nov 2004.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,207	329	85	50	357	834	1,718	31	7,945	0

3.2 – 3 to 26 Dec 2005

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,150	318	69	0	745	889	94	28	7,578	n/r

**LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE\*** *Anser erythropus* Geadh-bhlàr-beag 0160  
***Vagrant last recorded Islay March 1986.***

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser* Gèadh-glas 0161  
***Resident with increasing breeding population. Some may be native birds that have colonised from the Outer Hebrides, while birds of introduced origin breed in Mid-Argyll. Tiree, Coll, Machrihanish, Moine Mhor, Rhunahaorine (Tayinloan) Kintyre, Colonsay, Islay and Clachan are sites of international importance for wintering birds of the Northwest Scotland population of this species. Migratory flocks also reported from most areas.***

**Jan-Apr 2004.** In late Mar/early Apr, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 3,488 birds in Argyll, of which, 75.7% were on *Tiree* [Table 4.1]. Larger flocks elsewhere included: 212 at Moine Mhor on 26 Jan, 133 at Saligo *Islay* on 3 Feb, 115 at Tayinloan on 15 Feb, and 125 in Outer Loch Etive on 21 Feb.

**2005.** Around 100 birds were reported shot on *Colonsay* during winter 2004-2005. An all-island count on *Tiree* found a record total of 4,005 birds on 16/17 Feb. The co-ordinated goose count in late Mar recorded a total of 4,874 birds in Argyll, of which 71.5% were on *Tiree* [Table 4.2]. Larger flocks elsewhere included: at least 150 at Castle Toward *Cowal* on 16 Jan and 174 in Outer Loch Etive on 6 Feb.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area at least 19 pairs were found nesting at 10 sites and good numbers of fully-grown young were seen later in the season. A total of 25 broods totalling 107 young were found on *Colonsay* in Jun and 18 adults were seen with 16 goslings in the Sound of Kerrera on 4 Jun. An all-island post-breeding count on *Tiree* on 23 Aug

found 3,033 birds. Of these; 1277 were aged, of which, 27.7% were juvs, with a mean brood size of 2.64. The late summer moulting flock on the Treshnish Isles numbered 316 in late Jun.

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area 39-44 pairs nested on 22 islands. There has been a large increase in breeding numbers in this study area over the last decade. In 1995 Clive Craik recorded one brood in the whole area (at E Glasa, in the Sound of *Mull*). This was the first brood he had seen during 1980-1995.

A total of 40 broods totalling 165 young were found on *Colonsay* in Jun, 11 pairs bred on Oronsay, 2 pairs bred at L. Gruinart and a pair bred successfully on Sheep Island (Sanda). An all-island post-breeding count on *Tiree* on 30 Aug found 3,510 birds. Of these, 1,454 were aged of which 18.8% were juvs. with a mean brood size of 2.04.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** On 11 Aug there were already 715 birds at Ardnave L. A total of 350 was at L. Gruinart on 25 Sep and an all-island count on *Coll* on 22 Oct found 580 birds. In Nov, the co-ordinated goose count produced a total of 4,459 for Argyll [Table 5.1]. The count of 3,899 on *Tiree* on 19 Nov was a record total for the island. At least 350 were feeding in fields at Ardlamont House *Cowal* on 15 Dec.

**2005.** A moulting flock of 195 was counted off the E of Oronsay on 12 Jul and at least 800 were on freshly cut grass at the RSPB reserve on *Coll* on 30 Aug. The WeBS count in Outer Loch Etive found 160 on 16 Oct and 214 were on the sea near Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov. In Dec, the co-ordinated goose count produced a total of 5,112 for Argyll [Table 5.2].

Table 4. *Numbers of Greylag Geese in Argyll areas in spring.*

4.1 – 29 Mar to 1 Apr 2004.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
0	0	0	738	2,641	0	26	61	10

4.2 – 22 to 27 Mar 2005

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
0	317	0	847*	3,488	185	12	0	25

\* counted 18 Feb

Table 5. *Numbers of Greylag Geese in Argyll areas in winter.*

5.1 – 19 Nov 2004.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
0	133	0	349	3,899	n/r	26	52	n/r

5.2 – 3 to 20 Dec 2005.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
487	192	0	865	3,370	111	33	54	n/r

**SNOW GOOSE** *Anser caerulescens* Gàadh-bàn

0163

*A small introduced population breeds on Coll and on Mull, wintering mainly on Coll. Stragglers among wintering goose flocks of other species may have a wild origin.*

**Jan-Mar 2004.** An adult blue morph individual was seen in the Laphroaig area of *Islay* from Jan to late Mar; mostly in the company of Greenland White-fronted Geese.

**2005.** An adult white morph bird was seen frequently in the Moine Mhor/Slockavullin area of *Mid-Argyll* from late Jan to mid Mar, in the company of Greylag and/or Greenland White-fronted Geese.

**Breeding 2004.** The introduced population on *Coll* was checked at Port na Luing in Jun, when 5 pairs were found with 12 young.

**2005.** No information available regarding the *Coll* population.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The flock at Port na Luing *Coll* numbered 41 in Sep and included: 24 white morph adults, 5 blue morph adults, and 12 young.

**2005.** The introduced population on *Coll* numbered 29 on 30 Aug.

**GREATER CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis* Gèadh-dubh 0166

*Resident population on Colonsay introduced in 1934. Regular breeding, since 1992, in Mid-Argyll. Now in increasing numbers, with occasional 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.*

**Jan-May 2004.** Larger flocks reported included: at least 60 nr Barsloisnoch Farm (Moine Mhor) on 26 Jan, 38 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 11 Feb and 27 on L. Awe on 25 Apr.

**2005.** Larger flocks included: 33 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 16 Jan and 47 at Barr Beithe, L. Awe on 4 May.

**Breeding 2004.** In the SAMS study area regular observations at the Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, showed what is probably happening each year at several recently formed and growing population centres in Argyll. Birds were first seen on 30 Mar (1 or 2 pairs). On 17 May at least 18 pairs were present on the island, most with territories, and 6 broods (25 young) were seen. These formed a flock on the immediately opposite mainland of Saulmore as follows: 61 birds on 3 Jun (7 Pairs + 22 young [6,6,4,3,2,1] + 25 other ads.); 34 ads + 21 young on 11 Jun; 13 + ca26 on 14 Jun; 38-39 fully grown on 2 Jul; and 34 on 19 Jul declining to 13 on 2 Aug (the last seen there during the year). Confirmed breeding took place at 7 further sites in the study area with probable or possible breeding at another 7 sites. Pairs with young were also seen at Blarghour (L. Awe), Caol Scotnish (L. Sween) (pair with 6 goslings), Taynish NNR (4 pairs, 2 broods of young), Oronsay (2 pairs, 2 broods of young) and *Colonsay* (2 broods totalling 12 young).

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area at least 36-40 pairs were found nesting on 23 islands. This is a dramatic increase since 1995 when just a single pair was found, on Eilean Balnagowan, L. Linne (Highland). Breeding pairs were seen at: Barr Beithe, L. Awe (2 pairs, 18 goslings), Feorlin (nr Minard) *Mid-Argyll* (2 pairs), Caol Scotnish (L. Sween) (pair with 7 goslings), Kilchurn Castle (L. Awe) (pair with 6 small goslings), Oronsay (one pair), *Colonsay* (2 broods, totalling 7 young), and Linne Mhuirich (L. Sween) (3 pairs with broods of young).

**Aug-Dec 2004.** The maximum counts were: in the Add Estuary/L. Crinan area 160 on 12 Aug, 23 feeding on arable crops on Oronsay on 5 Sep, and 29 grazing in a field at head of L. Feochan on 9 Nov.

**2005.** The largest flocks reported were: in the Moine Mhor area 158 on 28 Dec, 46 feeding on stubbles on Oronsay on 10 Sep, 109 at Portnacraish *North Argyll* on 9 Dec including an albino bird, approximately 80 in the Sound of Shuna *North Argyll* on 16 Dec, and 65 at Inverfolla *North Argyll* on 27 Dec.

**[LESSER CANADA GOOSE** *Branta hutchinsii*

*What were formerly the races minima and hutchinsii of Canada Goose are now included with this new species. Although there have been many claims over the years of birds of this type, especially on Islay, there are currently no records accepted by BOURC.]*

**2004.** Up to 4 birds possibly of this species were reported on *Islay* from Jan to Apr and from Oct to Dec with single birds reported from *Coll* and *Kintyre*.

**2004/2005.** Records from *Islay* for 2004 and 2005 are currently being held by BBRC until an identification paper on the species has been completed.

**BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis* Cathan

0167

*Large numbers of birds from the Greenland population winter on Islay, and smaller numbers elsewhere. Islay, Tiree, Coll, Keills/Isle of Danna (Mid-Argyll) and Colonsay 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 also breed on the Rinns of Islay.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** The peak winter count on Oronsay was 775 on 2 Mar and the peak count on *Coll* was 840 on 22 Jan. The SNH co-ordinated goose count in late Mar/early Apr recorded an Argyll total of 44,554 birds (*cf* 35,796 in 2002 and 40,884 in 2003). As usual, the great majority (40,394 or 90.7%) were on *Islay* [Table 6.1].

**2005.** The peak winter count on *Tiree* was 3,273 on 24 Jan (a new record total for the island). There were 1,297 on *Coll* on 25 Jan, and 106 were counted on *Colonsay* on 7 Feb. The co-ordinated goose count in late Mar recorded an Argyll total of 50,268 birds. Again the great majority (44,186 or 88%) were on *Islay* [Table 6.2].

**Summering birds 2004.** None were recorded between late May and mid-Sep.

**2005.** Single birds at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jun and at Fiddien *Mull* on 1 Jul were the only summer records.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The first returning birds were: 12 at L. Gruinart on 17 Sep, and 50 flew off to the W at Lussa L. *Kintyre* on 18 Sep. The main arrival on *Islay*, which involved thousands of birds, was on 5/6 Oct. By the time of the co-ordinated count in Nov, *Islay* had 37,520 (*cf* 35,544 birds in 2002) which accounted for 89% of the Argyll total of 42,158 (*cf* 37,594 in 2002) [SNH Goose Project, Table 7.1].

**2005.** A single early individual was at the RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 3 Sep; the one at L. an Eilein *Tiree* on 10 Sep may have been the same bird. The main arrival began on 24 Sep when 94 flew S over *Tiree* and on 26 Sep when 2,703 were at L. Gruinart. The Dec co-ordinated goose count total for Argyll was 48,331, with 42,526 (or 88%) of these on *Islay* [Table 7.2].

Table 6. *Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas, in spring.*

6.1 - 30 Mar to 15 Apr 2004.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
68	640	0	700	2,752	0	376	40,018	0

6.2 - 21 to 22 Mar 2005

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
0	708	0	1102*	3,072	n/r	1,200**	44,186	0

\* counted 18 Feb \*\* estimated count

Table 7. *Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas in winter.*

7.1 - 19 Nov 2004.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
0	600	0	680	2,018	434	906	37,520	n/r

7.2 - 3 to 20 Dec 2005.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
52	468	0	2,010	2,581	608	86	42,526	n/r

**BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla* Gèadh-got

0168

*Passage migrant, in varying numbers. Very few winter. Most birds seen in Argyll are of the light-bellied race B. b. hrota. Birds of the dark-bellied race B. b. bernicla occur occasionally, and there has been one record of the Black Brant B. b. nigricans.*

All records refer to the pale-bellied race *B. b. hrota* unless otherwise noted.

**Jan-May 2004.** Larger numbers reported were as follows: 22 at Bowmore *Islay* on 23 Jan, 9 at Glenburn (L. Indaal) on 9 Feb, 45 at Gott Bay on 12 Apr increasing to 73 on 17 Apr, 80 at L. Gruinart on 23 Apr, 275 flying NE at Baugh *Tiree* on 25 Apr, 44 on Oronsay on 4 May, 36 at Glenburn (L. Indaal) on 15 May, and 15 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 17 May.

Single dark-bellied birds (*B. b. bernicla*) were reported from L. Indaal on 13 Feb and at Glenburn (L. Indaal) 15 to 24 May.

**2005.** Apart from 20 at Bowmore (L. Indaal) on 12 Feb all records were in Apr/May including: 14 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 12 Apr, 13 briefly in the bay at Sanda Islands on 12 Apr, 70 flying N at Sorobaiddh Bay, 67 flying over RSPB *Coll* on 14 Apr, a total of 104 on *Tiree* on 19 Apr, 5 at Gott bay on 25 to 30 Apr, and a single at L. Gruinart on 8 May.

**Jun 2004.** Unusually, single birds were reported on *Mull* on 2 Jun and at L. Gruinart on 20 Jun.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** Four early returning birds were at Machrihanish SBO on 7 Aug. Unusually high numbers of passage migrants were recorded including: 459 at Frenchman's Rocks, 964 at L. Gruinart on 19 Sep, 92 on *Tiree*, at least 650 at L. Gruinart on 20 Sep, 1,247 flying past Frenchman's Rocks in 9 hrs (a record for this site) on 21 Sep, 21 flying W at Aird *Tiree* in Sep, 114 at Frenchman's Rocks on 22 Sep, 134 at L. Gruinart on 28 Sep, 55 flying S at Machrihanish SBO on 30 Sep, at least 595 at L. Gruinart on 5 Oct, 145 flying past Machrihanish SBO in 5 hrs on 6 Oct, and 31 at Cattadale *Islay* on 24 Oct. Late singles were at Sorobaiddh Bay on 20 Nov and L. Gruinart on 13 Dec.

**2005.** A single was at Sorobaiddh Bay and 80 flew in off the sea at Machrihanish on 15 Sep. Larger numbers thereafter included: 30 at Salum Bay *Tiree* on 22 Sep, 987 at L. Gruinart on 25 Sep, 85 flying S at Machrihanish on 30 Sep, 106 at L. Gruinart on 27 Oct, and 18 at the head of L. Indaal on 17 Nov. Single birds were at Ruaig *Tiree* and The Strand *Colonsay* on 5 Dec.

A single dark-bellied bird (*B. b. bernicla*) was feeding on saltmarsh grass at The Strand *Colonsay* on 17 Oct.

**RED-BREASTED GOOSE\*** *Branta ruficollis*

0169

*Vagrant. An adult on Islay, first seen on 27th Oct 2001, is the only previous record.*

**2004.** The presumed returning bird remained on *Islay* from Nov 2003, until at least 28 Mar [T. ap Rheinallt, A.W. Reid *et al.*]. Accepted BBRC (*British Birds* 98:633).

**2005.** No records.

**COMMON SHELDUCK (SHELDUCK)** *Tadorna tadorna* Crà-gheadh

0173

*Widespread but not very numerous breeding species on sandy coasts. The majority are absent from mid-Aug to late Oct when they migrate to moulting grounds.*

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Other than those listed in Table 8.1, the only count of more than 20 birds was 23 at L. Crinan on 24 Apr. A lone female was an unusual visitor to the Treshnish Isles on 25 Jun.

**2005.** Counts of 10 or more birds, apart from those shown in Table 8.2, included: 15 on Oronsay on 10 May and 18 at Loch Crinan on 11 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** On *Islay*, 11 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart, and pairs with young were seen at Port Ellen and Dun Athad (Oa). A total of 29 pairs were found on *Colonsay* and 5 broods totalling 29 young were seen. Three broods totalling 28 young were found at Machrihanish SBO; pairs with young were found at 5 locations on *Tiree*, and 4 or 5 pairs bred on the Sanda Islands. Elsewhere pairs with young were also seen at: Eilean Gainimh (L. Linnhe) *North*



*Argyll*, Loch na Keal, Ballimore *Cowal* (2 broods), Tayinloan; and on *Coll*, Oronsay, and Iona (2 broods).

**2005.** On *Islay*: 6 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart, 4 pairs bred at RSPB Ardnave, and pairs with young were seen at Ruvaal Lighthouse. A total of 30 pairs were found on *Colonsay* and 9 broods totalling 63 young were seen. At least 10 pairs bred or attempted to breed on Sanda Islands. Pairs with young were found at: 7 locations on *Tiree*, and pairs with young were also seen at: The Add Estuary, Otter Ferry, Campbeltown Loch, Oronsay, Iona, Ardalanish *Mull*, and Uisken *Mull*.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Other than those listed in Table 8.1, significant counts included: 40 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 24 Oct, and 72 at Traigh Ghruineart (L. Gruinart) on 21 Dec. Away from *Islay* there were no counts of more than 10 birds.

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 8.2, larger counts included 39 at the head of L. Indaal on 16 Nov and 14 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 5 Dec.

Table 8.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Shelduck at two sea-lochs on Islay & L. Sween in 2004.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	184	227	160	36	39	n/r	64	23	25	16	65	55
Indaal	35	38	41	58	25	n/r	19	11	0	6	11	45
Sween	35	42	23	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	0	0	0	10

Table 8.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Shelduck at two sea-lochs on Islay & L. Sween in 2005.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	92	75	155	165	42	161	20	3	11	17	55	n/r
Indaal	40	42	42	67	68	28	16	20	0	6	12	37
Sween	3	18	3	16	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	4	7

#### MANDARIN DUCK (MANDARIN) *Aix galericulata*

0178

**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.**

**2004.** Three males and 3 females were seen at the N end of L. Eck on 8 Apr and a single female was there on 22 May. The only record elsewhere concerned a male a Braevallich (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr.

**2005.** Three birds (2 males and 1 female) on 19 May were the most reported from L. Eck. There were more records elsewhere than usual with: two off Dalavich (L. Awe) on 20 May, a female at the southern end of L. Awe on 17 Jun, 2 eclipse males at L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep, and a pair at L. Angus (Barguilean Gardens) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Sep that had been present for 'a few weeks'.

#### EURASIAN WIGEON (WIGEON) *Anas penelope* Glas-lach

0179

**Scarce and local breeding species. Common passage migrant and winter visitor to all areas.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Other than those listed in Table 9.1, the only sites with counts of 100 or more were: Lussa Loch *Kintyre* (ca300 on 29 Feb), and Canal Loch *Coll* (max. 160 on 27 Mar).

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 9.2, the only sites with counts of 100 or more were: Outer L. Etive (max 121 on 16 Jan), and An Fhaodhail *Tiree* (max. 377 on 1 Feb).

**Breeding 2004.** Two pairs were on L. Tulla *North Argyll* on 19 Jun with a broods of 2 and 1 young. A pair was present at L. Gruinart in the breeding season although no young were seen. A brood of 4 fledged young at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 23 Aug were possibly local.

**2005.** At least three pairs were present at possible nest sites on *Tiree* but no young were seen. Pairs were also present at possible nest sites at L. Gruinart and in *Mid-Argyll* but again no young were seen. No reports were received from L. Tulla *North Argyll*.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Other than those listed in Table 9.1, the only sites reporting counts of 100 or more were: L. Sween (max 208 on 17 Oct), Canal Loch *Coll* (max. 150 on 19 Nov), Outer L. Etive (max 101 on 12 Dec), and Ardlamont *Cowal* (156 on 15 Dec).

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 9.2, the only sites reporting counts of 100 or more were: L. Sween (max 138 on 15 Oct), L. Gilp (160+ on 18 Oct), and Outer L. Etive (max 136 on 4 Dec). During a 2hr sea-watch at Arinagour *Coll* on 23 Sep, 470 were counted flying S.

Table 9.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Wigeon at three sites on Islay, L. Crinan and on Tiree in 2004 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	263	122	134	0	0	n/r	0	0	37	104	439	262
Gruinart Floods	196	87	161	63	2	n/r	0	0	16	461	541	339
Indaal	137	147	113	10	1	0	0	1	690	370	415	370
Crinan	170	150	n/r	0	0	0	0	43	298	479	187	192
<i>Tiree</i>	521	313	279	8	6	4	2	28	74	191	554	n/r

Table 9.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Wigeon at three sites on Islay, L. Crinan and on Tiree in 2005 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	185	245	163	151	0	0	0	0	0	125	327	226
Gruinart Floods	241	267	288	138	4	0	0	0	76	229	304	207
Indaal	156	146	100	12	0	0	0	0	500	401	427	347
Crinan	217	126	n/r	20	2	3	0	30	240	550	211	44
<i>Tiree</i>	611	396	374	148	2	0	0	3	121	58	280	179

#### AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

0180

*Vagrant. Seven or more previous Argyll records, all since 1989 and all of single males. Recent records in the Loch Craignish/Loch Crinan area have been attributed to a single returning individual.*

**2004.** A first winter male was present at Ardnave L. from 13 Feb to 3 Mar. What was presumed to be our faithful returning male was present in the Add Estuary from 25 Sep to at least 16 Oct. Both the above records have been accepted by SBRC (T. ap Rheinallt, J. McKay, J. Dickson, J. Halliday *et al.*).

**2005.** For the first time since 1997 there were no records during the year.

#### GADWALL *Anas strepera* Lach-ghlas

0182

*Scarce but regular on passage and in winter, with most recent records from Kintyre, Islay, Mid-Argyll and Tiree. Breeds sporadically on Tiree and on Islay.*

**2004.** Up to 4 birds reported in every month from Feb to Oct, mostly at L. Gruinart; also recorded more widely on *Tiree* from Apr to Aug. A flock of 7 flew S past Frenchman's Rocks on 6 Oct. The only records elsewhere involved single birds at L. Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jul and on Sanda Islands on 2 Sep.

**2005.** Recorded at L. Gruinart in every month from Feb to Dec, with a maximum of 10 in Oct. Single males were recorded at Lochan Ceann a' Choin (nr Ford) *Mid-Argyll* and at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* in Jan. Recorded on *Tiree* from Feb to Oct with a maximum of 6 on 25 Oct and singles were found on Sanda Islands in May and on *Mull* in Jul.

**Breeding 2004.** Two pairs were present at L. Gruinart and a female was seen with a single duckling in Jun. A pair was present on *Tiree* for at least three days in May.

**2005.** Two pairs were present at L. Gruinart and are thought to have attempted to breed although no young were reported. At least three pairs were present on *Tiree* during May but with no evidence of breeding.

#### **EURASIAN TEAL (TEAL) *Anas crecca*** Crann-lach

0184

***Widespread but uncommon breeding species. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.***

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Apart from those listed in Table 10.1, the only sites with counts of 100 or more were: An Fhaodhail, *Tiree* (max. 190 on 8 Jan), Oronsay (120 on pools - 21 Jan), Ardnave Loch (112 on 22 Feb), and Canal Loch *Coll* (max. 110 on 27 Mar).

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 10.2, the only sites with counts of 100 or more were: An Fhaodhail, *Tiree* (max. 295 on 20 Jan), Oronsay (250 Dubh Eilean pools - 23 Jan), Ardnave Loch (112 on 22 Feb), and The Reef *Tiree* (356 on 1 Feb).

**Breeding 2004.** On *Islay*: 2 pairs bred at Ardnave, 22 pairs were found at RSPB Gruinart Floods, and a female with 6 ducklings was seen at RSPB Gruinart (Laraichean Buidhe) in Jun. At least 11 probable breeding pairs were located on *Tiree* in Jun and a female with a brood of young was at L. Garradh nan Capull on 29 Jun. On *Coll*, the RSPB Reserve had a minimum of 6 pairs: 3 pairs at Canal Loch and single pairs were at: Red Rock Marsh, Machair Mhor, and near Lonban.

**2005.** On *Islay*, 5 pairs were located at RSPB Ardnave and 16 pairs were found at RSPB Gruinart. On *Tiree* there was a female with b/6 at The Reef (15 Jul) and female with f/5 at An Fhaodhail (21 Jul).

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Apart from those listed in Table 10.1, the only sites with a count of 100 or more were: An Fhaodhail, *Tiree* (max. 280 on 24 Sep), L. Clach a' Bhuaile *Islay* (170 on 29 Sep), L. Gorm *Islay* (195 on 3 Oct), and Canal Loch *Coll* (max. 240 on 19 Nov).

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 10.2, the only sites with counts of 100 or more were: Moss of Achnacree (North Connel) *North Argyll* (100 on 12 Nov), An Fhaodhail, *Tiree* (max. 260 on 13 Nov), The Reef *Tiree* (120 on 8 Dec), Clachan *Tiree* (120 on 10 Dec), and Ballimore (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* (104 on 28 Dec).

Table 10.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Teal at L. Crinan, Tiree freshwater lochs and at two sites on Islay, in 2004 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crinan	90	70	n/r	0	0	0	0	0	124	260	96	122
Tiree	209	207	56	4	1	0	3	89	40	352	425	n/r
Indaal	143	101	43	21	0	0	0	14	67	125	141	152
Gruinart Floods	2033	1011	773	95	5	n/r	3	60	573	2549	2453	1677

Table 10.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Teal at L. Crinan, Tiree freshwater lochs and at two sites on Islay, in 2005 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Crinan	128	154	n/r	20	0	0
Tiree	582	278	220	52	6	3
Indaal	101	98	45	20	0	0
Gruinart Floods	1741	1861	1092	590	5	13

Lochs	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crinan	0	17	223*	65	52	70
Tiree	3	130	248	279	232	295
Indaal	0	12	56	131	160	145
Gruinart Floods	9	392	972	1586	2058	1216

\* Highest ever WeBS count for Teal at L. Crinan.

### **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** *Anas carolinensis*

0184.2

**Rare visitor from North America with 12 or more accepted records since 1980, all on Islay or Tiree. Some records may well involve returning individuals.**

**2004/2005.** The male found at RSPB L. Gruinart from Nov 2003 remained until at least 31 Jan 2004. From 1 Nov 2004 onwards, one and sometimes two, males were seen at RSPB L. Gruinart until at least 26 Apr 2005. A male was seen at L. Bhasapoll *Tiree* on 6 Jun 2005. (A possible male reported on *Coll* later in Jun might have been the same bird, but no description was supplied). A male was, once more, seen RSPB L. Gruinart from, 15 Nov 2005 onwards.

[All the above records have been accepted by ABRC with the caveat that they could be returning birds (J. How, J. Bowler, A. W. Reid *et al.*).

### **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach-riabhach

0186

**Common breeding, passage and wintering species**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Other than those listed in Table 11.1, the only count exceeding 50 came from Canal Loch *Coll* (80 on 29 Mar).

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 11.2, the only counts exceeding 50 came from: L. Gruinart (max. 144 in Jan), Ardnave L. (max. 186 in Jan), Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* (56 on 23 Jan), The Reef *Tiree* ( max. 120 on 30 Jan), and L. Gilp (50+ on 21 May).

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 10 nesting Mallard were found at 7 sites mostly small islands in sealochs. These included one mixed clutch in a Common Eider's nest (6 Eider/5 Mallard eggs). Six pairs were found at L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll* in Apr, of which at least two pairs bred, with broods seen on 4th June. An estimated 81 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods, where a female with a brood of 11 ducklings was noted on 6 May. Nine pairs bred at Ardnave L. with at least 8 broods of young noted on *Tiree* in May. Finally a minimum of 13 pairs bred at the RSPB Reserve *Coll*.

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 18 pairs with eggs or young were found at 14 sites, mostly small islands in sealochs. An early brood of 6 small young was found at Kilmarnog Isles (L. Etive) on 24 Apr. Three broods of young were found at L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll* in May/Jun; at least 9 broods were noted on *Tiree* in May/Jun, and 6 or 7 pairs bred on Sanda Islands. Six breeding pairs were confirmed at Ardnave L. with 46 pairs at RSPB L.

Gruinart. Breeding pairs were also found at Killail Cowal, L. Awe, Colonsay Oronsay, and Mull.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Other than those listed in Table 11.1, the only counts exceeding 50 came from: L. Garradh nan Capull *Tiree* (90 on 14 Jul), L. a' Phuill (max. 247 on 29 Jul), Sanda Islands (max. 57 on 19 Sep), L. Gruinart (max. 84 on 1 Oct), An Fhoadhail *Tiree* (72 on 22 Sep), and Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* (82 on 29 Dec).

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 11.2, the only counts exceeding 50 came from: L. a' Phuill (max. 290 on 12 Sep), Bridgend *Islay* (max. 160 on 24 Nov), L. Gruinart (max. 94 in Dec), and L. Striven Cowal (83 on 1 Dec).

Table 11.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Mallard at L. Crinan, Outer Loch Etive (N Argyll), Tiree freshwater lochs and at two sites on Islay, in 2004 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crinan	2	0	n/r	6	5	0	10	3	121	1	6	9
Etive	79	62	56	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	127	114	163	70
Tiree	31	70	19	23	94	60	157	331	6	20	62	n/r
Indaal	161	103	21	12	15	31	29	27	41	60	58	141
Gruinart Floods	111	63	62	88	98	n/r	27	0	91	60	112	112

Table 11.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Mallard at L. Crinan, Tiree freshwater lochs and at two sites on Islay, in 2005 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crinan	5	0	n/r	0	6	4	0	134	18	4	54	26
Etive	93	73	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	53	63	n/r	66
Tiree	31	52	62	27	40	70	157	382	211	77	31	43
Indaal	145	127	17	15	19	32	30	22	45	50	67	150
Gruinart Floods	142	84	52	27	78	11	4	41	75	72	58	53

#### **BLACK DUCK\*** *Anas rubripes*

0187

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) in Jun 2001.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

#### **PINTAIL** *Anas acuta* Lach-stiùireach

0189

**Very scarce breeding species confined to Tiree. Scarce passage migrant. Winter visitor but regular only on Islay and Tiree.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** The highest count on *Tiree* was at L Riaghain where 10 were present on 5 Mar. Elsewhere: 35 were counted on L. Indaal at Gartnatra on 9 Feb, and 6 were seen at Canal L. Coll on 27 Mar.

**2005.** The highest count on *Tiree* was at L Riaghain where 14 were present on 16 Feb. Elsewhere: a maximum of 37 was recorded at RSPB L. Gruinart during Feb, 29 were at Traigh Gruinart on 25 Mar, a male and female were in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Feb, and 23 were counted from Bridgend Hide *Islay* on 2 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** A female with a fledged brood of 4 young was found at a site on *Tiree* and breeding was suspected at another site where no young were seen.

**2005.** A female with a fledged brood of 5 young was found at a site on *Tiree* where breeding had been suspected earlier in the year.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Up to 6 were present on *Tiree* from Sep to Nov. Elsewhere: an imm. female was at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 7 Sep, 18 were at Glenburn (L. Indaal) on 29 Sep, 10 flew S past Machrihanish SBO on 5 Oct, and 29 were at Carnain (L. Indaal) on 22 Oct.

**2005.** At RSPB L. Gruinart, maxima of 23 were present in Oct and 41 in Nov. Elsewhere: 4 were on L. a' Phuill from Jul to Dec, an imm. female was at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 9 Sep, a female was in the Add Estuary on 7 Nov, a male was at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 19 Nov, a male was in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec, and a pair were at Connel (L. Etive) on 31 Dec.

Table 12.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Pintail at two sites on Islay in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart Floods	10	12	16	2	0	n/r	0	0	0	9	25	32
L. Indaal	10	9	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	24	30	51

Table 12.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Pintail at two sites on Islay in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart Floods	25	37	31	18	0	0	0	0	0	9	24	14
L. Indaal	8	11	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	22	32

#### **GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula*

0191

**Regular spring visitor to Islay and Tiree. Has bred in Kintyre in 1994 and on Islay in 1997.**

**2004.** The only records were of a very early male at RSPB Gruinart Floods from 3 to 7 Apr, and a pair reported on *Coll* with five small young on 1st July (two were thought to have fledged).

**2005.** Up to 3 were at Canal Loch *Coll* in early May. Single birds were reported: on *Islay* at RSPB L. Gruinart and Ardnave in May; a male at Moss *Tiree* on 5 May, and an eclipse male at L. a' Phuill on 21 Sep. A pair present on *Islay* in May may possibly have bred.

#### **BLUE-WINGED TEAL\*** *Anas discors*

0192

**Vagrant. Only two or three previous records, all adult males; one on Tiree in 1986, one on Tiree in May 1998, and (possibly the same) one on Islay, also in May 1998.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

#### **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata* Lach-a'-ghuib-leathainn

0194

**Scarce and localised breeding species restricted to Islay and Tiree. More numerous as passage migrant and winter visitor although largely restricted to Islay and Tiree.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** The only records away from *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 13.1] were: a male at Ballyhugh L. *Coll* on 27 Mar, 4 at Canal L. *Coll* on 27 Apr and, unusually, 3 flying S at Machrihanish SBO on 23 May.

**2005.** A maximum of 83 were present at RSPB L. Gruinart in Feb and up to 74 were there in Mar. The only records away from *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 13.2] were two on Ornsay on 26 Mar, and a male there on 17 Jun.

**Breeding 2004.** A total of 15 possible breeding pairs at 13 sites were noted on *Tiree*, 3 pairs fledged 8 young at Canal Loch *Coll*, and 13 pairs are thought to have bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods.

**2005.** Three broods of young were noted on *Tiree* and at least 10 more possible breeding pairs were located elsewhere on the island. Three pairs fledged 7 young at Canal Loch *Coll* and 13 pairs are thought to have bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** The only records away from *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 13.1] were of 6 at Canal Loch *Coll* in Aug and one at Tayinloan on 10 Sep.

**2005.** The only records were those from *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 13.2].

Table 13.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Shoveler at Gruinart Floods (Islay) and on Tiree in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart Floods	77	5	47	16	8	0	0	6	21	58	80	100
Tiree	12	23	2	4	4	0	2	3	1	14	17	5

Table 13.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Shoveler at Gruinart Floods (Islay) and on Tiree in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart Floods	90	83	74	48	12	0	0	8	37	63	102	78
Tiree	14	17	23	11	3	5	10	6	13	27	21	33

**COMMON POCHARD (POCHARD)** *Aythya ferina* Lach-mhàsach 0198  
*Scarce but regular winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers particularly to: Tiree, Islay, and a few Mid-Argyll lochs. No confirmed breeding in recent years.*

**Jan-Jun 2004.** The highest count on *Islay* was 48 at Ballygrant L. on 19 Feb, and on *Tiree* 38 were at L. Bhasapoll on 29 Jan. A late male was at L. a' Phuill on 26 Apr. Elsewhere: a male was at Ballyhogh L. *Coll* on 7 Jan, 8 were on L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan, and 7 were on L. nan Druimnean (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb.

**2005.** Smaller numbers than usual were found on *Islay* and *Tiree* and none were reported elsewhere. The highest count reported on *Islay* was 21 at Ballygrant L. on 19 Feb with a maximum of 4 on *Tiree*, at L. a' Phuill on 17 Jan.

**Oct-Dec 2004.** The first record involved 2 birds at L. Gorm *Islay* on 3 Oct, and on *Tiree* 2 were at L. a' Phuill on 15 Oct. The most reported on *Islay* was 18 at L. Gorm on 27 Oct and a maximum of 4 were found on *Tiree* at L. a' Phuill on 28 Nov. The only record away from the islands was of 5 males at L. nan Druimnean (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov.

**2005.** There were three males at L. a' Phuill on 21 Oct with the peak count on *Tiree* being 19 on 8 Dec. The most reported from *Islay* was 8 at Bridgend on 24 Nov. Numbers at L. nan Druimnean (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* peaked at 11 (all males) on 25 Dec.

**[REDHEAD]** *Aythya americana* 0198  
*No previous records. A report of an apparent female at L. Bhasapoll Tiree in Dec 2005 was still in circulation with BBRC at the time of writing]*

**RING-NECKED DUCK** *Aythya collaris* 0200  
*Vagrant. First accepted record in Argyll 1982, with 7 further records to 2001*

**2004.** A fine male was present with Tufted Ducks on L. Bhasapoll *Tiree* on 20 and 21 Apr 2004 [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**FERRUGINOUS DUCK** *Aythya nyroca*

0202

**Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) in Apr 2003.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula* Lach-thopach

0203

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

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Other than those listed in Table 14.1 the only sites with counts of 10 or more birds were on *Islay*; at L. Ballygrant (12 on 12 Feb) and L. Kinnabus (14 on 6 Jan and 29 Apr). Smaller numbers were found at sites in: *Coll*, *Oronsay*, *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 14.2 there were no counts of 10 or more birds. Smaller numbers were found at L. Melldalloch *Cowal*, L. Assapol *Mull*, L. Awe *Mid-Argyll*, L. Scammadale *Mid-Argyll*, Ballachuan L. (Seil Is.) *Mid-Argyll*, L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll*, and the *Colonsay* lochs.

**Breeding 2004.** Five pairs bred at Ardnave L. *Islay* and at least one pair bred on L. an Eilein *Tiree*.

**2005.** Seven pairs bred at Ardnave L. *Islay* and pairs bred at 5 or more sites on *Tiree*.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Other than those listed in Table 14.1 the only sites with counts of 10 or more birds were on *Islay*: L. Gruinart (12 on 6 Oct), L. Gorm (max. 26 on 29 Oct), and Lower Glenastle L. (22 on 7 Dec). On L. Awe there were 10+ at Kilchurn Castle on 13 Nov.

**2005.** Other than those listed in Table 14.2 the only site with a count of more than 10 was L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll* with a maximum of 11 in Dec.

Table 14.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Tufted Duck at Ardnave Loch (Islay) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree (most at L Bhasapoll) in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	6	9	15	2	1	10	13	1	17	21	11	8
Tiree	151	169	160	57	14	5	4	4	37	56	110	n/r

Table 14.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Tufted Duck at Ardnave Loch (Islay) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree (most at L Bhasapoll) in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	2	6	5	14	8	6	9	6	2	14	8	5
Tiree	169	160	176	148	41	10	7	6	28	78	95	123

**GREATER SCAUP (SCAUP)** *Aythya marila* Lach-mhara

0204

**Winter visitor and passage migrant. Large numbers at Loch Indaal (Islay), which is a site of national importance for wintering birds, but scarce elsewhere. Small flocks of migrants sometimes seen during autumn seawatches.**

**Jan-May 2004.** The only records away from L. Indaal [Table 15] were of single birds at Glenastle (The Oa) *Islay* on 17 Feb, and on *Tiree* in Mar.

**2005.** There were no records away from L. Indaal [Table 15].



**Summering Birds 2004/2005.** No summering birds were reported in 2004. In 2005 a male and female were seen on West L. Fada *Colonsay* on 9 Jun; the female remaining until at least 11 Jun.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Away from L. Indaal [Table 15], there were records from various freshwater lochs on *Tiree* with a maximum of 5 (all females) on 1 Dec. Elsewhere, 5 migrants flew into L. Gruinart on 6 Oct and the peak count at Machrihanish SBO was 88 flying S on 6 Oct.

**2005.** Single birds were seen at various freshwater lochs on *Tiree* with 3 on L. a' Phuill on 21 Oct. The peak count at Machrihanish SBO was 55 flying S on 30 Sep. Single females were seen at L. Craiglin (L. Sween) on 15 Oct and at Loch nan Druimnean (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct.

Table 15 *Maximum monthly counts of Scaup at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2004 and 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	1003	915	207	280	1	0	0	1	148	305	810	1010
2005	800	690	291	220	0	0	0	20	119	378	705	960

**LESSER SCAUP\*** *Aythya affinis*

0205

**Vagrant, first recorded on Islay in Nov 1998.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** A first winter female found at L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Dec was only the second record for Argyll [J. Dickson]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:698).

**COMMON EIDER (EIDER)** *Somateria mollissima* Lach-Lochlannach

0206

**Resident breeding bird common on all suitable coasts. Large flocks of moulting drakes and first-year birds gather at some sites during Jun to Sep. Winter counts at Otter Ferry (Inner Loch Fyne) regularly exceed the qualifying level for a site of national importance.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Counts of over 100 away from L. Indaal [Table 16] included: 203 at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, 121 on moorland pools at Vaul *Tiree* on 9 May, and approx. 250 (all males) at Toward Point *Cowal* on 22 May.

**2005.** Counts of over 100 away from L. Indaal [Table 16] included: 123 swimming out to sea from the fish farm at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan, 145 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree*, and 132 at Feall Bay *Coll* on 6 Mar.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 5 or more nesting Eider were noted at the following islands: Burnt Islands *Cowal* 178 nests (110 on Eilean Mor (incomplete count), 58 on Eilean Fraoich and 10 on Eilean Buidhe) on 18 May, 29 on Kilmaronag (L. Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 May, 27 on Eilean an Ruisg (L. Feochan) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 May, 13 on Sgeir nan Tom (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* on 22 May, 5 on Eilean Inshaig (L. Craignish) *Mid-Argyll*, and 5 on Abbot Isles (L. Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May. Up to 5 nests were noted at each of a further 14 sites, while no counts were made at another 3 sites where considerable numbers may have nested [Sgat Mor, Eileen Aoghainn (L. Fyne) and Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage)]. Sixteen broods totalling 48 young were seen on *Colonsay* in Jun, 7 breeding pairs were confirmed at Ardnave *Islay*, 7 broods of young were found at L. Striven (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 5 Jun, and 20-30 pairs bred on Sanda Islands. Broods of young were also recorded at many other sites in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Tiree*, and *Mull* (inc. Treshnish Isles).

**2005.** After years of mink predation, a collapse in the numbers of Eiders breeding at the three largest colonies in the SAMS study area and an apparent decline in numbers breeding on the Burnt Islands *Cowal* was noted. Numbers at Sgat Mor (L. Fyne) had declined from 74-100 pairs in 2000 to 10 pairs in 2005; at Eileen Aoghainn (L. Fyne) 72-80 pairs were present in 2000 but just one pair in 2005; and at the islets near Fort William (outwith the Argyll recording area)

numbers fell from 46-60 in 2000 to 9 in 2005. The figures for Burnt Islands were 521 in 2001 and 429 in 2005. Result at two colonies protected from mink were as follows: at Eilean an Ruisg (L. Feochan) 15 pairs nested in 2000 and 37 in 2005, and at Kilmarnag Island (L. Etive) 20 pairs nested in 2000 and 33 in 2005 (JCAC).

**Autumn Eider Survey 2004.** The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep gave: a total of 4,183 for the Argyll part of the area (N.B. this includes all those counted in L Long, some of which will belong with the Clyde area); (*cf* 3,393 in 2003, 3,409 in 2002 and 4,677 in 2001). Coverage for the Firth as a whole was patchier than in previous years but numbers were generally down (C. Waltho).

**2005.** The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep gave: a total of 3,326 for the Argyll part of the area (N.B. this includes all those counted in L Long, some of which will belong with the Clyde area); *cf* 1999-2005 mean of 4,112. Coverage for the Firth as a whole was again patchier than in previous years but the general decline in numbers continued (C. Waltho).

**Jul-Dec. 2004.** Counts of 100 or more away from L. Indaal [Table 16] included: a moulting flock of 187 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 16 Aug, 105 near Kames *Cowal* on 13 Sep, 125 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 26 Sep, 797 at Otter Ferry on 29 Sep and *ca* 400 at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov.

**2005.** An all island survey on *Tiree* on 8 Aug found 659 birds, including 268 off Traigh Bhi. Other counts of 100 or more away from L. Indaal [Table 16] included: 330 from Hunter's Quay to Ardentinn on 9 Jul, 319 off Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 18 Jul, 114 on the shore at Kirn *Cowal* on 29 Aug and 780 at Otter Ferry on 16 Nov.

Table 16 *Maximum monthly counts of Eider at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2004 and 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	71	83	101	181	130	168	175	210	210	147	131	181
2005	65	120	121	190	120	195	180	208	204	161	135	99

#### Survey of Common Eider moult flocks in 2004.

During Jul & Aug 2004 a concerted effort (co-ordinated by Chris Waltho) was made to count Eider moult flocks in South and West Scotland, Northern Ireland and North West England. The overall total of 25,529 birds at 33 moulting sites included the following counts in Argyll:

Location	Rec. area	count	date
Hunters Quay to Toward Point	<i>Cowal</i>	2,225	21 Aug
Otter Ferry	<i>Cowal</i>	590	14 Aug
Campbeltown Loch	<i>Kintyre</i>	100	mid Jul
Sound of Gigha	<i>Kintyre</i>	420	mid Jul
Traigh Hough	<i>Tiree</i>	92	8 Aug
West Hynish	<i>Tiree</i>	179	9 Aug
Gott Bay	<i>Tiree</i>	87	10 Aug
Traigh Bhagh	<i>Tiree</i>	187	16 Aug
Island count	<i>Coll</i>	235	9 Aug
Gunna	<i>Coll</i>	141	9 Aug
L. Indaal	<i>Islay</i>	150	early Aug
Scallastle Bay	<i>Mull</i>	25	12 Aug
Loch na Keal	<i>Mull</i>	150	late Jul
L. Spelve	<i>Mull</i>	100	late Jul
Staffa	<i>Mull</i>	300	late Jul

Ardachy (L Etive)	North Argyll	77	1 Jul
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A total count for Argyll of 5,058, or 19.8% of the overall total. (C. M. Waltho).

**KING EIDER\*** *Somateria spectabilis*

0207

*Vagrant. At least 12 Argyll records dating back to 1889, all of single males. Several recent records could relate to returning individuals. The most recent was at Toward (Dunoon) Cowal in May 2003.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK\*** *Histrionicus histrionicus*

0211

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in Oct 1987.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis* Eun-buchainn

0212

*Uncommon winter visitor, most frequent in Sound of Gigha, Islay, Coll and Tiree. Usually marine but occasionally seen on inland lochs. Occasional summer records.*

**Jan-May 2004.** Larger numbers were reported than usual. An aerial survey of waters around Coll and Tiree on 18 Feb found 61 birds (Wilson 2006). Numbers in Feall Bay Coll peaked at 47 in early Feb. At Tayinloan, 35 or more were close inshore on 11 Feb with ca30 still there on 7 Apr. Smaller numbers elsewhere included: 5 in L. Indaal on 25 Jan, 2 in Airds Bay (L. Etive) on 21 Mar, 8 flying S at Hough Bay Tiree on 21 Mar and a male on L. Feochan from Jan to Apr. The last records were: 9 in L. Indaal on 6 May, 2 pairs (including a male in full breeding plumage) at Hough Bay Tiree on 12 May, and 21 flying N past Coll on 15 May.

**Jan-Jun 2005.** Numbers in Feall Bay Coll peaked at 45 on 25 Feb and there were 15 in Hough Bay Tiree on 22 Jan. Numbers elsewhere were all in single figures and included: 8 off Tayinloan on 24 Jan, 8 in Balephetrish Bay on 13 Jan, 5 in L. Indaal on 1 Apr, and singles at Ceann an t-Sailein (L. Sween) on 13 Feb, and also on L. Feochan on 23 Jan.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Four unusually early birds (2 males and 2 females) were off Ganavan (Oban) on 29 Aug. Numbers at Feall Bay Coll peaked at 29 on 20 Nov and 12 were in Hough Bay Tiree on 27 Nov. Counts elsewhere were: 5 in L. Indaal on 12 Dec, two off Rhunahaorine Point on 7 Nov, and singles off Ormsary Mid-Argyll and L. Feochan in Dec.

**Jun-Dec 2005.** A female diving with Eiders at Dunstaffnage Mid-Argyll on 13 Jun was an unusual summer record; what could well have been the same bird was at nearby Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Dunstaffnage) Mid-Argyll on 12 Aug. By far the highest count was 67 in Feall Bay Coll in Nov. Numbers in Hough Bay Tiree peaked at 17 on 30 Dec and 7 were in L. Indaal on 14 Nov. Elsewhere: 3 flew S past Machrihanish SBO on 27 Sep, 2 were off Ronachan Point on 17 Nov, a female was on Ardnave L. in Dec, and a single male was again seen on L. Feochan in Nov and Dec.

**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra* Lach-bheag-dhubh

0213

*Very small breeding species in two localities. Present throughout the year in the Sound of Gigha (Kintyre) and at Loch Indaal (Islay). Scarce winter visitor elsewhere.*

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Away from L. Indaal (Table 17) counts included: 65 in the Sound of Gigha on 16 Apr, 59 off Tayinloan on 8 May, 38 in two hours from the RSPB Reserve Coll on 25 Feb, and 8 off West Hynish Tiree on 28 Mar.

**2005.** In addition to the WeBS data shown in Table 17 counts included: 164 in the Sound of Gigha on 24 Jun, 132 from Bruichladdich to Nerabus Islay on 1 Apr, 98 off Saltpan Point (

Bowmore) *Islay* on 30 Mar, 96 from Pt. Charlotte to Bowmore *Islay* on 15 Feb, 31 off Tayinloan on 23 Apr, 30 at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert on 9 Apr, and 10 males flying NW along the S coast of *Tiree* on 15 Jun. A single female was seen at various locations off *Tiree* during Mar - Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** A female was seen on two dates in May at a traditional site in *Mid-Argyll*. There were no reports of breeding from *Islay*.

**2005.** There were no reports of breeding on the mainland nor from *Islay*.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Away from L. Indaal (Table 17) counts included: 167 off Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 24 Aug, approx. 30 off Tayinloan on 23 Oct, 6 at Arinagour *Coll* on 16 Aug, and 4 on the sea at Machrihanish SBO on 5 Oct.

**2005.** In addition to the WeBS data shown in Table 17 counts included: 40 off Port Charlotte *Islay* on 16 Nov, ca20 at West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 11 Sep, and 4 off Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 17 Nov. Elsewhere, 3 were off Uisken *Mull* on 27 Jul and singles were reported from: Aird *Tiree* on 27 Sep, Arinagour *Coll* on 23 Sep, and Fishnish Bay *Mull* on 2 Aug.

Table 17 *Maximum monthly counts of Common Scoter at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2004 and 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	61	38	53	19	28	30	29	42	51	61	19	33
2005	40	47	29	40	18	29	36	23	45	40	35	38

#### **SURF SCOTER** *Melanitta perspicillata*

0214

*Rare. At least 13 Argyll records, mostly in spring.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

#### **VELVET SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca* Lach-dhubh

0215

*Scarce but regular in and around the Sound of Gigha (although the wintering population is much fewer than in the 1970s when there were more than 50 birds) and, in much smaller numbers, at Loch Indaal, Islay.*

**2004.** Four were seen in the Sound of Gigha on 16 Apr, a male in Fishnish Bay *Mull* on 9 Nov, and a juv. female in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 1 Dec.

**2005.** In the Sound of Gigha there were: 3 on 24 Jun, 4 males on 3 Nov, and 5 were off Ronachan Point on 17 Nov. The only other record was of 2 males flying S off Machrihanish SBO on 25 Sep.

#### **COMMON GOLDENEYE (GOLDENEYE)** *Bucephala clangula* Lach-bhreac

0218

*Common winter visitor. Birds regularly present in all areas from early Oct to late Apr. Occasional summer records.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** The highest count was 111 off Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb. Other than those in Table 18.1, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* (max. 58 on 15 Feb), L. Feochan (22 on 1 Mar), L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll* (max. 20 on 28 Mar), RSPB L. Gruinart (max. 12 on 26 Jan), and L. Kinnabus *Islay* (11 on 20 Jan).

**2005.** Numbers off Furnace *Mid-Argyll* fell from a peak of 190 on 11 Feb to 54 by 23 Mar. Apart from Furnace and those shown in Table 18.1, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Ormsary (L. Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* (max. 165 on 14 Feb), Dunoon (45 from Glenmorag Hotel to Hunters Quay on 31 Jan), L. Feochan (max. 30 on 1 Mar), L. Leathan (max. 20 in Jan), Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* (13 on 26 Mar), Seil Sound (11 on 28 Feb), and RSPB L. Gruinart (10 on 1 Feb).

**Summering birds 2004.** A late male was at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* on 23-24 May but there were no records in Jun or Jul.

**2005.** No records between early May and mid-Sep.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Apart from an immature bird at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Aug the first arrival was a single bird on L. Etive on 19 Sep. Numbers off Furnace *Mid-Argyll* increased from 13 on 11 Oct to ca250 on 9 Dec. Apart from Furnace and those shown in Table 18.1, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Ormsary (L. Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* (92 on 27 Dec) and Lower Glenastle Loch *Islay* (max. 28 on 7 Dec).

**2005.** The first arrival was a single bird on L. Etive on 18 Sep. The first arrivals counted off Furnace *Mid-Argyll* were 18 on 17 Oct. A count of 236 was made there on 20 Nov and 237 were counted by a different observer on 18 Nov! Apart from Furnace and those shown in Table 18.1, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Ormsary (L. Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* (149 on 8 Dec), L. a' Phuill *Tiree* (46 on 20 Nov), L. Creran (10 on 17 Dec), and L. Feochan (10 on 18 Oct).

Table 18.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Goldeneye in Loch Indaal (Islay), Outer Loch Etive (N Argyll), Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Etive	11	37	36	0		1	10	23
L. Sween	16	51	3	0		0	41	31
L. Indaal	10	10	2	2		9	11	12
Tiree	30	37	35	1		12	43	n/r

Table 18.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Goldeneye in Loch Indaal (Islay), Outer Loch Etive (N Argyll), Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Etive	15	20	n/r	n/r		1	n/r	10
L. Sween	19	21	22	0		0	33	41
L. Indaal	12	10	9	3		6	9	13
Tiree	22	65	68	7		1	34	65

**SMEW** *Mergus albellus* Siolta-bhreac

0220

**Rare winter visitor. Last recorded L. Seil (Mid-Argyll) in Jan 2000.**

**2004.** A female was seen at the N end of L. Poit na h-I (L. Pottie) *Mull* on 16 May [C. Marshall, M. Wagemakers]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator* Siolta-dhearg

0221

**Common resident breeder. Large moulting flocks gather, particularly in Loch Indaal and Sound of Gigha, during late summer. Loch Indaal (Islay) is a site of national importance for wintering birds. Small numbers found on fresh water.**

**Jan-May 2004.** The only counts of 20 or more, away from the sites listed in Table 19.1, were at: Tayinloan (20 on 15 Feb), Taynish Point (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (20 on 26 Apr), and Caol Scotnish (L. Sween) 20 (10 males/10 females) on 27 Apr.

**2005.** The only counts of 20 or more, away from the sites listed in Table 19.2, were at: Taynish Point (L. Sween) (22 on 3 May), and Gott Bay *Tiree* (23 on 7 May).

**Breeding 2004.** Scattered pairs were found around the coast and at inland sites on *Tiree* including at least 6 broods of young (one brood of 16 at L. a' Phuill!). A female with 3 medium-

sized young off E. an Ruisg (L. Feochan) *Mid-Argyll* was the only evidence of breeding found in the Argyll part of the SAMS study area. Evidence of breeding was also reported from: L. Striven *Cowal* (2 nests), RSPB *Coll*, Ardnave *Islay* and Sanda Islands. A crèche of 26 juveniles was seen on the River Add near Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jul.

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area nests with eggs were found at 5 small islets. At least 4 broods of young fledged on *Tiree* and evidence of breeding was also reported from: Ardnave *Islay*, Sanda Islands, L. Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, L. Frisa *Mull* and Ardrishaig (L. Fyne). A crèche of 19 juveniles was in the Add Estuary from 4 Jul to 2 Aug.

**Jun-Dec 2004.** Away from the sites listed in Table 19.1, the only other counts of 20 or more were: a maximum of 32 in Crossapol Bay *Coll* during Aug, and 20 flying S at Machrihanish SBO on 21 Sep.

**2005.** Away from the sites listed in Table 19.1, the only other counts of 20 or more were: 65 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 24 Jun, 61 off Claonaig *Kintyre* on 8 Jul, ca120 off West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 14 Aug, and 34 on Loch na Keal *Mull* on 27 Aug.

Table 19.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Red-breasted Merganser at two sea-lochs on Islay, Loch Crinan (Mid-Argyll) and Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	0	2	9	18	2	n/r	20	20	17	4	13	16
L. Indaal	31	27	12	38	37	32	101	121	130	79	69	57
L. Crinan	7	0	n/r	21	16	0	0	14	8	10	5	6
L. Sween	18	16	3	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	3	28	41	37

Table 19.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Red-breasted Merganser at two sea-lochs on Islay, Loch Crinan (Mid-Argyll) and Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	8	11	6	12	11	4	16	3	35	41	25	20
L. Indaal	33	40	35	35	37	30	98	111	112	70	49	58
L. Crinan	n/r	n/r	n/r	5	5	6	19	18	28	14	2	4
L. Sween	15	27	13	53	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	24	28	7	35

#### **GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser* Siolta

0223

**Scarce breeding species mainly in: Cowal, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and N Argyll. More widespread in winter but in small numbers.**

**Jan-May 2004.** Five were seen at Eredine (L. Awe) on 21 Jan and 5 were in L. Etive on 24 Jan. Elsewhere, up to 3 were seen in: *Cowal* at Ballimore (L. Fyne), Benmore, Lochhead (L. Striven) and L. Melldalloch; on *Islay* at L. Dhomhnuill; in *Kintyre* at Saddell Bay; on *Mull* at Aros Estuary, Dervaig, Grasspoint and L. Frisa; in *Mid-Argyll* at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe, Durran (L. Awe), L. Airigh na Creige, L. Crinan, L. Feochan, L. Leathan, and on the River Add at Dunadd; and in *North Argyll* at L. Tulla.

**2005.** Up to 4 males and 2 females on River Add at Moine Mhor in January and 6 were seen at Barr Beithe (L. Awe) on 12 May. Elsewhere: up to 4 were seen in *Cowal* at Bealachandrain (River Ruel), Inverchapel (L. Fyne), Loch Melldalloch, and on the River Cur (L. Eck); in *Mid-Argyll* at Crinan Ferry, Dorlin Point (L. Avich), Druim nan Carn (Eredine), Dunstaffnage, Furnace, Loch Awe (N. end), Loch Crinan, L. Etive (Outer), L. Feochan, L. Leathan, Loch na

Cille (Loch Melfort), and River Euchar (nr Oban); on *Mull* at Aros estuary, off Craignure Golf Course, and at Garmony Point, Mull, and in *North Argyll* at Lochan na Bi.

**Breeding 2004.** A female and 4 large young were seen at the head of L. Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jul.

**2005.** A female was seen with 10 small young on L. Eck *Cowal* on 8 Jun and a female with 4 young was seen at Garmony *Mull* over several days in late Jul.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Up to 3 were seen: in *Kintyre* at Machrihanish SBO, on *Mull* at Dervaig, and in *Mid-Argyll* at: Crarae Gardens, Crinan Ferry, Furnace (L. Fyne), Loch Crinan, Loch Etive, the head of L. Gilp, and on the River Add at Dunadd.

**2005.** Five were seen on Loch na Keal on 4 Aug. Elsewhere: up to 3 were seen in *Cowal* at L. Eck and L. Melldalloch; in *Kintyre* at Machrihanish SBO; in *Mid-Argyll* at Furnace (L. Fyne), L. Awe, L. Crinan, L. Etive, L. Feochan, L. Gilp, and L. Leathan; on *Mull* at Scallastle Bay; and in *North Argyll* at L. Baile Mhic Chailein (Glen Creran) and L. Creran.

**RUDDY DUCK** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

0225

**Vagrant with only four accepted records since 1984. The most recent was at Claddach Loch (Islay) on 12th May 1999.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**RED (WILLOW) GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus* Coileach-fraoich

0329

**Sparsely distributed resident breeding bird.**

**2004.** On a monitored area of moorland in central *Kintyre* the mean density of cock grouse was 8.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. On *Colonsay* in May, some birds still survived from those released on the island in Sep 2003. Birds were also reported outside the breeding season from Glen Creran *North Argyll* and above the Black Lochs (nr. Connel) *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** Birds were reported outside the breeding season at Glen Duror *North Argyll*.

**Breeding 2004.** On *Islay*, at least 3 pairs were present at RSPB Gruinart Floods and pairs also bred at Ardnave.

**2005.** On *Islay*, breeding was confirmed at Ardnave and birds probably bred at RSPB L. Gruinart. During the breeding season, at least 3 pairs were found in the area to the S of L. Nant *Mid-Argyll*. Birds were reported from Knockvologan *Mull* and the slopes of Meall Tairbh *North Argyll*.

**PTARMIGAN** *Lagopus muta* Tàrmachan

0330

**Vary localised resident breeding bird, generally above 800m in north and east Argyll and on Mull. All records required.**

**2004.** The only record was of 3 in flight at Coire an Dothaidh *North Argyll* on 8 Aug.

**2005.** On 22 Jan tracks were found in the snow at Meall nan Tri Tighearnan and at Bheinn nan Aighenan *North Argyll*. A male bird was seen W of Creach Bheinn *North Argyll* on 27 May.

**BLACK GROUSE** *Tetrao tetrix* Caoileach-dubh

0332

**Scarce and local resident breeding bird. Numbers apparently in steep decline: all records required. Thinly distributed in all mainland areas with a few on Islay and Jura.**

**2004.** Birds were reported outwith the breeding season at Beinn Capuill *Cowal* (male on 18 Feb), between Kennacraig and Claonaig *Kintyre* (5 on 6 Mar and one on 8 Nov) and above the Black Lochs (nr. Connel) (7 on 12 Dec).

**2005.** The only records outwith the breeding season concerned a male in flight at L. Fuar-Bheinne (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Aug and 3 hens at L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Dec.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds at leks were reported as follows: Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* (single males at 3 sites), Glen Barr area *Kintyre* (9 males at 3 sites), near Newton *Cowal* (2 male/2 female), near Strone *Cowal* (single male), Creagan Buidhe *Cowal* (4 male/2 female), Evanachan *Cowal* (at least 1 male), and Meall Reamhar *Cowal* (a single male).

**2005.** Birds at leks were reported as follows: Kilmichael Glen (single males at 3 sites), near Newton *Cowal* (two sites with 3 and 2+ males). A female was seen at L. Nant Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jun.

**CAPERCAILLIE** *Tetrao urogallus* Capall-coille 0335  
*Very rare resident. Small population Mid-Argyll, and known to have bred Cowal in 1993 but no recent records in either locality.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa* Cearc-thomain-dhearg-chasach 0358  
*Birds (some hybrids with Chukar A. chukar) 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.*

**2004.** Up to 3 birds were reported from the N of *Islay* throughout the year and 10 were seen at Eorribus on 26 Oct. The only records for the mainland were in *Cowal*, where 2 were seen near Kilfinan on 13 May and 20 on the road at the head of L. Striven on 13 Oct.

**2005.** The only record was from RSPB L. Gruinart, where a single bird was present during May.

**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix* Cearc-thomain 0367  
*Very localised distribution. Introductions, which take place in several areas, do not appear to result in self-sustaining populations. All records required.*

**2004.** A pair seen regularly at the RSPB Reserve *Coll* had 4 fully grown young with them in early Sep.

**2005.** No records.

**COMMON QUAIL (QUAIL)** *Coturnix coturnix* Gearradh-gort 0370  
*Rare and irregular summer visitor mainly to Kintyre and the islands.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** On *Coll*, two were calling at Totronald on 30 May and 1 Jun. Single birds were calling at night, near Arileod on 22 Jun and at Totronald on 17 Jul. *Tiree* had one calling at Balephuill on 30 May, single birds at Heylipol and Middleton on 14 Jun and one at Balinoe on 5 Jul. The only mainland record concerned one calling at Dunadd (Moine Mhor) from 6-11 Jul. The sequence of records on *Coll* and *Tiree* would indicate at least possible breeding.

**COMMON PHEASANT (PHEASANT)** *Phasianus colchicus* Easag 0394  
*Long-established, widespread, and common resident breeding bird. Birds also annually reared and released on some estates. Rarely reported from Jura and North Argyll.*

**2004.** Widely reported, especially on *Islay* and in *Cowal*, with confirmed breeding records from *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Islay* and *Tiree*. High counts included 21 at L. Gruinart in Jan and at least 40 throughout the year at Otter Ferry.

**2005.** Again widely reported with a maximum count of 33 at RSPB L. Gruinart in Feb.

**GOLDEN PHEASANT** *Chrysolophus pictus* 0396  
*An introduced population existed at Gruline (Mull) but is now probably extinct.*



**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**RED-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia stellata* Learga-ruadh

0002

*Widely distributed but scarce breeder. Also winter visitor and passage migrant.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Reported widely, in small numbers: around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast. The largest counts were at L. Indaal where there were; 12 on 25 Jan, 14 on 22 Feb, and 29 on 25 Apr. Elsewhere, there were: 10 at Toward Quay Cowal on 29 Mar, 10 in Feall Bay Coll on 1 Feb, and 10 at Gartnatra Islay on 11 Feb.

**2005.** Counts from L. Indaal were: 44 on 15 Feb, and 32 on 1 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** On Coll, 10 pairs fledged a total of 6 young; sites in Kintyre either had no breeding pairs or were unsuccessful.

**2005.** Most of the lochs in Mid-Argyll had no breeding. Where a raft was present; only one site was reported as having fledged young and at another a clutch was lost to otter predation. On Coll, 2 pairs nested but no chicks were fledged by either pair.

**Sep-Dec 2004** Large numbers were counted on autumn passage. At Frenchman's Rocks 49 flew south in 5 hours on 12 Sep, 172 flew south in 9 hours on 21 Sep, and 40 flew south in 2 hours on 22 Sep. At Machrihanish SBO the peak count was of 88 flying south on 21 Sep. Numbers in L. Indaal increased from; 11 on 19 Sep, to 12 on 19 Oct, 19 on 14 Nov, and 23 on 12 Dec.

**2005.** On 23 Sep a 2-hour sea watch from Coll recorded 26 birds passing south. Peak passage at Machrihanish SBO was recorded on 27 Sep when 28 passed south in 4 hours. High counts in winter included; 14 off Tiree on 29 Nov, and 11 in L. Indaal on 16 Nov.

**BLACK-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia arctica* Learga-dhubh

0003

*Very scarce breeder in Mid and North Argyll. Scarce in winter but more numerous on passage. L. Caolisport is a site of national importance for wintering birds.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Reported widely; in small numbers around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast. Largest numbers reported were 16 in the Sound of Gigha on 16 Apr, 12 in L. Caolisport on 15 Feb, and 8 in Tayinloan Bay Kintyre on 18 Apr.

**2005.** The only report was of 13 in West L. Tarbert Kintyre on 9 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** Breeding was proved at 8 sites; chicks were known to have hatched at 4 of these, and 3 chicks fledged. Adults were regularly seen from the roadsides of L. Awe and L. Eck Cowal.

**2005.** Clutches were laid by 6 of the 7 pairs present at 11 monitored sites. Four were laid on rafts and 2 were natural sites. At one natural site incubation had begun by the very early date of 30 April but failed. A repeat clutch laid at the same site also failed. A total of 6 chicks hatched and 4 fledged from 3 sites.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The only count of 10 or more was 12 at Claonaig Bay Kintyre on 8 Nov.

**2005.** Counts of 10 or more were, 14 at West Coast Salmon Kintyre on 11 Sep 2005, and 35 in the Sound of Gigha on 3 Nov 2005.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer* Muir-bhuachail

0004

*Numerous visitor, both in winter and on passage. Birds in breeding plumage regularly recorded Apr to mid Jun. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in late Apr and early May. A few individuals summer. L. Indaal, L. Caolisport and Lochs Beg & Scridain Mull are important sites for wintering birds.*

**Jan-May 2004.** There were reports from all coastal areas of Argyll, especially from sea lochs and coasts of Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree. The largest counts were: 55 at Bruichladdich Islay on 6 May, 47 in L. Indaal on 25 Apr, 43 counted from the ferry between

Kennacraig *Kintyre* and *Islay* on 23 Jan, 38 from Tayinloan Jetty on 7 Apr, and 32 in Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 8 and 10 May.

**2005.** There were more reports than 2004 with the largest counts being: 185 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 1 Apr, 89 at *Coll* on 29 Apr, 59 in L. Indaal on 15 Feb, and 43 at *Coll* on 7 May.

**Jun-Aug 2004/2005.** Reported, mostly in ones or twos, from: *Kintyre*, *Mull*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Coll*, and *Tiree*. Most of these were in first summer plumage.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** Numbers increased from early Sep, with counts of 5-15 birds regular in Oct-Dec from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

**2005.** Numbers increased from early Sep, with counts of 20-30 birds regular in Oct-Dec from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

**WHITE-BILLED DIVER\*** *Gavia adamsii* Learga-bhlàr 0005  
*Vagrant previously reported on only six occasions, all since 1986, most recently between Iona and Staffa in 2003.*

**2004.** A second summer bird was seen close inshore off Sorisdale *Coll* on 22 and 23 May [G. Bradford/S. Wellock/T. Wormald *at al*]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 98:639).

**2005.** A bird apparently in adult winter plumage was seen some distance offshore from Bagh Tigh-an-Droighinn (near Inverneill) L. Fyne on 5 Feb [Jim Dickson]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:24).

**PIED-BILLED GREBE\*** *Podilymbus podiceps* 0006  
*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch Peallach (Mull) in Jun 1998.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Spàg-ri-tòn 0007  
*Breeds locally in small numbers. Widespread in sheltered coastal waters in winter. Winter counts in outer Loch Etive (N Argyll) currently exceed the qualifying level for a site of national importance.*

During **2004-2005** there were records from all the Argyll recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*.

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Numbers on L. Etive peaked at 19 on 24 Jan. The highest numbers seen elsewhere were 16 during the WeBS count at L. Sween on 29 Feb (including a flock of 14 together at Linne Mhuirich) and 5 at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 19 Feb.

**2005.** Numbers on L. Etive peaked at 15 on 16 Jan. The highest numbers seen elsewhere were 7 during the WeBS count at L. Sween on 16 Jan and 5 at Loch Ballygrant on 13 Feb.

**Breeding 2004.** Four pairs were seen on the Fada lochs on *Colonsay* including a pair with b/2 on 10 Jun. On 28 Jul, an adult with 3 young and another with one or more young were on East Loch Fada. A minimum of 3 pairs were on L. an Droighinn (near L. Nant) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug with broods of 2 and one.

**2005.** Two pairs bred successfully on Lochan Taynish *Mid-Argyll*, adults with broods of 2 and 3 young were found on the ponds at Knockdow *Cowal*, a pair raised 2 young on the reservoir in Bishop's Glen (Dunoon), and an adult with 5 young were seen on Mishnish Lochs *Mull*. On *Colonsay*, pairs were seen on L. an Sgoltaire and East Loch Fada in late May, and a pair with b/2 was on East Loch Fada on 9 Jun.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The highest winter numbers were recorded during WeBS counts on 12 Dec when there were 18 on L. Etive and 20 at L. Sween (including 11 at Linne Mhuirich). No other site had more than 3 birds.

**2005.** Peak numbers during WeBS counts were 25 at L. Sween on 13 Nov (including 13 at Linne Mhuirich) and 21 on L. Etive on 4 Dec. Elsewhere 6 were at Loch Ballygrant on 28 Oct and 6 at the head of L. Creran *North Argyll* on 3 Nov.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus* Gobhlachan-laparan 0009  
**Uncommon winter and passage visitor, with 1-6 records annually since 1984. Recorded in all months except Jun.**

**2004.** One, presumably the same individual, was seen in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 26 Sep, and 5 and 8 Oct. Another was seen on L. Gorm *Islay* on 27 Oct.

**2005.** One was at Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 9 Apr, one on L. Indaal on 15 Nov, and one on L. Tuath *Mull* on 12 Dec.

**RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena* Gobhlachan-ruadh 0010  
**Scarce winter and passage visitor. Most records are in Sep-Mar.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** The only record was of one at the head of L. Indaal on 16 Nov.

**SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus* Gobhlachan-mara 0011  
**Regular winter and passage visitor to sea lochs and sounds. Occasionally on inland waters. L. Indaal is a well watched site of national importance for wintering birds and numbers in the Sound of Gigha and L. na Keal exceed the qualifying level for a site of national importance but are counted less frequently.**

**2004.** Apart from records of one or two birds off *Tiree*, almost all records of this species came from *Kintyre* (especially the Sound of Gigha), *Islay* (especially L. Indaal), or *Mull* (especially L. na Keal).

Table 20. *Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2004 at the three main sites for this species in Argyll.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Indaal	50	26	6	4	0	0	0	0	14	27	22	30
L. na Keal	n/r	49	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
S. of Gigha	50	14	n/r	22	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	9	5	n/r

**2005.** There were fewer records, with the highest counts being 30 in the Sound of Gigha on 3 Nov, 24 in L. Indaal on 16 Nov, 20 in L. Indaal on 1 April, 8 in L. na Keal on 7 Mar, and 9 at the West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 22 Oct. There were no records from early May to late August, apart from a single bird in the Sound of Gigha on 24 June.

**BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis* Gobhlachan-dubh 0012  
**Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis* Eun-crom 0020  
**Common but localised breeding species in all areas except Cowal and N. Argyll. Large numbers on passage off western headlands.**

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Attendance by adults on breeding sites was low and erratic in Jan, but increased in numbers and frequency during Feb to Apr. There were 1000 birds on nest sites on Ceann ‘a Mhara *Tiree* on 14 Feb, but none on 28 Feb. An adult, previously ringed at Lunga, Treshnish

Isles on 27 Jun 1989 was found dead at Hornum, Germany on 5 Mar 2004 during a fulmar "wreck" on the German North Sea coast

**2005.** Few were attending nest sites on *Tiree* in early Feb, but 1400+ were on cliffs on 6 Mar, slightly exceeding the subsequent count of AOSs there in Jun. Large numbers may be counted passing headlands in spring; for example, 4000 flew north past *Tiree* in 4 hours (including 5 dark phase birds) on 17 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** At Ben Feall *Coll*, 144 nests produced 91 fledglings (0.63 chicks per pair). In the Treshnish Isles there were 547 AOS on Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil in Jun. On *Colonsay* sample plots were monitored in three areas; Kiloran Bay plot held 46 AOS, Turnigil, Port Lobh held 25, and Uragaig held 525. On *Tiree*, an estimated 300 chicks fledged from nests at Ceann a' Mhara.

**2005.** In the Treshnish Isles there were 446 AOS on Lunga and 141 on Sgeir 'a Chaisteil. On *Colonsay*, Kiloran Bay plot held 40 AOS, Turnigil, Port Lobh held 27, and Uragaig held 487. Sanda Islands held about 500 'pairs' of fulmars, suggesting an increase in the population. These birds had a 'poor' breeding season, whereas success was described as 'good'.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Very large numbers may be seen on autumn passage off headlands and outer islands in August to October with most in September. For example: 1600 flew south past *Coll* in 2 hrs on 3 Sep, and 1200 passed *Tiree* in 75 minutes on 12 Sep.

**2005.** Off *Tiree*: 400 passed in 1 hr on 17 Aug, 870 in 90 minutes on 24 Aug 2005, and 1200 in 1 hr on 13 Sep. On rare occasions there can be large numbers on land at breeding sites even in autumn, for example, 700 birds were on ledges at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 19 Nov.

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris diomedea*

0036

**Rare passage migrant. Eight accepted records before 2004, involving ten birds, mostly in Aug or Sep.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** One was reported close offshore from Aird *Tiree* on 24 Aug during gales [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by SBRC.

**GREAT SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis* Fachadh-mòr

0040

**Rare passage migrant, mostly in autumn.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** One was watched alongside the Barra-*Tiree* ferry, north of *Tiree*, for about 30 minutes on 20 Oct [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by SBRC.

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh-dubh

0043

**Passage migrant almost exclusively recorded Jul-Oct. Sometimes in large numbers, off headlands, during Aug-Sep.**

**2004.** Recorded from 27 Jun to 6 Oct, with major passage in August and September. Highest counts were; 150 in 30 minutes passing Portnahaven *Islay* on 3 Aug, and 28 in 75 minutes passing Hynish *Tiree* on 3 Sep.

**2005.** Rather small numbers were reported. Two were seen from the Oban-Coll ferry on 6 Nov, an unusually late date for this species. The other records fell between 2 Aug and 30 Sep. The largest count of the year was of only 14 birds in 2 hrs from Aird *Tiree* on 24 Aug.

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh-bàn

0046

**Breeding colonies confirmed only on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Large numbers on passage, especially during Aug-Sep.**

**Mar-May. 2004.** The first records of the year were on 13 Mar (seen from the Oban-Tiree ferry SW off *Coll*). After these first arrivals, numbers built up rapidly with counts of 200 off *Coll* on 20 Mar, 500 also off *Coll* on 7 Apr, and 1200 feeding in a flock with Arctic Terns around a Minke Whale off Urvaig *Tiree* on 7 May.

**2005.** On 20 Mar, one was found freshly dead at Machrihanish SBO. That bird had been ringed 6,804 days previously as an adult at Copeland Bird Observatory N Ireland on 3 Aug 1986. There were: 1200 off *Coll* on 30 Mar, 7000 passing north off *Coll* in 4 hrs on 17 Apr, and more than 8000 passing west off Aird *Tiree* on 6 May.

**Breeding 2004.** The Sanda Islands colony was estimated at about 300 pairs/AOBs and birds seen on land at night on Lunga Treshnish Isles on 19 Jun were presumed to be breeding there. Counts of birds in rafts around the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* gave totals of 370 birds on 16 Jun

**2005.** Sanda Islands colony reached 350 pairs/AOBs, representing a continuing increase in numbers (from ca 250 pairs/AOBs in 2002 and 2003). Counts of the rafts around the Garvellachs rose to some 520 birds on 22 May. This is rather lower in both years than was reported in 2002 (1500 birds on 21 Jun). . About 5000 birds moved south off Hough Bay *Tiree* on 4 Jun 2005. Breeding status and origins of these birds are not known.

**Jul-Sep 2004.** Some rather big movements of Manx Shearwaters can occur in west Argyll waters even as early as July, which presumably involve movements of breeding birds from foraging areas in Argyll back towards large colonies such as on Rum. For example, 6000 birds passed Sorisdale *Coll* on 5 Jul 2004 during just 1 hour. These movements of presumably foraging rather than migrating birds thus make it difficult to define when migration starts. Nevertheless, there were many reports of hundreds to thousands of birds per hour moving south past *Coll*, *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO, *Mull*, and *Tiree* in August and September in both years. Rather few shearwaters appear in areas of Argyll away from the open sea, but a few appeared in upper L. Fyne in mid-Aug, and an exhausted bird was picked up at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep. In both years there were few seen after the start of Oct. Last records of the year were single birds, on 17 and 24 Oct, seen from *Islay*.

**2005.** Large movements included over 4000 passing Machrihanish SBO in 8 hrs on 8 Jul, 2000 birds per hour passing Caliach Point *Mull* on 18 Jul, and 2400 per hour passing the same point on 24 Jul. Some 380 passed Otter Ferry *Cowal* in a 15 min period on 29 Aug, an unusually large number so far from the open sea. The last birds of the year were seen on 13 Oct from the Barra-Tiree ferry.

#### **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

0046.3

*A regular passage migrant (Aug-Dec) since 1992 but in very small numbers. Usually seen with Manx Shearwaters.*

**2004.** There were 10 reports, 9 of single birds and one of two. All were seen from *Tiree*, *Coll*, or Machrihanish SBO, with dates between 10 Aug and 6 Sep.

**2005.** Only 4 birds were reported, one on 29 Aug (Machrihanish SBO), another on 31 Aug (*Tiree*), and two together passing Machrihanish SBO on 8 Sep. Most were among groups of Manx Shearwaters. The number of records was the lowest for some years.

#### **NORTH ATLANTIC LITTLE SHEARWATER (MACARONESIAN SHEARWATER)\***

*Puffinus baroli*

0048

*Vagrant. The only accepted record is one seen at Frenchman's Rocks on 30 Jun 1974.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records (But see records awaiting descriptions p. 146).

**EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL (STORM PETREL)** *Hydrobates pelagicus* Pàraig 0052  
*Summer visitor. The only known breeding colonies are on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. 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.*

**May 2004.** One seen from the Tiree to Mull ferry on 17 May was an unusually early sighting as this species generally returns to breeding areas towards the end of May.

**2005.** No records.

**Breeding 2004.** No counts reported.

**2005.** The Sanda Islands colony was estimated at 250 pairs. TIARG reported 30 AOS at the north end of Lunga, Treshnish Isles. They caught and ringed 195 birds on Lunga and 346 on Fladda, Treshnish Isles.

**Jul- Sep 2004.** Largest numbers were reported mainly in Sep. High counts included: 142 passing southwards in 8.5 hrs at Frenchman's Rocks on 29 Aug, 132 flying south at the same site in 3 hrs on 11 Sep, and 165 seen off Hynish Tiree in 2.5 hrs on 12 Sep. The last records of the year were on 6 Oct 2004, when birds were seen from *Islay*, *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO.

**2005.** Largest numbers were reported mainly in Jul and Aug (earlier than the previous year). There were 150 offshore from Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jul, 130 flying south past Machrihanish SBO in 10 hrs on 9 Jul, and 178 flying southwest past Hynish Tiree on 17 Aug. The last bird of the year was on 23 Oct when one was seen from the ferry in the Sound of *Islay*.

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (LEACH'S PETREL)** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*  
Gobhlan-mara

0055

*Scarce, but regular in autumn off western headlands following strong westerlies.*

**May 2004.** There were no spring records.

**2005.** Single birds were seen in Balephetrish Bay on 5 May and off Aird Tiree on 6 May.

**Jul-Nov 2004.** Autumn passage was unusually strong in Sep. An early bird passed Machrihanish SBO on 24 Jul 2004, but there were no more sightings until a small number appeared at the end of Aug. In Sep, numbers passing built up rapidly and were reported almost every day of that month from many seawatching sites. On 11 Sep, 20 passed Frenchman's Rocks in 3 hrs, and on 14 Sep 55 flew west past Ardnave Point *Islay* in 6 hrs. Numbers built up to a peak count of 143 passing Frenchman's Rocks in 9 hrs on 21 Sep, and a peak on the same day of 119 passing Machrihanish SBO. The highest daily total at Aird Tiree was of 44 birds, seen on 22 Sep. Numbers then dropped rapidly over the next two weeks, with the last birds seen on 6 and 7 Oct. There must have been several thousand birds recorded altogether during the autumn, representing a very much higher number than reported in other recent years (for example, only 4 were reported in autumn 2002, and about 44 in autumn 2003).

**2005.** About 100 birds were reported between 24 Aug and 9 Oct, all seen from the usual sites (*Coll*, *Tiree*, *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO and inter-island ferries). One bird was reported on 13 Nov, an unusually late but not unprecedented date, from Port Ellen *Islay*.

**NORTHERN GANNET (GANNET)** *Morus bassanus* Sùlaire

0071

*The nearest breeding colonies to Argyll are Ailsa Craig (40 km east of Mull of Kintyre) and the Shiant Isles (140 km north of Mull). Common inshore from Apr to Oct, and often seen high up sea lochs. Infrequently reported Nov/Dec.*

**Jan-Jun 2004/2005.** Reported from 1 Jan in both years in small numbers, especially from areas such as *Tiree*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull* and the *Kintyre* coast, but can be seen throughout the coast of Argyll even up to the heads of the longest sea lochs. Areas further from open sea seem to be used less in winter than in summer and autumn. Numbers increase towards mid-summer with groups of tens of birds reported in May-June in many locations.

**Jul-Oct 2004/2005.** Numbers reported increased to a peak in September of both years. Many birds were reported feeding close to shore in autumn. Numbers reported dropped very fast during October, and there were very few records in Nov-Dec (only one bird in Dec 2004, 4 birds in Dec 2005).

**GREAT CORMORANT (CORMORANT)** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Sgarbh 0072  
*Breeds in Cowal, Gigha, Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull and N. Argyll. Less numerous than Shag. Small numbers occur on some inland waters.*

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Widely distributed on sea lochs and islands. Larger counts include; 23 at Blairmore *Cowal* on 23 Jan and 12 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 31 Jan.

**2005.** Larger counts were; 13 at L Etive *North Argyll* on 6 Feb and 13 at L. Sween on 11 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** The colony on Glunimore, Sanda Islands held 20 pairs. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, breeding was noted at four sites (58, 30, 15 and 15 pairs). Breeding success was good at all these sites. About 30 pairs at Corr Eilean, McCormaig Isles *Mid-Argyll* fledged many young. On Eilean Dubh, Lynn of Lorn *North Argyll* 15 pairs also had high breeding success. At Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie), L. Fyne 58 pairs had high breeding success. Finally 15 pairs at Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura bred successfully.

**2005.** The colony on Glunimore, Sanda Islands held 24 pairs. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, a minimum of 135 pairs of Cormorants were counted nesting at 5 sites (colony size 17 to min. 47). Young fledged at at least four and probably all five sites. At Eilean Dubh, (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* 19 pairs fledged many young (16 chicks were ringed at 10 of these nests). At Craro Island, Gigha 22 pairs nested. At Corr Eilean, (McCormaig Is) *Mid-Argyll* 30 pairs nested and fledged some chicks. At Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura 17 pairs fledged about 34 chicks. At Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie), L. Fyne 47 pairs fledged many young.

**Jul-Oct 2004/2005.** Widely distributed, especially on sea lochs. Largest counts were 30 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 8 Oct 2004, and 23 at Blairmore *Cowal* on 11 Nov 2004.

**SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Sgarbh-an-sgumain 0080  
*Very common resident, breeding on the mainland coast, outer isles, and on islands in sea lochs. Widespread in winter and spring but very rare inland at all times.*

**Jan-May 2004.** An unusual record involved a dense flock of 320 feeding in association with a Bottle-nosed Dolphin in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 7 May. Counts of 50 or more were reported from: Hynish *Tiree* (130 on rocks at Happy Valley on 6 Mar), and Ben Feall *Coll* (196 on 17 Mar).

**2005.** On 1 Mar 41 dead birds, including 10 ringed, were picked up on beaches on *Tiree* following winter storms. On 13 Mar there were 160 on rocks at Happy Valley (Hynish) *Tiree*.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, breeding Shags were noted at six sites. The 7 larger colonies held 79, 45, 44, 25, 16-21 and ca50-100 pairs and breeding success appeared to be good at sites where follow-up visits were made. On Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* there were about 65 pairs nesting in early June in locations where counting was difficult. At Carraig an Daimh, Sound of Jura there were 25 AONs on 27 May. On Corr Eilean (McCormaig Islands) *Mid-Argyll* there were about 50-100 pairs nesting. The colony on Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of *Jura* held 79 AONs on 1 Jun. Eilean na Cille (steep islet), S of *Jura* had 44 AONs on 4 Jun. Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie), L. Fyne had 45 AONs on 31 May. Eilean Aoghainn, L. Fyne had 16-21 pairs (there were 27 fledglings on 27 Jul, despite evidence of heavy predation by mink on gull eggs and chicks). On *Tiree*, many were on eggs from early April. At Ben Feall *Coll* 115 nests were counted with a production of 1.08 chicks fledged per pair (A cache of 60 predated eggs was found but the predator involved could not be identified). On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) there were 319 AONs in mid-June and on Sgeir a' Chaisteil

(Treshnish Isles) there were 23 AONs on 25 Jun. A regular study area "Pigs Paradise" on *Colonsay* had 33 AONs with a mean clutch of 2.45 eggs. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 18 Jun there were 97 AONs on the cliff where there had been 155 in 1999 (most chicks fledged in late Jul).

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 277-327 Shags were nesting at 10 sites. Young fledged at most of the sites, in good numbers at some. At Craro (Gigha) numbers had decreased greatly in recent years: there were only 8 nests in 2005 and 3 of these were empty (*cf* 86 in 1997 and 26 in 1999), the few adults were very nervous and there was much evidence of egg predation in the manner of mink. Numbers of breeding pairs/AONs were estimated as follows: Eilean Aoghainn *Mid-Argyll* 22, Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie) L. Fyne 15, Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* 22, Carraig an Daimh Sound of Jura 47, Corr Eilean (McCormac Islands) *Mid-Argyll* 50-100, Ruadh Sgeir Sound of Jura 62 (producing 50-55 fledglings), Eilean na Cille (N) Sound of Jura 37 (producing 32-40 fledglings), Carraig Mhor Ridhe Eilean (Gigha) 12.

Estimated numbers of breeding pairs/AONs elsewhere were: Sanda Islands 850, Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 112, Lunga (Treshnish Isles) 164, Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) 20, Oronsay *Colonsay* 10, Port Ban *Colonsay* 34, Urugaig *Colonsay* 7, and Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 99 (mean brood size 1.9 close to fledging).

**Aug-Dec 2004.** The often large flock in Gunna Sound *Tiree* contained over 700 birds on 8 Sep.

**2005.** The Gunna Sound *Tiree* flock had: 1,000 on 8 Aug, 1,200 on 22 Aug, 2,100 on 12 Sep, and 1,100 on 13 Oct.

#### **ASCENSION FRIGATEBIRD\*** *Fregata aquila*

*Vagrant. An immature bird was found exhausted at Loch a' Phuill on Tiree on 9 July 1953 and died later. This is the only record of this species in the Western Palearctic.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

#### **EURASIAN BITTERN (BITTERN)** *Botaurus stellaris* Chorra-ghràin 0095

*Vagrant to Argyll. Only four records since 1980: one at Dervaig (Mull) Jan-Mar 1982, one near Rhunahaorine Point (Kintyre) on 4th Dec 1982, one at Dervaig (Mull) on 23rd Dec 1983 and, one found dead at Appin (North Argyll) on 19th Sep 1999.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

#### **NIGHT HERON** *Nycticorax nycticorax* 0104

*Vagrant. Only three acceptable records: two in the nineteenth century then reports of an adult on Coll (Apr 1987), and on Tiree (Apr-Jun 1987), which was probably the same individual.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

#### **SNOWY EGRET\*** *Egretta thula* 0115

*Vagrant. One found at Balvicar (Mid-Argyll) on 5th Nov 2001 was subsequently seen at various locations in Argyll until 13th Jun 2002. No previous British records.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.



**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta* Corra-gheal-bheag 0119

*No Argyll records prior to 1958 but several since, mostly in spring and autumn. Could be seen more frequently now that breeding colonies have become established in England and Ireland.*

**2004.** One found at The Strand *Colonsay* on 3 Jun was the first record for *Colonsay*/Oronsay. It was found roosting in willows the following day, at the heronry at Lochan Bhreac *Colonsay* and was last seen feeding in a shallow channel just S of Garvard Point *Colonsay* on 7 Jun.

[M. Peacock/D. & J. Jardine]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**GREAT WHITE EGRET** *Ardea alba* Corra-bhàn-mhòr 0121

*Vagrant. Only four previous Argyll records: one at Gruinart Flats (Islay) in Jun 1986, one Ballachuan Loch, Seil (Mid-Argyll) in Apr 1988, one at Loch Gruinart (Islay) in May 1998, and one on Tiree in May & Jun 2000.*

**2004.** One was present at a heronry E of L. Gorm *Islay* on 16 May. Later that day it flew NW to RSPB L. Gruinart, where it was seen feeding in pools in the wet grassland area of reserve the following day (17 May) [J. S. Armitage/ J. How *et al.*]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 98:650).

**2005.** No records.

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea* Corra-ghrithreach 0122

*Widespread resident, breeding in all areas.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** The largest counts were: 9 on Oronsay on 11 Jan, 24 during the WeBS count in Outer Loch Etive on 21 Feb and at least 24 were counted around upper L. Fyne from Otter Ferry to Inveraray on 23 Mar.

**2005.** The largest counts were: 8 at Salthouse (L. Riddon) *Cowal* on 3 Jan, 21 during the WeBS count in Outer Loch Etive on 6 Feb and 11 during the WeBS count at L. Sween on 11 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** On *Coll*, 17 nests were found at the heronry at Martin's Wood and 2 nests at The Lodge. A total of 20 nests were found on *Colonsay* and 2 pairs bred at Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay. An occupied heronry was reported at Avenvogie Farm *Islay* on 3 Jun.

**2005.** Occupied heronries were reported as follows: Eriska *North Argyll* (6 or more occupied nests on 13 May), L. na Lathaich *Mull* (18+ nests), Ardfenaig *Mull* (2+ nests), Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* (15+ nests), Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay (2 nests) and Ballachuan (Seil Is.) *Mid-Argyll* (10+ nests). On 29 Jun many adult birds were noted on *Tiree* (where Grey Herons do not breed) and odd birds were seen flying to and from *Coll*.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Larger numbers recorded during WeBS counts included: 11 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 21 Jul, 13 in L. Sween on 17 Oct and 21 in Outer Loch Etive on 12 Dec. Elsewhere, 12 were in the Otter Ferry area on 12 Oct and 10 were at L. Ballygrant *Islay* on 27 Oct.

**2005.** The largest counts were: 22 in Outer Loch Etive on 18 Sep, 20 at Bridgend (L. Indaal) on 24 Nov and 15 in L. Sween on 13 Nov.

**WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia* 0134

*Vagrant. Only three accepted records: at Benderloch, North Argyll in Apr 1971, on Islay in Apr/May 1978, and at Campbeltown, Kintyre in May 1978.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**GLOSSY IBIS\*** *Plegadis falcinellus* 0136

*Vagrant. Six Argyll records, 1901-1958.*

**2004.** No records.

2005. No records.

**EURASIAN SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia* 0144  
*Vagrant. Seven Argyll records; the most recent of these involved four juveniles on Islay in 1998.*

2004. No records.

2005. No records.

**HONEY-BUZZARD (HONEY BUZZARD)** *Pernis apivorus* 0231  
*Very rare passage migrant. Seven accepted records since 1980; the last at Ledaig Point N Argyll in 1999.*

2004. No records.

2005. No records.

**BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans* 0238  
*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one at Vaul (Tiree) on 16th May 1997.*

2004. No records.

2005. No records.

**RED KITE** *Milvus milvus* Clamhan-gobhlach 0239  
*In an attempt to re-introduce this species to Scotland Red Kites have been released in Highland, central and south west Scotland since 1996. Genuine vagrants have occurred in the past, but most recent Argyll records involve these birds. All records are requested, ideally with details of wing tags if present.*

2004. One (blue tag left wing, white tag right; hatched Black Isle, Highland 2003) seen at Carnan Dubha (and later at Sorisdale) *Coll* on 13th Mar and one (red tag right wing; hatched 2003) seen on Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* 27th April.

2005. In mid-Feb one was seen flying from St Catherine's *Cowal* to Strachur and possibly the same bird was seen flying alongside a car travelling along the B8024 at L. Caolisport on 19 Feb. Good views were had of a bird (with no wing tags) flying up Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr and one was at RSPB L. Gruinart in May. A bird being mobbed by passerines was seen at Ferlochan (nr. Benderloch) on 6 Oct, a wing-tagged bird was seen at Auchnasaul (near Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct and again on 18 Oct; birds were seen on Oronsay on 17 Oct (red wing tags with white background, P or 6?), and 21 Oct (no wing tags seen).

**WHITE-TAILED EAGLE** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Iolair-mhara 0243  
*Very rare resident breeder in Argyll with five to ten pairs in 2004; wandering immatures (and sometimes adults) occur more widely. All are derived from re-establishment projects in north-west Scotland since 1975. All records are requested, ideally with details of wing tags if present.*

**Breeding 2004.** In Scotland, 32 territorial pairs were located and breeding was confirmed at 28 sites. 15 successful pairs fledged 19 chicks (Sea Eagle Project Team).

In addition to breeding birds on *Mull* there was a good scatter of wandering/dispersing birds seen or reported in Argyll. As usual most were on the islands and adjacent areas. A minimum of 17 individuals was identified on *Mull*. Two different birds were seen on *Coll* (Mar and Oct); one was on the Garvellachs (Apr); three individuals were seen on *Islay* (Feb-Mar, July, Nov); and 4-5 individuals were reported from *Jura-Scarba* (all months, except Jan and Mar). Two different birds were reported on Seil *Mid-Argyll* (Feb and Aug) and two were reported together at L. Melfort. In Knapdale *Mid-Argyll*, a bird seen at Caol Scotnish seems likely to have been

the same bird seen later the same day at Point of Knap (Nov). One was seen at Knockdow and Inverchaolain Glen, *Cowal* (Nov). A series of reports from *North Argyll* (L. Linnhe, Lismore, Appin, Glen Creran and L. Etive), involved 4-5 individuals (Jan-Jun). There were singles at Bridge of Awe *Mid-Argyll* (Feb) and Beinn Achaladair (Blackmount) *North Argyll* (Apr). Several of the sightings in widely different areas refer to the now much travelled, blue L, identified in 2004: on *Islay* (Feb-Mar), Blackmount (Apr), probably seen on *Mull* (May), L. Etive (Jun), *Islay* (Jul & Nov), and *Jura* (Nov) [ARSG per RAB].

**Breeding 2005.** In Scotland, 33 territorial pairs were located and breeding was confirmed at 28 sites. 17 successful pairs fledged 24 chicks (Sea Eagle Project Team).

In addition to breeding birds on *Mull* reports of wandering/dispersing birds continued to increase. More than 75 reports were received from elsewhere in Argyll in 2005. While most were sightings of single birds, 2-3 were seen together on occasions. A minimum of 14 non breeding individuals were identified on *Mull*. The reports from all other parts of Argyll included: at least 4 different individuals on *Coll*, 3 on *Tiree*, at least 5 on *Islay-Jura*, and one on *Colonsay*. At least 8 different birds were reported on Argyll mainland with the majority of records confined to the west mainland coast and lochs. Multiple reports were received from: L. Craginish, Easdale-Seil, L. Melfort, L. Feochan, and Lismore-Appin. The only inland records received in 2005 were from L. Melfort towards L. Avich and L. Awe [ARSG per RAB].

**MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus* Clamhan-lòin 0260  
*Scarce but now more or less annual passage migrant, with records in every year but one since 1986. Most records Apr-Jun.*

**2004.** Two sub-adult males were seen at Duich *Islay* on 12 Apr, an adult female was at Totronald *Coll* on 20 Apr and, an adult male was seen feeding on a hare at L. Airigh Dhaibhaidh (nr. Duich) *Islay* on 24 Apr.

**2005.** Males were at the N end of L. Eck *Cowal* on 17 Apr and at Acha *Coll* on 16 May. On 22 Jun there were reports of birds (sex unspecified) at L. Don *Mull* and on *Colonsay*. An immature female flew S past Totronald *Coll* on 29 Aug and one was reported flying S near the Rare Breeds Farm (Oban) on 6 Oct.

**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus* Brèid-air-tòin 0261  
*Sparse but widespread breeding species, with Argyll holding around one quarter of the Scottish breeding population. Seen regularly away from breeding areas on migration and in winter.*

**Breeding 2004.** A national survey year of Hen Harriers took place in 2004. The efforts of ARSG members were supplemented by Clive McKay (*Islay*), Danny Brooks (*Mull*) and Elsie Ashworth (Mainland) contracted by RSPB and who carried out considerable additional survey work in randomly selected 10 km squares. While the survey work on *Mull* and *Islay* was extensive, the substantial numbers of occupied sites presented in the table below [21.1] do not represent full coverage of these islands. Additional casual sightings of Hen Harriers, seen in other un-surveyed areas of Argyll, indicate that the Argyll population is in excess of 100 occupied sites; despite some areas of the mainland remaining unoccupied for several years. [RAB/ARSG].

Table 21.1 Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll 2004.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites successful	Outcome unknown	Min. no. of young fledged	Young per successful site

Coll		3 <sup>1</sup>	1	0	2	2.00
Mull		27	7	12	16+	2.28 <sup>2</sup>
Islay		42	22	13	55+	2.50 <sup>3</sup>
Jura		1	0 <sup>4</sup>	0	0	-
Mainland (not Cowal)	8	8 <sup>5</sup>	2	1	5+	2.50
Cowal		11 <sup>6</sup>	5	0	16	3.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>92</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2.54</b>

<sup>1</sup> Two pairs present in spring-summer although only one pair thought to have bred. A non-breeding pair present in a third area, but only during the spring.

<sup>2</sup> Occupancy: figures include pairs that either failed or did not attempt to breed. Breeding success at a sample of 6 sites where the outcome was accurately known: 3 sites failed; 3 successful sites fledged 9 young (3.00 per successful site).

<sup>3</sup> Occupancy: figures include pairs that either failed or did not attempt to breed. Breeding success at a sample of 20 sites where the outcome was accurately known: 2 sites failed (both deserted after heavy rain); 18 successful sites fledged 51 young (2.83 per successful site).

<sup>4</sup> 2-3 chicks hatched but were predated by a golden eagle.

<sup>5</sup> Occupancy: figures include 3 pairs that either failed or did not attempt to breed and one area, apparently occupied by a male only, until May.

<sup>6</sup> Occupancy: figures include one pair that either failed/not breeding. One pair that failed lost both its first and repeat clutches.

Table 21.2 *Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll 2005.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. no. of young fledged	Young per successful site
Coll	1	1	1	0	0	3	3.00
Colonsay	1	1	0	0	1	-	-
Mull	39	30*	10	4	5	27	2.70
Islay	25	25	7	3	15	16	2.28
Mainl'nd (not Cowal)	8	6	4	2	0	8	2.00
Cowal	10	9	3	6	0	10	3.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2.56</b>

\* Sites occupied include sites where pairs were present in early spring but may not have stayed long enough to lay eggs.

*Islay*: Clive McKay was contracted by SNH to survey two 10 km squares which were not surveyed as part of the 2004 National Survey. In total over the two years, 2004-05, a minimum of 56 occupied sites were located, most holding pairs of birds. In the 2 squares surveyed in 2005 one held 14 pairs and the other 9 pairs. Breeding success was poor with 6-9 pairs failing out of 23 breeding attempts probably due to several extended (48 hours) bouts of very heavy rain during June-July. Two almost fledged chicks were found dead and partly eaten in nests as a result.

*Mull*: Paul Haworth found at least 29 hen harrier breeding ranges that were apparently occupied on Mull and a further 10 known or suspected breeding areas appeared to be unoccupied. No breeding attempt was recorded in 12 areas where harriers were present early in the season. Four

pairs were known to have failed entirely with small young and another pair also probably failed at this stage. Ten successful pairs fledged at least 27 young. The outcome at two sites was unclear. Of the 14 nests located 7 were on open moorland (although two of these are within native woodland areas) and 7 were within conifer planting schemes. At the 10 nests found at the incubation stage clutch sizes were highly variable (1 x c/6, 4 x c/5, 2 x c/4 and 1 x c/1). Five successful nests on moorland produced 13 young. Five successful nests within conifer forests produced 14 young.

*Colonsay*: first definite evidence of an occupied site on this island.

#### Roosts 2004.

Table 22.1 *Total numbers of birds at the two roosts at Moine Mhor and at Eresaid, Islay in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Moine Mhor	2	2	0	0	2	n/r
Eresaid Islay	2	3	0	4	3	5

#### Roosts 2005.

Table 22.2 *Total numbers of birds at the two roosts at Moine Mhor in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Moine Mhor	3	2	4	2	3	5

No counts reported from *Islay*.

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK (GOSHAWK)** *Accipiter gentilis* Glas-sheabhag 0267  
*Sporadic visitor, status uncertain. Last confirmed reports were in Cowal and on Mull in 1993.*  
**2004.** No accepted records.

**2005.** No accepted records.

(See p. 145 for lists of rejected records and those for which no descriptions have been supplied.)

**EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK (SPARROWHAWK)** *Accipiter nisus* Speireag 0269  
*Widespread, resident breeding species.*

During **2004** and **2005** birds were reported from every area of Argyll except *Jura* (although they were presumably present there too). Up to 5 birds were seen on *Tiree* in Nov 2004. Prey species recorded in Argyll during this period included: Feral Pigeon, Blackbird, Redwing, Goldcrest, and Eurasian Treecreeper. Unsuccessful attempts were made to catch House Martin and Hooded Crow.

#### Breeding 2004.

Table 23.1 *Outcome of monitored Sparrowhawk territories in Coll, Colonsay, Cowal and Kintyre in 2004 [ARSG].*

<i>Coll, Colonsay, Cowal and Kintyre</i>	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Min. no. of young fledged	Young per successful site
Fully monitored	5	5	4	11	2.75
Brood size unknown	5	5	5	-	-
Outcome unknown	4	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

2005.

Table 23.2 *Outcome of monitored Sparrowhawk territories in Cowal in 2005* [ARSG].

<i>Cowal</i>	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Min. no. of young fledged	Young per successful site
Fully monitored	8	8	7	1	28+	4.33
Outcome unknown	6	?	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**COMMON BUZZARD (BUZZARD)** *Buteo buteo* Clamhan

0287

**Resident breeding bird, common in all areas. The most abundant raptor in Argyll.**

During **2004** and **2005**, numerous records were received from all Argyll areas and a group of 7 were seen in the air together at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 14 Feb 2004.

**Breeding 2004.**

Table 24.1 *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2004.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. of young fledged	Young per successful territory
Coll	15	14	4	10	8	2.00
Tiree	10	10	6	3	6	1.00
Colonsay	52	24	8	12	19 <sup>1</sup>	2.37
Islay	10	10	8	2	13	1.62
Cowal	24	24	9	13	13	1.44
Other areas	2	2	2	0	4	2.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1.70</b>

Note: nests with large young on last visit are assumed to have been successful.

<sup>1</sup> For the first time in 15 years of monitoring on *Colonsay*, one pair fledged a brood of 4 young.

2005.

Table 24.2 *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2005.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied *	Sites failed	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged **	Young per successful site **
Coll	5	5	0	5	0	11	2.20
Tiree	1	1	0	1	0	3	3.00
Colonsay	54	31	4	7	18	12	1.71
Islay	12	12	0	4	6	6	1.50
Cowal	62	27	1	13	0	14	1.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1.55</b>

\* Includes sites occupied by singles and pairs. Subsequent columns refer to sites where breeding was proven.

\*\* Large young seen on last visits are assumed to have fledged.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo lagopus* Bleidir-molach

0290

*Rare visitor, mostly in autumn. Seldom recorded in recent years; most recently on Tiree in 1997.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos* Iolaire

0296

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

During **2004** and **2005** birds were reported away from the breeding areas, in winter, from all the Argyll recording areas.

**Breeding 2004.** This was the best year for breeding golden eagles for many years, with 50% of the monitored sites successfully producing young.

Table 25.1 *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll in 2004.*

Year	Ters. checked	Ters. occupied	Ters. where eggs laid	Ters. known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ters. that fledged young	Min. number of young fledged	Young per successful pair
<b>2004</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28 (29)</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>32 (33)</b>	<b>1.14 (1.13)</b>

( ) = figure includes a chick half grown at the last visit.

At four of the 56 occupied monitored sites, only single birds were seen or otherwise proven to be present.

A chick was removed, under licence, from a site on *Mull* that had a brood of two; it subsequently fledged as part of the Reintroduction Project in Ireland. If it had remained and fledged in Argyll the total number of young reared in 2004 would have been 33 (34) and the number of young/successful territory would have been 1.17.

One half grown chick survived when the nest in which it was sitting slipped *ca*20 metres down a crag. The adults continued to feed the chick, which subsequently fledged.

**2005.** After a tolerable start to the season with good numbers of pairs proven to have laid eggs; the final outcome was most disappointing, particularly after the good performance in 2004. Overall, a poor year with less than one in three occupied territories rearing any young.

Table 25.2 *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll in 2005, with figures from the 2003 and 1992 National Surveys for comparison.*

Year	Ters. checked	Ters. occupied	Ters. where eggs laid	Ters. known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ters. that fledged young	Min. number of young fledged	Young per successful pair
<b>2005</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28 (29)</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>32 (33)</b>	<b>1.14 (1.13)</b>
2003	100	80	52	29 (30)	36.25% (37.50%)	30 (31)	1.03 (1.03)
1992	96	84	59	27	32.14%	28	1.03

( ) = figure includes a chick half grown at the last visit.

**Summer visitor, breeding in small but increasing numbers. Occurs more widely on passage.**

**Apr-Jun. 2004.** No records were received concerning first arrival dates. Birds were reported on *Mull* during May and Jun.

**2005.** There were three separate reports of birds at L. Awe on 26 Mar and one was seen flying NE over Otter Ferry on the same day. Passage migrants were reported at RSPB Reserve *Coll* and Machrihanish SBO on 27 Apr, again at Machrihanish SBO on 9 May, and one was fishing at L. Frisa *Mull* on 31 May.

**Breeding 2004.**

Table 26.1 *Outcome of monitored Osprey territories in Argyll in 2000-2004.*

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. fledged	Young per successful site
<b>2004</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1.85</b>
2003	7	6	9	1.50
2002	5	3	6	2.00
2001	5	5	10	2.00
2000	4	4	9	2.25

<sup>1</sup> Brood size: b/1 x 3, b/2 x 2, b/3 x 2.

Although one bird was present in the early spring at a previously successful site, a pair failed to become established in 2004. Two new pairs nested successfully, one at a natural site and the other at an artificial platform. Elsewhere a pair built a new nest and occupied the site through the summer but didn't lay in 2004. Overall the population continued to increase. One site failed when a three week old chick was predated by a pine marten.

**2005.**

Table 26.2 *Outcome of monitored Osprey territories in Argyll in 2005.*

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. fledged	Young per successful site
<b>2005</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1.80</b>

<sup>1</sup> Brood size: b/1 x 1, b/2 x 4.

Nine pairs laid eggs in 2005 and a new pair was present at a new platform through the spring and summer but did not lay. Nest failures were at a high level and five sites failed to rear any young. All were in tall, very exposed trees where the effect of extended periods of heavy rain in June-July would have been particularly severe. A chick ringed and colour ringed near Loch Awe in 2001 was seen, breeding for the first time, at a site near Forbes, Morayshire in 2005.

**Jul-Oct 2004.** Passage migrants were reported at: Arinagour *Coll* on 10 Jul, Portavadie *Cowal* on 5 Aug, Dunlossit *Islay* on 26 Aug, L. Gruinart on 4 Sep, and Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 8 Sep.

**2005.** Passage migrants were reported at: Ardmaddy Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug and at Machrihanish SBO on 24 Sep.

**Widespread but uncommon breeding bird. Population in some areas appears to fluctuate from year to year. Emigration from some areas in autumn and immigration to others.**

During **2004** and **2005** there were records from all Argyll recording areas, with a noticeable increase in sightings during Sep and Oct. Away from known breeding areas, at least four individuals were present on *Tiree* on 26 Oct 2004 and on 6 Dec 2005.

**Breeding 2004.**

The successful pair on *Coll* represented the first confirmed breeding record for the island.



Table 27.1 *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2004.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
Coll	1	1	1	1	0	1	1.00
Islay	5	5	5	3	0	7	2.33
Cowal	7	7	4	2	3	9	4.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2.83</b>

On *Colonsay* a male was seen carrying food to a former nesting area but the site was not located.

**2005.**

Table 27.2 *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2005.*

Area	Sites Check'd	Sites Occup'd	Sites with eggs laid	Succ'sful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unkn'n	Min. no. fl'd.	Young per succ'sful site
Coll	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	3.00
Islay	6	6	5	-	-	5	-	-
Colonsay	3	2	1	-	-	2	-	-
Cowal	28	12	4	1	3	0	3	3.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.00</b>

One breeding pair was present on *Coll* in 2005.

#### **RED-FOOTED FALCON** *Falco vespertinus*

0307

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one at Macharioch (Kintyre) on 19th August 1990.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records. (But see records currently in circulation with BBRC, p. 145)

#### **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius* Mèirneal

0309

*Breeds locally on open moorland and bogs. More widely distributed on passage and in winter on low coastal ground and farmland.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Frequent records of up to 3 birds on: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Also recorded from 4 sites in *Kintyre*.

**2005.** Frequently recorded on the islands and once or twice in *Cowal* and *Kintyre* (including *Sanda Island*).

**Breeding 2004.** Table 28.1 shows a summary of breeding observations during the year. More sightings were reported from suitable habitat during the breeding season in 2004. The majority generated during survey work for the hen harrier survey. Unfortunately, most refer to single visits to areas early in the season and in most cases it is not known whether birds stayed to breed [RAB].

Table 28.1 *Breeding observations in 2004.*

Area	Details
Coll	Three pairs held territory but no further evidence of breeding at any of these sites.
Mull	1-2 birds seen in suitable habitat in 6 different locations, the majority were previously unknown sites. Breeding proved at one site (nest with eggs) but outcome not known.
Islay	Breeding assumed at one site (pair present all season) but nest not located.

Mid-Argyll	Pair present (displaying 24/4) near previously known nest site but no further information available. Pair present 24/4 bred successfully, 1+ fledged juvenile on 30/7. Breeding assumed at one new site (pair present all season) but nest not located.
Kintyre	Breeding proved at one site in North Kintyre (adult with fledged brood).
Cowal	Two sites monitored both apparently unoccupied in 2004.

**2005.** Pairs were monitored at 3 sites. Single birds were located in 3 other areas where their behaviour (displaying, calling and/or carrying prey) suggested that breeding was possible, but there was no later evidence of successful breeding.

Table 28.2 *Breeding observations in 2005.*

	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Coll, Islay Mid-Argyll, Kintyre (2), Cowal	6	6	3	3	6+	2.5*

**NB** The outcome at 3 of the occupied sites was unknown.

\* for 2 pairs where fledged brood size was accurately known.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Frequently recorded on *Islay*, *Tiree*, at Machrihanish, and Tayinloan *Kintyre*. On 7 Sep, a juv. male was seen at Carn a' Bhuilg (nr. Millhouse) *Cowal* soaring with 3 Sparrowhawks, a Kestrel and 2 Buzzards.

**2005.** Frequently recorded on *Islay*, and especially, on *Tiree*, where 4 birds were present on 25 Oct. Single birds were recorded on *Mull*; on the mainland at Tayinloan, and in *Mid-Argyll* at Keillmore (L. Sween), L. Scammadale, Lagganmore (nr. Kilninver), and near L. Nant.

**HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo* Gormag

0310

*Rare visitor in spring and autumn.*

**2004.** An adult was watched at close quarters hunting dragonflies for at least 2 hours during the evening of 6th Jun at L. a' Chlair *Tiree*. This is the first record for *Tiree* and the first for Argyll since 1994 [J. Bowler/J. Hunter]. One was seen at Ballard *Coll* in the early evening of 14th Jul and at the same location on 23rd Jul. This was, presumably, the same bird seen catching and eating a Highland Darter at Uig *Coll* on 25th Jul [S. Wellock].

Both records were accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** An adult was seen at Glenastle *Islay* on 19 May 2005 [A. Schofield]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**GYR FALCON\*** *Falco rusticolus* Seabhag-mhòr-na-seilg

0318

*Vagrant. Several records prior to 1950 but only five recent accepted records, between 1973 and 2002.*

**2004.** No records. (But see records for which descriptions are still awaited, p. 146).

**2005.** No records.

**PEREGRINE FALCON (PEREGRINE)** *Falco peregrinus* Seabhag

0320

*Widespread but scarce breeding species in all areas of Argyll with about 70 occupied territories in 2005. Found throughout the year in most areas.*

During **2004** and **2005** birds were reported outside the breeding season from all recording areas including records from: Iona, Lunga (Treshnish Isles), Oronsay, and Sanda Islands.

Captured prey included: Mallard, Lapwing, Common Redshank, Common Gull (several), Arctic Tern, and Common Starling. Peregrines were also seen pursuing: Leach's and European Storm-petrels, Puffins, and other auks. A female was seen at Lagganmore (nr. Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* swooping at a Buzzard and dislodging feathers. A very brown immature bird was noted at various sites on *Tiree* throughout Jun 2005 giving rise to for claims of Lanner/Saker by visitors.

#### **Breeding 2004.**

Table 29.1 *Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2004.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Outcome Unknown	Min. number Fledged	Young per successful site
Misc. Islands <sup>1</sup>	9	9	6	4	2	7+	1.75
Islay	5	5	4	3	0	4+	1.33
Mainland (excl. Cowal)	3	2	2	2	0	3+	1.50
Cowal	12	9 <sup>2</sup>	5	4	1	10	2.50
Total	29	25	17	13	3	24+	1.84

<sup>1</sup> Misc. Islands includes information from *Coll, Tiree, Mull, Colonsay* and Oronsay.

<sup>2</sup> Sites occupied in *Cowal* comprised 7 pairs and 2 single birds. Five pairs laid eggs and two either failed or didn't attempt to breed.

Mainland (excl. *Cowal*) One site regularly monitored in *Mid-Argyll* was unoccupied for the first time since before 1990.

**2005.** It was a very poor season in *Cowal*, where most pairs failed to breed at all and only one pair was successful.

Table 29.2 *Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2005.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occup'd	Sites with eggs laid	Succ'sful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unkn'n	Min. no. fl'd.	Young per succ'sful site
Misc. Islands <sup>1</sup>	6	6	5	2	3	0	4	2.00
Islay	5	5	4	2	0	2	4	2.00
Mainland (excl. Cowal)	4	3	2	1	1	0	1+	-
Cowal	15	9	1	1	0	0	1	1.00
Total	30	23	12	6	4	2	10+	1.80 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Misc. Islands includes information from *Coll, Tiree, Mull, Colonsay* and Oronsay.

<sup>2</sup> For five pairs where fledged brood size accurately known.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus* Snagan-allt

0407

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

**Jan-Mar 2004.** Up to 2 birds reported at sites on *Islay* and *Tiree*.

**2005.** One or possibly two birds were in a garden ditch at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar, one was at An Airidh *Tiree* on 19 Mar and 2 were calling at L. Fada *Colonsay* on 26 Mar.

**Breeding 2004.** Reports of calling birds during the breeding season came from: *Tiree* (minimum of 11 birds at 9 sites), RSPB Reserve *Coll* (birds at 2 locations), East L. Fada *Colonsay* (2 birds), and *Islay* (3 at RSPB Gruinart Floods and singles at 4 other sites).

**2005.** Reports of calling birds during the breeding season came from: L. Gruinart (6 in May), at least 4 sites on *Tiree*, 7 sites on *Colonsay*, and Gallanach (Oban).

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Up to 3 birds were heard calling on both *Coll* and *Tiree* and single birds were heard at RSPB Gruinart Floods and L. Gorm on *Islay*. One flushed at Dalnahasaig on 1 Dec was the first record for Moine Mhor NNR.

**2005.** Regular records came from *Islay* and *Tiree*. Single birds were reported from three more unexpected locations: Kilmory Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov, Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 6 Nov (a first for this locality) and Tobermory *Mull* on 28 Nov.

**SPOTTED CRAKE** *Porzana porzana* Traon-breac

0408

*Rare and irregular summer visitor; also recorded as an autumn migrant in the past.*

**2004.** Calling birds were heard at RSPB Gruinart Floods in Apr and Jun and breeding may have occurred. One was calling at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 27 May.

**2005.** Calling was heard from 2 locations on *Coll* on 20 Apr. On *Tiree*: one was calling continuously at one site on 21 and 22 May, and one at another site for an extended period during Jun and Jul. One was calling regularly at L. Gruinart in Jun.

A juvenile reported at Canal Loch *Coll* on 5 Sep could have been a migrant or, possibly a locally bred bird.

**CORN CRAKE (CORNCRAKE)** *Crex crex* Traon

0421

*Localised summer visitor. Breeding mainly on: Islay, Colonsay, Iona (Mull), Tiree, and Coll. Following recent conservation activities a long term decline in numbers is being reversed.*

**2004.** The first arrivals appeared on 15 Apr when birds were found at Breachacha *Coll* and Smaull *Islay*. The main arrival occurred on 23/24 Apr when several were heard on *Coll* and *Tiree* but the first birds were calling on Oronsay. A presumed passage migrant was heard calling at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 2 May. An adult with 4 mid-sized young was seen on *Tiree* on 24 Sep. The dates of last sightings of the year were: 21 Sep on *Islay*, 24 Sep on *Coll* and, 25 Sep on *Tiree*.

**2005.** The first reports of the year were single birds at Totronald *Coll* on 18 Apr and 3 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 22 Apr. On 19 Jul one caught by a cat at Ballygroggan (nr. Machrihanish) *Kintyre* was rescued and released unharmed.

Most birds had left by the end of Sep but late juveniles were seen at Heylipol *Tiree* on 3 and 8 Oct.

**Breeding 2004 and 2005.** The table below summarises the results of surveys of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll in both years. Numbers of calling birds during the 2005 breeding season represent record totals for recent years: the overall total has more than doubled since 2002. This is an indication of another recovery resulting from successful conservation measures. In addition, in 2004, at least five calling birds were reported from the Treshnish Isles, two on Staffa, and two on Easdale Island *Mid-Argyll*. In 2005, three were heard on the Treshnish Isles, one on Lismore *North Argyll*, one on the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* and one on the McCormaig

Islands *Mid-Argyll*. These there were encouraging signs of range extension as well as the increase in overall numbers.

Table 28. *Number of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll areas, 2000-2005.*

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<i>Coll</i>	53	62	74	90	134	159
<i>Tiree</i>	153	143	172	184	260	310
<i>Iona</i>	9	7	12	24	24	29
<i>Mull</i>	1	0	1	0	5	5
<i>Colonsay incl.</i> <i>Oronsay</i>	21	18	25	32	46	53
<i>Islay</i>	8	7	8	10	31	52
Smaller islands*	7	1+	1+	4+	9+	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>614</b>

\* includes records from Treshnish Isles, Staffa, McCormaig Islands etc.

#### **MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc-uisge

0424

##### **Localised resident breeding species.**

**Breeding 2004.** A pair with one chick was seen at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 24 May and 7 pairs were found there during a casual survey. Three pairs were present on Canal Loch *Coll* in Jun, a pair with two fledged young was at Auchnaha (near Otter Ferry) on 19 Jun, and an adult with a recently fledged young was on a pool near Skipness Castle *Kintyre* on 20 Jun.

**2005.** Confirmed breeding was reported by 6 pairs at RSPB Gruinart Floods, 4 pairs on the RSPB Reserve *Coll*, a single chick was raised at Balephuill *Tiree*, and an adult with 6 well grown young was at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 30 May. In *Cowal*, breeding pairs with young were reported at: Auchnaha (Otter Ferry) and Knockdow (near Dunoon), there were breeding reports in *Mid-Argyll* from Dalvore (Moine Mhor), Kilbride (nr. Oban - 2 pairs), Taynish NNR, and an adult with a juv. were at Skipness Castle *Kintyre*.

**2004 and 2005.** Outwith the breeding season birds were also reported on: *Mull*, other sites in *Mid-Argyll*, on Gigha, and Sanda Islands.

#### **COMMON COOT (COOT)** *Fulica atra* Lach-a'-bhlàir

0429

##### **Very scarce and irregular breeder and uncommon winter visitor, mainly to Tiree.**

**Jan-Mar 2004.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 23 Feb, when 11 were at L. Bhasapoll and 2 at L. a' Phuill. The only records elsewhere were at L. Ballygrant *Islay* (max. 4 on 12 Feb) and Danna Island *Mid-Argyll* (one on 2 Jan).

**2005.** The only records were on *Tiree* where numbers at L. Bhasapoll peaked at 6 on 5 Feb.

**Breeding 2004.** A pair was present at L. Bhasapoll *Tiree* from Mar to May and nest building was observed. However although single birds were present in Jul and Aug, no young were seen and it is uncertain if successful breeding took place.

**2005.** There were no records during the breeding season.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** The only records were on *Tiree* where numbers at L. Bhasapoll peaked at only 3, on 2 Dec.

**2005.** Numbers at L. Bhasapoll again reached only 3, on 8 Dec, elsewhere one was reported on *Colonsay* on 20 Sep and a single bird was present at L. Gruinart from Sep to Nov.

**Vagrant. Seven accepted records 1966-1995.**

**2004.** On the afternoon of 3 May one was seen and photographed in flight about 1/2 mile S of Breachacha Castle Coll [A. & P. Brydon]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille-Brighde

**Widespread and common breeding species. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season: numbers often rise during spring and autumn passage.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Other than those in Table 29.1, the only sites with counts of 100 or more were: L. a' Phuill (158 on 4 Mar), L. Gruinart Floods (125 on 20 Jun), and Oronsay (104 on 4 May).

**2005.** Other than those in Table 29.1, the only sites with counts of 100 or more were: 'Stinky Hole' (Campbeltown Loch) (210 on 30 Aug), L. a' Phuill (140 on 5 Mar), Rubha Chraiginis Tìree (130 on 5 Feb), and L Gilp (112+ on 23 Feb).

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, breeding was noted at 46 sites; mostly on small islands in sea-lochs. The outcome at 15 sites was unknown. At 18 sites where mink were removed, successful breeding occurred at 14 sites but was unsuccessful at 4. At 13 sites where there was no mink control, successful breeding occurred at 4 but was unsuccessful at 9. Elsewhere, there were 127 pairs nesting at The Reef Tìree, 41 pairs bred at the RSPB Reserve, Coll, at least 20 breeding pairs were located on the Treshnish Isles and 22 pairs bred or attempted on the Sanda Islands (with poor fledging success). On *Islay*, 15 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 23 pairs at Ardnave and an incomplete survey on *Colonsay* found 41 breeding pairs. Breeding pairs were found at many other sites in *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** At least 17 breeding pairs were located on the Treshnish Isles and 27 pairs bred or attempted on the Sanda Islands (no more than 10 chicks fledged due to avian predators). On *Islay*, 9 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 32 pairs at Ardnave, and 64 breeding pairs were located on *Colonsay*. Breeding pairs were found at many sites in *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Other than those in Table 29.1, sites with 100 or more birds included: Machrihanish SBO (max. 845 flying S on 13 Aug), 'Stinky Hole' (Campbeltown Loch) (580+ on 30 Aug), Otter Ferry (500+ on 25 Sep), L. Gruinart Floods (max. 185 on 20 Jun), Coraig Tìree (170 on 12 Jul) and Hogh Coll (111 on 21 Aug).

**2005.** Other than those in Table 29.2, sites with 100 or more birds included: Otter Ferry (max. 520 on 18 Aug), 'Stinky Hole' (Campbeltown Loch) (400+ on 21 Dec), L Gilp (max. 355 on 30 Aug), Port Ann (L. Fyne) (230+ on 21 Sep) and Coraig Bay Tìree (200 on a cut field on 18 Jul).

Table 29.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatcher at three sea-lochs, 2004.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	209	294	266	126	185	n/r	321	525	163	143	229	254
Indaal	399	427	503	525	490	471	337	400	391	352	440	460
Crinan	41	63	n/r	55	54	4	56	34	51	55	42	41

Table 29.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatcher at three sea-lochs, 2005.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	305	255	258	299	215	316	343	216	274	170	331	164
Indaal	366	405	605	554	467	444	371	398	350	367	415	489
Crinan	75	50	n/r	47	29	63	n/r	49	55	46	46	34

**AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

0456

**Vagrant.** *Four accepted Argyll records: Loch Seil in September 1936, Mull 1977, Kintyre 1986 and Kintyre 2002.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**STONE-CURLEW** *Burhinus oediconemus*

0459

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record concerns one on Gruinart Flats (Islay) on 23rd-24th May 1997.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

0469

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in May 1983.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula* Trilleachan-tràghad

0470

**Widespread and common breeding species. Flocks of birds congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and especially on passage. Tiree is a site of international importance for wintering birds.**

**Jan-May 2004.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 24 May when 180 were counted in Gott Bay and 170 in Salum Bay. Other than those in Table 30.1, the only counts of 50 or more birds were: 114 at Leckgruinart Cottage (L. Gruinart) on 29 Apr, 100 at Bridgend Merse (L. Indaal) on 15 May, and 51 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 15 May.

**2005.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 16 May when 5 were in Gott Bay and Salum Bay. Other than those in Table 30.2, the only counts of 50 or more birds were: 50 or more at Otter Ferry on 3 Jan, 210 at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 29 Apr and 100 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 16 May.

**Breeding 2004.** A survey at The Reef *Tiree* in May found 57 pairs nesting. At least 23 pairs bred or attempted to breed on Sanda Islands, 23 pairs on *Colonsay*, 6 or more on Oronsay, 3 or more on the Treshnish Isles, 3 at RSPB Gruinart Floods, and 7 pairs at Ardnave. Probable breeding was also reported from Iona and Skipness *Kintyre*.

**2005.** At least 24 pairs were found on *Colonsay*, and 15 pairs bred on Sanda Islands with good numbers of young fledged mainly from repeat nesting attempts. Ten breeding pairs were confirmed at Ardnave *Islay*, 3 or 4 pairs on Treshnish Isles and evidence of breeding also came from: St Catherine's, Toward Point and Loch Striven *Cowal*; and Castle Stalker, and Tralee Beach (Benderloch) *North Argyll*.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 8 Nov, when 380 were counted in Gott Bay. The peak count at L. Gruinart was of 445 or more on 12 Aug. Other than those in Table 30.1, counts of 50 or more birds included: 90 flying S at Machrihanish SBO on 29 Jul, 240 at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 24 Aug, 80 at Breachacha *Coll* on 21 Sep, 140 at Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 3 Oct, 54 at Otter Ferry on 29 Nov, and 55 at Ardnave on 7 Dec.

**2005.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 12 Dec, when 224 were counted in Gott Bay and 110 at Balephetrish Bay. The peak count at L. Gruinart was 105 on 14 Nov. Other than those in Table 30.1, counts of 50 or more birds included: 220 at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 22 Aug, ca90 at Tayinloan on 27 Aug, ca80 at Otter Ferry on 5 Sep, 55 at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 12 Sep and 71 at Ballard *Coll* on 11 Oct.

Table 30.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Ringed Plover at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	83	26	14	68	82	n/r	74	445	61	101	92	164
Indaal	27	63	27	100	115	39	30	150	79	70	40	81
<i>Tiree*</i>	220	260	56	270	220	124	47	180	180	240	380	196

Table 30.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Ringed Plover at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	160	43	0	14	4	6	5	69	23	86	105	47
Indaal	42	42	23	96	112	46	32	104	101	67	52	56
<i>Tiree*</i>	190	320	55	320	320	56	40	140	260	260	170	224

\* Highest count during the month at any one site on *Tiree*. These occur most often at Gott Bay or Sorobaidh Bay.

**KILLDEER\*** *Charadrius vociferus*

0474

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Colonsay in January 1984.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mòintich

0482

*Scarce migrant, mostly in late Apr and May. Occasional breeding records in N Argyll.*

**2004.** A breeding plumage female and a male coming out of winter plumage were with European Golden Plovers at The Reef *Tiree* from 16 to 21 Apr and three females and a male were at Port na Luìng Coll on 7 May.

**2005.** Three at Port na Luìng Coll on 9 May were the only birds reported.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis dominica*

0484

*Vagrant. Two previous Argyll records, both juveniles, on Tiree in Oct 2001 and at Ardnave Islay from 21 Sep to 2 Nov 2003.*

The record of an adult on Colonsay on 3rd-5th Oct 1992 was reviewed by BBRC in 2004 and is now considered to have been an indeterminate American or Pacific Golden Plover (British Birds 97:578). The *Tiree* record (above) therefore becomes the first for Argyll.

**2004.** An adult just starting to moult out of summer plumage was with Golden Plovers at Sandaig *Tiree* on 13 Sep and then nearby at Middleton on 14 Sep [J. Bowler *et al.*]. Record accepted by BBRC (British Birds 98:650).

**2005.** A first summer bird was at Loch Beg Mull on 3 and 4 Sep [J. Hardy/B. Raines]. One was present on the airstrip and Oronsay on 25 Sep and nearby on The Strand on 26 Sep [A. Schofield]. Both records accepted by BBRC (British Birds 100:36)

**PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER\*** *Pluvialis fulva*

0484.2

*Vagrant. One previous Argyll record, on Tiree in Oct 2000.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.



**EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER (GOLDEN PLOVER)** *Pluvialis apricaria* Feadag 0485  
**Moderate but probably decreasing numbers breed on moorland in parts of Argyll. Large numbers are present at traditional sites by the coast in winter and also during spring and autumn passage, especially on: Islay, Tiree, and Mull.**

**Jan-May 2004.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 19 Apr when a minimum of 5,150 were in the west of the island. The highest number elsewhere was 500 at RSPB *Coll* on 20 Apr. Other sites with counts of 50 or more included: Ardnave Point *Islay* (476 on 30 Mar), L. Kinnabus *Islay* (400 on 13 Apr), Tallant *Islay* (280 on 24 Apr), L. Indaal (WeBS count 202 on 25 Jan), Garvard *Colonsay* (152 on 10 Apr), RSPB L. Gruinart Floods (WeBS

count 128 on 25 Mar), Lower Glenastle Loch *Islay* (120 on 22 Apr), Oronsay (max. 105 on 17 Apr), The Laggan *Kintyre* (90+ on 28 Apr), and Fidden *Mull* (87 on 23 Apr).

**2005.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked in Apr when a vast flock of 5,650 were at The Reef on 13 Apr and some 6,000 were in the west of the island on 23 Apr. Other sites with counts of 50 or more included: Killinallan *Islay* (300 on 4 Apr), Garvard *Colonsay* (160 on 26 Mar), RSPB L. Gruinart (max. 167 in Mar), and L. Indaal (WeBS count 130 on 12 Feb).

**Breeding 2004.** A pair in potential breeding habitat on Gott Moor *Tiree* in May was the only record.

**2005.** Pairs in potential breeding habitat were seen during late May in *North Argyll* at Meall Tairbh and Creach Bheinn, and in *Mid-Argyll* at Beinn Bhoidheach, and Beinn Bhreach at the head of Glen Fyne.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 19-20 Nov, when 3160 were counted around the island. The highest number elsewhere, was 1,200 during a WeBS count at L. Indaal on 19 Oct. Other sites with counts of 50 or more included: L. Gruinart (570 on 7 Oct), Ardnave Point (247 on 25 Oct), Frenchman's Rocks (156 flying S in 9 hrs on 21 Sep), and Machrihanish SBO (68 flying S on 8 Oct).

**2005.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 26 Sep, when a minimum of 6,740 were counted around the island. The highest number, elsewhere, was 1,050 at Arileod *Coll* on 11 Oct. Other sites with counts of 50 or more included: L. Indaal (highest WeBS count 900 on 14 Nov), Breachacha Beach *Coll* (min. 800 on 6 Aug), L. Gruinart (max. 556 on 25 Sep), Lochan na Nigheadaireachd *Islay* (ca.300 on 27 Oct), Ballard *Coll* (250 on flooded fields 25 Sep), L. Beg *Mull* (100 on 28 Jul), and Saulmore Shore (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* (50 on 26 Nov).

Table 31 *Maximum monthly day-counts of Golden Plover on Tiree in 2004 and 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	1077	1380	3200	5150	1200	75	600	2084	2765	3160	n/r
2005	3000	1700	3500	6000	90	30	590	6740	6320	4900	3740

**NB** Many of these counts are estimates of the total island population on a given day. Counts in Jun were only in single figures.

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* Feadag-ghlas 0486  
**Uncommon passage migrant, mostly on Kintyre and on the islands. Winter visitor in small numbers, mostly on Islay and Tiree.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** The only double figure counts were: 18 at Leckgruinart (L. Gruinart) on 3 Feb and 12 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 22 Feb. Away from *Islay*, 3 were at L. Crinan on 25 Jan, 2 at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 29 Feb and 6 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 6 May. Two possibly very late birds were at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 7 Jun.

**2005.** Up to 3 birds were reported, on *Islay* at: Ardnave, Gartbreck, L. Gruinart, and L. Indaal; on *Tiree* at: Balephetrish Bay, Gott Bay, Hough Bay, Hynish, and Sorobaidh Bay. The only mainland record was of 2 at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 13 Feb.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** The first arrivals were two at L. Indaal on 20 Jul. The only double figure counts were: 19 at Cliad *Coll* on 29 Aug, 12 at Bridgend (L. Indaal) on 8 Nov, and 16 at Leckgruinart (L. Gruinart) on 26 Dec. Apart from 8 at Eileen Nostaig *Islay* on 29 Sep and 6 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 21 Oct, all the remaining records involved 4 birds or less. These were at: Ardnave *Islay*; Gott Bay, Hynish and Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree*; Tayinloan and Machrihanish *Kintyre*; and L. Crinan and Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** The first arrivals were two in breeding plumage at L. Crinan on 15 Aug. The WeBS counts at L. Gruinart found up to 17 from Oct onwards and 41 were there on 16 Dec: a high count for Argyll. No other sites held more than 2 birds.

**NORTHERN LAPWING (LAPWING)** *Vanellus vanellus* Currag 0493

**Localised breeder and widespread wintering species, with numbers highest on Tiree and Islay.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* the only counts of 50 or more birds were at: Tayinloan (50 on 6 Jan), Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* (52 on 21 Feb) and Oronsay (max. 82 on 24 Feb).

**2005.** Larger counts on *Islay*, other than at RSPB Gruinart Floods, included: max. 515 at L. Gruinart in Feb and max. 250 at Ardnave in Feb. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* counts of 50 or more birds included: max. 76 on Oronsay on 11 Jan, max. 160 at L. Crinan on 12 Feb and Tayinloan ca100 on 30 Jan.

**Breeding 2004.** On *Tiree*, the third round survey at The Reef on 1–6 Jun found 277 pairs with many chicks (*cf* 337 pairs on 25–28 Apr). At the *Coll* RSPB reserve, 58 pairs bred and of these 25 monitored pairs fledged 23 young. A total of 235 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods, 86 pairs bred at Ardnave, 22 pairs bred on Oronsay and 26 pairs were found on *Colonsay*.

**2005.** No complete survey was conducted on *Tiree* but 27 pairs were in the wetland compartments at The Reef in May. The breeding wader survey at *Coll* RSPB reserve found 63 pairs, a total of 194 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods, 96 pairs bred at Ardnave, 59 pairs bred on Oronsay and 31 pairs were found on *Colonsay*.

**Jul-Dec. 2004.** At Grainel (L. Gruinart), 235 flew S on 4 Dec. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* the only counts of 50 or more birds were at: RSPB *Coll* (Max. 80 in Oct), Tayinloan (ca60 on 2 Nov) and Oronsay (54 on 22 Dec).

**2005.** On 20 Nov 650 were counted in the L. Gruinart/Ardnave area, 180 were at Bridgend (L. Indaal) on 21 Nov and 120 were at Portnahaven on 23 Nov. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* counts of 50 or more birds included: 1,000 or more at RSPB *Coll* on 11 Aug, 400 in flooded fields at Ballard *Coll* on 10 Oct, 85 on Oronsay on 13 Nov and 60 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) on 19 Nov.

Table 32.1 *Monthly maximum counts of Lapwing at Gruinart Floods Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Gruinart Floods	360	298	199	32	47	n/r
<i>Tiree</i>	190	850	145	60	64	226

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart Floods	68	0	0	275	490	460
<i>Tiree</i>	280	1150	900	380	610	460

Table 32.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Lapwing at Gruinart Floods Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Gruinart Floods	145	231	370	105	54	60
Tiree	2000+	2000+	145	57	64	180

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart Floods	9	0	0	111	367	431
Tiree	300	1270	2740	600	524	2270

NB Counts of breeding pairs at The Reef *Tiree* in Apr/May/June are excluded.

**RED KNOT (KNOT)** *Calidris canutus* Luatharan-gainmhich 0496  
*Uncommon passage migrant, mostly in autumn mainly on Islay and south Kintyre. A few winter and occasional birds summer.*

**Jan-May 2004.** Most winter records were from *Islay*. By far the highest number was 140 during a WeBS count at L. Gruinart on 26 Jan. Other high counts included: 66 at Gartnatra (L. Indaal) on 9 Feb, 29 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 3 Apr, 72 at Bridgend (L. Indaal) on 24 Apr and 65 at Gartnatra on 6 May. The only records elsewhere were of a single at L. a' Phuill on 14 Apr and of 6 there on 27 May.

**2005.** Again the highest number was found during a WeBS count at L. Indaal: 169 on 12 Feb. A total of 98 were at Bridgend on 2 Apr. Elsewhere, up to 3 were seen on *Tiree* and at L. Gilp during Jan and Feb. Unusual numbers appeared on *Tiree* in May including 26 at Balephetrish Bay on 14<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Hough Bay on 15<sup>th</sup> and a total of 61 at three sites on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer records 2004.** A single bird in non-breeding plumage was at L. a' Phuill on 2 Jul and another single, this time in full breeding plumage, was at the same site on 22 Jul.

**2005.** No Jun or early Jul records.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Two on 5 Jul were the first of autumn at Machrihanish SBO. Numbers there increased to 115 on 12 Aug and 120 on 27 Aug but fell to a maximum of just 8 in Sep (on 6<sup>th</sup>). Higher counts on *Islay* included: 161 at L. Gruinart on 12 Aug, 176 at Bridgend Merse (L. Indaal), 95 at Gartmain (L. Indaal) on 8 Sep, 60 at Bridgend on 11 Sep, 40 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 21 Oct, 60 at L. Gruinart on 28 Oct, an impressive 150 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 12 Nov, and 31 during the WeBS count in L. Indaal on 14 Nov. Elsewhere there were several records at L. Crinan from 12 Aug to 3 Oct including a record count (for this site) of 79 on 13 Aug. A flock of 20 in winter plumage at Otter Ferry on 22 Aug was very unusual (records from *Cowal* are almost unknown) and there were records of up to six birds on *Coll* and *Tiree*, at L. Sween and L. Gilp in *Mid-Argyll* and at Reisa an t-Sruith in the Sound of Jura.

**2005.** One on Sanda Island in 12 Jul was surprisingly the first record for the island. Numbers at L. Gruinart increased from 16 on 18 Aug to 34 on 19 Sep, before falling to 13 on 14 Nov and just 3 on 16 Dec. Conversely, numbers at L. Indaal peaked at 34 on 16 Dec. One in breeding plumage was at L. a' Phuill on 16 Jul. Numbers there peaked at 12 on 8 Aug and up to 3 were seen on *Tiree* through to Dec. Five were at L. Eatharna *Coll* on 8 Aug. There were also regular records at L. Crinan from 9 Aug to 1 Nov, including 11 on 14 Aug, 12 on 27 Aug and 9 on 22 Sep. Four were at Otter Ferry on 27 Oct.

**Numbers of Red Knot during 2004 and spring 2005 were unusually high for Argyll and birds appeared in unexpected places. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues.**

**Mainly a passage migrant, most numerous in Tiree, Islay, and south Kintyre. Regular wintering is confined to Tiree, Islay, and Coll. Tiree is a site of national importance for passage/wintering birds. A few non breeders occur on the islands in summer.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 20 May when 300 were at Balephetrish Bay and 200 at Vaul Bay. The highest count at L. Gruinart was 59 on 22 Feb. Monthly maxima at Crossapol Bay *Coll* were: 70 on 27 Mar, 50 on 1 Apr, and 320 on 6 May. Approx. 20 were at the N end of Iona on 6 Jun and up to 4 were seen on Oronsay, *Colonsay*, and *Mull*. Nine late (or perhaps early) migrants were at Traigh Ghrianaid *Tiree* on 17 Jun.

**2005.** The highest numbers on *Tiree* were on 19 May when 450 were at Gott Bay and 130 at Balephetrish Bay. The highest count at a single site was 510 at Gott Bay on 22 Mar. The largest count on *Coll* was 410 at Crossapol Bay on 29 Apr and numbers peaked at 57 at L. Gruinart on 14 Jan. Elsewhere, 47 were at Traigh Baile Aonghais (mouth of L. Gruinart) *Islay* on 27 Mar and 26 were at St Ronan's Bay, Iona on 19 May. Passage on *Tiree* continued until mid Jun with totals of 127 on 1 Jun (incl. 95 at Gott Bay) and 59 (incl. 31 at Traigh Bhaigh) on 13 Jun. The last were 2 at L. a' Phuill on 17 Jun.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** The first returning migrants were 36 at Machrihanish SBO on 7 Jul followed by 130 on 28 Jul, 90 on 9 Sep, and 30 on 4 Oct. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 16 Aug when 356 were in Gott Bay, 170 at Traigh Bhaigh and 88 at Balephetrish Bay. The peak count at Crossapol Bay *Coll* was 220 on 24 Sep with 150 on 1 Oct. Numbers at L. Gruinart peaked at 92 on 21 Oct. The only other sites with records were: the Add Estuary with up to 7 during Aug, and Tayinloan with 8 on 21 Aug.

**2005.** A single at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Jul was the first returning migrant and numbers there increased to 10 on 16 Jul and 120 on 21 Jul. Numbers at Crossapol Bay *Coll* increased from a maximum of 70 in Aug to 280 on 6 Sep. The highest numbers on *Tiree* were on 21 Sep when 420 were at Gott Bay. The peak count at L. Gruinart was 91 on 16 Dec. Smaller numbers (12 or less) were found at: Ardalanish Bay *Mull*, Tayinloan, Oronsay, and The Strand *Colonsay*.

Table 33.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Sanderling at L. Gruinart Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	23	59	0	0	0	n/r	0	82	46	92	54	79
<i>Tiree</i>	n/r	210	150	125	500	131	170	614	220	441	180	260

Table 33.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Sanderling at L. Gruinart Islay in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	57	23	38	5	0	0	0	29	36	40	65	91
<i>Tiree</i>	360	499	510	390	580	127	30	375	420	320	130	340

#### SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER\* *Calidris pusilla*

**Vagrant. The only Argyll record was of four or more birds on Tiree and Islay in Sep 1999**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

#### LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Luatharan-beag

**Scarce but annual passage migrant, with the majority of records in autumn.**

**Spring 2004.** Single birds were at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 5 May and at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 15 May. Four were at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 23 May. An amazing total of 15, among a huge

flock of Dunlin, at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 20 May, included 4 in full breeding plumage. Counts of more than 10 birds have been recorded on only 7 previous occasions in Argyll. Three were on *Tiree* on 27 May (2 at L. a' Phuill and one at Traigh Bhaigh) and one remained at L. a' Phuill on 29 May. Altogether this was a remarkable spring for this species.

**2005.** On *Tiree*: an adult was at L. a' Phuill on 15 May, 2 adults in breeding plumage at Balephetrish Bay on 16 May; and on 1 Jun 2 adults at Gott Bay and 3 on a ploughed field at Heylipol. The only record elsewhere was of one at the RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 2 Jun.

**Autumn 2004.** One at Traigh Doire Dhubhaig (L. na Keal) *Mull* on 27 Jul was the first arrival followed by *Tiree* with: 2 at L. a' Phuill on 28-30 Jul, a juv. at Ruaig on 19 Aug, one at Crossapol on 26 Aug, and a juv. at Sorobaidh Bay on 5 Sep. Records at L. Gruinart included: one on 12 Aug, 4 on 25 Aug, 2 on 26 Aug, and a juv. on 28 Sep. Also on *Islay*, a juv. was at Eilean Nostaig on 1 Sep. Elsewhere, 3 were at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 24 Aug, and one at West Trodighal *Kintyre* on 17 Sep.

**2005.** One was at L. Gruinart on 18 Aug. Elsewhere: there were singles on *Tiree*, at L. an Eilein on 27 Aug and at Gott Bay on 4 and 21 Sep two were at Machrihanish SBO on 22 Sep, a juv. was at Fidden *Mull* on 23 Sep, and a late bird was on a flooded field at Ballard *Coll* on 11 Oct.

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** *Calidris temminckii* 0502

*Rare passage migrant with only four accepted Argyll records: one at Machrihanish, Kintyre in Jul 1974, a juvenile at Fidden, Mull in Sep 1985, one at An Fhaodhail, Tiree in Aug 1992, and one at Loch Gruinart in May 2000.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** *Calidris fuscicollis* 0505

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record was of one at RSPB L. Gruinart in Aug 2000.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** One in winter plumage was seen at Traigh Ghruineart *Islay* in mid-afternoon on 17 Oct [C. Fotheringham/J. How]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:713).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER\*** *Calidris bairdii* 0506

*Vagrant. Only two Argyll records, both on Islay: in Jun 1979 and Sep 1999.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records. (But see records currently in circulation with BBRC, p. 145)

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos* 0507

*Less than annual transatlantic visitor with 16 or more accepted Argyll records during 1980-2003. Rare autumn migrant, with a few spring records.*

**2004.** An adult was seen close to the hide at RSPB L. Gruinart *Islay* on the evening of 29 Apr (only our fourth spring record) [T ap Rheinnalt/C. R. McKay/J. How]. A juvenile was at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* with a small party of Ruffs on 15-16 Sep [J. Bowler].

Both records accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan-crom 0509

*Scarce but annual passage migrant, with most records in autumn.*

**Spring 2004.** Two, one of which was in breeding plumage, were with Dunlin at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 24 May. Two were at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 8 Jun, with one remaining the following day.

**2005.** A single bird in non-breeding plumage was with migrant Dunlin at The Reef *Tiree* on 7 Jun.

**Autumn 2004.** The first returning bird was at Miodar *Tiree* on 28 Jul. Subsequent records on *Tiree* comprised: an adult in breeding plumage at Sorobaidh Bay on 9 Aug, an immature at Ruaig on 19 Aug, an adult at Ruaig on 23 Aug, a juv. at Cornaig Bay on 20 Sep, and a juv. at Vaul Bay on 20 Sep. On *Islay*: one was at the head of L. Indaal on 3 Aug, 3 were at Gartnatra (L. Indaal) on 8 Sep, and 2 juvs. were at L. Gruinart on 10 Sep. Elsewhere: a juv. was at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 29 Aug, 2 juvs. at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 9 Sep, and at Machrihanish SBO 2 were present on 19 Sep and 8 on 23 Sep.

**2005.** None were seen until 4 Sep when single birds were found at Sorobaidh and Crossapol Bays *Tiree* and at Machrihanish SBO followed by: two at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 5 Sep, 5 at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 9 Sep, 2 at RSPB *Coll* and at Loch na Cille on 12 Sep, a juv. at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 21 Sep, and the last, another juv., was at Sandaig *Tiree* on 10 Oct.

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima* Luatharan-rioghail

0510

***Widely but sparsely distributed along rocky coasts from Sep to May. Tiree is a site of national importance for wintering birds. Scarcer on the mainland.***

**Jan-May 2004.** The highest counts were: 18 at L. Indaal on 22 Mar, 17 on Staffa *Mull* on 19 May, 9 on a small islet in the Sound of Jura (Sgeir na Maoile) on 11 May, and 8 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 22 Feb. Elsewhere up to 4 were seen at L. Gruinart, Port Mor *Colonsay*, Toward Point *Cowal*, and on Oronsay.

**2005.** An impressive flock of 102 were counted at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 9 Mar. Elsewhere, double figure counts included: 27 at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 26 Feb, 22 at Machrihanish SBO on 17 Mar, 14 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 26 Mar, 14 at L. Indaal on 11 Mar, 12 at Kirm (Dunoon) on 1 Apr, 10 in Cuan Sound (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr, and 10 at Eilean Mor *Jura* on 27 Feb. The last were 6 at Balephetrish Bay on 10 Jun.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** The only double figure counts were at L. Indaal (max.13 on 12 Dec) and Vaul Bay *Tiree* (12 on 1 Dec), and the highest count on *Coll* was 7 at Arinagour on 28 Oct. Two at the small islet in the Sound of Jura noted above on 3 Sep (also 3 there on 22 Sep) and 4 at Skerryvore Lighthouse (17km SW of *Tiree*) on 10 Sep suggest that small groups of Purple Sandpipers might be found at other such isolated islets. Elsewhere, up to 7 were found at various sites on *Tiree* and at Frenchman's Rocks, Port Charlotte *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO, and West Bay, Dunoon.

**2005.** The first returning bird, at Glunimore Island (Sanda Islands) on 18 Jul, was not only the first record for the island but also the earliest autumn record in recent years. There was then a long gap until the next appeared; a juv. at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 9 Sep. Thereafter the only double figure counts were at L. Indaal (max. 12 on 16 Dec) and Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* (11 on 31 Dec). Elsewhere, up to 6 were seen at various sites on *Tiree*, at L. Gruinart and in the Dunoon area.

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina* Graillig

0512

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

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Large numbers were moving through on 20 May when 1,530 were found at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 1,200 at Vaul Bay *Tiree*. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, the only counts of 50 or more were: 210 at Ardskenish and 220 at Port Lobh, both on *Colonsay* on 15 May.

**2005.** The highest count on *Islay* was 1,088 on 11 Feb, and on *Tiree* numbers peaked on 16 May when 880 were in the Vaul/Ruaig area, 410 at Balephetrish Bay and 80 at Whitehouse. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, the only count of 50 or more was 280 at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 29 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** A minimum of 60 pairs nested at The Reef *Tiree*, 4 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 4 pairs at Ardnave. On *Coll* a pair bred on the RSPB reserve and an estimated 8 pairs bred at the NE lochs SSSI.

**2005.** A total of 41 pairs were found in the wetland compartments of The Reef *Tiree* in late May and fledged young were seen later, at several other sites on the island. Three pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 3 pairs at Ardnave.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** On 29 Jul, at least 1,500 were at Craigens (L. Gruinart) and 390 (the peak Jul count) flew S past Machrihanish SBO, but numbers on *Islay* were even higher on 12 Aug when at least 2,000 were at Craigens (L. Gruinart). Sites with counts of 50 or more, away from *Islay* and *Tiree* included: 161 at Ardnave on 22 Jul, 450 flying S past Machrihanish SBO on 6 Aug, 99 at Loch Crinan on 28 Aug, 100 at RSPB *Coll* on 6 Sep, 98 flying S past Machrihanish SBO on 9 Oct and 70 at Otter Ferry on 7 Nov.

**2005.** Passage on *Tiree* was lighter than usual with a maximum count of 205, at L. a' Phuill on 1 Aug and on *Islay* numbers peaked at 513 at L. Gruinart on 19 Sep. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, the only counts of 50 or more were at: RSPB *Coll* (70 on 1 Aug), Tayinloan (*ca*90 on 27 Aug), Loch Crinan (max.78 on 30 Aug) and Loch na Cille (L. Sween) (115 on 9 Sep).

Table 34.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	779	470	n/r	580	218	n/r	235	2000	763	684	367	655
Indaal	151	203	14	51	650	15	51	420	65	75	157	180
<i>Tiree</i>	190	209	60	70	1200	250	132	324	25	55	305	162

Table 34.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	1039	1088	550	n/r	15	3	19	286	513	473	391	803
Indaal	105	140	31	55	60	12	55	105	45	70	145	178
<i>Tiree</i>	290	170	60	470	1370	70	175	205	68	37	186	205

#### **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER\* *Limicola falcinellus***

0514

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in May 1994.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** A well-marked bird (presumably adult) was watched and photographed at close range with Dunlin at Scarinish Pier *Tiree* on 31 May [J. Burleigh/F. Hamilton/J. Bowler] It was relocated at Gott Bay on 1 Jun. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:41).

#### **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis***

0516

**Rare autumn migrant with only 13 accepted Argyll records, involving 18 birds, since 1971. One was in May, two in Jun and the remainder in Sep.**

**2004.** An adult was present in short grass on the old WW 2 runway at The Reef *Tiree* from 17 Jun to at least 19 Jun [J. Bowler]. A juvenile was seen with a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper & Ruffs at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 & 16 Sep [J. Bowler]. Both records accepted by SBRC.

**2005.** No records.

#### **RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan**

0517

**Uncommon passage migrant, most numerous in autumn.**

**Apr-Jun 2004.** One was at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 4 May and, on *Tiree*; a male was at L. Bhasapoll on 8 May and a female at L. an Eilein on 17 May.

**2005.** Two at RSPB L. Gruinart during Apr were the only spring records.

**Breeding 2004.** Up to 3 males were seen lekking to up to 3 females at more than one site on *Tiree* during late May-Jun. There was no further evidence of breeding.

**2005.** A single male was lekking to a single female at a site on *Tiree* in mid Jun but with no further evidence of breeding.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** The first autumn migrant was a female at Machrihanish SBO on 7-10 Aug. Up to 3 at L. Gruinart and up to 4 a L. a' Phuill were present on various dates in Aug. However the presence, on 13 Aug, of 14 at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* as well as 4 at L. a' Phuill was unusual in an Argyll context. Up to 8 were seen at various locations on *Tiree* until early Oct. Records at L. Gruinart and RSPB Gruinart Floods in Aug and Sep mostly involved single birds but 3 were at Craighens on 12 Aug. The highest numbers were in Oct, when 6 were at RSPB Gruinart Floods from 1-7 Oct, and the last were two there on 14 Oct. The only records elsewhere involved single birds: at Arileod *Coll* on 31 Aug, Loch Crinan on 10 and 12 Aug, and 9 Sep.

**2005.** The first autumn migrant was a female at L. a' Phuill on 25 Jul. Birds were then seen on *Tiree* regularly from 11 Aug to 12 Sep with peaks of 6 at Greenhill on 14 Aug and 12 at L. a' Phuill on 18 Aug. Unusually there were few *Islay* records: all involved singles at L. Gruinart including a late bird on 23 Oct. On the mainland, birds were at Machrihanish SBO regularly from 30 Aug to 22 Sep with a peak of 6 on 4 Sep, one was at Lachlan Bay *Cowal* on 15 Aug, and one was at Loch Crinan on 7 Sep.

**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocryptes minimus* Gobhrag-bheag

0518

*Scarce with most records from Islay, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree. Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Possibly under recorded.*

**2004 Jan-Apr.** Singles at Taynish NNR on 6 Apr and at 2 sites on *Coll* on 19 Apr were the only spring records.

**2005.** On the mainland: one was flushed near the Powder Dams (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 24 Jan, one was on Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar, and one was at Drimvore (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr. *Tiree* had single birds at Barrapol Dunes on 17 Feb, Milton on 22 Mar and Heylipol on 13 Apr. The only record on *Islay* was one at Ardnave during Apr.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** On *Coll*, singles were at Totronald on 18 Sep and 25 Oct, with 2 there on 27 Oct. *Islay* had singles at Grainel on 20 Oct and at L. Gruinart on 25 Nov and 7 Dec. On *Tiree*: one was at L. Riaghain on 16 Oct, 2 were at The Reef on 26 Oct, and singles were found at Balephetrish Hill on 20 Nov and at L/ Ghrianal on 7 Dec. On the mainland, two were flushed at close quarters at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 17 Oct and one was at Moine Mhor on 15 Nov.

**2005.** On *Coll*: one was with many Common Snipe at Gallanach on 6 Oct, 5 were at the RSPB Reserve on 10 Oct, with 2 there on 26 Oct. Single birds were found on *Tiree* on: 21 Oct, 28 Oct, 18 Nov, and at L. Gruinart during Nov.

**COMMON SNIPE (SNIPE)** *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg

0519

*Widespread and locally common breeding species, particularly on outer islands. More numerous on passage and as a winter visitor, mainly on the islands.*

**2004 Jan-Apr.** Up to 5 were reported from various localities in *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*. The largest numbers were on *Islay* (max.25 at L. Gruinart on 25 Mar) and *Tiree* (max. 48 in a single flock at L. an Eilein on 25 Apr).

**2005.** The only count in double figures was 60 at L. Bhasapoll on 19 Mar. Smaller numbers were at: Mid Ardyne *Cowal*; and The Laggan, Sanda Island and Tayinloan *Kintyre*; the Add



Estuary, Moine Mhor, and L. na Cille (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll*; and Craignure and Ban Eileanan Mull.

**Breeding 2004.** A minimum of 134 drumming/chipping males were recorded at The Reef *Tiree* on 1-7 Jun and drumming birds were heard frequently all over the island. On *Islay*, totals of 67 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 17 pairs at Ardnave, while 59 pairs bred at the RSPB Reserve Coll. An incomplete survey on *Colonsay* found 30 drumming birds and 12 drumming/chipping birds were on Treshnish Isles. A territorial pair at Taynish NNR was the first evidence of breeding there since 2000. Drumming birds were also reported from Iona and Ulva Ferry Mull and Dunadd *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** The first drumming bird was heard on *Tiree* on 9 Mar and by early May 62 drumming birds were recorded at The Reef. On *Islay*, 59 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 15 pairs at Ardnave while 87 drumming birds were found during the Breeding Wader Survey at the RSPB Reserve Coll. Drumming birds were also reported from Oronsay, *Colonsay* (12 or more), Treshnish Isles (10 or more) and at several sites in the L Nant area of *Mid-Argyll*. Nests (both with 4 eggs) were found at Balemartine *Tiree* on 18 May and on Iona on 2 Jun.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** A count of 120 at Canal L. Coll on 11 Sep was part of a large influx at this time and at least 220 were in the Balevullin/Middleton area of *Tiree* on 14 Sep. Larger counts on *Tiree* thereafter included: 80 along the shore at Sorobaidh Bay on 1 Oct and 75 in a single flock over The Reef on 20 Oct. Single figure counts elsewhere included a minimum of 8 on Ban Eileanan in the Sound of Mull on 2 Dec and single birds at Loch Crinan and on Sanda Island in Sep.

**2005.** An influx on *Tiree* on 24 Sep produced an estimate of 400 birds in the west of the island and, on *Islay*, 353 were counted at L. Gruinart the following day (25 Sep). A large influx took place on 10 Oct when 1,430 were counted on *Tiree* with an estimated total for the whole island being 2-3,000. On the same day 675 were found at 3 sites on Coll. Apart from: 70 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 30 Oct, 46 at Canal L. Coll on 4 Dec, and 14 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 16 Dec; counts were in single figures including 5 at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) on 13 Nov.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER\*** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

0527

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in June 1986. There are also three acceptable records (1891-1973) of unidentified Dowitchers.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach-coille

0529

**Widespread but probably under recorded breeder. Numbers augmented in winter by visiting birds.**

**Jan-Mar 2004.** Seven were seen along the B840 (L. Awe) between Braevallich and Eredine on 4 Jan and 12 were flushed from roadside vegetation on Coll on 1 Feb. Elsewhere, singles were reported from various sites in *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Colonsay*, and *Islay*.

**2005.** Single birds were seen regularly in a garden at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* during Jan and Feb and at two sites in *Cowal*, *Colonsay*, and *Islay*.

**Breeding 2004.** Roding birds were reported from Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* and on *Colonsay* (at least 7).

**2005.** Roding birds were reported on Mull, at Fishnish, Scarisdale Wood, Kinlochspelve, Glen Aros, and along the S shore of L. Scridain. There were also records from *Colonsay*, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* and Strath of Orchy North *Argyll*.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** A small influx was noted on *Tiree* on 29 Oct when 9 were reported around the island by a shooting party. Six were seen at dusk on 9 Nov along the roadside between Lealt and

Craighouse *Jura*, 12 were found at the W end of *Coll* on 19 Nov, 9 were seen on or beside the road between Otter Ferry and Glendaruel *Cowal* on 30 Nov, and 4 were flushed at dusk at Milbuie *Colonsay* on 27 Dec. There were also records of single birds from at least 9 sites on *Islay*. These records give some indication of the large numbers which can be present in Argyll at this time of year.

**2005.** Fewer records than in 2004 but there were still reports of 5-7 birds on the road between Otter Ferry and Glendaruel *Cowal* in Nov and Dec and 6 were flushed in 300m of road at Drimvore (Moine Mhor) on 7 Dec. Single birds were reported from 3 further sites in *Mid-Argyll* and on *Coll*, *Islay* and *Tiree*.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa* Cearra-ghob

0532

*Increasingly regular passage migrant, especially on Islay, Tiree, and south Kintyre with occasional winter records. Scarce elsewhere.*

**Jan-early Jun 2004.** There were no winter records and the first returning bird was at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 3 Apr. Numbers on *Tiree* and *Islay* increased slowly until mid-Apr; peaking at 75 at L. an Eilein on 18 Apr and 38 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 28 Apr. Peak counts in May were: 47 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 4 May, 48 at L. an Eilein on 5 May, with numbers falling away rapidly after this. One or two were seen on Oronsay and at Loch Crinan in late Apr and 9 flew over Arileod *Coll* on 13 May. One on the shore at Caolas *Tiree* on 16 Jun could have been a very late spring or a very early autumn migrant.

**2005.** The first returning bird on *Tiree* was at L. an Eilein on 31 Mar. A group of 21 at L. Bhasapoll on 18 Apr included a bird that had been colour ringed in SW Iceland in Apr 2002 and spends its winters in western France. A large influx took place the following day (19 Apr) when a record total for *Tiree* of 219 included 69 at L. a' Phuill and a record 51 were counted at the RSPB Reserve *Coll*. Among them, a freshly dead bird found at Balephuill *Tiree* had been ringed in E. Iceland in Apr 2003. There were 3 at Loch Crinan and one on Oronsay on 19 Apr. On *Tiree*, numbers fell to 27 at L. a' Phuill on 9 May and 9 on 28 May with two late birds on 3 Jun. Numbers at L. Gruinart peaked at 27 in Apr and 47 in May. The only records elsewhere were 2 on Oronsay on 4 May and 2 at Fidden *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May.

**Possible breeding 2005.** A pair and 2 large young appeared at the RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 28 Jun. While this could have represented a breeding record for the island they could equally well have flown in from elsewhere.

**Late Jun-Dec 2004.** Three at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 24 Jun were presumably early returning migrants, as were 9 at L. an Eilein and 2 at The Strand *Colonsay* (both on 30 Jun). Peak counts in Jul were 35 at L. Riaghain *Tiree* on 19 Jul and 65 flying up L. Gruinart on 28 Jul. Numbers in Aug reached a peak on 16 Aug when a total of 169 were found at L. Riaghain and L. an Eilein with 64 at L. Gruinart. The only double figure counts in Sep were: 12 at Leckgruinart (L. Gruinart) on 5 Sep, 25 at Cornaig bay *Tiree* on 10 Sep, and 12 at L. a' Phuill on 23 Sep. Machrihanish SBO had single birds on several dates in Aug with 12 flying S on 10 Aug. There were 11 at Loch Crinan on 12 Aug and 19 on 16 Aug. Single birds were at Port na Luing *Coll* on 2 Aug and at Tayinloan on 9 Sep. The only winter record was a single bird at RSPB Gruinart Floods until 25 Nov.

**2005.** The first returning bird was at L. a' Phuill on 30 Jun and a surprisingly early influx on *Tiree* on 2 Jul (during a southerly gale), produced an overall total of 138. There were still 45 at L. a' Phuill on the following day but then only single figure counts until 44 arrived on 1 Sep. On 12 Sep, 35 (all juvs.) were at Scarinish *Tiree* but then only small numbers until 18 were counted on 4 Oct with 16 on 11 Oct being the last of the year. Monthly maxima at L. Gruinart were 28 in Aug and 35 in Sep. At Machrihanish SBO, 55 flying S in two flocks on 24 Aug was an unusually high total. There was also a good series of records at Loch Crinan/Add Estuary with:

one on 18 Aug, one on 1 Sep, 4 on 7 Sep, 20 (all juvs.) on 9 Sep, 10 on 12 Sep, 6 on 22 Sep, and 2 on 1 Oct. Elsewhere, up to 3 birds were recorded at Lochdon *Mull*, Oronsay, Canal L. *Coll*, Tayinloan and Loch na Cille (L. Sween) during Aug.

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica* Roid-ghuilbneach

0534

**Recorded throughout the year especially at passage times. Most frequent and numerous on the islands with smaller numbers on the mainland. Wintering and summering immature birds most numerous on Islay.**

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Apart from *Islay* sites in the table below, the only sites with 10 or more birds were on *Tiree* at Gott Bay (monthly maxima: 22 in Jan, 25 in Feb, 17 in Mar, and 17 in Apr) and Sorobaiddh Bay (22 on 18 Feb).

**2005.** A flock of 110 was seen over the sea off Ardnave Point on 15 Feb. Apart from *Islay* sites in the table below, the only sites with 10 or more birds were: Gott Bay (monthly maxima: 44 on 24 Jan, 23 on 16 Feb, 20 on 20 Mar, and 17 on 1 Apr), Balephetrish Bay (max. 14 on 1 Mar), L. an Eilein (max. 12 on 6 May) and L. Gilp (max. 14 on 14 Feb). On 7 Jun 10 birds in non breeding plumage (5 at The Reef and 5 at L. an Eilein) were on *Tiree*.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Apart from the two *Islay* lochs in the table below, the only sites with 10 or more birds were: Otter Ferry (20 in breeding plumage on 18 Aug), Frenchman's Rocks (10 flying S on 29 Aug), Sorobaiddh Bay (17 on 28 Oct) and Gott Bay (monthly maxima: 22 in Sep, 18 in Oct, 22 in Nov and 26 in Dec).

**2005.** Apart from the two *Islay* lochs in the table below, the only sites with 10 or more birds were: L. Don *Mull* (10 on 26 Aug) and L. Gilp (max.13 on 9 Dec).

**2004/2005.** Smaller numbers were found at: Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Crinan, Loch na Cille (L. Sween), Otter Ferry, Tayinloan, and on: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, Gigha, and Oronsay.

Table 35.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2004.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	242	280	128	0	23	19	17	27	68	121	180	195
Indaal	49	159	40	114	28	72	88	140	100	25	36	59

Table 35.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2005.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	44	133	101	0	2	37	1	2	89	123	165	262
Indaal	40	57	40	95	20	19	17	12	15	20	57	57

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus* Eun-Bealltainn

0538

**Regular passage migrant in small numbers, mainly to the islands, from late Apr to May and late Jul to Oct. Summer records not infrequent.**

**Mar-May 2004.** The first arrivals were on 15 Apr when birds were seen at RSPB Reserve *Coll* and at Lochdon *Mid-Argyll*. Nine were at Balevullin *Tiree* on 24 Apr with 6 at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 6 at Machrihanish SBO on 26 Apr. Thereafter counts in double figures included: 25 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 27 Apr, 10 at Tayinloan on 27 Apr, 11 at L. Gruinart on 29 Apr, 30 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 4 May, 33 at Heylipol on 5 May, 25 at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 8 May, and 40 at Machrihanish SBO on 15 May. Nine were seen flying over the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* on 14 May and smaller numbers were reported from other sites on *Islay*, *Tiree*, Oronsay, and *Colonsay*.

**2005.** Four very early birds were at Tayinloan on 26 Mar, followed by one on 3 Apr. The first arrival at Machrihanish SBO was one on 14 Apr, singles on Oronsay on 18 Apr and at L. an

Eilein on 21 Apr, and 5 on Sanda Island on 29 Apr. By 23 Apr a total of 16 were at various sites on *Tiree*. Thereafter counts in double figures included: 10 at Machrihanish SBO on 25 Apr, 32 at Tayinloan. 37 at nearby L. an Luing *Kintyre* also on 25 Apr, 26 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 29 Apr, 42 at Heylipol on 3 May, 64 at Tayinloan on 7 May, 32 Heylipol on 8 May, 18 at 3 sites on *Tiree* on 15 May, a maximum count of 15 during May at L. Gruinart, and seven were at Machrins *Colonsay* on 20 May.

**June. 2004.** Up to 4 were at various sites until 16 Jun and what were presumably early returning birds were at the Reef *Tiree*, Machrihanish SBO and on Oronsay from 25 to 29 Jun.

**2005.** Single birds were seen at L. Gruinart during the month, two were at Tayinloan on 4 Jun and 2 were on Oronsay on 14 Jun. Three calling birds flying over Treshnish Isles on 24 Jun were unusual visitors to the islands.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** The only double figure counts in autumn were: 10 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 10 Aug, 10 at Machrihanish SBO on 12 Aug, 18 at Frenchman's Rocks on 29 Aug, and 18 at Machrihanish SBO on 30 Aug. Smaller numbers were on: *Coll*, *Islay*, Sanda Islands, and *Tiree* until late Sep. A very late bird was at Crossapol Farm *Tiree* on 20 Oct.

**2005.** In Jul, single birds were seen on: *Tiree*, *Colonsay*, Oronsay, Sanda Islands, and 8 were at Loch Beg *Mull* on 28 Jul. A total of 12 were recorded on *Coll* during Aug and 6 were at Lochdon *Mull* on 3 Aug. Apart from those above, up to 4 were seen on *Colonsay*, Iona, *Islay*, *Mull*, Oronsay, and *Tiree* with the last of the year at L. Gruinart on 23 Oct.

#### EURASIAN CURLEW (CURLEW) *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach

0541

***Widespread breeding species in suitable habitat. More numerous on passage and in winter.***

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Other than those in Table 36.1 the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Tayinloan (*ca*100 on 6 Jan), Port na Luing *Coll* (81 on 16 Jan), Uig *Coll* (90 on 20 Jan), West Hynish *Tiree* (115 on 31 Jan), Sorobaidh dunes *Tiree* (70 on 28 Feb), RSPB Reserve *Coll* (165 on 13 Mar) and, Sandaig *Tiree* (55 on 30 Mar).

**2005.** Other than those in Table 36.2 the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Otter Ferry (50+ on 3 Jan), Tayinloan (81 on 16 Jan and 64 on 8 May), L. a' Phuill (max. 77 on 17 Jan), Gott Bay (37 also on 17 Jan), and Sandaig *Tiree* (140 on 23 Jan).

**Breeding 2004.** On *Islay*, 21 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 4 pairs at Ardnave. A nest with 4 eggs was found at Grainel *Islay* on 11 May. A pair bred in the NE Lochs SSSI *Coll*.

**2005.** On *Islay*, 19 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 2 pairs at Ardnave. One was displaying at Moine Mhor on 11 May but there was no further evidence of breeding.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Other than those in Table 36.1 the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Cornaig *Tiree* (75 on a cut silage field on 12 Jul), Sanda Islands (66 on 28 Jul, 110 on 12 Aug and 100 on 20 Sep), L. a' Phuill (max. 75 on 17 Sep), Clachan Mor *Tiree* (80 on 20 Sep), Otter Ferry (50 on 25 Sep), Port na Luing *Coll* (180 on 1 Oct), and Holy Loch *Cowal* (80+ on 13 Dec).

**2005.** Other than those in Table 36.2 the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: RSPB Reserve *Coll* (estimated 1,000 passing through during Aug), Aird *Tiree* (75 on 24 Aug and 90 on 23 Sep), Tayinloan (60 on 19 Sep), L. a' Phuill (max. 120 on 10 Oct), Otter Ferry (53 on 14 Nov), and 'Stinky Hole' (Campbeltown Loch) (73 on 21 Dec).

Table 36.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2004.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	91	353	137	21	6	209	335	312	328	113	331	344
Indaal	198	232	151	59	49	40	195	395	487	390	400	460

Table 36.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2005..*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	148	101	93	33	15	16	119	133	288	176	81	83
Indaal	202	297	150	82	55	23	200	390	510	404	390	450

**SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus* Gearradh-breac

0545

*Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn.*

**2004.** Two records of birds heard calling in flight (but not seen): one at Breachacha *Coll* on 4 Jul and one at Rubha Mor Kames *Cowal* on 13 Sep.

**2005.** No records.

**COMMON REDSHANK (REDSHANK)** *Tringa totanus* Cam-ghlas

0546

*Localised breeder, mainly on the islands. Widespread passage migrant and wintering species.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Other than those in Table 37.1 the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: L. Gilp (max.80+ on 14 Apr), Holy Loch (80+ on 15 Apr), and Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* (20 on 16 Apr).

**2005.** Other than those in Table 37.2 the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: L. Gilp (28 on 23 Feb), Otter Ferry (50 on 11 Mar and 35 on 9 Apr), and the head of L. Long *Cowal* (20 on 13 Apr).

**Breeding 2004.** A survey at The Reef *Tiree* found 37 nesting pairs on 10-12 May. A total of 53 pairs were there in early Jun, but these may have included broods hatched elsewhere. On *Islay*, 131 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 26 pairs at Ardnave. A total of 56 pairs bred on the RSPB Reserve *Coll*, 9 pairs with broods were alarming on Oronsay in Jun, 5 pairs were located on *Colonsay*, and a pair with 3 juvs. was at Dervaig *Mull* on 29 May.

**2005.** A survey at The Reef *Tiree* found 23 pairs in the wetland compartments on 3 May and a Breeding Wader Survey at RSPB Reserve *Coll* found 61 pairs. On *Islay*, 110 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 21 pairs at Ardnave. Eleven pairs were found on *Colonsay* and 14 pairs bred on Oronsay.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Other than those in Table 37.1 the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: Machrihanish SBO (peak counts: 120 on 29 Jul and 140 on 14 Aug), Otter Ferry (*ca*50 on 10 Aug, 60 on 21 Aug, 65 on 25 Sep, 50 on 12 Oct, and 40 on 15 Oct), Tayinloan (21 on 16 Aug and 21 on 5 Sep), L. Sween (WeBS count 28 on 22 Aug), Frenchman's Rocks (134 flying S in 5.5hrs on 27 Aug), and L. Gilp (85+ on 10 Nov and 32 on 15 Dec).

**2005.** Other than those in Table 37.2 the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: *Mull* (20 at Salen and 25 at Loch na Keal on 4 Aug), Otter Ferry (30 on 18 Aug and 40+ on 18 Oct) and L. Sween (WeBS count 22 on 22 Aug).

Table 37.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Redshank at two sea-lochs on Islay, Loch Crinan (Mid-Argyll), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	59	88	111	16	12	n/r	55	415	60	49	88	133
Indaal	20	17	15	12	12	8	16	15	15	19	18	12
Crinan	31	8	n/r	2	2	0	2	76	7	12	23	31
<i>Tiree</i>	16	25	15	45	72	25	38	190	24	25	n/r	n/r

Table 37.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Redshank at two sea-lochs on Islay, Loch Crinan (Mid-Argyll), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	75	118	147	131	20	4	19	0	53	135	117	164
Indaal	16	16	18	9	12	8	17	14	14	14	10	12
Crinan	8	3	n/r	39	0	10	61	22	30	24	30	18
<i>Tiree</i>	58	17	65	22	57	26	90	15	16	60	35	27

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia* Deoch-bhuidhe

0548

*Very scarce breeding species (only in Mull and N Argyll in recent years). Widespread migrant, more numerous in autumn than spring. Regular winter records in some localities.*

**Jan-May 2004.** The only winter (Jan-early Mar) records were from: L. Feochan (one on 21 Feb), Linne Mhuirich (L. Sween) (one on 29 Feb), and Lochdon Mull (3 on 10 Mar). Apart from 2 at The Strand Colonsay on 10 Apr, all spring records involved single birds; at Loch Crinan and Dunstaffnage Mid-Argyll, and on Coll, Islay, Mull and Tiree.

**2005.** All the winter records (Jan-early Mar) concerned single birds, which were at: Seil Sound Mid-Argyll on 16 Jan, L. Indaal (16 Jan and 12 Feb), Balvicar Bay Mid-Argyll (18 Jan and 16 Mar), and L. Caithlim (Seil Island) Mid-Argyll on 4 Feb. No more than 2 were reported at any one site in spring when locations included: L. Gruinart, Loch Crinan, L. Indaal, Oronsay, and Tiree.

**Breeding 2004.** One was seen at a traditional breeding site in North Argyll on 19 Jun, but birds, at Traigh nam Barc Colonsay on 13 Jun and L. a' Phuill on 30 Jun, were presumably migrants.

**2005.** Birds were at L. a' Phuill on several dates in Jun but breeding was not suspected. Similarly: 2 on Oronsay on 17 Jun, one on Scarba Mid-Argyll on 19 Jun, and 2 at Loch Crinan on 29 Jun would all have been migrants.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Single birds were widely reported from 1 Jul until late Oct. Exceptional numbers appeared on Tiree on 13 Aug when 14 were at L. an Eilein, 7 at An Fhaodhail, and 7 at L. a' Phuill. Other higher counts included: 6 at The Strand Colonsay on 14 Jul, 7 at L. a' Phuill on 27 Jul and 1 Aug, 4 at Arinagour Coll on 1 Aug, 8 at Bridgend Merse (L. Indaal) on 2 Aug, 6 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 5 Aug, 4 at Loch Crinan on 12 Aug, and 4 at Bridgend Merse on 4 Sep. The only sightings after the end of Oct were single birds at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 4 Nov and 28 Dec.

**2005.** Three were at Loch Crinan on 10 Jul and 3 at L. a' Phuill on 16 Jul. Thereafter there were the usual widespread reports of single birds until the end of Oct. Higher counts included: 4 at Loch Crinan (22 Jul and 30 Jul), 11 at L. Beg Mull (28 Jul), 9 at Loch na Keal (31 Jul), 7 at L. Gruinart (1 Aug), 13 at L. a' Phuill (11 Aug), 9 at L. Beg (27 Aug), and 10 (25 Sep), with 12 (6 Oct) at the Strand Colonsay. During Nov and Dec, single birds were present at: L. Gruinart, L. Indaal, Caol Scotnish (L. Sween), L. Etive, and L. Creran North Argyll. One at Traigh Bhaigh on 2 Dec was an unusual winter record for Tiree.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS\*** *Tringa melanoleuca*

0550

*Vagrant. Two accepted Argyll records both on Islay: in October 1985, and May 2002.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS\*** *Tringa flavipes*

0551

*Vagrant. Three accepted Argyll records: at Loch Creran (N Argyll) in 1951, at Ulva Lagoons (Mid-Argyll) in Oct 2000 and at L. Gruinart in May 2003.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** A first winter bird was at L. Gruinart on 13 – 25 Sep [C. R. McKay, A. Schofield] and what was considered to be the same individual was at The Strand *Colonsay* on 25 Sep [A. Schofield *et al.*]. Both records accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:43).

**GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan-uaine 0553

*Scarce, but almost annual, passage migrant. Majority of records in autumn; seldom in spring.*

**2004.** No spring records, but there were an unprecedented series of records from late Jul to early Sep. Two were at L. a' Phuill on 28 Jul followed at L. Gruinart by: a single on 30 Jul, 3 on 1 Aug, 2 on 3 Aug, and singles on 2 and 6 Aug. On *Tiree*, single birds were seen daily at various sites from 9 to 11 Aug, with 2 on 12 and 13 Aug. Singles were at: L. Arish *Islay* on 14 Aug, Cornaigbeg *Coll* on 17 Aug, Vaul *Tiree* on 23 Aug, and L. Gruinart on 25 Aug and 4 Sep. Three were also seen at Bridgend Merse (L. Indaal) on 4 Sep.

**2005.** Surprisingly, there were three spring records at: Fasachd *Coll* on 22 Apr, Totronald *Coll* on 3 May and Hynish *Tiree* on 17 May; with only one in autumn at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Oct.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola* Luatharan-coille 0554

*Scarce passage migrant. Recorded in 16 of the 24 years 1980-2003, with the majority of records in spring.*

**2004.** In spring, one was at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 26 Apr, and one at L. Dubh (west of Vaul) *Tiree* on 9 May. On 31 Jul, one was at Bleachfield (The Laggan) *Kintyre* and one was at Loch Crinan on 12 Aug.

**2005.** One was at Totronald *Coll* on 28 Apr and one at the RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 2 Sep.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan 0556

*Widespread and common breeding summer visitor. Spring and autumn passage migrant in small numbers. Occasional mid-winter records.*

**Apr-May 2004.** Early arrivals were at Taynish NNR on 16 Apr and Tayinloan on 18 Apr. The main arrival took place from 20 – 27 Apr although none were recorded on *Tiree* until 7 May. By early Jun there had been records from every recording area.

**2005.** Very early birds were at Kames *Cowal* on 25 Mar and at Auchnasaul (near Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar and two were at Linne Mhuirich (L. Sween) on 11 Apr. The main arrival, with records from most recording areas, took place from 18 – 25 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** Many nests with eggs were found along the W shore of L. Striven *Cowal* on 22 May. Records of probable breeding (territorial pairs etc.) included: 22 pairs on *Colonsay*, at least one on Oronsay, 5 at RSPB Reserve *Coll*, min. 5 in the Otter Ferry area, and pairs on Iona, *Tiree*, two of the Treshnish Isles; and also at several sites in *Mid-Argyll*, *Islay*, and *Mull*.

**2005.** Records of probable breeding included: 31 pairs on *Colonsay* and at least one on Oronsay, at least 10 pairs between Toward Point and Port Lamont *Cowal* on 5 Jun, 2 pairs at Ardnave *Islay*, alarming pairs on Sgeir an Fheoir and Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 3 territories at Taynish NNR and 3 pairs between Blairmore and Ardentinn *Cowal*. A pair with a brood of small young was seen at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun; at Otter Ferry on 16 Jul four pairs with 2 or 3 young were noted, and pairs were reported from several other sites in *Mid-Argyll* and on *Mull*.

**Jul-Sep 2004.** Migrants included 10 at Arinagour *Col* on 10 Aug, 6 juveniles at Otter Ferry on 15 Aug and one on Sanda Island on 24 Aug. The only record after this was one at the head of L. Long *Cowal* on 7 Nov, which was either a very late migrant or a wintering bird.

**2005.** Ten near the bird hide on the Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jul were probably early migrants, as were: 6 at Blairmore *Cowal* on 30 Jul, 4 on Sanda Islands on 31 Jul, 2 at Loch na Keal on 4 Aug, and one at Tayinloan on 10 Aug. Two late birds were at Scarinish *Tiree* on 10 Sep.

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

0557

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record is of one at Loch Indaal (Islay) on 5th Jun 1984.***2004.** No records.**2005.** No records.**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres* Trilleachan-beag

0561

**Common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly from mid Jul to early Jun. Mid summer records not unusual. Tiree is a site of international importance for wintering birds.****Jan-Jun 2004.** Other than those in table 38.1, the only counts of 40 or more were: *ca*50 flying N at Tayinloan on 6 Jan, 45 at Toward Sailing Club *Cowal* on 30 Mar, and 60 at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 6 May.**2005.** The highest count was on *Tiree* on 10 Mar when: 60 were at The Reef, 95 at Balephetrish Bay and 40 at Sorobaidh Bay. Other than those in table 38.2, the highest count was 34 in Oban Harbour on 25 Mar.**Summering birds 2004.** A flock of 16 was at Skipness Bay on 20 Jun (some in almost full breeding plumage) and on *Tiree* there were 3 were at Miodar and at Caolas on 16 Jun. A single first summer bird on Sgeir an Eirionnaich on 25 Jun was an unusual summer visitor for the Treshnish Isles.**2005.** Birds were present on *Tiree* including: *ca*20 on the island on 3 Jun, then 10 at Hough bay on 9 Jun, and 6 at Mannal on 22 Jun.**Jul-Dec 2004.** Three early migrants flew S at Machrihanish SBO on 7 Jul and the first returning birds appeared at L. Indaal and Otter Ferry on 20 Jul. Other than those in table 38.2, the only counts of 40 or more were at: Machrihanish SBO (max. monthly counts: 85 on 29 Jul, 65 on 12 Aug and 60 on 13 Sep), Ardnave Point *Islay* (93 on 30 Aug), and Totronald *Coll* (140 on 17 Sep).**2005.** The highest count was on *Tiree* on 2 Dec, when 140 were at Balephetrish Bay and 85 at Traigh Bhaigh. Other than those in table 38.2, the only counts of 40 or more were at: Ardnave (max. 57 during Aug), L. Don *Mull* (44 on 4 Sep) and Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* (79 on 27 Sep).Table 38.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstone at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree and at Otter Ferry in 2004.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	44	11	30	0	0	n/r	0	28	43	110	31	96
Indaal	62	59	49	22	3	0	3	10	10	24	53	66
Otter F.	100	n/r	29	44	9	0	17	50	65	118	34	123
<i>Tiree</i>	25	105	180	130	50	6	9	105	67	180	45	32

Table 38.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstone at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree at Otter Ferry in 2005.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	55	30	36	33	0	0	0	18	9	61	88	107
Indaal	55	48	34	33	2	0	1	3	11	14	38	45
Otter F.	50	96	30	79	0	0	2	41	60	113	132	40
<i>Tiree</i>	105	130	195	125	40	6	3	15	60	90	52	225

**NB** Otter Ferry counts include the shore from the Otter Ferry spit to Largiemore fish farm.



**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan-allt

0564

***Very rare and irregular passage migrant and former very rare breeding species.*****2004.** A male passage migrant in partial summer plumage occurred on *Tiree* on 17 May [J. Bowler].**2005.** A juvenile/first winter bird at Bruichladdich on 20 Oct was only the second record for *Islay* [M. A. Ogilvie *et al.*]. Record accepted by ABRC.**GREY PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus fulicarius* Liathag-allt

0565

***Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales. Rare in winter and none in Apr-May.*****2004.** An exceptional autumn for this species in Argyll began on 39 Aug when 1 flew S past Machrihanish SBO. A full account of the further 44 birds reported is given in the table below:Table 39. *Grey Phalaropes in Argyll in autumn 2004.*

Date	Location	No.	comments
30 Aug	Machrihanish SBO	1	adult - first of 12 records
12 Sep	Balevullin <i>Tiree</i>	1	flying W in westerly gale a.m.
	Frenchman's Rocks <i>Islay</i>	1	flying S a.m.
	Arinagour <i>Coll</i>	2	flying past p.m.
14 Sep	Balevullin <i>Tiree</i>	2	feeding in bay during strong NW winds
	Ardnave Point <i>Islay</i>	2	flying W
15 Sep	Ardnave Point <i>Islay</i>	3	flying W
18 Sep	Machrihanish SBO	5	during the day
20 Sep	Frenchman's Rocks	3	flying S
21 Sep	Frenchman's Rocks	3	flying S
	Machrihanish SBO	3	flying S
23 Sep	Ardnave Point <i>Islay</i>	1	flying W
24 Sep	at sea N of <i>Coll</i>	1	from Oban-Barra ferry
25 Sep	Machrihanish SBO	1	early p.m.
1 Oct	Hynish <i>Tiree</i>	1	feeding just off pier
2 Oct	Hynish <i>Tiree</i>	1	flying W
6 Oct	Aird <i>Tiree</i>	6	flying W
7 Oct	Aird <i>Tiree</i>	1	
8 Oct	Gott Bay <i>Tiree</i>	3	feeding at mouth of bay
	Gunna Sound <i>Coll /Tiree</i>	1	feeding on sea
21 Oct	Machrihanish SBO	1	a.m. wind WSW 6-7
10 Nov	Aird <i>Tiree</i>	1	a.m. wind NNW 6-7

Unusual numbers of Grey Phalarope were also recorded at other NW coastal sites during this period, including 36 at Ramore Head, Co. Antrim between 14 Sep and 28 Nov 2004 ([2006] *Northern Ireland Bird Report Vol. XVI* Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association).

**2005.** Early birds were seen from the ferry off *Coll* on 22 Aug and at Hynish on 24 Aug. These were followed by: 2 at L. Gruinart during Sep, 1 at Machrihanish SBO on 13 Sep, one at Arinagour *Coll* on 24 Sep, 2 at Hynish *Tiree* on 28 Sep, 4 at Aird *Tiree* on 28 Sep, one at Aird on 29 Sep, 4 at Aird on 1 Oct, 1 at Arinagour on 7 Oct and, a storm blown bird at L. a' Phuill on 27 Oct.

**POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus* Fasgadair-donn

0566

**Scarce but annual passage migrant. Majority seen in autumn.**

**2004.** A total of 60 birds reported. The first was on 13 Mar at *Coll*. One was seen at the end of Apr and 33 during May. Apart from one at Machrihanish SBO these were all close to *Islay*, *Jura* and *Coll*. The first autumn bird passed Machrihanish SBO on 27 Aug. There were 20 in Sep and 4 in Oct, with most of these autumn records from *Coll*, *Tiree* and *Islay*. Many of the autumn birds, especially those seen late in the season, were described as being in juvenile or immature plumage.

**2005.** Only 21 birds reported. Two flew past *Tiree* on 18 May, one was at *Colonsay* on 22 Jun, one passed Machrihanish SOB on 26 Jul, an adult and two juveniles were seen from *Tiree* on 24 Aug, one was seen at *Coll* on 30 Aug, 8 (mostly juveniles or immatures) were seen during Sep, mostly from *Coll* or *Tiree* but with one on Oronsay *Colonsay*, and 5 were seen on 1 Oct (3 *Tiree*, 2 *Coll*) these being the last of the year.

**ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair

0567

**The commonest skua in Argyll, regularly seen in summer in small numbers near large seabird colonies. Small breeding colonies on Jura and Coll. Passage birds regular and widespread in spring and especially autumn.**

**Apr-Jun 2004.** The earliest birds were seen on 7 Apr (*Coll*) and 10 Apr (Machrihanish SBO). Records were almost daily throughout May, mostly of single birds. There were only a few records in Jun except from the Treshnish Isles where a few (up to 8) birds were resident throughout the month.

**2005.** The earliest record was on 1 Apr (*Islay*), and the next was another single bird on 26 Apr (*Tiree*). Only five single birds were reported during May, all from *Coll* or *Tiree*. Records were more numerous through Jun, mostly from *Mull*, *Tiree* and *Coll*. A dead dark phase adult was found on *Tiree* on 5 Jun.

**Breeding 2004.** On *Coll* 12 pairs attempted to breed but raised only two fledglings. There was no data from *Jura*. Given the very small and declining breeding numbers of this species in Argyll, and apparently low breeding success, it is unfortunate that so little attention is given to these breeding colonies. They are the southernmost of this predominantly Arctic species.

**2005.** No data from either the *Coll* or *Jura* colonies. Up to four birds, mostly dark phase, were seen daily throughout Jun from Lunga (Treshnish Isles) but there was no evidence of breeding there.

**Jul-Nov 2004.** Numbers of passage birds increased from July to August, and were particularly evident in September, with few in October (the last sighting being on 14 Oct). Most autumn records came from *Islay*, *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO.

**2005.** Autumn records were fairly evenly distributed among July, August and September. As usual, most came from *Islay*, *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO, but there was a dark phase bird in L. Crinan on 5 and 11 Aug (possibly the same bird on both dates). Nine birds were reported on dates in October, and the last record was of a dark phase bird near *Tiree* on the unusually late date of 12 Nov.

**LONG-TAILED SKUA** *Stercorarius longicaudus* Fasgadair-stiùireach

0568

**Scarce and irregular passage migrant, with accepted records in about 50% of years. Records both from spring and autumn, off western coasts and islands.**

**2004.** Usually good numbers of this species are seen, both in spring and autumn. On 15 May, 4 passed *Coll* during a 5-hour seawatch with another 4 in 5 hours on 16 May and 11 in 4 hours on 18 May. The first autumn record was of a juvenile on 27 Aug at Machrihanish SBO. Three

juveniles were seen at *Tiree* on 6 Oct, and two were also reported on the same date, one from Machrihanish SBO, and another from Frenchman's Rocks.

**2005.** Only one was seen; an adult at L. Gruinart on 21 July. All records accepted by ABRC.

**GREAT SKUA (BONXIE)** *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair-mòr 0569  
**Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor. Breeds in very small numbers on Treshnish Isles and Coll, the southernmost regular breeding sites of this species.**

**Mar-Jun 2004.** The first birds of spring were on 13 Mar (two at Arinagour *Coll*) and 16 Mar (one at Gunna Sound *Tiree*).

**2005.** First birds were on 13 Apr (Crossapol *Coll*). After that they were seen mostly off *Coll*, *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree* in small numbers; often chasing Kittiwakes or larger gulls.

Breeding 2004. On *Coll* 11 AOTs were found: 9 on Carnan Dubha (although there was no proof of breeding there), near Hyne one pair fledged one chick, and in NE Lochs SSSI one pair bred but reared no young. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 3 adults were present throughout June, and may have bred as a trio or as a pair, but no chicks were seen. On Fladda (Treshnish Isles) two pairs held territory but breeding was not proved. One bird apparently summered close to Machrihanish SBO. One pair held territory, but did not breed successfully, at a confidential location on *Tiree*.

**2005.** On Fladda (Treshnish Isles) three pairs held territory and one reared a chick. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) one pair held a territory. An adult was caught in a fleyg net on Lunga by TIARG and ringed.

**Jul-Oct 2004.** Seen most days in Aug and Sep, in ones or twos, mainly from *Islay*, and less so from *Colonsay*, *Mull*, *Tiree* or Machrihanish SBO. The last birds of the autumn were seen on 6 and 7 Oct, off *Coll*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* in small numbers, again often chasing Kittiwakes or larger gulls.

**2005.** An unusually high count of 60 birds (in just over 3 hrs) passed Aird *Tiree* on 1 Oct. The last birds of autumn were seen on the 9 and 13 Oct.

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus* 0575  
**Vagrant. Only eight records since 1980, from all times of year, but mostly in autumn.**

**2004.** Numbers of records of this species seem to be increasing. A first summer bird was seen on *Tiree* on 1 and 14 Jul [G. Pullan/J. Bowler]. A juvenile was seen at Machrihanish SBO on 31 Aug, and subsequently in first winter plumage on 16 dates from 10 Sept to 5 Oct [E. J. Maguire]. (All records accepted by ABRC).

**2005.** A 2nd winter bird was seen on 19 Feb at Bagh Sean-ghairt (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* [J. Dickson]. An adult was seen on 14 Nov at the head of L. Gilp [J. Dickson]. (Both records accepted by ABRC).

**LAUGHING GULL \*** *Larus atricilla* 0576  
**Vagrant. Only three records: from Islay in 1974, Coll in Nov 1998, and Islay in Apr 1999.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** An adult was seen on 7 Nov at Crossapol Bay *Tiree* [J. Bowler /R. A. Broad/P. Duncan] and another on several dates between 8 and 16 Nov on *Islay* (at Machir Bay, L. Gorm and Port Ellen) [M. I. Hoit/T. C. Low *et al.*]. Both records were accepted by BBRC and formed part of an influx at that time to the UK (*British Birds* 100:46).

**LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus* Crann-fhaoileag 0578  
**Irregular visitor, with records in all but three years since 1980. Typically seen Aug to Oct, but there are records for every month of the year.**

**2004.** This was a particularly good year for this species. A first winter bird was seen near Dunollie Castle (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar. An adult was seen on L Crinan on 5 Aug. A record ten individual first winter birds were seen at Machrihanish SBO on dates between 18 Aug and 4 Oct. On *Islay*, a juvenile was seen at Ardnave point on 19 Aug and another at Frenchman's Rocks on 27 Aug. A first winter bird was seen at Aird Tiree on 22 Sept and three birds were seen together on 29 Oct at Carsaig *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** There were 6 records: one present at Traigh Doire Dhubhaig *Mull* from 13 to 17 Feb, an adult on L Crinan on 23 Feb, another in full summer plumage was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 25 and 26 Apr, a first summer bird was on the RSPB reserve on *Coll* on 5 May, a juvenile in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 30 Aug, and another at Machrihanish SBO on the same date.

#### **SABINE'S GULL** *Larus sabini*

0579

**Scarce and irregular passage migrant, mainly in autumn, with records in 14 of the 24 years 1980-2003. Reported more frequently recently than in 1980s.**

**2004.** This was an exceptional year for this species with accepted records of 33 individuals (though some could be duplicate records of the same individual(s) seen passing different locations). The first was a juvenile flying W at Ardnave Point on 30 Aug and the last were two juveniles flying W at Aird Tiree on 7 Oct. The 33 records included 17 on *Islay* (4 aults/13 juvs.), 13 at Machrihanish SBO (all juvs.) and 3 on *Tiree* (1 adult/2 juvs.) [T. ap Rheinallt/E. J. Maguire/J. Bowler/ C. R. McKay]. See Table 40 for details. All these records were accepted by ABRC.

There were reports of a further 23 individuals (including one in spring) for which descriptions were not provided.

Table 40. *Sabine's Gulls in Argyll in autumn 2004.*

Date	Location	No.	Ad./Juv.	Comments
30/08/2004	Ardnave <i>Islay</i>	1	Juvenile	Flying W
13/09/2004	Machrihanish SBO	1	Juvenile	Flying S inshore
14/09/2004	Ardnave <i>Islay</i>	1	Adult	Flying W
19/09/2004	Frenchman's Rocks	1	Juvenile	Flying S
20/09/2004	Frenchman's Rocks	4	1 adult/ 3 juvs.	Flying S in 9 hrs.
20/09/2004	Machrihanish SBO	6	Juveniles	Flying S inshore
21/09/2004	Frenchman's Rocks	8	2 adults/ 6 juvs.	Flying S in 9 hrs.
21/09/2004	Aird <i>Tiree</i>	1	Adult	Flying W
21/09/2004	Machrihanish SBO	2	Juveniles	Flying S
23/09/2004	Ardnave <i>Islay</i>	2	Juveniles	Flying W
04/10/2004	Machrihanish SBO	4	Juveniles	Flying S
07/10/2004	Aird <i>Tiree</i>	2	Juveniles	Flying W

**2005.** There was, in contrast, just one accepted record, of a juvenile off Gott Bay *Tiree* on 30 Aug [J. Bowler]. Record accepted ABRC.

Two other individuals were reported, for which descriptions were not provided.

#### **BONAPARTE'S GULL\*** *Larus Philadelphia*

0581

**Vagrant. Only two previous records, on Islay in Jun 1975 and in Sep 1975.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

*Patchily distributed resident breeder. Reduced or absent at some sites due to mink predation. Scarce in many areas in winter.*

**Jan-May 2004.** Very few reported in January (largest “flocks” only ca. 5-15 birds and none present in most areas). Slight increases in Feb, and marked increase in Mar. High counts reported include: 200 at the head of L. Gilp on 8 Mar, 160 in Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 9 Mar, regular large flocks in Balephetrish Bay in late March and April (162 on 19 Mar, 253 on 21 Mar, 220 on 8 Apr, 340 on 19 Apr), 160 at the head of L. Gilp on 23 Feb, and 100 at Killail *Cowal* on 27 Feb.

**2005.** On *Tiree* there were counts of: 140 on 10 Mar, 400 on 22 Mar, and 377 on 12 Apr. There were 500 on the RSPB reserve *Coll* on 5 May.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 185 pairs were noted breeding at six sites (colony size 5 to 101 pairs). Productivity was recorded at five of these, where 179 pairs fledged 201 young (1.12 young/pair). Mink had been removed from four of these five sites. On Eilean Coltair (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* 5 pairs fledged 4 young in an area where mink are controlled (a new breeding site for this species). On Eilean Inshaig (Ardfern) *Mid-Argyll* where mink are controlled, 101 pairs fledged 133 young (although a Buzzard was seen taking a few chicks). On Eilean an Ruisg, L. Feochan 62 pairs fledged 63 young [mink controlled but some predation by a raptor (Peregrine or Buzzard?)]. At Black Rock Crinan *Mid-Argyll*, 6 pairs nested but failed, possibly due to mink.

On *Tiree*, L. Bhasapoll had 231 AONs on 22 Apr; increasing to at least 420 on 6 May. This colony was largely abandoned by 1 June, with some birds dispersing to re-nest in small groups elsewhere on the island. At The Reef *Tiree*, 42 pairs nested and produced many fledglings by the end of June.

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 167 pairs nested at 7 sites (colony size 1 to 86 pairs). Almost all the 136-146 young that are thought to have fledged (0.81-0.87 young/pair) were at the three colonies where mink were controlled. At Eilean Inshaig (Ardfern) *Mid-Argyll* 86 pairs fledged 57 chicks. There was some mink predation at this colony and a male mink was trapped in late May. Subsequently many birds that had lost eggs re-nested. Buzzard(s), however, took many large chicks. At Eilean Coltair (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* 8 pairs failed to rear any chicks, apparently due to mink, despite efforts to control them. At Eilean nan Ruisg *Mid-Argyll*, where mink were controlled, 44 pairs fledged 60-70 chicks. At Eilean Faoileag *Mid-Argyll*, 7 pairs fledged 13 chicks (mink controlled area). At Liath-sgeir Mhor, Sound of *Jura*, 13 pairs fledged at least 5 chicks.

On *Tiree*, L. Bhasapoll had 109 AONs on 4 May but this colony mainly failed and was abandoned as in 2004. Numbers of AONs at The Reef *Tiree* increased from 23 on 5 May to 122 on 23 May and then 160 on 1 Jun. It is probable that some of these AONs were birds re-nesting having abandoned L. Bhasapoll. Barrapol *Tiree* held 40 AONs on 25 May.

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Numbers generally decreased from Aug to Dec. Counts of 200 at Skipness Bay *Kintyre* on 16 Oct, and 500 at Otter Ferry on 11 Nov were unusually large for these areas.

**2005.** A count of around 1000 feeding off the spit at Otter Ferry on 16 Nov was unusually large for this area. In most areas, numbers had declined to groups of less than 10 birds in Nov and Dec.

Table 41. *Maximum monthly counts of Black-headed Gulls at L. Gruinart, L. Indaal and Crinan.*

<b>2004</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	8	20	126	0	0	n/r	104	135	185	102	13	28
L Indaal	12	10	40	45	40	27	39	27	51	52	11	12
L Crinan	0	0	n/r	62	13	n/r	80	55	14	4	7	11

2005												
L Gruinart	24	18	18	31	27	24	98	83	156	97	52	27
L Indaal	15	31	57	38	38	40	30	47	25	60	16	13
L Crinan	0	n/r	n/r	30	16	27	10	56	17	104	150	n/r

A Black-headed Gull bearing an Icelandic ring (no.559361) seen at Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Feb 2003 had previously been seen there on 12 Jan 2000 (*ABR18:66*) and was originally ringed as a nestling in Jul 1997.

#### **RING-BILLED GULL** *Larus delawarensis*

0589

***A scarce but increasingly frequent visitor from North America: mainly in late winter and spring, although there are records for every month of the year.***

**2004.** A single adult was at Machir Bay *Islay* on 21 Feb [T. ap Rheinallt] and two adults were at Balephetrish Bay on 19 Mar with one remaining to the following day [J. Bowler]. Both records were accepted by SBRC.

**2005.** At least six individuals were reported throughout the year, some staying for prolonged periods. Accepted records included; an adult at Machir Bay *Islay* on 28 Mar [T. ap Rheinallt], a 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar year bird at Oban harbour on 3 April (remaining there until 10 May) [B. Rabbits/W. Jackson/J. Dickson], a 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar year bird at Bowmore *Islay* on 4 and 5 Apr [T. Drew/T. ap Rheinallt/B. Williamson], a 2 calendar year bird at L. a' Phuill on 5 Apr [J. Bowler], a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter bird at Oban harbour which stayed from 12 Sept to Mar 2006 [S. Gibson/J. Dickson *et al.*] and an adult at Machir Bay *Islay* on 8 Nov. All these records were accepted by SBRC. Several other records (mainly for *Islay* and the Oban area) for which no supporting details were supplied were published on BirdGuides and elsewhere.

#### **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus* Faoileag-chumanta

0590

***Widespread and common resident breeding species but reduced or absent at some sites due to predation by mink.***

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Apart from counts in Table 43 below, the largest numbers reported were: 520 at The Reef Tiree on 3 Feb, 630 on *Tiree* on 4 Feb, and 300 in Balephetrish Bay on 19 Apr.

**2005.** Apart from counts in Table 43 below, the largest number reported were: 340 in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 13 Jan, 350 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 19 Feb, 589 on *Tiree* on 910 Mar, and 300 in Machir Bay *Islay* on 26 Mar.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, *ca* 917 pairs were noted breeding at 36 colonies (colony size 1 to 304 pairs). At 27 sites where productivity was known, *ca* 863 pairs fledged *ca* 511 young (0.59 young/pair). Considering colonies with ten or more pairs: at 11 colonies where mink were removed, 643 pairs fledged 434 young (0.675 young/pair), at 7 colonies where mink were not removed 188 pairs fledged 72 young (0.383 young/pair). Thus mink lowered productivity of Common Gulls by 43%. Counts at these colonies include: 25 AONs on island in Crinan Harbour *Mid-Argyll* 11 May, and 27 pairs fledged no chicks at Ban Eileanan, Sound of *Mull* due to mink (despite efforts to control them). At Craignure Golf Course *Mull* 10 pairs fledged 8 young (mink controlled). At Ormsa (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll* *ca* 10 pairs fledged no chicks (apparently due to predation by Herring and Black-backed Gulls). At Glas Eileanan Sound of *Mull*, where mink have been controlled, 2 pairs nested and raised one chick. The breeding success here appears to have been reduced because terns nesting close by on the island harassed adults. On Fladda, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll*, 17-20 pairs nested but raised no young (apparently due to Great Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull predation). On Eilean Rubha an Ridire, Sound of *Mull*, where mink were controlled, 30 pairs fledged at least 10 young. On Reisa mhic Phaidean, Sound of *Jura*, there were only 5 pairs, which is a large decline

from previous years. No chicks were raised with mink suspected to be the cause of decline and breeding failure. On Eilean a' Mhadaidh, L. Don, mink scats were found and only one pair nested with no success. On Eilean Coltair (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll*, mink were controlled and 26 pairs fledged at least 10 young. On Sgeir na Caillich (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll*, mink were controlled and 38 pairs fledged at least 4 young. On Eilean Inshaig (Ardfern) *Mid-Argyll*, mink were controlled and 32 pairs fledged 53 young. On Tucker's Islet (L. Craignish) *Mid-Argyll*, mink were controlled and 110 pairs fledged 40 young. On Eilean an Ruisg (L. Feochan) *Mid-Argyll*, mink were controlled and 61 pairs fledged 31 young. At Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll*, mink were controlled and 5 pairs fledged 4 young. At Glas Eilean (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, 60 pairs fledged 34 young. On Kilmaronag Islands (L. Etive) *Mid-Argyll*, mink were controlled and 304 pairs fledged 259 young. On Eilean Gainimh (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll*, 7 pairs nested close to a Great Black-backed Gull colony and no chicks were raised. On Eilean Glas, L. Linnhe *North Argyll*, 10 pairs fledged 5 young (a Peregrine was seen taking a chick there on 20 July). On Abbott's Isles (L. Etive) *North Argyll*, 31 pairs fledged at least 20 young (mink controlled nearby). On Airds Islet (L. Etive *Mid-Argyll*), 30 pairs fledged just 2 young (a Buzzard was seen taking young). At Sutherland's Grove *North Argyll*, ca 50 pairs fledged at least 33 young from the factory rooftop colony. There were 78 AONs on Sanda Islands. A minimum of 12 pairs on Islet (Linne Mhuirich) *Mid-Argyll* fledged no young, possibly due to mink. Elsewhere there were: 65 AONs at Balinoe *Tiree* on 4 May (many chicks fledged in late Jun), 25 AONs Milton *Tiree* 7 May (many chicks fledged in late Jun), 52 AONs at The Ringing Stone *Tiree* 9 May, 18 AONs Gott *Tiree* 19 May, and 17 pairs SE coast of Fladda Treshnish Isles. In L. Fyne there were 6 pairs at Liath Eilean, 4 pairs at Glas Eilean and a further 6 pairs at the wooden pier south of Largiemore, Otter Ferry.

**Breeding 2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 954-963 pairs nested at 39 colonies (colony size 1 to 320 pairs). Productivity was monitored at 31 of these sites, where ca874 pairs fledged 622 young (0.71 young/pair). In the study area as a whole, considering colonies of 10 or more pairs, at 8 sites where mink were controlled, 636 pairs fledged 703 young (1.105 young/pair) while at 16 sites where mink were not controlled or unsuccessfully controlled, 493 pairs fledged 138 young (0.280 young/pair). Thus mink predation lowered productivity by ca75%.

Breeding numbers at selected sites are shown in Table 42.

Table 42. *Breeding numbers and success of Common Gulls at various sites in Argyll in 2005.*

Colony	Pairs or AONs	Chicks fledged	Mink Control	Predators known to take eggs or chicks
The Reef <i>Tiree</i>	81			
Ruaig <i>Tiree</i>	35			
Milton <i>Tiree</i>	35			
The Ringing Stone <i>Tiree</i>	40			
Balinoe <i>Tiree</i>	38			
Fladda, Treshnish Isles	9			
Bal Eileanan, Sound of <i>Mull</i>	12	4	Yes	Great Bl.-backed Gulls
Craignure Golf Course, <i>Mull</i>	14	0	Yes	Mink
Glas Eileanan, S. of <i>Mull</i>	2	0		
Dubh Sgeir, Sound of Luing, <i>Mid-Argyll</i>	12	2		

Fladda, Sound of Luing, <i>Mid-Argyll</i>	7	0		Large gulls
Eilean Rubha an Ridire, Sound of <i>Mull</i>	54	40	Yes	
Eilean da Mheinn, L. Crinan	<i>ca25</i>	0		Mink
Eilean Coltair, L. Melfort <i>Mid-Argyll</i>	28	0	Yes	Mink
Sgeir na Caillich, L. Melfort <i>Mid-Argyll</i>	22	20	Yes	
Eilean Inshaig, Ardfern <i>Mid-Argyll</i>	35	12	Yes	Mink and Buzzard
Tucker's Islet, L. Craignish <i>Mid-Argyll</i>	95	6	Yes	Mink and Buzzard
Eilean an Ruisg, L. Feochan	49	36	Yes	Buzzard
Eilean Mor, Dunstaffnage <i>Mid-Argyll</i>	7	0	Yes	Herring Gulls
Dunstaffnage <i>Mid-Argyll</i>	5	3	Yes	
Glas Eilean, Lynn of Lorne <i>North Argyll</i>	55	<i>ca25</i>		
Eilean Glas, L. Linnhe <i>North Argyll</i>	18	0		Large gulls
Kilmaronag Islands, L. Etive	320	<i>ca430</i>	Yes	
Factory Roof, Barcaldine <i>North Argyll</i>	<i>ca70</i>	min.51		Peregrine Falcon
Airds Islet, L. Etive	22	<i>ca20</i>	Yes	
Eilean Fada, L. Caolisport	20-25	7		Peregrine Falcon
NATO Fuel Depot, L. Striven <i>Cowal</i>	21			
Inverchaolain, L. Striven	30			

**Jul-Dec 2004.** In addition to counts in Table 43 below there were: 360 at Heylpol *Tiree* during silage cutting on 25 Aug, 280 at Coull Farm *Islay* on 29 Sept, and 250 around the mouth of the burn at Killail *Cowal*, on 21 Oct.

**2005.** In addition to the counts in Table 43 below there were: 520 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 21 Jul, 600 at the RSPB reserve *Coll* feeding on recently cut grassland on 10 Aug, 360 on floods at Balevullin *Tiree* on 10 Oct, and 1000 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 16 Nov.

Table 43. *Maximum monthly counts of Common Gulls at L. Gruinart, L. Indaal and Crinan.*

<b>2004</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	27	41	61	71	82	n/r	47	398	251	34	160	107
L Indaal	191	303	292	251	161	103	102	255	258	81	113	117
L Crinan	79	79	n/r	64	21	n/r	14	55	42	8	0	26
<b>2005</b>												
L Gruinart	422	117	96	65	36	63	94	62	106	121	211	266
L Indaal	190	286	145	245	117	130	99	260	255	58	100	101
L Crinan	150	n/r	n/r	10	75	20	10	22	30	41	20	n/r



**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus* Farspag-bheag

0591

*Widespread breeding species, generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter.*

**Jan-May 2004.** Although small numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls over-winter in Scotland, there are very few records from Argyll in Jan or Feb. One was recorded at the Oa *Islay* on 20 Jan, one at Balemartine *Tiree* on 18 Feb, and a freshly dead bird was found at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 28 Feb (perhaps indicating that it is not such a good idea for this species to over-winter in Argyll!). Numbers increased rapidly from the beginning of Mar with flocks of over 50 by mid-Mar and over 200 by late Mar on *Tiree*. Numbers elsewhere tend to be rather smaller, but other sites show the same pattern of arrival from early March onwards.

**2005.** No birds were reported in Jan or Feb. However, numbers began to increase rapidly from the start of March and continued as in 2004.

**Breeding 2004.** Colony counts include: 140 AONs L. Bhirceapol *Tiree*, 20 Milton *Tiree*, 60 The Ringing Stone *Tiree*, 58 Gott *Tiree*, and 15 Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*. There were 14 pairs RSPB Reserve Coll, 160 L. Ronard Coll, 1 Lunga (Treshnish Isles), at least 2 Cairn na Burgh (Treshnish Isles), 176 Reisa mhic Phaidean, Sound of *Jura*, 90 Eilean Gamhna (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll*, 2 Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, 60 (fledging ca 40 chicks) Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, 50 Sanda Islands, 8 (fledging 2 chicks) Eilean Aoghainn L. Fyne, and 10 (fledging 10 chicks) Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal*.

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, ca 392 pairs ( $\pm 50$ ) bred at 12 sites, mostly ( $350 \pm 50$  pairs) at two sites. At the formerly large colony of Reisa mhic Phaidean (Sound of *Jura*) ca 200 pairs fledged ca 20 young, while at Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) where mink are controlled,  $150 \pm 50$  pairs fledged ca 100 young. Elsewhere, there was 1 pair Belnahua (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll*, 1 Eilean Rubha an Ridire, Sound of *Mull*, 4 Eilean Gamhna (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* (no chicks fledged due to mink), 2 Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of *Jura*, 2 (fledged 1 chick) Eilean Eoghainn (West L. Tarbert) *Kintyre*, 2 Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, 2 Liath Eilean, L. Fyne (fledged 2 or 3 chicks), 1 fledged 1 chick Glas Eilean, L. Fyne, 6 Sgat Beag, L. Fyne (no chicks fledged), min. 10 Eilean Aoghainn *Mid-Argyll*, and Burnt Islands, Kyles of Bute *Cowal* 11 fledged 4 chicks (mink present and taking eggs and chicks).

Other colony counts include: 50 Sanda Islands (many failed to hatch eggs), 125 AONs L. Bhirceapol *Tiree*; 35 Milton *Tiree*, 20 The Ringing Stone *Tiree*, and 30 Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** Good numbers were still present in Sept, with the last records being; 2 on 12 Nov at L. Gruinart, and 1 on 1 Dec at Gott Bay *Tiree*.

**2005.** Good numbers were still present in early Sep but none reported after 21Sep.

**HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus* Faoileag-an-sgadain

0592

*Widespread and abundant resident breeding species that forms large flocks outside the breeding season. Recently several large colonies have disappeared, and very few now breed inland.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Apart from data in Table 44, counts in excess of 200 birds came from: West Hynish *Tiree* (500 feeding along the shore on 17 Apr), and RSPB Gruinart Floods (204 on 28 Apr).

**2005.** Apart from data in Table 44, counts in excess of 200 birds came from: the head of L. Feochan (1000 on 29 Jan), Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* (550 roosting there on 5 Feb), head of L. Feochan (350 on 21 Mar), and Milton *Tiree* (290 back on breeding areas on 22 Mar).

**Breeding.** In both years, many colonies were affected by predators, especially mink. In the lists below, comments indicate where possible when mink predation was evident; and which colonies gained benefits from local trapping of mink just before and during the breeding season. Many,

but not all, colonies where mink were controlled show much higher breeding productivity than at many of the unprotected colonies.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; *ca* 4037 pairs were observed breeding at 41 colonies (colony size 1 to *ca* 900 pairs). About 12 of these held only single pairs. Considering colonies with more than 10 pairs, outcome was known at 14 sites. At six of these where mink were removed, 1333 pairs fledged 1288 young (0.966 young/pair). At eight sites where mink were not removed, 1771 pairs fledged 936 young (0.5285 young/pair). Thus mink reduced overall productivity by 45%. Counts at these colonies include: one pair mainland *Mull*, near Ban Eileanan (failed due to mink despite mink control), 1 pair Eilean Dubh Mor (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll* (failed due to mink), 1 pair Craignure Golf Course *Mull* (fledged 1 chick, mink controlled), 58 pairs Sgeir nan Gobhar, Sound of *Mull* fledged 53 young (mink controlled), 5 pairs Ormsa (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll*, 2 pairs Fladda (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll*, 25-30 pairs Eilean Rubha an Ridire, Sound of *Mull* (fledged at least 13 chicks, mink controlled), *ca* 83 pairs Reisa mhic Phaidean, Sound of *Jura*, *ca* 210 pairs Eilean Gamhna (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll*, *ca* 197 pairs Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) North Argyll, *ca* 900 pairs Eilean Mor, (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged *ca* 800 young, mink controlled), 90 pairs Sgeir nan Tom (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* (fledged 61 chicks), 113 pairs Inn Island (Lismore) *North Argyll* (fledged 66 chicks, mink predation on eggs evident), 162 pairs Eilean nan Caorach (Lismore) *North Argyll* (fledged 161 young, no predation evident), 10 pairs Eilean nan Caorach (Lismore) *North Argyll* (no chicks fledged, mink predation evident), 19 pairs Kilmarnag Islands (L. Etive) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged 23 chicks, mink controlled), 82 pairs Abbott's Isles (L. Etive) (fledged 113 young) 1 or 2 pairs Ardachy Islets (L. Etive) (fledged 2 young), *ca* 60 pairs Eilean Mor (McCormaig Islands) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged at least 41 young), *ca* 203 pairs Corr Eilean (McCormaig Islands) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged *ca* 50 young), 16 pairs Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of *Jura*, *ca* 45 pairs Eilean na Cille (steep islet) Sound of *Jura*, *ca* 20 pairs Liath-sgeir Mhor Sound of *Jura* (mostly failed before end of May, possibly due to mink), *ca* 350 pairs Liath Eilean, L. Fyne (fledged 131 young), 20 pairs Eilean Buidhe (Ardmarnock) L. Fyne, 125 pairs Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie) L. Fyne, 26 pairs Eilean a' Bhuic (Glenan Bay) *Cowal*, *ca* 120 pairs Glas Eilean, L. Fyne (fledged 20 young, productivity possibly affected by mink), 56 pairs Sgat Mor, L. Fyne, 79 pairs Sgat Beag, L. Fyne, *ca* 179 pairs Eilean Aoghainn, L. Fyne (fledged 15 young, mink predation evident), 554 pairs Burnt Islands, Kyles of Bute *Cowal* (fledged 435 young, evidence of mink predation in May).

Other colony counts include: 35 pairs Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, 150 AONs Gott *Tiree*, 5 AONs Balinoe *Tiree*, 66 AONs L. Bhirceapol *Tiree*, 140 AONs Milton *Tiree*, 51 AONs The Ringing Stone *Tiree*, 10 pairs RSPB Reserve *Coll*, 160 pairs Roadside Lochs *Coll*, 27 pairs Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 6 pairs Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles), 1 pair Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles), 6 pairs Sgeir an Fheoir (Treshnish Isles), 15 pairs Fladda (Treshnish Isles), 21 pairs Cairn na Burgh (Treshnish Isles).

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; *ca* 3991 pairs were observed nesting at 40 colonies (colony size 1 to *ca* 900 pairs). Productivity was monitored at 32 of the sites, where 3542 pairs fledged 2161 young (0.61 young/pair). Over the study area as a whole, at 9 sites where mink were removed, 1031 pairs fledged 887 young (0.860 young/pair) while at 20 sites where mink were not controlled 2929 pairs fledged 1557 young (0.5316 young/pair). Thus mink reduced Herring Gull productivity by 38%. Counts at specific colonies include: 46 pairs Sgeir nan Gobhar, Sound of *Mull* (fledged *ca* 30 young, mink controlled), *ca* 25 pairs Ormsa, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll* (fledged at least 10 young), 42 pairs Belnahua, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll* (fledged at least 6 young), *ca* 5 pairs Fladda, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll* (fledged 1 young), 20 pairs Eilean Rubha an Ridire, Sound of *Mull* (fledged 12 young, mink controlled), *ca* 200 pairs Reisa mhic Phaidean, Sound of *Jura* (fledged 23 young, predation by mink suspected), 87 pairs

Eilean Gamhna, L. Melfort *Mid-Argyll* (no young fledged, mink predation strongly suspected), 201 pairs Eilean Dubh, Lynn of Lorn *North Argyll* (fledged at least 120 young), *ca* 550 pairs Eilean Mor, Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* (fledged *ca* 500 young, mink controlled), 169 pairs Eilean Beag, Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* (fledged *ca* 98 young, mink controlled, but rats numerous), 85 pairs Sgeir nan Tom, L. Linnhe *North Argyll* (fledged 119 young), 120 pairs Inn Island, Lismore *North Argyll* (fledged 187 young), 163 pairs Eilean nan Caorach, Lismore *North Argyll* (fledged 224 young), 83 pairs Abbot's Isles, L. Etive (fledged *ca* 95 young, mink controlled nearby), *ca* 250 pairs Eilean na Cille (N), Sound of *Jura* (fledged at least 144 young), *ca* 8 pairs Liath-sgeir Mhor, Sound of *Jura* (fledged *ca* 5 young), 174 pairs Eilean Eoghainn, West L. Tarbert *Kintyre* (fledged 47 young), 249 pairs Liath Eilean, L. Fyne (fledged 49 young, lots of rats present), 22 pairs Eilean Buidhe, Black Harbour *Cowal* (fledged 12 young), at least 111 pairs Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie) L. Fyne (fledged 47 young), 9 pairs Eilean a' Bhuic, Glenan Bay *Cowal* (no young fledged, mink predation suspected), 118 pairs Glas Eilean, L. Fyne (fledged 36 young, mink predation suspected), 65 pairs Sgat Mor, L. Fyne (49 chicks fledged), 65 pairs Sgat Beag, L. Fyne (no young fledged, possibly due to predators having access to this island from mainland at low tide), at least 185 pairs Eilean Aoghainn *Mid-Argyll* (fledged at least 129 young), 472 pairs Burnt Islands, Kyles of Bute *Cowal* (fledged about 196 chicks, mink predation evident in May with several clutches of eggs taken and cached).

Other colony counts include: 70 AONs L. Bhirceapol *Tiree*, 41 AONs Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, 150 AONs Milton *Tiree*, 60 AONs Heanish *Tiree*, 13 pairs Lunga (Treshnish Isles), minimum of 4 pairs Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles), 27 pairs Cairn na Burgh (Treshnish Isles).

**Aug-Dec 2004.** Counts exceeding 200 birds, not included in Table 44 were: 210 in the narrows at Otter Ferry spit, L. Fyne on 21 Aug, 950 at the head of L. Feochan on 4 Sep, 950 at Coull Farm *Islay* on 29 Sep, 400 in a feeding aggregation SW of *Coll* on 11 Oct. A chick ringed at E Dubh, Lynn of Lorn NM8742 on 24 Jun 1986 was found dead at Ballachulish Bridge, Highland on 25 Aug 2004.

**2005.** Counts exceeding 200 birds not included in Table 44 were: 220 at Kenovay *Tiree* feeding on barley stubble on 5 Oct, 320 at the same site on 11 Oct, and 240 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 11 Oct.

Table 44. *Maximum monthly counts of Herring Gulls at L. Crinan, L. Indaal, L. Gruinart and L. Sween in 2004, at L. Crinan, RSPB Gruinart, and L. Sween in 2005.*

<b>2004</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	15	25	49	204	13	n/r	60	590	333	45	21	93
L Indaal	230	189	139	141	162	27	40	127	253	201	211	207
L Crinan	19	26	n/r	69	5	n/r	18	113	15	20	38	36
L. Sween	32	104	80	n/r	n/r	n/r	29	23	30	27	21	12
<b>2005</b>												
L Gruinart	28	68	25	72	73	236	165	599	160	51	32	38
L Indaal	235	245	200	150	146	134	25	26	146	245	200	205
L Crinan	46	n/r	n/r	26	5	2	100	20	40	55	0	n/r
L. Sween	17	28	38	102	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	27	22	23	16

#### **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

0592.6

*Vagrant. Since Oct 2005 the BOU has treated this former subspecies of Herring Gull as a separate species. Two records in Argyll have been accepted, one on Tiree in Feb 1998, one at Gruinart, in Sep 2002 (though in this case the race/species atlantis was not ruled out).*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

(One was reported on a bird watching website as having been seen in Argyll in 2005, but the photograph presented showed the bird to be a Common Gull!)

**ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucoides* Faoileag-liath

0598

**Scarce but regular winter visitor, most frequent Jan-Mar. There are a few summer records.**

**2004.** Fifteen birds reported, 11 in Jan-May, and 4 in Sept-Dec. Records came from *Islay* (5), *Mull* (3), *Oban* (2), *Coll*, L. Melfort *Mid-Argyll*, *Machrihanish SBO*, and *Oronsay Colonsay*. Of those where age was reported, five birds were 1<sup>st</sup> winter, 4 were 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> winter, and 4 were adults. Several stayed at the same location for periods of a few days to several weeks.

**2005.** There were exceptionally large numbers in Jan-Jun of which a very high proportion was first winter birds with very few adults. In January (minimum 27 birds) there were: 6 birds on *Islay* (four 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter, one adult), 5 on *Colonsay* (three 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter, one adult), 3 on *Mull* (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 3 in *Oban* harbour (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 3 on *Coll* (all 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one of which was found dead), 2 on *Tiree* (both 1<sup>st</sup> winter), and singles at L. Fyne, L. Caolisport, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll*, *Achnasaul Mid-Argyll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter) and *Dunoon Cowal* (2<sup>nd</sup> winter). In February (minimum 39 birds) there were: 9 reported on *Islay* (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter), 4 in *Oban* harbour (three 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 4 at L. Caolisport (all 1<sup>st</sup> winter), 4 on *Colonsay* (three 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 4 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* (three 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 3 at *Inverneill Mid-Argyll* (all 1<sup>st</sup> winter), 3 at L. Crinan, 3 at *Ballymeanach Mid-Argyll* (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), and singles at L. Feochan (2<sup>nd</sup> winter), *Connel Mid-Argyll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), *Kintraw Mid-Argyll* (2<sup>nd</sup> winter), *Mull* (2<sup>nd</sup> winter), and *Tiree* (1<sup>st</sup> winter). In March (minimum 33 birds) there were; 7 reported on *Islay* (three 1<sup>st</sup> winter, two 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 5 on *Tiree* (three 1<sup>st</sup> winter, two 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 5 at *Machrihanish SBO* (all 1<sup>st</sup> winter), 3 in *Oban* harbour (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 3 at L. Caolisport (all 1<sup>st</sup> winter), 3 at *Inverneill Mid-Argyll* (all 1<sup>st</sup> winter), 2 on *Colonsay* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), 2 on *Coll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), singles in *Cowal* (2<sup>nd</sup> winter), *Furnace Mid-Argyll* (2<sup>nd</sup> winter), and *Achnacloich Mid-Argyll* (2<sup>nd</sup> winter). In April (minimum 21 birds) there were: 11 reported on *Islay* (ten 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 3 at *Oban* harbour (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 2 on *Tiree* (one 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 3<sup>rd</sup> winter), and singles at *Portavadie Cowal* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), *Coll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), *Inverneill Mid-Argyll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), *Kintraw Mid-Argyll*, and *Machrihanish SBO* (1<sup>st</sup> winter). In May (minimum 10 birds) there were: 4 in *Oban* harbour (1<sup>st</sup> winter, 1<sup>st</sup> summer, 2<sup>nd</sup> summer, 3<sup>rd</sup> summer), 2 on *Mull* (2<sup>nd</sup> summer, adult), and singles on *Tiree* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), *Kilmartin Mid-Argyll* (1<sup>st</sup> summer), *Islay* and *Machrihanish SBO*. The last three of the season were recorded on 4 Jun at *Ballimeanoch Mid-Argyll* (2<sup>nd</sup> summer), on 6 Jun at *Tobermory Mull* ("immature") and on 13 Jun at *Gott Tiree* (1 summer). However, there was only one record in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year, a 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird on 10 Dec on *Tiree*.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus* Muir-mhaighstir

0599

**Scarce but regular winter visitor, most frequent Jan-Mar.**

**2004.** There were rather few records. These were: an adult present from Nov 2003 to Mar 2004 at *Machrihanish Water Kintyre*, a 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird on *Tiree* from 4 Mar to 9 Apr, and a different 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird there on 20 Apr. An adult was on *Coll* on 20 Mar, and another bird (age not recorded) there on 23 Apr. There were no summer records until 18 Aug when a 3<sup>rd</sup> year bird was on *Crinan Moss Mid-Argyll*. An adult was on *Coll* on 9 Oct. A 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird was on *Tiree* on 12 Nov and an adult on 26 Nov. A 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird was on *Islay* on 30 Dec.

**2005 Jan.** There were at least 17 recorded with: 5 on *Tiree* (three 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter, one adult) several of which remained on the island most of the month. Four of them were seen, feeding together, on a dead porpoise. There were: 3 on *Coll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter, 2<sup>nd</sup> winter, and adult), 2

on Mull (1<sup>st</sup> winter, 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 2 on Colonsay (a 1<sup>st</sup> winter and an adult of which the 1<sup>st</sup> winter was found dead on 17 having arrived around 12 days before), 2 at Dunbeg Mid-Argyll (both 1<sup>st</sup> winter) seen standing on salmon cages, and singles at: Islay, Oban harbour (2<sup>nd</sup> winter) and Tayinloan Bay Kintyre (1<sup>st</sup> winter).

**Feb.** There were at least 30 with: 4 on Tiree (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter, one adult) possibly the same birds as present during Jan, 4 in Oban harbour (three 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one adult), 3 on *Coll* (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 3 at Bagh Tigh-an-Droighinn L. Fyne (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 3<sup>rd</sup> winter), 3 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 3 on L. Caolisport, 2 at Machrihanish SBO, 2 on *Islay* (one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter); and singles at L. Spelve *Mull* (3<sup>rd</sup> winter), Connel Mid-Argyll (adult), Inverneill Mid-Argyll (1<sup>st</sup> winter), High Dunashry *Kintyre* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter) and Benderloch *North Argyll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter).

**Mar.** At least 10 in March with: 3 on *Tiree* (two 1<sup>st</sup> winter, one 2<sup>nd</sup> winter), 3 on *Coll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter, 2<sup>nd</sup> winter, adult), and singles at: Machrihanish SBO (1 winter), Benderloch *North Argyll* (1<sup>st</sup> winter), Furnace *Mid-Argyll* (2<sup>nd</sup> winter), and Oban harbour (adult).

**Apr-Dec.** There were 3 records in April: single birds at *Islay*, *Coll* and Furnace *Mid-Argyll* and two in May; a 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird on *Tiree* and a 3<sup>rd</sup> winter bird at Portnahaven *Islay*. There were then just two records late in the year; one at Bunessan Mull on 19 Aug, and one on L. Indaal on 2 Dec.

#### **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus* Farspag

0600

##### ***Common resident breeding on small islands along the coast.***

**Jan-May 2004.** The only site with 50 or more was: L. a' Phuill 125 on 10 Jan, 120 on 23 Feb, 74 on 28 Mar and 60 on 1 Apr.

**2005.** Sites with 50 or more were: L. a' Phuill 107 on 10 Mar, and 102 on 1 Apr: L. Feochan 281 on 9 Apr, 100 on 29 Jan, 122 on 21 Mar, 247 on 25 Mar, and 77 on 13 May: Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* 120 roosting on 5 Feb.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; ca 305 pairs were counted breeding at 33 sites (colony size 1 to ca60 pairs). About 15 of these held only single pairs. Productivity was known at 14 sites where 64 pairs fledged 82 young (1.28 young/pair). Counts at these colonies included: 1 pair Craignure Golf Course *Mull* (fledged 3 young, mink controlled area), 2 pairs Sgeir nan Gobhar, Sound of *Mull* (fledged 2 young, mink controlled), 1 pair Ormsa, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll*, 1 pair Dubh Sgeir (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll*, 2 pairs Fladda (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll*, 1 pair Eilean Rubha an Ridire, Sound of *Mull*, ca 10 pairs Reisa mhic Phaidean, Sound of *Jura*, ca 10 pairs Eilean Gamhna (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll*, ca 19 pairs Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, min. 2 pairs Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged at least 2 young, mink controlled), 1 pair Eilean Beag, (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, 1 pair Sgeir nan Tom (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll*, 1 pair Glas Eilean (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* (fledged 1 young), 16 pairs Eilean Gainimh (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* (fledged 18 young), 1 pair Eilean Glas (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* (fledged 3 young), 22 pairs Abbott's Isles (L. Etive) *North Argyll* (fledged 29 young, mink controlled nearby), 2 pairs Dubh Sgeir (McCormaig Is.) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged at least 1 young), 2 pairs Eilean Mor (McCormaig Is.) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged 3 young), 35 pairs Carraig an Daimh, Sound of *Jura*, 43 pairs Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of *Jura*, 1 pair Islet (Caol Scotnish) *Mid-Argyll* (no chicks fledged), 2-4 pairs Liath-sgeir Mhor, Sound of *Jura*, 12 pairs Eilean Buidhe (Ardmarnock) L. Fyne, 20-30 pairs Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie) L. Fyne, 1 pair Eilean a' Bhuic (Glenan Bay) *Cowal*, 1 pair Glas Eilean L. Fyne, ca 60 pairs Sgat Mor L. Fyne, 2 pairs Sgat Beag L. Fyne, 11 pairs Eilean Aoghainn L. Fyne (no young fledged, clear evidence of mink predation), and finally, ca 12 pairs Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal* (fledged 18 young).

Other colony counts included: 28 pairs Sanda Islands, 25 AONs The Ringing Stone *Tiree*, 40 AONs Gott *Tiree*, 10 pairs RSPB Reserve *Coll*, 55 pairs L. Ronard *Coll*, 41 pairs Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 1 pair Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles), 2 pairs Sgeir na Giusaich (Treshnish Isles), 7 pairs Sgeir an Fheoir (Treshnish Isles), 27 pairs Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles), 45 pairs Fladda (Treshnish Isles).

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; 388-394 pairs were observed breeding at 44 sites (colony size 1 to ca60 pairs). Productivity was monitored at 32 of the sites, where 249 pairs fledged 173-178 young (0.69-0.71 young/pair). As usual for this species a high proportion of the sites held only single pairs (19/44 or 43%). The largest colony held 50 pairs. Counts at these colonies included: 7 AONs Eilean Mor (McCormaig Islands) *Mid-Argyll*, ca 20 AONs Corr Eilean (McCormaig Islands) *Mid-Argyll*, 1 pair Ban Eileanan, Sound of Mull (fledged at least 1 young, mink controlled), 1 pair Scallastle beach Mull (eggs taken by mink), 1 pair Sgeir nan Gobhar, Sound of Mull (fledged at least 1 young, mink controlled), at least 3 pairs Ormsa, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll*, 1 pair Belnahua, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll*, 1 pair Glas Eileanan, Sound of Mull (no chicks fledged), ca 3 pairs Fladda, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll* (fledged 3+ chicks), 1 pair Dubh Sgeir, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll* (no chicks fledged), 1 pair Eilean Rubha an Ridire, Sound of Mull, ca 15 pairs Reisa mhic Phaidean, Sound of Jura (fledged ca 8 young, mink predation suspected), 1 pair Scoul Eilean (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* (no chicks fledged, mink predation), 13 pairs Eilean Gamhna (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* (no chicks fledged, mink predation), at least 10 pairs Eilean Dubh, Lynn of Lorn *North Argyll* (fledged 14 young), 2 pairs Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, 1 pair Eilean Beag (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* (no young fledged, many rats present), 1 pair Glas Eilean (Lynn of Lorne) *North Argyll* (no young fledged despite mink control), 13 pairs Eilean Gainimh (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* (fledged 18 young), 1 pair Eilean Glas (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* (no chicks fledged), 1 pair Kilmaronag *Mid-Argyll* (fledged 1 chick, mink controlled), 21 pairs Abbot's Isles, L. Etive *North Argyll* (fledged 21 young, mink controlled nearby), 1 pair Ardachy (L. Etive) *North Argyll* (fledged 2 young, mink controlled), ca 30 pairs Craro Island, Gigha, 2 pairs Dubh Sgeir (McCormaig Islands) *Mid-Argyll*, 35 pairs Carraig an Daimh, Sound of Jura, 1 pair Dubh Sgeir (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll*, 30-40 pairs Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura, 2 or 3 pairs Eilean na h-Eairne, Sound of Jura, at least 10 pairs Eilean na Cille, Sound of Jura, ca 6 pairs Liath-sgeir Mhor, Sound of Jura (min 2 young fledged), 5 pairs Eilean Eoghainn (West L. Tarbert) *Kintyre* (fledged 4 young), ca 25 pairs Liath Eilean, L. Fyne (fledged 4-7 chicks, rat droppings present), 9 pairs Eilean Buidhe (Black Harbour) *Cowal* (fledged at least 1 chick), at least 7 pairs Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie) L. Fyne (fledged 16 chicks), 1 pair Eilean a' Bhuic, (Glenan Bay) *Cowal* (no chicks survived, mink predation strongly suspected), ca 24 pairs Glas Eilean, L. Fyne (fledged 5 young, mink predation strongly suspected), 50 pairs Sgat Mor, L. Fyne (fledged 38-40 young), 14 pairs Eilean Aoghainn *Mid-Argyll* (fledged 13 young), and 8 pairs Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal* (fledged at least 1 young, mink predation evident on islands). Other colony counts included: 4 AONs Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, 2 AONs Milton *Tiree*, 1 AON Balinoe *Tiree*, 1 AON Heanish *Tiree*, 30 pairs Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 1 pair Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles), 18 pairs Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles), 2-3 pairs Sgeir an Fheoir (Treshnish Isles) and 30 pairs Sanda Islands (on Glunimore and Sheep Island). Aug-Dec 2004. Counts of 50 or more were from: L. Crinan (86 on 28 Aug), L. Feochan (279 on 4 Sep), Skerryvore Lighthouse 17km SW of *Tiree* (90 on 10 Sep), L. a' Phuill (68 on 13 Sep, 284 on 15 Oct, 232 on 18 Oct, 265 on 23 Nov, 249 on 26 Nov), and West Hynish *Tiree* (110 on 17 Oct 2004). 2005. Counts of 50 or more were from: L. Feochan (57 on 25 Sep), L. a' Phuill (18 on 21 Oct, 82 on 25 Oct, and 55 on 20 Nov, 86 on 6 Dec, and 72 on 19 Dec), and West Hynish *Tiree* (60 on 27 Nov).

**ROSS'S GULL** \* *Rhodostethia rosea*

0601

*Vagrant. The only record prior to 2006 was an immature at Frenchman's Rocks on 15 August 1976.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag

0602

*Normally strictly marine. Main breeding area on Colonsay, with other important colonies on Islay, Treshnish Isles, and Tiree. Rare in winter and very scarce inland.*

**Jan-Apr.** Very few seen in Jan or Feb. Numbers built up in Mar, with birds starting to attend nest sites irregularly from early or mid-Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** There were 985 AONs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles), mainly around Harp Rock. Uragaig sample cliff, *Colonsay* held 108 AONs. There were 21 AONs on Glunimore (Sanda Islands). Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* held 697 AONs on 18 Jun, with 651 nests still active with many older chicks close to fledging, though others still only mid-sized - mean brood size of 1.23 (N=230 nests) on 22 Jul.

**2005.** At Lunga (Treshnish Isles) there were at least 604 AONs, probably more, but one breeding area was inaccessible. The typical flock of up to 450 adults, including occasional 1 summer birds, was regularly seen on rocks between Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. Uragaig *Colonsay* sample area held 95 AONs (a decrease of 13 from 2004). Glunimore (Sanda Islands) held 30 AONs. Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* held 724 AONs (27 more than in 2004).

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Autumn migration or local dispersal movements seem to have started early with 1280 birds (including 114 juveniles) flying south past Machrihanish SBO in 4 hours on 18 Aug 2004, and 5000 in 4 hours on 27 Aug 2004. On *Coll*, the highest numbers passed on the first few days of Sep (1000 south in 2 hours on 1 Sep, 2400 south in 2 hours on 3 Sep), with a few hundred seen per hour on many dates through until late Oct. Other high counts were 1800 south in 5 hours at Machrihanish SBO on 20 Sep, 1750 south past Frenchman's Rocks in 7 hours on 21 Sep, and 5250 passing *Aird Tiree* in 3.5 hours on 6 Oct. Very few were reported after the end of Oct.

**2005.** The Marine Research Lab at Machrihanish Kintyre reported unusually high numbers of sandeels in the water intake pipes of the fish farm, and this may explain the occurrence of large flocks in late summer. For example, 8000 kittiwakes were seen feeding at the east end of the Sound of Mull on 28 Jun. Some 3800 kittiwakes, almost all adults, flew south past Machrihanish SBO in 8 hours on 8 Jul, and were thought to be carrying sandeels and heading towards Rathlin Island. On 9 Jul 7400 flew south in 10 hours at the same site. Also on 9 Jul, 2500 kittiwakes were feeding in L. Crinan. Large numbers of other gull species were involved in these events (see *The Eider* Mar 2006 for more details). In contrast to these dramatic feeding movements in July, autumn migration was not very pronounced, with most sites reporting passage rates of 50-100 birds per hour during Aug-Oct. Rather few birds were reported in Nov-Dec, except on 12 Nov when 2000 headed west past *Aird Tiree* in 1 hour during a NW gale.

**IVORY GULL**\* *Pagophila eburnea*

0604

*Vagrant, with only four confirmed records; on Islay in 1867, at Campbeltown in 1873, on Coll in 1969, and at Ardnave Point (Islay) on 23 and 24 Apr 2000.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**BRIDLED TERN**\* *Onychoprion anaethetus*

0622

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one present on Tiree in Jun/Jul 1994.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**LITTLE TERN** *Sternula albifrons* Steàrnag-bheag 0624  
*Very scarce breeding species, confined to Islay, Tiree and Coll. Scarce passage migrant elsewhere.*

**Apr-May 2004.** The first spring record was of 9 birds at The Reef *Tiree* on 16 Apr. Away from breeding sites there was one bird seen at Machrihanish SBO on 10 May 2004.

**2005.** The first bird was seen at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 12 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** There were: 5 pairs at RSPB Gruinart Floods, 8 pairs at Ardnave *Islay*, 27 pairs on the RSPB reserve on *Coll* (fledged 34 young), 28 pairs on Gunna Island *Coll* (fledged less than 10 young), and 67 pairs at 9 sites on *Tiree* including 33 on The Reef (fledged just 11 young).

**2005.** There were: 4 pairs at RSPB Gruinart Floods, 2 at Ardnave *Islay*, and 38 on the RSPB reserve on *Coll*. No data was received from Gunna Island *Coll*. There were: 55 pairs at 12 sites on *Tiree* (only 23 chicks fledged), and The Reef *Tiree* was the most productive colony with 24 pairs raising 13 fledglings. A single pair nested at a site on *Colonsay*.

**Jul-Aug 2004.** Most birds had left breeding areas by mid-Jul. Away from breeding sites, there were migrants seen at Machrihanish SBO on 30 Jul (2 adults) and 31 Jul (an adult feeding a fledgling). The last record was from Gott Bay, *Tiree* on 16 Aug.

**2005.** At Machrihanish SBO, on 23 Jul, there were 3 adults and 2 juveniles. The last record was again at Gott Bay *Tiree* but on 11 Aug (five days earlier than in 2004).

**CASPIAN TERN\*** *Hydroprogne caspia* 0606  
*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns an adult seen between Ardpatrik Point Mid-Argyll and Gigha in Jun 1981.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger* Steàrnag-dhubh 0627  
*Scarce and irregular passage migrant. Only 12 records 1980-2003.*

**2004.** A juvenile on 15 and 16 Sep was at L. a' Phuill [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus* 0628  
*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in Sep 1999.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna andvicensis* Sàrnag-mhòr 0611  
*Uncommon passage migrant. Very rare and irregular breeding species.*

**Jan-May 2004.** Spring arrivals were: 5 birds in Crossapol Bay Coll on 28 Mar, and 3 at Machrihanish SBO on 2 Apr.

**2005.** First arrivals were on 23 Mar at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* and on 2 Apr at Machrihanish SBO. The largest spring passage count was of 18 at Machrihanish SBO on 25 Apr 2005. Spring records came from many islands, but also particularly from *Kintyre* and *Cowal*.

**Summering 2004.** There were occasional reports throughout the summer in both years. There was no record of breeding in Argyll, but birds were seen copulating on several dates at Machrihanish SBO.



**2005.** A fledgling was seen at Machrihanish SBO on 8 July, the early date suggesting that the birds cannot have nested too far away.

**Jul-Nov.** Largest numbers of autumn migrants were seen in the second half of Aug, with many records from the islands, *Kintyre* and *Cowal*.

**2004.** Very few were seen after mid-Sept, and the last record was of two birds at Machrihanish SBO on 6 Oct.

**2005.** Small numbers were seen regularly through to the end of Sept, and there was an unusual record of a 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird on 1 and 6 Dec in Shuna Sound *Mid-Argyll*.

**FORSTER'S TERN** \* *Sterna forsteri*

0618

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record was of one in Oban Bay and L. Feochan from 8 to 11 Jan 2003.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* Steàrnag-chumanta

0615

**Locally common summer visitor, considerably more numerous than Arctic Tern close to the mainland, but often less so on outer isles. Many colonies severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken.**

**Apr-May 2004.** The first records were on 24 Apr from Bowmore and Gartnatra *Islay*.

**2005.** First sightings were very late, with reports on 2 May from three different sites: Port na Luing *Coll*, Gott Bay *Tiree*, and South Shian *Mid-Argyll*. On 24 May a dense feeding flock of about 2000 mostly Common Terns, was seen off Duart Point *Mull*.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; 1184 pairs were noted breeding at 11 sites (colony size 1 to 950 pairs). At 8 sites where productivity was measured, 1171 pairs fledged 1594 young (1.4 young/pair). At four sites where mink were removed, 1088 pairs fledged 1579 young (1.45 young/pair). At four sites where mink were not removed, 83 pairs fledged 15 young (0.18 young/pair). Thus mink removal raised productivity by a factor of 8. At the largest colony, in the Sound of *Mull*, breeding was prolonged into August and ca950 pairs fledged ca1450 young, the most successful breeding here for many years. Mink are controlled at this site. Other counts at these colonies included: 1 pair at Eilean Inshaig (Ardfern) *Mid-Argyll*, 18 pairs at Eilean an Ruig, L. Feochan (fledged ca 10 young - the colony was subject to raptor predation of adults and flying young), ca 2 pairs at Sgeir an Eitich (Ganavan) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged ca 3 young), ca 18 pairs at Eilean Gainimh (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* (fledged no young as the colony was deserted before late Jun possibly due to Peregrine), 80 pairs at Sgeir Caillich (L. Creran) *North Argyll* (fledged 109 young from a colony on a mussel raft - mink controlled in the area), 1 pair at Ardachy Islets (L. Etive) *North Argyll*, 40 pairs on Airds Islet (L. Etive) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged 10 young - mink controlled in the area but a Buzzard was seen taking young), 53 pairs on Black Rock (Crinan harbour) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged just 4 young - unknown predator - possibly mink), 11 pairs on Torinturk Islet *Kintyre*, and 10 pairs at Duncuan, L. Gilp (fledged 8 young).

Other colony counts included: 4 pairs on the RSPB reserve *Coll* (but no young fledged), 8 pairs on Gunna Island *Coll* (failed to produce any fledglings), at least 20 pairs at Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles), 4 pairs at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 2 pairs at Ardnave *Islay*.

A bird found dead at Sgeir na Caillich (L. Melfort) on 2 Jun had been ringed as a chick on 8 July 1992 at Eilean nan Gabhar (L. Teacuis) Highland Region.

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; 1172 pairs were noted breeding at 13 sites (colony size 1 to 727 pairs). Productivity was measured at 12 sites, where 1167 pairs fledged 705-858 young (0.60-0.73 young/pair). Most of the young were at sites where mink were

controlled. Sadly, the mussel raft at South Shian [which was so successful in 2004 *see* Seabird Group Newsletter 98 (Oct 2004) 6-7] was attacked by a mink this year while the birds were incubating, and the 40 pairs counted on 10 Jun had deserted by 18 Jun. The masses of mink faeces, yellow and liquid because of the egg yolk, and the hidden eggs and shells in a cosy den, left no doubt about the predator's identity. One adult tern was killed: it had been ringed as a chick near Corran Ferry (Highland) in Jul 2000. At Glas Eileanan, Sound of Mull 727 pairs fledged *ca* 500 young in spite of about 400 large chicks starving to death in mid-Jul and 32 being killed by otter(s) (mink were controlled). On Fladda (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll*, 12 pairs fledged no young, possibly because 4 people were on the island from 17-26 Jun repairing the storm-damaged lighthouse. At Sgeir na Caillich (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* 194 pairs fledged *ca* 150 young (mink were controlled in this area, but 48 large chicks starved to death, and another 40 were killed by otter). At Eilean an Ruisg, L. Feochan 15 pairs fledged 12-15 chicks (mink controlled), and at Sgeir an Eitich, Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* 6 pairs fledged 3 young (mink controlled). At Ardachy (L. Etive) *North Argyll* *ca* 5 pairs fledged 5 young (mink controlled). At Eilean Faoileag *Mid-Argyll* 21 pairs fledged 15 young (mink controlled). At Liath-sgeir Mhor, Sound of Jura 105 pairs fledged 50-100 young, although otter(s) took 40 large young and 48 starved to death. At Black Rock (Crinan harbour) *Mid-Argyll* 1 pair fledged no young. At Torinturk Islets (West L. Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* 7 pairs fledged 5 young (mink controlled but some otter predation). At Duncuan Island *Mid-Argyll* 34 pairs fledged *ca* 15 young.

Elsewhere, about 35 pairs nested on Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles), 10 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and a pair bred at Ardnave *Islay*.

**Jul-Sep 2004.** About 4000, mainly Common Terns, were feeding in the Sound of Mull on 25 Jul. The last records were on 2 and 5 Oct at Machrihanish SBO and on 14 Oct at L. an Eilein *Tiree*. A bird found freshly dead at Craignure Golf Course *Mull* on 8 Oct, had been ringed as a chick at Reisa an t-Sruith (Sound of Jura) on 29 Jun 1990.

**2005.** The last records in 2005 were on 27 Sept at L. a' Phuill, and an exceptionally late bird on 30 Oct at Arinagour *Coll*.

## ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* Stearnag

0616

**Summer visitor and localised breeding species. Many colonies severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken.**

**Apr-May 2004.** The first record was on 18 Apr at *Coll*, followed by 5 at *Tiree* on 25 Apr. The main return to colonies tends to be in early May. For example, at L. a' Phuill there were 9 on 2, 35 on 4 and 200 on 6 May. On 7 May there were 315 feeding with Manx Shearwaters around a Minke Whale off Urvaig *Tiree*.

**2005.** The first records were on 24 Apr at Machrihanish SBO and on 25 Apr on *Tiree*. The main return to colonies occurred in early May.

**Breeding 2004. 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; *ca*328 pairs were noted breeding at 10 sites (colony size 1 to *ca*90 pairs). Productivity was measured at 9 of these, where *ca*325 pairs fledged *ca*225-280 young (0.69-0.85 young/pair). Counts at these colonies included: *ca* 30 pairs at Craignure Golf Course *Mull* (fledged 10 young - mink controlled), 48 pairs at Sgeir mhic Chomhain *Mull* (fledged *ca* 20 young - otter predation, but mink controlled in area), *ca* 90 pairs at Glas Eileanan, Sound of *Mull* (fledged *ca* 130 young - mink controlled), 84 pairs at Sgeir an Eitich (Ganavan) *Mid-Argyll* (fledged *ca* 50-100 young - some mink predation), 18 pairs at Eilean Gainimh (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* (but colony deserted before hatching), 45 pairs Eilean Glas (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll* (fledged 10-15 young - Peregrine predation, most failed). On *Tiree* there were 601 AONs (minimum) at 15 sites, 88 AONs at The Reef and 100 AONs at Hynish, but no fledglings were produced from any of these colonies (most nests were abandoned at egg stage, presumably as result of poor food supply). Other colony counts included: 12 pairs

bred on Big Scone Isle (Machrihanish) Kintyre, 4 pairs at RSPB Gruinart Floods, 33 pairs at Ardnave Islay, 18 pairs at RSPB reserve Coll (fledged only 1 chick), 80 pairs on Gunna Island Coll produced a minimum of 140 young, 140 pairs at Milton Tiree, 180 pairs at Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles).

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; 430 pairs were noted breeding at 14 sites (colony size 1 to 150 pairs). Productivity was measured at 11 sites, where 420 pairs fledged 190-253 young (0.45-0.60 young/pair). At the largest of these colonies, Fladda (Sound of Luing), *ca* 150 pairs deserted early and reared no or very few young. This may have been because a family of four (the owners) were resident on the island from 17 to 26 Jun carrying out repairs to the storm-damaged lighthouse. Three medium sized colonies (40, 88, 99 pairs) elsewhere raised 178-236 young (0.78-1.04 young/pair). Other counts at these colonies included: 10-15 pairs at Craignure Golf Course *Mull* (no young fledged - mink controlled but failure probably due to mink), *ca* 10 pairs at Sgeir mhic Chomhain *Mull* (no young fledged - mink seen there in spite of control efforts), 4 pairs at Ormsa (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll* (but no chicks seen), 99 pairs at Glas Eileanan, Sound of *Mull* (115-130 young fledged - mink controlled but some Otter predation), 88 pairs at Eilean Rubha an Ridire, Sound of *Mull* (fledged 150-178 young in a new colony following years of mink control to restore this island), 5 pairs at Reisa mhic Phaidean, Sound of *Jura*, *ca* 10 pairs at Sgeir na Caillich (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* (10 young fledged - mink controlled, but heavy Otter predation), 2-4 pairs at Eilean Coltair (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* (no young fledged), 3 pairs Eilean Inshaig (Ardfern) *Mid-Argyll* (2 young fledged - mink controlled), 40 pairs at Sgeir an Eitich (Ganavan) *Mid-Argyll* (30-40 young fledged - mink controlled), and 88 pairs at Liath-sgeir Mhor, Sound of *Jura* (33-66 young fledged - many chicks starved, and also heavy predation by otters). Other colony counts included: 6 pairs at L. Gruinart, 6 pairs at Ardnave *Islay* and 60 pairs Machrins (Dun Ghallain) *Colonsay*. On *Tiree* 450 AONs were counted at 13 sites, but it was another disastrous breeding season with only 2 chicks fledged. This was apparently as a result of food shortage, with most nests abandoned at the egg stage.

**Jul-Nov.** There were many records in Jul and Aug, but few in Sept.

**2004.** The last record was on 29 Oct at Bridgend Merse Islay.

**2005.** The last record was on 9 Oct on Tiree.

**ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii* Steàrnag-stiùireach

0614

Rare non-breeding visitor. Last accepted record 2001.

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** Single birds were seen at Machrihanish SBO on 7 and 14 Aug [E. J. Maguire]. Both records were accepted by ABRC.

**COMMON GUILLEMOT(GUILLEMOT)** *Uria aalge* Eun-dubh-an-sgadain

0634

*Highly colonial, 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.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Numbers at or close to colonies began to increase from mid-Feb. For example, there were several on cliff ledges at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 14 Feb, but colony attendance was sporadic through Mar and Apr.

**2005.** There was a similar pattern of colony reoccupation.

**Breeding 2004.** At Lunga (Treshnish Isles) an estimated 8980 adult birds were on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil in early June, with the majority in the vicinity of Harp Rock. This is a 42% increase on numbers in 2003, but may be due to high adult attendance. Few adults were seen carrying fish suggesting poor breeding success. At Urugaig sample cliff *Colonsay* 156 adults

were counted (an increase of 13 on 2003). About 3600 birds were present on Sanda Islands. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 3692 adults were present on 18 Jun but most were not on eggs. A bird ringed as an adult at the colony on Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 29 Jun 1998 was found dead near Clachandhu *Mull* on 25 May. Small numbers of birds were seen in sea lochs in Sept, including a few coming ashore starving.

**2005.** There were 6757 birds at Harp Rock, Lunga (Treshnish Isles) in Jun. The study plot at Uragaig *Colonsay* held 120 birds (36 less than in 2004). On Sanda Islands it was a very successful breeding season for Common Guillemots, with most chicks gone by 18 Jul. Several hundred birds per hour passed Machrihanish SBO on 8 and 9 Jul, probably moving between colonies and feeding areas rather than on migration.

**Sept-Dec 2004-2005.** Good numbers at sea and small numbers in sea lochs in Sep. Rather few records after Sep. A bird ringed as an adult on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) on 2 Jun 1984 was found dead at Ardmail Beach (Ullapool) Highland Region on 13 Oct 2004. It was thus at least 22 years old.

**BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT** \* *Uria lomvia*

0635

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found dead at L. Caolisport in 1969.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda* Falc

0636

*Locally common breeding species, although less numerous and with smaller colonies than Guillemot. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands with smaller numbers regular in sea lochs in winter.*

**Jan-Apr 2004-2005.** There were few records in Jan and Feb then increasing numbers near or at colonies in Mar and Apr. Present on breeding sites erratically from mid Mar.

**Breeding 2004.** The Sanda Islands held 3500 birds, with good breeding success. Lunga (Treshnish Isles) held 2064 birds with majority close to Harp Rock, but breeding success seemed poor, with few adults carrying fish in June. Uragaig sample cliff *Colonsay* held 55 birds (cf 50 in 2003). Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* held 561 birds on 18 Jun (cf 364 in Jun 1999).

**2005.** The Sanda Islands held 5000 birds, with very good breeding success; all chicks gone by 18 Jul. Lunga (Treshnish Isles) held 1127 birds and Uragaig study plot, *Colonsay* held 48 birds.

**Sep-Dec 2004-2005.** Widely distributed after breeding season. Autumn passage was not very pronounced in most areas in 2004 and 2005, but seemed to peak in late Sep and early Oct. Highest counts were 2300 auks, mostly Razorbills, passing Aird *Tiree* in 75 minutes on 7 Oct 2004, and 3780 passing Vaul *Tiree* heading west in one hour on 8 Oct 2005.

**BLACK GUILLEMOT (TYSTIE)** *Cephus grylle* Gearra-breac

0638

*Common resident breeding species, on coasts, and islands in sea lochs.*

**Jan-May 2004.** On *Coll* a count on 19 Apr found 22 birds around the reserve coastline, whilst a count on 25 April found 52 birds around the whole island coastline (including the reserve). At Uamh na Gabhar, Scarba *Mid-Argyll*, 70 birds were counted on the sea around the western end of Corryvreckan on 11 May.

**2005.** There were no exceptional counts.

**Breeding 2004.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; 86 adult Black Guillemots were counted during the breeding season at ten sites (numbers at sites varied from one to 36). Proof of breeding was obtained at three of these sites (and at a further two sites where adults were not seen). Adults were present but not counted at another three sites, so a total of fifteen sites held

Black Guillemots. On Sanda Islands around 100 pairs had good breeding success with most nests holding two chicks.

**2005.** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; adult Black Guillemots were seen at 21 sites during the breeding season. The largest numbers were 16 adults at Corr Eilean on 31 May and 16-20 at Craro on 6 Jun. Breeding was confirmed at three sites (single nests at each with 1, 2, 1 large young). The most notable change from earlier years was at Craro (Gigha) where 81 were counted in Jun 1997 and 75 in Jun 1999. There was evidence of mink predation of adult Black Guillemots on Craro in Jun 2005, and this seems the most likely reason for the decline of what had been the largest colony in Argyll at the time of the Seabird 2000 census (see *The Eider* Sep 2005 pp.18-19 for more details).

**Oct-Dec 2004.** Forty-four flying south past Frenchman's Rocks on 6 Aug was described as "usual early August movement".

**2005.** A total of 72 birds were recorded in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 13 Oct.

**LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle* Colcach-bheag

0647

*Scarce and irregular winter visitor, usually seen during sea-watches or after severe gales.*

**2004.** One found wrecked in a garden in Caolas *Tiree* on 15 Jan flew off strongly later into Gunna Sound. A headless corpse was found freshly dead at Ruaig *Tiree* on 28 Feb. One in winter plumage was seen from the Oban-Tiree Ferry south of *Coll* on 13 Mar, and 4 were seen in the same area on 20 Mar. One passed Machrihanish SBO on 8 Oct. Two were seen from the Kennacraig-Islay Ferry on 30 Oct. Eleven were seen flying west off Aird *Tiree* in one hour during a NNW gale on 10 Nov 2004. One was feeding just off the beach at Caolas *Tiree* on 16 Nov.

**2005.** Three were seen at Bagh Tigh-an-Droighinn, L. Fyne on 6 Feb. Two live and one dead were in Feall Bay *Coll* on 25 Feb. Three were feeding at the entrance to Gott Bay *Tiree* on 26 Feb and there was one off Gunna Sound *Tiree* during NNW gales on 8 Apr. An early bird was just off Gott Bay *Tiree* (seen from ferry) on 20 Oct, and another was seen from the ferry at Port Askaig *Islay* on 22 Oct. One flew west off Aird *Tiree* on 12 Nov and a tideline corpse was found at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 23 Nov.

**PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid

0654

*Very localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Occasionally recorded in winter.*

**Jan-May 2004.** Several individuals recorded from *Tiree* and *Islay* in Jan and Feb 2004, but about as many dead ones as live ones. A bird found dead on 1 Feb 2004 at The Green *Tiree* had been ringed as a chick on the Isle of May, Fife, on 12 Aug 2001. Larger numbers seen at sea in Apr and May, around *Kintyre*, *Colonsay*, Lynne of Lorne, *Coll*, *Tiree*, *Islay*, and *Mull*.

**2005.** Again a few dead birds were found on *Tiree*. Two separate groups of 26 and 25 were seen from the Oban *Tiree* ferry south of *Coll* and in the Lynne of Lorne on 11 Apr. During May very small numbers were reported from around *Mull* and *Tiree*.

**Breeding 2004.** At Lunga (Treshnish Isles) there were estimated to be 1850 AOBs (pairs). The Sanda Islands colony was estimated to hold 200 pairs.

**2005.** Lunga (Treshnish Isles) held an estimated 2526 AOBs and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) held 615 AOBs. The Sanda Islands colony was estimated to hold just over 200 pairs.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** There were no exceptional counts.

**2005.** Unusually high numbers passed Machrihanish SBO on 7, 8 and 9 Jul when day totals were 107, 160 and 210 birds flying south. It is thought that these birds, together with many other seabirds, were attracted by unusually large numbers of sandeels in the area.

**ROCK DOVE / FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia* Calman-creige

0665

*Resident breeder except in Cowal. Large flocks often gather on arable fields outwith breeding season. Genetic integrity of most populations now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons but those on the islands are probably nearest 'pure' Rock Dove. Feral Pigeons recorded from most areas, but no information on population size.*

**Jan-Jun 2004.** The highest counts from the islands were: 130 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 9 Jan, 90 at Canal Loch *Coll* on 12 Jan, 78 on Oronsay on 18 Jan and 123 at Smaull *Islay* on 4 Feb. Smaller numbers elsewhere included: one at Minen *Kintyre* on 12 Feb, 16 flying N at Tayinloan on 14 Feb, 8 on Iona *Mull* on 31 May and 2 near Achleck *Mull* on 15 Jun.

**2005.** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 112 at Balevullin on 25 Jan. Smaller numbers were reported from *Islay* and *Mull* and the only other significant count was 44 on Oronsay on 9 Jan.

**Breeding. 2004.** Four pairs bred on Sanda Islands (incl. 3 on Glunimore). Breeding was also confirmed at *Coll* RSPB Reserve, RSPB Gruinart Floods and Ardnave *Islay* and pairs were also present on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) but with no evidence of breeding.

**2005.** Numbers on Sanda Islands appear to be declining with just 2 pairs on Glunimore, while 8 birds on Treshnish Isles included a pair with a nest on Lunga. Breeding was also confirmed at RSPB L. Gruinart, Ardnave *Islay*, Oronsay and *Colonsay*.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** The highest counts from the islands were: ca180 in the L. Gorm *Islay* area on 16 Oct, 140 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 23 Oct, 100 at L. Gruinart on 28 Aug, 74 on Oronsay on 5 Oct and 60+ at *Coll* RSPB Reserve on 1 Sep. The only other records concerned small number on Iona and mainland *Mull*.

**2005.** Higher counts than usual were reported including: 227 at S of Ballygrant *Islay* on 17 Nov, 172 on *Tiree* on 25 Oct (90 at Balephetrish/82 at Heylipol), 120 at the head of L. a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 27 Aug and 79 on Oronsay on 4 Nov. On the mainland, 17 with almost pure Rock Dove plumage were seen at Bellochinty *Kintyre* and 11 were at Tayinloan on 4 Sep.

**Feral Pigeon.** Small numbers were reported from: Port Ellen *Islay*, Campbeltown, Connel *Mid-Argyll*, North Connell *North Argyll* and Dunoon (max. 20 in Jan 2005).

At least 4 different lost Racing Pigeons were reported on *Tiree* during Jun 2004.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas* Calman-gorm

0668

*Very scarce and local resident. Only regularly reported in Mid-Argyll in recent years (with just one confirmed breeding record) but with occasional records from Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, and Mull.*

The only record during 2004 was of a single bird at Kintra *Islay* on 28 Oct. This is the third year running a solitary migrant has turned up on *Islay* during Oct. On 7 Feb 2005 three were seen at the traditional site of Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) and two were there on 14 Feb 2005.

**WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus* Calman-fiadhaich

0670

*Common resident breeding species except in some areas, such as Mull, where more numerous in winter. Odd pairs breed on Coll, normally absent from Tiree.*

Wood Pigeons were reported in small numbers (<10) from all Argyll recording areas except *Jura* during 2004-2005.

**Jan-Jun 2004.** No significant counts were reported but a single bird at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 8 May was unusual.

**2005.** The only flock reported comprised 19 birds at Bellochinty *Kintyre* on 3 Apr and once again a single bird was present on *Tiree* in May. A single bird on Sanda Island on 11 Jun was the only record of the year there.

**Breeding 2004.** Two pairs bred at The Lodge *Coll*, at least 2 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and a single territory at Taynish NNR was the first there since the CBC began in 1990. Breeding

also took place on *Colonsay*. Wood Pigeons were found in 24 of the 29 broadleaved woods examined during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 (*cf* 27 of 38 in 1985) but numbers had decreased by 67.9% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006).

**2005.** The only records of confirmed breeding came from RSPB L. Gruinart and *Colonsay*.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** The only counts in double figures were 14 at Tayinloan on 1 Nov and 30 flying over Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov.

**2005.** The only counts in double figures were several flocks of up to 35 along Kilberry (Knapdale *Mid-Argyll*) road on 17 Sep and 40 or more at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct.

**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto* Calman-a'-chrios 0684  
***Widespread but sparsely distributed throughout Argyll. Some island populations emigrate in winter.***

Reported in small numbers (<10) during 2004-2005 from all Argyll recording areas except *Jura* including records from Iona, Oronsay and Sanda Island. The highest counts came from *Tiree* (max. 21 at The Airport on 10 Nov 2004) and *Islay* (max. 18 at L. Gruinart/Ardnave on 22 Nov 2005). The largest numbers elsewhere were 11 at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Nov 2005 and 9 at The Lodge *Coll* on 1 Sep 2004.

**TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur* Calman-tùchan 0687  
***A scarce but almost annual passage migrant, most frequently recorded during May and Jun.***

**2004.** One at Fasachd *Coll* on 7<sup>th</sup> May and one at Heylipol *Tiree* on 16 May were typical spring migrants.

**2005.** Single migrants were seen at Tayinloan 14-16 May, at RSPB L. Gruinart on 23 May and at Auchnasaul (nr. Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* 23-24 May.

**COMMON CUCKOO (CUCKOO)** *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag 0724  
***A common summer visitor that is more frequent and widespread on the mainland.***

Reported during 2004-2005 from all Argyll recording areas except *Jura*.

**Apr-May 2004.** The first arrivals were at Clabhach *Coll* on 14 Apr and at Fearnoch (Kilmichael) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr: both fairly average dates for Argyll. Birds were at L. na Keal and Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr but the main arrival took place from 23 Apr onwards.

**2005.** The first arrivals were at *Coll* RSPB Reserve and at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr and there had been reports from most recording areas by 25 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** Two territories were recorded in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR. Breeding was also confirmed at RSPB Gruinart Floods, Ardnave *Islay* and on *Colonsay* and there were widespread records of calling birds on *Mull* during the breeding season. Up to 2 were seen/heard on *Tiree* in late May and early Jun but not thereafter.

**2005.** Breeding was confirmed at RSPB L. Gruinart, Ardnave *Islay* and on *Colonsay*. On *Tiree*, single birds were heard calling on several dates from 25 Apr to 6 Jun and a female was watched searching for nests at Carnan Mor on 28 May but there was no further evidence of breeding.

**Jul-Aug 2004.** A small influx of juvenile birds on *Tiree* included 2 at Balinoe dunes on 2 Aug and one at Heylipol 8-10 Aug.

**2005.** A juvenile was seen on a garden fence at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug and a very late bird was seen at Lephinmore *Cowal* on 13 Sep.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* 0727  
***Vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one found dead near Southend, Kintyre in November 1950.***

**2004.** No records.

2005. No records.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** *Coccyzus americanus*

0728

*Vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one found dead on Colonsay in November 1904 and one found dying at Barcaldine, North Argyll in September 1969.*

2004. No records.

2005. No records.

**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba* Comhachag

0735

*Scarce breeding species, but probably under recorded. Widespread on Islay and Mull but only a rare visitor to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree. All records required.*

**2004-2005.** Birds were recorded from all recording areas of Argyll during 2004-2005 except Colonsay.

**2004.** One in a barn at Heylipol on 30 Oct was just the third record for *Tiree* and the first there since 1892! It remained at the barn until at least 10 Nov. Single birds reported on *Coll* on 4 Mar (at Uig) and 2 & 8 Sep (at Totronald) were the second and third records for the island respectively and one at Taynish NNR on 3 Aug was the first sighting there since 1986.

**2005.** A recently dead bird at Kinuachdrachd *Jura* on 27 Feb had been brought in with broken wing by cat, and one was seen on Beinn Sgluich *North Argyll*, just within our recording area, on 20 Feb.

**Breeding 2004.** In addition to those shown in Table 45.1, a wild pair nested in box in a garden at Barcaldine *North Argyll* and fledged four young (JCAC).

Table 45.1 *Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2004.*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Islay	3	3	2	1	8	4.00
Kintyre/ Knapdale (FCS)	18	18	9	2	26	2.88
Cowal	5	5	1	1	2	2.00
Total	26	26	12	4	36	3.00

**Breeding 2005.** In addition to those shown in Table 45.2: a pair were on territory at a nest site near Benderloch *North Argyll* in May, one was at a traditional nesting site at Blarghour (Loch Awe) on 17 May and a pair bred successfully at Moine Mhor.

Table 45.2 *Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2005.*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Islay	3	2	2	0	0	6	3.00
Kintyre/ Knapdale (FCS)	17	17	9	2	6	24	2.66
Cowal	9	5	2	2	1	7	3.50
Total	29	24	13	4	7	37	2.84

(ARSG per RAB).



**EURASIAN SCOPS OWL** *Otus scops*

0739

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record is of one found dead at Scarinish (Tiree) on 6th Apr 1997. Very rare in Scotland, most records being from the Northern Isles.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**SNOWY OWL** *Bubo scandiacus*

0749

**Vagrant.** *Four old records 1870-1892 are considered acceptable.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** On 27 Jan, a male found near Arileod Coll at lunchtime moved onto the RSPB reserve near Totronald later in the day [B. Macintyre Snr./B. Macintyre Jnr./S. Wellock]. This record was accepted (as a near adult male) by BBRC (*BBRC website*). Only two days later a large and quite heavily marked individual, thought to be an immature female, spent much of 29 Jan on the grass strip at Tiree Airport but was not seen subsequently. This record was accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:56) as a female/immature. It is presumed to be the same bird as that seen on the Outer Hebrides on several dates in 2005.

We waited over 100 years for another Snowy Owl in Argyll and then two came along almost together!

**TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco* Comhachag-dhonn

0761

**Widespread and common resident breeding bird, but absent from Coll and with only single records for Colonsay and Tiree.**

**2004/2005.** Birds were reported from Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull North Argyll and Tiree. On 18 Jul 2004 island residents reported hearing a calling Tawny Owl at Carnan Mor Tiree. This was confirmed when the classic male "song" was heard there from midnight 21 Jul to 01:00 hrs on 22 Jul and constitutes the first substantiated record for the island. This is an extremely sedentary species that rarely strays from its established breeding areas.

**Breeding 2004.** No monitored sites were reported on during the year (RAB).

**Breeding 2005.** As well as those shown in Table 46, calling birds were reported during the breeding season from several localities in Mid-Argyll and Mull.

Table 46. *Outcome of monitored Tawny Owl territories in Argyll in 2005.*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Islay	1	1	1	0	0	1+	-
Cowal	18	18	11	7	0	15	1.36
Total	19	19	12	7	0	16+	1.36*

\* for 15 pairs where the brood size was accurately known.

It was a poor breeding season in Cowal; many pairs failed to lay eggs in the Glen Branter Study Area. (ARSG per RAB).

**LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus* Comhachag-adharcaiche

0767

**Very scarce resident breeding bird and winter visitor, almost certainly under recorded. All records required.**

**2004/2005.** On 29 Oct 2004 one was found roosting in hawthorn scrub at Balinoe Tiree. This was only the second record for the island, making 2004 a remarkable year for owls on Tiree (see

Barn Owl and Tawny Owl accounts). The only other records were of hunting birds seen at Milbuie and Kiloran *Colonsay* on 7 Jul 2005.

**Breeding 2004.** A pair that nested at Clachan Seil *Mid-Argyll* fledged two young. Pairs were present in at least two areas on *Colonsay*. One site fledged three chicks but at the other no young were heard; it is presumed to have been unsuccessful. Breeding was proved at two sites on *Mull* and an adult was present in a third area on the Ross of *Mull*. The outcome of these nesting attempts was not known.

**Breeding 2005.** Three occupied sites were found on *Colonsay*, but none was successful.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus* Comhachag-chluasach 0768  
*Widely but thinly distributed breeder and winter visitor. Numbers fluctuate and distribution varies with the abundance of small rodents, especially field voles Microtus agrestis.*

**2004.** During the year birds were reported widely on *Islay* and *Mull* with fewer records from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*.

**2005.** There were records from all Argyll recording areas (except *Kintyre*) with lower numbers than in 2004.

**Breeding 2004.** Breeding records from ARSG are given in Table 47.1. In addition, displaying birds were reported in Mar from two sites in the west of *Coll*. and birds apparently on territory were seen at three sites in the north of *Kintyre*.

Table 47. *Short-eared Owl territories identified in Argyll in 2004.*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites where eggs laid	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged
Islay	2	2	?	2	?
Mull	11	11	?	11	?
Cowal	4	4	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>?</b>

(ARSG per RAB).

More sightings than usual were reported from suitable habitat during the breeding season. The majority were generated during survey work for the hen harrier survey. Unfortunately, most refer to single visits and the breeding outcome is only known for the four sites, fully monitored, on the *Cowal*; all of which failed. (ARSG per RAB).

**Breeding 2005.** The species was very scarce in *Cowal*, where only a single adult was seen in one area on one occasion. On *Islay*, breeding pairs were found at 5 sites but the breeding outcome is only known for one of these, which fledged at least one chick. A pair on *Coll* successfully reared 2+ young. A single bird was seen on Oronsay *Colonsay* on two dates in Jun.

**EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR (NIGHTJAR)** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraicheag-oidhche 0778  
*Very scarce and irregular summer visitor. Has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal.*

**2004.** One was heard reeling at Kilchurn Castle (L. Awe) at 22:30 hrs on 2 Jun. Reeling was heard again at the same site the following evening.

**2005.** One was heard reeling Kilchurn Castle (L. Awe) at 22:40 hrs on 2 Jun and a male was seen nearby, at Strommilchan *North Argyll* later the same evening .

**COMMON SWIFT (SWIFT)** *Apus apus* Gobhlan-mòr

0795

**Summer visitor, breeding only very locally on the mainland. Wandering birds in summer and passage migrants may occur in all areas.**

**2004.** An early bird at Acha Coll on 4 May was followed by one at L. Gearach Islay on 13 May and 3 at Kirm (Dunoon) on 14 May. Away from the known breeding areas there were records of up to 7 birds on Islay and Tiree on several dates in Jun and Jul. Singles were reported from Lunga (Treshnish Isles) and Sanda Island in Jun.

Following the unusual sighting of 48 birds over Oronsay on 10 Aug an unprecedented influx occurred from early afternoon to dusk on 12 Aug. Counts on 12 Aug included:

- Coll – 19 over Breachacha.
- Tiree – 521 at various localities, including 380 in a ‘seething wall’ over Balephuill/L. a’ Phuill and 130+ in the Heylipol/Hynish area.
- Islay – at least 130 at RSPB L. Gruinart at 13:00 hrs and 160 at 16:30 hrs.
- Machrihanish SBO – 441 flying NNE in 5 hrs from 13:00 hrs and 60+ flying S at dusk.
- Moine Mhor – 41 flying N in 20 minutes.
- Otter Ferry – 20+ feeding over fields.

This was probably part of a more widespread movement as an unprecedented 200+ had been reported over Skye on 10 Aug (BirdGuides). Smaller numbers in the following days included 25 flying N at Moine Mhor on 13 Aug and 95 at L. Gruinart on 14 Aug. On 25 Aug, 25 birds flew S over Sanda Island and a late migrant flew over Ford Mid-Argyll with Swallows on 12 Sep.

**2005.** The first arrivals reported were two birds seen mating in flight over Lagganmore (near Kilninver) Mid-Argyll on 8 May. They were followed by 3 over Dunoon on 10 May and 2 at Connel Mid-Argyll on 14 May. A group of 25 were passing over Moine Mhor on 21 May and 22 over The Strand Colonsay on 19 Jun was probably a record count for the island. Other unusual counts included 6 over Lunga (Treshnish Isles) on 24 Jun and at least 60 feeding over Sanda Island on 30 Jun. Breeding was confirmed in Dunoon when one was seen to fly into a nest site under the eaves in George Street on 27 Jul. There were no reports after the end of the first week in Aug apart from an exceptionally late record of a single bird seen well over Colintrave Cowal on 3 Nov. Apart from an old record of one at Skerryvore Lighthouse Tiree on 17 Nov 1893 this is the latest record for Argyll.

**ALPINE SWIFT** *Apus melba*

Gobhlan-monaidh

0798

**Vagrant. Two Argyll records: one at Largybaan, Kintyre in April 1993 and one on the Treshnish Isles in July 1994.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**COMMON KINGFISHER (KINGFISHER)** *Alcedo atthis* Biorra-cruidein

0831

**Scarce but regular visitor. Most records are in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. The only proven breeding record was in Kintyre in 1993.**

Records of Kingfishers in Argyll have been increasing recently (11 in 2004 and 13 in 2005, cf 6 in 1999 and 5 in 2000) and the Jul records in 2004 raise the intriguing possibility of undetected breeding pairs.

**2004.** Single birds were reported as follows: Kennacraig Kintyre in early Feb, head of L. Gilp on 22 Feb, Campbeltown Harbour on 7 Jul, River Add in Kilmichael Glen Mid-Argyll on 27 Jul, head of L. Gilp on 4 Sep, Lismore (seen from the ferry just off southern tip of the island) North Argyll on 9 Sep, L. Fyne (seen on rocky beach near Inverneill) on 27 Sep, Kelly’s Pier

(Taynuilt) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct, Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, L. a' Chnuic *Islay* on 23 Nov, and Kelly's Pier (Taynuilt) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec.

**2005.** Single birds were reported as follows: Bonawe *North Argyll* on 16 Jan, Coylet (L. Eck) *Cowal* on 19 Jan, Airds Bay (L. Etive) on 6 Feb, Drimvore (Moine Mhor) on 25 Aug, Glenlussa Water (Peninver) *Kintyre* on 1 Sep and 3 Sep, Crinan Canal (near Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Sep, Crinan Canal (near Ardrishaig) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov, head of L. Gilp on 23 Nov, Aros Park *Mull* on 28 Nov, Caol Scotnish (L. Sween) on 30 Nov, and head of L. Gilp on 30 Nov. Two were seen at Sandbank *Cowal* on 5 Nov.

**EUROPEAN BEE-EATER (BEE-EATER)** *Merops apiaster* 0840  
*Vagrant. Only 4 or 5 records since the first in 1981.*

**2004.** No accepted records.

**2005.** No records.

**EUROPEAN ROLLER (ROLLER)** *Coracias garrulus* 0841  
*Vagrant. Seven records 1887-1992, mostly in autumn.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**HOOPOE** *Upupa epops* Calman-cathaidh 0846  
*Scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** One was seen at Cornaigbeg *Coll* on 7 Apr and one was at Muasdale *Kintyre* 3 – 11 May.

**WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla* Geocair 0848  
*Rare & irregular passage migrant in spring and autumn.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis* Snagardach 0856  
*Rare, but recorded regularly in Cowal in recent years as well as in Mid-Argyll, Mull and N Argyll. Breeding may have occurred in Kintyre in 1998. All records required.*

**2004.** One was seen and heard calling at L. Frisa *Mull* on 9 Jun and one was seen in the grounds of Dundarrach House (near Colinttraive) *Cowal*.

**2005.** In response to appeals for information many more records were received than usual. Several people reported birds calling regularly at Benmore Botanic Gardens *Cowal*, from Feb through to early Jun. This must make it likely that Green Woodpeckers were breeding or attempting to breed in the area. Two young birds were reported in the Loch Don area of *Mull* in Jun indicating possible breeding nearby. Later in the year calling birds were reported at Cairndow *Cowal* on 4 Sep and at Benmore Botanic Gardens from early Oct to early Dec.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major* Snagan-daraich 0876  
*Resident breeder, widespread on the mainland and Mull. Occasional records on Islay.*

**2004.** Birds were widely reported from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*, with some records from *Islay* and *Kintyre*. A male seen flying along the road at Ballard *Coll* on 24 Feb was the first documented record for the island.

**2005.** Birds were widely reported from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*, with a single record from *Kintyre*. Birds were frequently reported at garden bird feeders.

**Breeding 2004.** There were 4 territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, equalling the record number in 2003.

**Breeding 2005.** There were 3 territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*.

**SKY LARK (SKYLARK)** *Alauda arvensis* Uiseag 0976  
*Widespread breeding species, common in some areas. Many emigrate in winter, with remaining birds mainly in coastal and low lying localities.*

**2004.** The highest counts reported were: 194 at Gruinart Farm (L. Gruinart) on 1 Mar, 200 at L. an Eilein on 17 Mar, 340 on barley stubbles at the RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 28 May, 106 on the airstrip at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Sep and 111 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 6 Oct.

**2005.** The highest counts reported were: 80-100 in Saulmore field (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Mar, 120 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 30 Mar, 227 in Sep at L. Gruinart, 150 feeding on arable stubble on Oronsay on 30 Sep, 150+ at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 11 Oct and 120 at Salum *Tiree* on 15 Nov.

**Breeding 2004.** A breeding survey on Oronsay found at least 25 singing males, 4 singing males were on Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 6 pairs are thought to have bred on Sanda Island and 12 singing males were found at L. Gaineamhach (Eredine) *Mid-Argyll*.

**Breeding 2005.** During a Moorland Bird Survey of six 1km squares near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 9 & 11 Jun, 39 singing males were found. Six pairs bred on Sanda Island, 5 singing males were found on Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 50 were counted on Oronsay on 22 May and 2 territories in coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR was the best result since 1997.

**SHORE LARK** *Eremophila alpestris* 0976  
*Vagrant. Only one accepted record, of three birds on Islay in October 1976.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan-gainmhigh 0981  
*A summer visitor, localised breeding species, and passage migrant. All breeding records required.*

**Mar-May 2004.** First arrivals, all of two birds, were; on the 19 Mar at L. Scammadale *Mid-Argyll*, 21 Mar at Abbott's Isles, L. Etive *North Argyll* and 29 Mar at Ardnave *Islay*. The main arrival was spread from the 7 of Apr to mid-May with reports from all areas apart from *Colonsay* and *Jura*. Flocks of over 25 were found; on 24 Apr at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* (26), 3 May at Lochdon *Mull* (35) and an influx to 28 at L. a' Phuill on 16 May.

**2005.** Arrivals in March were noted at; L. Ederline *Mid Argyll* with 4 on the 26, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* 2 also on the 26 and 5 at Powder Dam (upper) *Cowal* on the 29. The main arrival took place between the 8 and 28 Apr with reports from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura* and *Mull*. Larger flocks in Apr included; 16 on the 8 in Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll*, 30 in fields by L. Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on the 12 and 20 at the River Euchar *Mid-Argyll* on the 25. May saw; up to 26 present at L. a' Phuill throughout, at least 100 at Ledaig *North Argyll* on 26 and around 55 at L. Melldalloch *Cowal* on 27.

**Breeding 2004.** At the large colony at North Connel *North Argyll*, 269 burrows were counted - broadly similar to the previous two years. Elsewhere, 9 burrows were found in the dune cliffs L. a' Phuill and 25 occupied burrows at the wood yard in Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll*. In addition small numbers were seen at various locations in *Cowal*, *Mull* and *Tiree* along with others in *North Argyll* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** Rather more breeding records received with; 15 apparently occupied burrows at L. a' Phuill, 15 at Little Eachaig *Cowal*, 20 at Millhouse *Cowal*, 12 at Killegruer *Kintyre*, 30 at

Kilmichael wood yard *Mid-Argyll* ( cf 24 in 2004), ca 260 at Ledaig sandpit *North Argyll*, 239 at N. Connel *North Argyll* ( in five groups), and 148 at Ballure *Kintyre* (in four groups). Elsewhere small numbers were reported breeding or apparently breeding from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Jura*.

**Aug-Sep 2004.** A very few birds were seen in Aug in *Tiree* and *Kintyre*; Sep saw a couple of singles on *Mull* with the last birds of the year being two seen flying over Ardnave *Islay* on the 7 Sep.

**2005.** Aug saw more birds than the previous year particularly on *Mull* and *Tiree* throughout the month with a high for *Mull* of 80 (at six sites) on 1 and for *Tiree* of 30 at L. a' Phuill on 21. The highest count for Sep was 20 hawking over the Kilfinan Burn *Cowal* on the 2 and the last were 2 at Tayinloan on the 16.

#### **BARN SWALLOW (SWALLOW) *Hirundo rustica*** Gobhlan-gaoith

0992

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

**Mar-May. 2004.** The first arrivals were at; Aros Estuary *Mull* on 20 Mar, then a considerable gap until, Ballimeanoch Farm (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Apr, Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) *North Argyll* on 7 Apr with a further four sightings to 11 Apr; two at Tayinloan, one at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* and another at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll*. The main influx occurred between the 11 and the 26 Apr when birds were widely reported from all areas apart from *Jura* and *Mull*. No flocks of any size were noted apart from 16 around Tayinloan on 17 May and an exceptional passage through *Coll* of around 600 on 4 May.

**2005.** Early arrivals in March were; singles at Achnamara *Mid-Argyll* on 26 and at Aros Park *Mull* on 27 with a pair at Totronald *Coll* on 28. A further seven sightings, mainly single birds, were noted in the first week of Apr in; *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. From 11 Apr to the end of the month birds were widely seen in all recording areas, usually in very small numbers. The only Apr records, in double figures, were a peak day count of 60 on *Coll* on 25 and of 20 on *Tiree* on 30.

**Breeding 2004-2005.** Widely reported from all recording areas in both years.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Post breeding flocks were noted at: Claggain Bay *Islay* (50 on 4 Aug), Sanda Islands (53 max in Aug), Kintallan (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* (70 on 7 Sep), Kilfinan *Cowal* (200 on 7 Sep), Balemartin *Tiree* (60 on 12 Sep) and Tayinloan (40 on 22 Sep). Virtually all had left by 9 Oct but a single bird was at Ballygrant *Islay* on 27 Oct and an exceptionally late bird was at the old School House, Kilmore (near Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 and 15 Dec.

**2005.** Eight post breeding flocks exceeding 40 were; 48 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 1 Aug, a huge roost of around 1000 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* also on 1 Aug, 55 at L. a' Phuill on 21 Aug, 60 at Carsaig *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Sep and 140 at Machrihanish SBO on 24 Sep. The bulk of birds had gone by the middle of Oct although a pair was still feeding young at Tayinloan on 15 Oct. The last four sightings were singles at: Machrihanish golf course on 31 Oct, L. Gruinart on 1 Nov, Keills (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Nov and *Coll* RSPB Reserve on 13 Nov.

#### **HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*** Gobhlan-taighe

1001

*A common summer visitor on the mainland. It is less numerous on the islands and has not been recorded breeding on Tiree.*

**Apr-May 2004.** A very early bird was at Ardnave *Islay* on 29 Mar followed by a few singles in the first two weeks of April with the main arrival from 20 Apr onwards. There were records from all areas apart from *Colonsay*, *Jura* and *North Argyll*.

**2005.** Two birds seen at Kilchurn Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar were the earliest ever recorded in Argyll. The following day a bird seen at L. a' Phuill was the earliest ever recorded on *Tiree*. On the other hand, during the whole of Apr only seven records were received. These were from

*Cowal, Islay, Kintyre and Mid-Argyll*: all singles apart from one count of two. There was no marked peak influx with birds appearing throughout May from all recording areas apart from *Coll, Colonsay and Jura*.

**Breeding 2004-2005.** Widely reported in both years from all recording areas apart from the islands of *Colonsay, Jura and Tiree*. Breeding was confirmed on *Coll* in 2004 by two pairs at Uig, but there were none in 2005. Birds were present on *Colonsay* and *Tiree* in both years but breeding was not confirmed.

**Jul-Oct 2004.** Post breeding flocks of 20 or more were at; Garra Eallabus (L. Gruinart) *Islay* (100 on 23 July), Otter Ferry *Cowal* (30 on 20 Aug), Tayinloan (20 on 21 Aug), Sanda Islands (23 on 21 Aug) and at Garra Eallabus *Islay* (60 on 8 Sep). The last record was two at L. Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Oct.

**2005.** Only two post breeding flocks of more than 20 were reported with, 29 at Bellochany *Kintyre* on 2 Jul and 25 at Lochan na Bi *North Argyll* on 6 Jul. The last records of the year were rather later than 2004 with birds reported at Rockside *Islay* and Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct.

**RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus richardi*

1001

*Vagrant. Only two Argyll records, both on Islay, one in September 1971 and the other in September 1973.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records. (But see records awaiting descriptions p. 147)

**TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag-choille

1009

*Summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland. Also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.*

**2004 Apr-May.** First arrivals were on the early side with birds at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr and at Taynish NNR on 16 Apr. By the end of May there had been widespread records of singing birds from *Cowal, Mid-Argyll, Mull and North Argyll*. There was also a very unusual record of one song-flighting from willow scrub at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 4 May.

**2005.** A very early bird was at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr and birds at Kinuachdrachd *Jura* and Taynish NNR on 11 Apr were also earlier than usual. One calling in flight at Totronald *Coll*, also on 11 Apr, was a first record for the island. By mid-May there had been widespread records from *Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll and North Argyll*.

**Breeding 2004.** Only 9 territories were found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR (*cf* long term average, 1990-2004 = 12 territories). Confirmed breeding records also came from Inveroran (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll* and, in *Mid-Argyll*, from Tullochgorm (Minard) and L. Glashan. Tree Pipits were found in all of the 29 broadleaved woods surveyed for the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 but numbers had decreased by 17% since the same woods were surveyed in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006).

**2005.** The 8 territories found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR was a record low since the census began in 1990 and was considered further evidence of a downward trend in numbers.

**Aug-Sep.** None were reported after Jul in **2004** but in **2005** singles were reported at Glen Aros, *Mull* on 28 Aug and on *Islay* (at Ardnave and L. Gruinart) in Sep.

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis* Snàthag

1011

*Abundant breeding species. Most leave the higher ground in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those remaining in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low lying localities.*

**2004 Jan-Apr.** Flocks of 40 birds or more reported during these months included: 48 at Tayinloan on 22 Mar, *ca* 60 at Otter Ferry on 26 Mar and 80 at Castle Toward School *Cowal* on 1 Apr.

**2005.** Flocks of 40 birds or more reported during these months included: 60 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 26 Mar, 50 in Glen Euchar (near Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar, *ca* 40 in Glendaruel *Cowal* on 8 Apr and 170 (probably including migrants) on the machair at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* on 26 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** Seven territories were found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR (*cf* long term average, 1990-2004 = 6 territories). During a Breeding Bird Survey visit to 1km square NM9000 (Loch Gaineamhach *Mid-Argyll*), 46 individuals were counted.

**2005.** During a Moorland Bird Survey of six 1km squares near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 9 & 11 Jun, 111 individuals were recorded. The total of 192 found during a repeat survey of the same 6 squares on 7 & 11 Jul included many juvs. Seven territories were found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR (as in 2004). An estimated 16 pairs bred on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) and pairs also bred on Fladda. At least 30 pairs bred on Sanda Island with good numbers of juvs. fledged.

**2004 Jul-Dec.** Flocks of 40 or more included: 90 at The Reef *Tiree* on 30 Jul, 50-100 at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 1 Aug, 60 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 20 Aug, 45 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 18 Aug, 55 at Heylipol (with large numbers scattered around elsewhere on *Tiree*) on 7 Sep, 60 at Ardlamont Point *Cowal* on 15 Sep and 50 on Sanda Island on 24 Sep.

**2005.** Flocks of 50 or more included: 70 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 19 Aug, max. 243 during Sep at RSPB L. Gruinart, at least 560 on *Tiree* on 5 Sep (including a single flock of 180 at L. a' Phuill), 70 flying S at Sanda Island on 8 Sep, 115 at The Reef and 40 at Barrapol *Tiree* on 11 Oct and a minimum of 1,000 birds at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 11 Oct.

**RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus*

1012

**Vagrant.** *The only Argyll record is of one at Tobermory, Mull in May 1975.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus* Gabhagan

1014.2

**Common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn. Scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.**

**Breeding 2004.** On Sanda Island, 35 pairs fledged good numbers of young.

**2005.** On Treshnish Isles, at least 8 pairs were found on Lunga, 4 or more pairs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, 4 pairs on Sgeir an Eirionnaich, one pair on Sgeir an Fheoir and birds were also noted on Fladda. Some 30 – 35 pairs bred on Sanda Islands.

**2004.** The only locations with counts of 10 or more birds were Sanda Island (max. 31 on 23 Aug) and Traigh Bhi dunes *Tiree* (16 feeding on seaweed flies on 9 Oct). At least two were at Skerryvore Lighthouse (17km SW of *Tiree*) on 10 Sep.

**2005.** A count around the coastline of RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 27 Feb found at least 100 birds. Other counts of 10 or more included: 10+ at L. na Cille (L. Sween) on 16 Jan, 16 feeding on the tide-line at Traigh Hough *Tiree* on 9 Mar, 15 feeding on kelp flies at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 26 Mar and 14 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 27 Mar.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava* Breacan-buidhe

1017

**Scarce but annual passage migrant. Birds of the Blue-headed race *M. f. flava* occur from time to time, and there has been at least one record of the Grey-headed race *M. f. thunbergi* (in 1985).**



**2004.** A single bird at Claddach *Islay* on 5 May was the only record of the year.

**2005.** On 20 May three striking male birds of the grey-headed *thunbergi* race were found at the edges of pools near the Ringing Stone *Tiree* during misty conditions while a fourth bird heard in flight only. After a clear night with S winds there was no sign of the birds the next day [John Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan-baintighearna

1019

***Widespread resident breeding species; some emigration in winter.***

**2004/2005.** Grey Wagtails were reported from all Argyll recording areas except *Jura* in both 2004 and 2005. Mostly in ones and twos, but 6 were at L. Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar 2004 and 6 at Largimore (near Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 3 Sep 2005.

**Breeding 2004.** An adult was seen carrying food for young at Woollen Mill, Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 22 May and two recently fledged young were at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jul.

**2005.** A pair were feeding young at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May and an adult with nesting material was at Barr Beithe (L. Awe) on 14 May.

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba yarrellii* Breac-an-t-sil

1020

***Widespread and common breeder. Absent from many areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive late Feb to early Mar; departure Aug-Oct.***

**Jan-Apr 2004.** There were records from all areas apart from: *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll*. Flocks of more than 10 birds were: 15 at Octomore Hill *Islay* on 21 Jan, 10 at Tayinloan on 20 Feb, 200 or more on passage on *Coll* on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar, 19 at Sorobaidh Bay on 4 Apr, and 15 at Tayinloan on 25 Apr.

**2005.** There were records from all areas apart from: *Colonsay*, *Jura*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*. More than 10 birds were reported from *Coll* and *Tiree* at various sites during March with the highest number being a minimum of 141 seen around *Coll* on 23 Mar (included at least 16 *alba* type White Wagtails). Elsewhere, there were: 20 at Craigens *Islay* on 27 Mar, 28 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 3 Apr, 10 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 6 Apr, and 30 at Tayinloan on 23 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** First fledglings were noted at Balemartine *Tiree* on 26 May. Thereafter, confirmed breeding occurred widely in all areas apart from *Jura* and *North Argyll*. On *Colonsay* an ‘in-bye’ breeding bird survey found breeding widespread and common.

**2005.** First fledglings were noted, slightly earlier, on 15 May at Urugaig *Colonsay*. Thereafter, confirmed breeding records were widely received from all other areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*.

**Post Breeding 2004.** Some large flocks were noted with: 85 at Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 9 Jul, 45 at Garra Eallabus *Islay* on 23 Jul, flocks of 45 and 53 on *Coll* on 1 Aug, 79 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 13 Aug, 80 at Bridgend Moss *Islay* also on 13 Aug, 60 at Crinan Moss/Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Aug, and 30 at Balemartin *Tiree* on 12 Sep. From Oct to the end of the year the only records were from *Islay* and *Tiree* apart from single records from *Mid-Argyll* and *Cowal*.

**2005.** Fewer and smaller flocks were recorded compared to the previous year with: 17 at the Aros Estuary *Mull* on 10 Jul, 30 at Loch a’ Phuill on 29 Jul, 32 at the Add Estuary on 9 Aug, 20 or more on the road at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Aug, 30 at Loch a’ Phuill on 18 Aug, and 22 at Sorobaidh Bay on 22 Sep. Again, the vast majority of records from Oct to the end of the year were from *Islay* and *Tiree* with only single records from *Kintyre* and *North Argyll*.

**WHITE WAGTAIL *M. a. alba***

1020.1

*Passage migrant, usually recorded in spring. Extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties.*

**Spring 2004.** The first migrants of spring were recorded from *Coll*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree* between 22 Mar and 29 Mar. Larger numbers reported later in spring were: 17 on 26 Apr at Crossapol Bay *Coll*, 9 on *Tiree* on 25 Apr, 18 at Druim Mor *Colonsay* on 27 Apr, 18 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 1 May, and 30 on passage through *Coll* on 1 May.

**2005.** Earliest spring arrivals were: the odd one or two among a heavy spring passage of Pied Wagtails on 13 Mar at Sorobaidh Bay, a single on 15 Mar at Totronald *Coll*, and another at Urvaig *Tiree* on 22 Mar. During the next month birds were reported in ones and twos from; *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Thereafter, there were regular reports of small numbers of birds from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Larger numbers were: 19 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 24 Apr, 8 at Gott *Tiree* on 25 Apr, 12 at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 30 Apr, and 39 > S in 2 hours past Machrihanish SBO on 6 May.

**Breeding 2004/2005.** The only report of confirmed breeding was of a pair feeding young at Barsloisnoch Farm (Cairnbaan) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jun 2005.

**Autumn 2004.** There was a heavy passage from 9-15 Aug at Machrihanish SBO with a peak of 40 in the area on 13 Aug. Elsewhere; smaller numbers were noted, mainly during Sep, from *Cowal*, *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** Again Machrihanish SBO saw the largest numbers on passage with: 45 seen on 1 Sep, 50 > S in 6 hours on 6 Sep, 95 > S in 5 hours on 8 Sep, 55 > S in 3 hours on 12 Sep, and the last bird of the year was noted on 28 Sep. Large numbers were also noted on Sanda Islands with 40 on the 8 Sep followed by 115 on the south shore the following day; all of which were away by 11 Sep. Elsewhere there were a few records from *Coll*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*.

**WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulous* Canarach-dearg**

1048

*This is an irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers but not seen every year.*

**2004.** An influx of unprecedented proportions occurred during late October with flocks of over 1,000 birds reported in the east of Scotland. This gave rise to record-breaking flocks in Argyll in early November, including over 100 birds in the Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* area and, unusually, several records from *Coll* and *Tiree*. The first reports came from the islands with two at Port Askaig on 21 Oct, followed by seven at The Lodge *Coll* on 23 Oct, 25 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 25 Oct and one at Kenovay *Tiree* on 26 Oct. The first mainland birds were 50+ at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Oct followed by 30+ on Seil Island on 30 Oct, increasing to 85 by 1 November. *Mull* had nine at Lochdon on 2 November, when 60 were also ranging around Oban. Further large flocks were reported in the following days, including 20 in Inveraray on 5 November, 75 near the Co-op in Lochgilphead on 6 November and 61 in North Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 7 November. The peak count was over 100+ at Kilmory (Lochgilphead) on 9 November and 43 were also in Campbeltown at about this time, but after 82 were seen at Connel on 14 November, the birds disappeared as suddenly as they had arrived.

Flocks with more than 40 birds were; Oban *Mid-Argyll* with 60 on 2 Oct, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* 55 on 3, 75 or more on 6, 110 on 9, Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* 65 on 7, North Connel *Mid-Argyll* 61 on 7, 82 on 14, and Campbeltown *Kintyre* 43 on 11.

**2005.** Very low numbers were sighted with mainly singles and the very occasional two. In the early part of the year there were two at Inveroaden *Cowal* on 16 Jan, and singles at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 22nd Feb and at Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr. From 24 Oct to 13 Dec there were 8 sightings of singles and three of twos. The singles were at; *Coll* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (2) with the twos at *Islay* (2) and *Kintyre* (1).

**DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha –uisge

1050

**Widespread resident breeder, though scarce on Islay and absent from Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree.**

**2004.** Outside the breeding season there were records throughout the year from: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), and *Mid-Argyll* (3).

**2005.** Outside the breeding season there were records throughout the year from: *Cowal* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (2).

**Breeding 2004.** Breeding was confirmed at River Eachaig *Cowal* and at Blarghour (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll*. A pair was present during the breeding season at Lower Killeyan *Islay*. Pairs were also noted outside the breeding season at another *Islay* location.

**2005.** Breeding was confirmed at Loch Avich *Mid-Argyll*, Glen Euchar *Mid-Argyll*, and at Tobermory *Mull*. Birds were present during the breeding season in *Cowal* although breeding was not confirmed and pairs were noted outside the breeding season in *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathann-donn

1066

**Very common resident breeder, although numbers fall following hard winters.**

**2004.** Outside the breeding season birds were reported from: *Cowal*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* but were probably present elsewhere.

**2005.** Outside the breeding season records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Jura* where birds were probably present.

**Breeding 2004.** Widespread in almost all areas although much under-reported. In 29 broadleaved woods surveyed for the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4, Wrens were found in much higher numbers (93.4% increase) than during the 1985 survey, thanks no doubt to the intervening mild winters prior to the later survey (Amar *et al.* 2006, RSPB unpublished data). On the Treshnish Isles: Lunga had at least 12 pairs holding territory, Sgeir a' Chaisteil had 3 territorial pairs, and Fladda had 2 singing males. At the Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 74 territories (61 woodland and 5 coastal) cf 56 last year. The average for 1990 – 2004 is 56.

**2005.** Widespread but no reports received from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Jura*. On *Tiree*, up to 13 singing/territorial birds were noted from six sites. On the Treshnish Isles: Lunga had at least 9 territories, Sgeir a' Chaisteil at least 3, and on Fladda 3 birds were noted. At the Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 67 territories (54 woodland and 13 coastal) cf an average of 56 for 1990-2005.

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis* Gealbhoonn-nam-preas

1084

**Widespread resident breeder but nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura and only a winter visitor to Tiree.**

**2004.** Recent observations would suggest; that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats. Outside the breeding season rather sparse records were received from all areas apart from *Colonsay* and *Jura*. An unusual record was of 10>E at Cruach Bhiorach (Whitehouse) *Kintyre* on 6 Mar. In Oct, *Coll* received an influx of at least 30 which remained throughout the month. Almost certainly under recorded.

**2005.** Outside the breeding season sparse records were received from all areas apart from *Colonsay* and *Jura*. Again, almost certainly under-recorded.

**Breeding 2004.** A few records were received from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. There were six territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (1 woodland and 5 coastal) cf 7 in 2003. The average from 1900 to 2004 is 4. Birds were found in only 2 of the 29

broadleaved woods surveyed In 2003/4 for the Second Woodland Bird Survey (Amar *et al.* 2006, RSPB unpublished data).

**2005.** Records received for all areas apart from *Cowal* and *Jura*. In the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were only 3 territories (1 woodland and 2 coastal) cf 6 in 2004 and an average of 4 from 1990 to 2004.

**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula* Brù-dhearg

1099

**Widespread and common resident breeder, but not on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. There is a noticeable autumn passage with some migrants over wintering.**

**2004/2005.** Before the breeding season there were records from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *Mull*. From Aug to Dec there were rather more records from all areas apart from *Jura*, and *North Argyll*. There were passages in 2004 of: 30 (*Sanda Islands* in Sep), 100 or more (*Coll* in Oct), and small numbers passed through *Tiree* during Oct. In 2005 *Coll* saw a minimum of 50 on 25 Sep and at least 100 on 19 Oct. *Tiree* saw a continuing influx reach 50 birds on 21 Oct.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in all 29 broadleaved woods in *Mid-* and *North Argyll* during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4. They had increased in numbers by 50% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006, RSPB unpublished data). There were records from all areas apart from *Tiree* where the occasional bird was present but with no evidence of breeding. In the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were 21 territories (15 woodland and 6 coastal); down on the 31 last year but close to the 1990-2004 average of 22.

**2005.** There were similar records to 2004. Twenty territories were found at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (14 woodland and 6 coastal) cf 21 in 2004 and a 1990-2004 average of 22.

**COMMON NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos* Spideag

1104

**Vagrant. Only two Argyll records, both of singing birds, one on Islay in April 1973 and the other at West Loch Tarbert in May 1989.**

**2004.** A third record for Argyll was a bird seen feeding in a garden at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 May. It was still present at this location on 4 May but was not seen subsequently [John Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**BLUETHROAT** *Luscinia svecica*

1106

**Vagrant. Only two Argyll records: a female in Kintyre in May 1975, and a male of the red-spotted race svecica on Coll in 1994.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochuros* Ceann-dubhan

1121

**Less than annual passage migrant. All but 2 of 22 records in Argyll during 1980-2000 were in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** A smart adult male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 May.

**COMMON REDSTART (REDSTART)** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Ceann-dearg

1122

**Summer visitor, locally common in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree.**

**2004.** First arrivals were: 2 singing at Barnakill (Moine Mhor) on 20 Apr; singles at: Taynish NNR on 25 Apr, Blackmount (L. Tulla) *North Argyll* on 27 Apr, and Tom Bharra (L. Awe) *Mid-*

*Argyll* on 29 Apr. One was at Port Askaig *Islay* on 8 May and singles were at Grishipoll and The Lodge *Coll* on 18 May. Juveniles were seen at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jul and at Linne Mhuirich (L. Sween) on 18 Jul. One calling by the canal near Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jul was the last record of the year.

**2005.** An early pair in a garden at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr were followed by singles at: Taynish NNR on 19 Apr, L. Nell (near Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, and Minard Woods *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr. A female was in a garden at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 25 May and another at Arinagour *Coll* on 27 May. On 6 Jul a female was seen near the Kerrera Ferry (Oban) and a juv. was sitting on a garden bench in the sun at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll*. The last record was one at Lephinchapel (near Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 2 Aug.

**Breeding 2004.** The CBC at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* identified 7 territories, all in the woodland plot (*cf* long term average of 6 territories 1990-2004). Singing males or pairs were seen during the breeding season at: Minard Woods *Mid-Argyll*, Otter Ferry *Cowal* and Grasspoint *Mull*

**2005.** Five territories were found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*. Singing males or pairs were seen during the breeding season at: Barr Beithe (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll*, Minard Woods (2 singing males), Goirtein Croft (L. Fyne) *Cowal*, Loch Ba *Mull*, and Degnish (L. Melfort) *Mid-Argyll*.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan

1137

*Widespread and locally common summer visitor.*

**Apr-May 2004.** The first records were at (L. Tulla) *North Argyll* on 27 Apr and on *Islay* at Druim na h-Eresaid and Lower Glenastle Loch on 29 Apr. By the end of May there had been widespread records from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

**2005.** First arrivals were at: L. a' Mhinn (near Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 April, Lagganmore (near Kilniver) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr, and Moine Mhor on 24 Apr. Birds were widespread by the end of May.

**Breeding 2004.** Twelve territorial pairs were found in a casual survey at RSPB Gruinart Floods, four pairs were found on *Colonsay*, two pairs bred successfully at Moine Mhor, a male was singing near Ormsary (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jun, and a family party was at Inveroran (L. Tulla) *North Argyll* on 13 Jul. Whinchats were, however, conspicuously absent from the usual breeding areas at Balephuill and Hynish *Tiree*, where Stonechats were present instead. There were no breeding season records at all on the island.

**2005.** Four pairs were on territory at RSPB Reserve *Coll*, and adults with young were at: Port Lobh *Colonsay*, Glen Aros *Mull*, Barnakill (Moine Mhor) and, Black Lochs (near Oban) *Mid-Argyll*. Once again no breeding pairs were found on *Tiree*.

**Aug-Sep 2004.** The last records were: *Coll*, 2 at Totronald and one at Crossapol on the 7 Sep, singles at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 17 Sep and also at The Bastard (near Southend) *Kintyre* on 18 Sep.

**2005.** A mixed group of 18 adults and young were on fence wires near Salen *Mull* on 10 Jul. Juveniles were also reported from Balnabraid Glen *Kintyre* and near Otter Ferry *Cowal* in Jul. Six were seen at the N end of L. Frisa *Mull* on 2 Aug and one at Balephuill on 22 Aug was both the first of the year on *Tiree*, and the last of the year in Argyll.

**COMMON STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus* Clacharan

1139

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

**2004.** Reported during the year from all Argyll recording areas; mostly in single figures, but 10 were at Coul Point *Islay* on 1 Aug.

**2005.** Reported during the year from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. At least 10 birds were reported in early Aug from each of the following areas on *Mull*: Mishnish Lochs, Garmony, L. na Keal and L. Frisa. At least 11 were counted during the WeBS count at L. Sweet on 15 Oct and 15 were at L. Gruinart on 20 Nov.

**Breeding 2004.** A casual survey at RSPB Gruinart Floods found 32 territorial pairs. Elsewhere, 36 pairs were found on *Colonsay*, 5 pairs on Oronsay and 4 pairs were thought to have bred on Sanda Islands. Family parties were also found at four sites in *Mid-Argyll*.

**2005.** An impressive total of 56 pairs was found on *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay) in Jun, 3 pairs bred on Sanda Islands and two pairs bred at Moine Mhor.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR (WHEATEAR)** *Oenanthe oenanthe* Brù-gheal 1146  
*Common summer visitor and passage migrant.*

**Mar-Apr 2004.** One at The Oa *Islay* on 3 Mar was an exceptionally early date and the earliest recorded so far in Argyll (although Wheatears have been recorded elsewhere in Scotland in February!). The next arrivals were on 18 Mar at Otter Ferry and on 19 Mar on *Islay* and *Tiree*. By the end of the month birds had been reported from all Argyll areas except *Jura*. On 12 May, 32 were counted at The Reef *Tiree* and 15 were on Iona *Mull* on 31 May.

**2005.** The first arrivals were: at Machrihanish SBO on 14 Mar, Loch na Keal on 91 Mar, and Scarinish *Tiree* on 20 Mar. Most recording areas had birds by the end of the month. On 27 Mar 12 were in the Killinallan area of *Islay* and at least 40 were reported on *Coll*. On 14 Apr 14 were found at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* with many more elsewhere on the island.

**Breeding 2004.** A minimum of 9 fledged broods were noted on Lunga and 2 on Fladda (Treshnish Isles). Up to 16 pairs bred on Sanda Islands with good numbers fledged and at least 20 individuals were recorded on Oronsay during a breeding bird survey. Breeding birds were also widely reported on *Mull* and *Tiree*.

**2005.** During a Moorland Bird Survey of six 1km squares near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 12 & 14 May, 12 individuals were recorded. A minimum of 12 pairs bred on Lunga (Treshnish Isles), two family parties were noted on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) and around 20 pairs bred on Sanda Islands. On 19 Jun a pair was present at Ruvaal Lighthouse *Islay* with the male feeding a young bird in one part of a garden and the female feedings two more in another part.

**Sep-Nov 2004.** Ten at Mannal *Tiree* on 12 Sep were among many reported during the month. The last records (all of single birds) were at Tayinloan on 10 Oct and at L. Gruinart on 28 and 29 Oct.

**2005.** A group of 16 adults and juvs. was seen along the Strone Road (near Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 30 Aug and 12 were at The Reef *Tiree* on 8 Sep. Unusually, there were several records of singles in Nov including: Machrihanish Bay on 1 Nov, Tayinloan on 3 Nov, L. an Eilein and Tayinloan on 5 Nov, and a very late bird at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 24 Nov (the latest ever was at L. Gruinart on 29 Nov 1985).

**GREENLAND WHEATEAR** *O. o. leucorhoa* 1146.2  
*Scarce passage migrant, but probably under-recorded.*

**2004.** Small numbers were reported in spring, on *Coll* and *Tiree* from 24 Apr to 23 May.

The first record in autumn was at Machrihanish SBO on 23 Jul but the next was not until 7 Sep when 4 were reported on Sanda Islands. Apart from 11 at Machrihanish SBO on 11 Sep, all the remaining records, which came from *Coll*, *Islay*, *Tiree* and Machrihanish, were in single figures. The last was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 10 Oct.

**2005.** The first of spring was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 20 Apr, followed by 3 on Sanda Islands on 27 Apr. Apart from 4 at Beinn Hough *Tiree* on 11 May, the remaining records were

all of single birds, with the last on 17 May. Individuals were seen in two places on the hill road between Kilneuair (L. Awe) and L. Gaineanach *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May.

Two at Ronachan Point *Kintyre* were the first of autumn. During the following week large numbers, most of which were considered to be juv. *leucorhoa*, were reported from Machrihanish SBO, including 132 in 3 hrs on 10 May. The remaining records, all of single birds, were on *Tiree*, with the last on 8 Oct.

**BLUE ROCK THRUSH\*** *Monticola solitarius*

1166

*Vagrant. A first summer male present at Skerryvore in June 1985 and later found dead is the only Argyll record. It is now accepted as the first record of a genuinely wild bird in Britain.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus* Dubh-chreige

1186

*Summer visitor breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in numbers. More widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required.*

**2004.** Male spring migrants were reported at Kilbride *Coll* on 12 Apr and near Baleromindubh *Colonsay* on 29 May. One seen and heard at The Gap (Mull of *Kintyre*) *Kintyre* on 11 Jun was either a very late migrant or possibly a territorial bird (breeding was recorded for this area in the Second Atlas 1988-91 [Gibbons *et al.* 1993]).

The only autumn migrants were on *Coll* where an immature male was with Redwings at Totronald on 21 Oct and 2 were with migrant Blackbirds at The Lodge on 2 Nov.

**2005.** In spring, a male was at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 23 Mar. A singing male at Coire Buidhe (near Glasdrum) *North Argyll* on 27 May was possibly a territorial bird.

There were more autumn records than usual. A pair was feeding on rose hips with other migrant thrushes at Ruvaal Lighthouse *Islay* on 18 Oct. On *Coll*, males were at Totronald on 20 Oct, Acha on 21 Oct, Craigdarroch (Arinagour) on 22 Oct and Acha on 24 Oct. *Tiree* had males at L. a' Phuill on 21 Oct and Hynish on 23 Oct. One was at Inveroran (L. Tulla) *North Argyll* on 4 Nov, a first winter male was at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov, and one at Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Nov was our latest ever autumn record (although there was a winter record in 1988/89).

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* Lon-dubh

1187

*Widespread and common resident breeding species. Immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years.*

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Ten were flying E along the road from Kennacraig to Skipness *Kintyre* early on the morning of 6 Mar 2004.

**2005.** Five males were together at Balemartine and 7 or more were at Heylipol church *Tiree* on 1 May. These were probably migrants as were 10+ at Moine Mhor on 23 May 2005.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in all but three of the 29 broadleaved woods surveyed during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 where numbers had more than doubled since the same woods were surveyed in 1985 (128.3% increase) (Amar *et al.* 2006). Only three territories however, were found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR (*cf* 10 territories in 2002 and a long term average of 5 territories 1990-2004). Two observers in the Minard area *Mid-Argyll* noted more pairs than usual during the breeding season.

**2005.** Numbers in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR had recovered (*cf* 2004) with 8 territories located.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** A marked influx (associated with Redwings – *see below*) was noted from 18 Oct to early Nov. Records included: 'many' at Kames *Cowal* on 18 Oct, 100+ on *Coll* on 19 Oct,

12+ at Largimore (Otter Ferry), 12+ at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Oct, 4 females at Ruvaal Lighthouse *Islay* on 31 Oct, 5 at Tayinloan on 1 Nov, 80 at The Lodge *Coll* on 2 Nov and, flocks of 15 at two sites on *Islay* on 2 Nov.

**2005.** Once again a marked influx took place from mid-Oct to early Nov. Records included: 20 (mainly immatures) flying through Glen Euchar (near Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Oct, 150 (mainly males) on *Coll* on 19 Oct, 20+ on or near the beach at Skipness *Kintyre* on 23 Oct, 11 at Largimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 24 Oct, ca 210 in west *Coll* on 28 Oct, and 30 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 Nov. Numbers remained high in early winter, including 35 at L. Gruinart on 20 Nov and 20+ during the WeBS count at L. Sween on 4 Dec.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris* Liath-thruisg

1198

*Passage migrant and winter visitor. Abundant in autumn but relatively few remaining in winter or on passage in spring.*

**Jan-May 2004.** All larger winter flocks were recorded on *Islay*, where there were: 70 at Lyrabus on 14 Jan, a min. of 40 at Gruinart on 17 Jan, 40 at Coullabus wood on 12 Feb, 60 at Corsapol on 13 Feb, 100 at Sanaigmore on 14 Feb, and the same number at Rockmountain on 21 Feb. Elsewhere smaller numbers were reported from: *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Flocks, possibly on passage, were widely reported with records from: *Cowal*, *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. A single at Graniel *Islay* on 15 Apr was the last of spring.

**2005.** Unlike the previous year there was only a single record from *Islay*; of a max. of 11 at Loch Gruinart during Jan. Elsewhere larger flocks included: 35 at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jan, 35 in fields to the north of Clachan of Glendaruel *Cowal* on 12 Jan, 30 at Leanach *Cowal* on 16 Jan, 90 or more in a field at Auchadalvorie (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 21 Jan, 30 at Drum Cottage (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 7 Mar, and 200 at Auchagoyl Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 15 Mar (falling to 95 by 24 Mar). The last of spring was a flock of 12 at Kilbridemore *Cowal* at the head of Glendaruel on 27 Mar.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The first returning migrants were 30 at the Oronsay *Colonsay* airstrip on 17 Sep. There was then quite a gap before the main arrival started on 10 Oct with birds noted widely over the next ten days from: *Cowal*, *Coll*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Significant flocks, a number of which exceeded 100, were then reported through to the end of the year. In all there were eleven such flocks the largest of which was 1700 present around the west end of *Coll* on 3 Nov.

**2005.** A very early record, at least for this year, was of 9 seen feeding on Rowan at Oban on 31 Aug. There were no further records until 15 Oct when there were two records both from *Mid-Argyll*. Thereafter the main arrival rapidly built up in the second half of Oct and early Nov with records from *Cowal*, *Coll*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*; indeed all subsequent records, to the end of the year, were from those areas only. Larger counts included: 90 at Corra (Otter Ferry) on 26 Oct, 170 at Lephinchapel (Strachur) *Cowal* on 13 Dec, 100 at Kildavaig Farm (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 21 Dec, and 75 at Lephinchapel (Strachur) *Cowal* on 30 Dec; *Coll*: more than 900 on 22 Oct, and 140 on 28 Oct in west end; *Islay*: 70 at Sunderland Farm on 17 Nov, 240 at Gruinart on 20 Nov with 110 on 22 Nov, 120 at Ardbeg on 21 Nov, 140 at Bridgend on 24 Nov, and 104 at Gruinart on 1 Dec; *Mid-Argyll*: 50 or more at Tullochgorm (Minard) on 30 Oct, and again on 4 Nov.

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos* Smeòrach

1200

*Widespread and common resident breeding species with some locally bred birds departing in the autumn. Immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage.*

**Jan-Jun 2004.** Birds were widespread on *Tiree* during January, including 14 at West Hynish on 31 Jan. Unusually high numbers in *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb included 11 at Tayvallich



*Mid-Argyll* and 13 at Tayinloan. A flock of 60 were with Fieldfares at Acha Coll on 12 Apr. **2005.** Eight were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 25 Jan and 26 at Acha Coll on 11 Mar.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in all 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 and had more than doubled in numbers (147.5% increase) since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). Twelve territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (*cf* long term average of 8 territories, 1990-2004). About 20 pairs were scattered around *Tiree* in Jun. Two pairs bred on Sanda Islands and one singing Beinn Bhreac (near Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* during a Breeding Bird Survey was the first there in 7 years.

**2005.** High numbers continued at Taynish NNR with 12 territories again found in the Common Bird Census plots.

**Jun-Dec 2004.** One foraging near the village on Lunga on 24 Jun was a rare visitor to the Treshnish Isles. Large numbers associated with the Redwing influx in Oct/Nov included 100+ on *Coll* on 23 Oct and 32 on *Tiree* on 8 Nov.

**2005.** Counts of arriving migrants included: 60 around RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 21 Oct, 50 around the west end of *Tiree* on 22 Oct (paler, warmer-toned individuals than the resident birds), 12 at Otter Ferry on 26 Nov, and 15 on Oronsay on 27 Nov. At least 100 were still present in groups around *Tiree* on 6 Dec.

**REDWING** *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath-dhearg 1201

*Passage migrant and winter visitor. Abundant in autumn but relatively few winter. Occasional individuals recorded in late spring. Bred on Mull in 1991 but not since.*

**Jan-May 2004.** Most records were of less than 10 birds and mainly from the islands. Larger flocks included: 30 at Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 14 Jan, 35 at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 12 Feb, 55 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 11 Mar, 150 also at Heylipol *Tiree* on 11 Apr were part of an influx of 300 to the island; this had reduced to 50 on 13 Apr and to 30 on 14 Apr, 53 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 12 Apr, and on *Coll* there were 100 at the Lodge on 12 Apr and 210 at Arnabost on 13 Apr. The last bird of spring, seen at Moss *Tiree*, on the very late date of 20 May had lost all its tail feathers which may have somewhat delayed its departure. A singing single bird was however present at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on the previous day.

**2005.** Records were in higher numbers and more widespread than in 2004, with several records from the mainland. Flocks of 40 or more were reported from: Acha Coll 600 on 24 Jan, *Tiree* 100 on 25 Jan (includes a flock of 25 at Balephuill), Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* 40 on 17 Feb, Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* 45 on 28 Feb, Auchagoyl (Millhouse) *Cowal* 40 on 11 Mar, *Tiree* 71 on 3 Apr building to 400 on 4 Apr, RSPB Reserve *Coll* 300 on 6 Apr, west end *Coll* 600 at least on 11 Apr; and *Tiree* 200 in large groups on 12 Apr, 60 at Balevullin/Moss area on 15 Apr, and 100 around the west end of the island on 16 Apr. The last individual to head north was seen at Moss *Tiree* on 11 May although a moribund bird was found at Balnahard *Colonsay* on 12 Jun.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The first report of returning birds was of 30 at Blarghour (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct. Numbers then increased rapidly through the month with some spectacular totals seen. The first noted on *Coll* were around 100 on passage on the night of 8/9 Oct but by the end of the month around 3000 were on the island with many more having passed through. On 18 Oct the flocks newly arrived around *Tiree* totalled 3800 with 3500 still present on 29 Oct. Flocks of 1100 on *Tiree* and 600 on *Coll* were still present on 19 Nov but dropped off rapidly from then. No other areas had numbers remotely as large as on *Coll* and *Tiree*. Larger records from *Cowal* were: a min. of 500 with Fieldfares at Clachan of Glendaruel on 18 Oct, with 550 on 24 Oct, and 150 at Otter Ferry on 30 Nov. On *Islay* records were generally of smaller numbers with larger numbers being: around 300 at Port Wemyss on 19 Oct, around 100 at Easter Ellister on 20 Oct, and 86 at Upper Killethan on 23 Nov. In *Kintyre*, there was a record of 100 or more at Tayinloan on 1 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* the largest flocks were 80 at Blarghour (L. Awe) on 19 Oct and 60 at

Kintallan (Tayvallich) on 23 Oct. A single record from *North Argyll* was of a mixed flock of 100 or more Fieldfares and Redwings at Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) on 18 Oct.

**2005.** One seen at Carsaig (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Sep was the first autumn arrival. As in 2004, the main arrival occurred in the last week, or so, of Oct with the largest numbers on *Coll* and *Tiree*. On *Coll* there were: around 400, on passage, on 18 Oct, 1550 present on 19 Oct rising to 2800 on 21 Oct which were still present on 28 Oct. On *Tiree*, numbers had built to 1000 by 21 Oct, rising to 1500 on 30 Oct, falling to 1000 at the start of Nov, 450 on 15 Nov, 300 on 30 Nov, 250 on 5 Dec, and 90 on 19 Dec. Away from *Coll* and *Tiree* the numbers and pattern from other areas was very similar to 2004. A notable exception was a very large count from the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* area of 3650 on 1 Nov. Interestingly the second highest count, away from *Coll* and *Tiree*, was also on the same date, when just under 400 were at Auchagoyl Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal*.

**MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus* Smeòrach-mhòr

1202

***Widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species; except on Coll and Tiree where it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks sometimes seen on passage.***

**Jan-Jun 2004** Approx. 50 were seen between Gobagrennan and Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 29 Feb 2004 and 7 were flying E along the road from Kennacraig to Skipness *Kintyre* on 6 Mar 2004.

**2005.** There were no records.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in 21 of 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey in 2003/4 but numbers had decreased by 24.2% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). One was singing adjacent to the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR but no territories were identified for the second successive year. Elsewhere, 4 pairs were found at Castle Toward School *Cowal*, 3 or more pairs in restored oakwood south of Lephinmore *Cowal* and 3 or more pairs on *Colonsay*,

**2005.** At least 3 pairs were on *Colonsay*, including two with broods of fledged young. A pair with fledged young was seen during a Moorland Bird Survey of six 1km squares near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* and breeding was confirmed at L. Gruinart. Once again no territories were identified at the CBC plots at Taynish NNR.

**Jun-Dec 2004.** On 10 Aug, 54 were counted moving S at the Powder Dams (near Millhouse) *Cowal*. Other notable counts included, approx. 30 at Torrisdale *Kintyre* on 19 Sep, 32 feeding in sand dunes and fields near the shore at Ostel Bay *Cowal* on 22 Sep, 20+ at Blarghour (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Oct and 24 on wires at Melldalloch (near Millhouse) *Cowal* on 13 Oct.

**2005.** Flocks reported included: 15 on overhead wires at Glen Aros *Mull* on 27 Aug, 10+ flying over L. Nant on 10 Sep, 12 at Otter Ferry on 14 Sep, 20 at L. Seil (near Oban) on 18 Sep, 25 on *Colonsay* on 19 Sep, and 20+ at Kildavaig Farm (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 21 Dec.

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia* Ceileiriche-leumnach

1236

***Summer visitor breeding locally in open habitats with dense ground vegetation including young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.***

**Apr-May 2004.** An early arrival reeling at Auchnasaul (near Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr was followed by birds in Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr and at Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) *North Argyll*, Taynish NNR and Moine Mhor on 22 Apr. By 2 May birds had also been reported from *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*.

**2005.** Records of early reeling birds came from; Dunbeg (near Oban) on 12 Apr, L. Leathan (near Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr and Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) *North Argyll* on 19 Apr. On 26 Apr, at least 5 were reeling between Fearnoch and Strathadd in Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll*, and a similar number were heard there on 26 May. By the end of May reeling birds had also been reported from *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mull* and *Tiree*.

**Breeding 2004.** A good year at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* where 4 territories were found in the CBC plots (*cf* long term average of 2 territories, 1990-2004). In Jun, 8 reeling birds were found on *Colonsay*, 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* and 3 in the area of The Bastard (near Southend) *Kintyre*.

**2005.** Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, 24 males were reeling at RSPB L. Gruinart in Jun, 10 were heard on *Colonsay*, 3 at the west end of *Coll*, 3 in the Balephuill area of *Tiree* and a pair were confirmed at RSPB Ardnave, *Islay*.

**Aug-Sep 2004.** One was reeling at Braleckan (near Furnace) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Aug and the last was watched feeding on Meadowsweet at Balephuill *Tiree* on 12 Aug.

**2005.** One was reeling at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* almost daily (and/or nightly) from 26 Jul to 14 Aug and there was a similar series of records in Aug at Auchnasaul (near Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* with the last on 17 Aug.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Uiseag-oidhche 1243

*Summer visitor and locally common breeding species in suitable wet habitats.*

**Apr-May 2004.** As usual the first records were in the last week of Apr, with singing birds at Baugh *Tiree* on 25 Apr, Kilchoman *Islay* on 26 Apr and Taynish NNR on 30 Apr. By the end of May singing birds had been reported widely on *Islay* and *Tiree* and from all remaining recording areas (incl. on Iona) except *Jura*.

**2005.** A typical pattern of arrivals with records at Oronsay on 25 Apr, Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 Apr and L. Leathan (near Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr. By 17 May 20 singing males could be heard on *Tiree* in the Loch Bhasapoll reed-beds alone.

**Breeding 2004.** Ten territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (*cf* a long term average of 9 territories, 1990-2004). Counts of singing males elsewhere included: at least 100 on *Tiree*, an estimated 15 at RSPB Reserve *Coll*, 23 on Oronsay *Colonsay*, 43 on *Colonsay* (excl. Oronsay), 4 on Sanda Islands, and at least 4 on Gigha *Kintyre*. Birds were also widely reported on *Mull* and at RSPB L. Gruinart and Ardnave. A single bird in song on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) on 26 Jun was only the fifth record for the islands.

**2005.** Ten territories were found at Taynish NNR, all in the coastal CBC plot. Singing birds elsewhere included: an impressive 58 on *Colonsay*, 5 on Sanda Islands, 6 in the Bellochantuy area of *Kintyre*, and were widespread and numerous on *Tiree*.

**Aug-Sep 2004.** The last records were at Balephuill *Tiree* and on Sanda Islands on 5 Sep.

**2005.** The last records were: at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) on 28 Aug, Baugh *Tiree* on 5 Sep and Sanda Islands on 20 Sep.

**REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* 1251

*A rare visitor in spring and summer.*

**2004.** A male was singing and feeding in hawthorn/willow scrub at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on the afternoon of 2 May, but had gone by the following day [J. Bowler/J. Hunter]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records.

**BOOTED WARBLER\*** *Hippolais caligata* 1256

*Vagrant. The only accepted Argyll record is one at Balemartine Tiree on 20 Sep 1998.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**ICTERINE WARBLER** *Hippolais icterina* 1259

*Vagrant. Only 4 records the last being on Islay in 1993.*

**2004.** No records.

2005. No records.

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla* Ceann-dubh

1277

*Scarce but increasing summer visitor and regular passage migrant; especially in autumn. An increasing number winter in Argyll.*

**Apr-May 2004.** One seen regularly in a garden at High Askomil (Campbeltown) during Jan – mar and a female in a garden at Kirn (Dunoon) on 27 and 28 Feb were the only winter records. Early spring migrants were at Kiloran Village *Colonsay* on 14 Apr, at Taynish NNR on 16 Apr and at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr. A male was at The Lodge *Coll* on 21 Apr and a male was feeding on red-hot poker flowers at Moss *Tiree* on 19 May.

**2005.** The only winter record involved a male seen daily at Lagganmore (near Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* from 5 Jan to 11 Apr. One at Taynish NNR on 11 Apr was their earliest spring record ever. Most arrived from 23 Apr onwards including females at Balephuill *Tiree* and Arinagour *Coll*, both on 23 Apr. Six were on Sanda Island on 29 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** A record 8 territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (cf long term average of 2 territories, 1990-2004) and 5 singing males were located on *Colonsay*. Blackcaps were found in 14 of 29 broadleaved woods surveyed for the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 and numbers had trebled since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). Breeding season records also came from other sites in *Mid-Argyll* as well as on *Islay* and *Mull*.

**2005.** Occupation of the Common Bird Census plots at Taynish NNR was still relatively high with 6 territories located and 3 singing males were found on *Colonsay*. Breeding season records also came from other sites in *Mid-Argyll* as well as *Cowal*, *Mull* and several sites in *North Argyll*.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** A male was at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 26 Sep. In Oct there were records of at least 12 birds on *Coll*, and 6 on *Islay*. The peak count on *Tiree* was 8 birds on 29 Oct and on 30 Oct 5 were at Lochdon *Mull* and one at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll*. Most of the Nov records were on *Coll* and *Tiree* including 3 at Arinagour *Coll* on 5 Nov and 4 at two sites on *Tiree* on 6 Nov. Elsewhere a female was at Tayvallich on 8 Nov and a male at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov. The last of the year was a male at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 2 Dec.

**2005.** On the mainland, records in Oct came from Peninver *Kintyre* (female on 8 Oct), Tullochgorm (female on 18 Oct) and Kilmun *Cowal* (2 on 21 Oct). On the islands, up to 6 were seen on *Coll* and *Tiree* on various dates in Oct and 3 were on Sanda Island on 11 Oct. Males were at Tullochgorm on 2 Nov and at Scarinish *Tiree* on 9 Nov. A series of records at Barcaldine *North Argyll* from 14 Nov included a remarkable 6 together there on 16 Nov. There were no Dec records.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche-gàraidh

1276

*Summer visitor and scarce breeding species.*

**Apr-May 2004.** An unusually early bird was at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr. The only other sites with records were: Moine Mhor (on 27 Apr), Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* (5 May), Taynish NNR (6 May). Port Askaig *Islay* (8 May), and Cambusdhu (L. Eck) *Cowal* on 22 May.

**2005.** The first singing bird was heard at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 6 May. Apart from one on Sanda Islands on 15 May all the remaining May records were in *Mid-Argyll* (11 locations) and *North Argyll* (4 locations).

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were recorded in 15 of 29 broadleaved woods surveyed for the Second Woodland Bird Survey during 2003/4; a five-fold increase since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). Only one territory was recorded in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR (cf long term average of 2 territories, 1990-2004) and one singing male was found on *Colonsay*.

**2005.** Two territories were recorded in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR and one singing male was heard on *Colonsay*. Singing birds were also recorded in Jun at: Brackley and Inverchaolain (L. Striven) *Cowal*, Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll*, Moine Mhor, and 3 sites in the Appin/Castle Stalker area of *North Argyll*.

**Sep-Oct 2004.** Singles were at: Corraigbeg *Tiree* on 2 Sep, Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Sep, Arinagour *Coll* on 6 Sep, and Sanda Island on 10 Sep. A late bird was at Vaul *Tiree* on 29 Sep.

**2005.** One was at Craigdarroch Garden (Arinagour) *Coll* on 25 Sep and one was found freshly dead at Tullochgorm on 26 Oct.

**BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria*

1273

*Vagrant. All the records have been in autumn.*

**2004.** No records. (But see records awaiting descriptions p. 147).

**2005.** A juv./1st winter was in the hotel garden at Arinagour *Coll* on 25 Sep [J. Dickson]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca* Gealan-coille-beag

1274

*Rare passage migrant in both spring and autumn. Most recent records have been from the islands.*

**2004.** An immature was found at Traigh Nostaig (Ardnave) *Islay* on 1 Sep [T. ap Rheinallt/ C. R. McKay]. An immature at An Airidh *Tiree* on 28 Sep had gone by the following morning [J. Bowler]; another immature was at The Manse (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 23 Oct [J. Bowler]. All records accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records (But see records awaiting descriptions p. 147).

**COMMON WHITETHROAT (WHITETHROAT)** *Sylvia communis* Gealan-coille 1275

*Summer visitor, breeding locally in low lying areas; especially coastal scrub. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.*

**Apr-May 2004.** The first arrival, at Barnluasgan (near Bellanoch) *Mid-Argyll* was on the fairly typical date of 27 Apr followed by one at Druim na h-Eresaid *Islay* on 29 Apr. There were widespread records in *Mid-Argyll* on 1 and 2 May including birds on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* and at L. Awe and L. Sween. The first arrivals on *Coll* and *Tiree* were not noted until 5 and 6 May respectively. By early Jun there had been records from all recording areas except *Jura*.

**2005.** The main arrival was in early May with birds at: An Airidh *Tiree* and Taynish NNR on 3 May, and at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* and Glenkin (near Sandbank) *Cowal* on 4 May. Birds had been seen in all recording areas except *Jura* by the end of May.

**Breeding 2004.** The 6 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* were the lowest number since 1998 (*cf* long term average of 7 territories, 1990-2004). Conversely 35 singing males were located on *Colonsay* (*cf* 22 in 2003). Four or five pairs bred on Sanda Islands, at least 3 pairs bred on Gigha and a casual survey at RSPB L. Gruinart found 8 territorial pairs. Birds were widespread on *Mull* (incl. Iona) during the breeding season and there were also records from *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*.

**2005.** Only 5 territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, 29 singing males were located on *Colonsay*, and at least 5 pairs bred on Sanda Islands. Birds were again widespread on *Mull* (incl. Iona) during the breeding season. There were also records from several sites in *North Argyll* and from all other recording areas except *Jura*.

**Aug-Sep 2004.** The last records were of singles at L. Gruinart on 4 Sep, Dalachlary (near Clachan) *Kintyre* on 16 Sep and Sanda Islands on 24 Sep.

**2005.** The last records were at Heylipol *Tiree* on 1 Sep, West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 11 Sep and Keills (L. Sween) on 20 Sep.

**GREENISH WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* 1293  
**Vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one trapped, later taken into care and subsequently died in Kintyre in May 1983 and one trapped at Sanda in July 1987.**  
**2004.** No records.  
**2005.** No records.

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Ceileiriche-buidhe 1300  
**Rare & irregular passage migrant. Only five accepted records for Argyll, 1906-2001.**  
**2004.** No records.  
**2005.** No records.  
 (But see records for which descriptions are still awaited, p. 147).

**WESTERN/EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER\*** *Phylloscopus bonelli/orientalis* 1307  
**Vagrant. A singing male on Islay in May 1976 is the only Argyll record. It could not be specifically assigned to either species but Western is more likely.**  
**2004.** No records.  
**2005.** No records.

**WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche-coille 1308  
**A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands.**  
**Apr-May 2004.** An early migrant was at Druim na h-Eresaid *Islay* on 16 Apr and one at Taynish NNR on 27 Apr was the first record for the reserve.  
**2005.** The first arrival was at Arinagour *Coll* on 20 Apr, followed by birds at: Taynish NNR on 26 Apr, Auchnasaul (near Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May, and Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May.  
**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in 27 of the 29 broadleaved woods in Argyll surveyed for the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4; a decrease of 38.1% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). This compares with an overall decline nationally, found in similar surveys elsewhere in Britain, of 55.0% (Amar *et al.* 2006). Only 4 territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (*cf* long term average of 7 territories, 1990-2004). Singing birds during the breeding season were recorded: in *Mid-Argyll* at Kilneuair (L. Awe), Minard Woods, Tullochgorm (Minard), and Arduaine Gardens; on *Mull* at: Quinish, L. Ba, Grasspoint, Ardura, and Calgary; and in *North Argyll* at South Creagan.  
**2005.** Territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* were down to just two this year. Singing birds during the breeding season were recorded in *Mid-Argyll* at: Minard Woods, L. Avich, Crinan, Craobh Haven, Kilneuair (Ford), Achnacloich Gardens (near Connel), and Blarghour, (L. Awe); on *Mull* at: Lochbuie, Scarisdale Wood, Croggan (L. Spelve) and Port a' Bheoil Mhoir (L. Buie); in *North Argyll* at: Seanarmhail and Ellerlic (Glen Creran), Cruachan Visitor Centre, and South Shian; and at Muasdale *Kintyre*.  
**Jul-Aug 2004.** No records  
**2005.** One at Torr an da Coille on the N coast of *Mull* on 30 Jul was the only record.

**COMMON CHIFFCHAFF (CHIFFCHAFF)** *Phylloscopus collybita* Caifean 1311  
**Summer visitor and uncommon breeding species that is occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.**  
**Mar-May 2004.** The first arrival, at Blairmore *Cowal* on 26 Mar, was followed by singing birds at: Castle Toward School *Cowal* on 29 Mar, Coullabus wood *Islay* on 30 Mar, Kilmory (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar, and L. Tulla *North Argyll* on 2 Apr. By early May there

had been records from all recording areas except *Jura*. An influx on *Tiree* on 25 Apr produced 10 at four locations.

**2005.** An early bird singing at Tesco in Oban on 17 Mar was followed by birds at: Roundhouse *Coll* on 26 Mar, Tayinloan on 29 Mar, and Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 30 Mar. By mid Apr there had been records from most recording areas including *Jura*.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in only five of 29 broadleaved woods surveyed for the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 (Amar *et al.* 2006). Five singing birds were found on *Colonsay* in Jun and one was feeding recently fledged young at Kirm (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 1 Jun. Records of singing birds in late May/early Jun were from 4 localities on *Mull* and one each in *Kintyre* and *North Argyll* may well have indicated breeding.

**2005.** Five singing birds were again found on *Colonsay* in Jun and, unusually, a single territory was established at Taynish NNR where one was singing from 11 Apr to 20 Jun.

**Oct-Dec 2004.** Most of the records during Oct were from *Coll*, *Islay* and *Tiree*. These birds were thought to be of the nominate race apart from birds on *Coll* on 18 Oct and *Tiree* on 30 Oct which were thought to be of the northern race *abietinus*. On 8 Nov, 3 of the 8 Chiffchaffs found on *Tiree* were thought to be *abietinus* as was one at Arinagour *Coll* on 5 Nov. Birds of the Siberian race *tristis* were reported from: *Islay* on 26 Oct and 1 Nov, *Coll* on 30 Oct, at Balephuill *Tiree* (a closely observed individual) on 26 Nov, and at L. na Cille (L. Sween) on 5 Dec.

**2005.** Typical birds were recorded on several dates in Oct on *Coll* and *Tiree* with 8 at the Lodge *Coll* on 22 Oct. Birds thought to be of the northern race *abietinus* were seen on *Tiree* on 21 – 23 Oct and *tristis* type birds were there on 23 Nov and 6 Dec.

**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Ceileiriche-giuthais

1312

*Widespread and abundant summer visitor.*

**Mar-Apr 2004.** First arrivals were at The Oa *Islay* on 1 Apr and at Kilbride (Seil Island) *Mid-Argyll* and Taynish NNR on 7 Apr.

**2005.** A very early bird singing on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Mar was followed by birds at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* and the Mid Argyll Hospital (Lochgilphhead) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr. The first birds reported on *Coll* and *Islay* were on 9 Apr and the first on *Tiree* on 13 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** Willow Warblers were found in all 29 broadleaved woods censused for the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4; numbers had increased by 19.2% since the similar survey in 1985. This contrasts sharply with an overall decline nationally, found in similar surveys elsewhere in Britain, of 68.8% (Amar *et al.* 2006). The count of 99 territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR equalled the record total in 1997 (*cf* long term average of 76 territories, 1990-2004). An estimated 28 singing males were present on *Coll* in Jun.

**2005.** A new record total of 105 territories was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR and an unprecedented total of 12 pairs apparently bred successfully on *Tiree*. During a Moorland Bird Survey of six 1km squares near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 12 & 14 May, 25 individuals were recorded.

**Sep-Oct 2004.** The last on *Islay* was at L. Gruinart on 10 Sep and one was at Achnamara *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep. A late immature bird seen at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 6 Oct was the last of the year.

**2005.** Five were at Heylipol *Tiree* on 3 Sep, one at West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 11 Sep and the last at Balevullin *Tiree* on 15 Sep.

**GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* Crionag-bhuidhe

1314

*Common breeding species and passage migrant in spring and especially autumn. Scarce on Coll and Tiree.*

**Jan-Apr 2004.** Six were at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 4 Apr and a further 6 were at three sites on 25 Apr.

**2005.** A major fall on *Tiree* on 19 Mar, in SE winds followed by thick mist at midday, produced 30+ birds all over the island; of which two were taken by cats and one by a Sparrowhawk. At least 10 remained on 23 Mar and 12 were in a single garden at Cornaigmore on 29 Mar. Passage on *Tiree* continued on 3 Apr when 15 were found in the Balephuill/Carnan Mor area. The highest count on Sanda Islands was 6 on 10 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** Goldcrests were found in 20 of 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4; numbers having more than doubled (131.8% increase) since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (*cf* long term average of one territory, 1990-2004) and breeding was confirmed at Martin's Wood and The Lodge *Coll*.

**2005.** Four territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The peak count on Sanda Islands was 20 on 9 Sep and 20+ were at The Lodge *Coll* on 18 Sep. Twenty were at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 1 Oct, 4 at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 20 Oct, and numbers at The Lodge *Coll* peaked at 80 on 30 Oct. A late single was with Chiffchaffs at The Glebe (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 8 Nov.

**2005.** The first autumn movement detected involved 20 on Sanda Islands on 27 Jul. Ten or more were with Long-tailed Tits in Minard Woods *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep and at least 10 were at The Lodge *Coll* on 25 Sep. Numbers on Sanda Islands peaked at 55 on 11 Oct and at least 40 were around Arinagour *Coll* 21-24 Oct.

**FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla* Crionag

1315

**Rare visitor. There are only six Argyll records, 1980 – 2002.**

**2004.** One found at the side of the track to the hide at RSPB L. Gruinart on 22 Oct was the first record for *Islay* [Mrs G. Lewis, V. McFarland *et al.*]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** No records. (But see records for which descriptions are still awaited, p. 147).

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata* Breacan-glas-sgiobalta

1335

**Summer visitor breeding widely but sparsely in mature woodlands, particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges.**

**May-Jul 2004.** The first arrivals were at: Linndhu House (near Tobermory) *Mull* on 9 May, Moine Mhor on 11 May, Kilmeny *Islay* on 22 May, Vaul *Tiree* on 23 May, and *Coll* on 25 May. By the end of Jul there had been records from all recording areas except *Jura*.

**2005.** The first arrivals were at: Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 6 May, Taynish NNR on 9 May, Inverawe *North Argyll* on 12 May, Achnacloich (near Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 May, Kiloran *Colonsay* on 19 May, and Arinagour *Coll* on 27 May. Migrants were noted at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 20 May and Sanda Islands on 23 and 26 May.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in only 9 of 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 (*cf* 30 of 38 in 1985; a decrease of 67.9%). Only a single territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR, an all time low for this survey (*cf* long term average of 4 territories, 1990-2004). Breeding was also confirmed: at 4 other sites in *Mid-Argyll*, 2 on *Coll*, 1 at Colonsay House Gardens *Colonsay*, 1 at West Pier (L. Long) *Cowal* and, 1 at RSPB L. Gruinart.

**2005.** Three territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, was an improvement on one in 2004. Breeding was also confirmed at: 3 sites in *Cowal*, 2 sites in *Mid-Argyll* and near Tobermory *Mull*.

**Aug-Oct 2004.** Single birds were at Vaul *Tiree* (15 Aug) and on Sanda Islands (17 and 20 Aug).



**2005.** One was at Lurignich *North Argyll* on 30 Aug and the last record on Sanda Islands was on 7 Sep. A single bird at Totronald *Coll* on 21 Oct was the latest ever record for Argyll by some margin.

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

1343

*Vagrant. Only two records for Argyll; on Islay in 1974 and 1975.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan-glas

1349

*Summer visitor and passage migrant breeding very locally in oak woods. An increase in the breeding population in recent years was attributable to the Argyll Bird Club nest-box scheme but numbers now appear to be declining.*

**2004.** The only records received related to migrants birds. There were singles at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 6 May and Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 May. A male was at Bridgend *Islay* on 8 May and singles were seen on Sanda Island on 20 and 25 Aug. No information was forthcoming regarding the nest-boxes at Bonawe *N Argyll*.

**2005.** Records of individuals at Ardanaiseig Hotel (L. Awe) on 5 Jun and at Strone Hill picnic site (near Dalmally) on 11 Jun might have related to breeding birds. No records were received for the nest-boxes at Bonawe *N Argyll*. The only other records were of autumn migrants at Sanda Island on 19 Aug and Glen More *Mull* on 6 Sep.

**LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan

1437

*Widespread and fairly common resident, scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.*

**2004.** A group of 8 was seen in the hotel garden at Arinagour *Cowal* on 23 Oct with small numbers elsewhere on the island. Larger flocks reported elsewhere included: 18 (incl. juvs.) at Laggan Bridge *Islay* on 21 May, 25 in Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 28 Aug, 27 at Goirtein Croft (near Otter Ferry) *Cowal* and 14 near Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 9 Oct, 14 in Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 27 Oct, flocks totalling ca 40 at Achnacloich (near Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Nov and 16 at Leckgruinart Cottage (L. Gruinart) on 23 Nov.

**2005.** Larger flocks included: 13 at L. Gruinart in Jan, 11 at Soroba (Oban) on 22 Feb, 12 at Taynish NNR on 13 Jul, 12+ at Grasspoint *Mull* on 26 Aug, 22 at Otter Ferry on 12 Sep, 12+ in Minard Woods *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep, 24+ at Killail (Otter Ferry) on 24 Sep, 10 at Blarghour (L. Awe) on 1 Nov and 10 at the head of L Creran *North Argyll* on 29 Dec.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in 16 of 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 but numbers had decreased by 46.3% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (cf long term average of 2 territories, 1990-2004).

**2005.** Only a single territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*. On *Colonsay*, a family party were at Colonsay House on 30 May and pairs were seen at two other sites in Jun.

**BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus* Cailleachag-cheann-ghorm

1462

*Widespread and common resident breeder, but only an infrequent visitor to Tiree and Coll.*

**2004.** Higher numbers than usual were reported from some *Mid-Argyll* gardens in Jan and Feb, including 40 at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan and 30 at Tullochgorm (Minard) on 6 Feb. On *Coll*, 2 were at Friesland on 6 Jan, one at Arinagour on 26 Jan and 'several' in a garden at

Tottronald on 1 Feb. A single bird that had wintered in a garden at Sandaig Tìree since Nov 2003 was last seen there on 4 Mar.

**2005.** Single birds were seen at the High School Tìree on 1 Nov and at Balemartine Tìree 17-20 Nov. On 9 Jan, 24 were counted on a garden lawn at Tayvallich and numbers in the garden at Tullochgorm peaked at 13 on 4 Dec.

**Breeding 2004.** Blue Tits were found in all of the 29 broadleaved woods surveyed for the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 and numbers had increased by 54% since 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). The total of 36 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* was well above the long term average of 23 during 1990-2004.

**2005.** Numbers at Taynish NNR remained high with 34 territories found in the CBC plots.

**GREAT TIT** *Parus major* Currac-bhaintighearna 1464

***Widespread and common resident breeder, but only an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tìree.***

**2004.** The peak count in a garden at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* was 11 on 10 Mar. There were no records from *Coll* or *Tìree*.

**2005.** A single bird on a peanut feeder at Mannal was the first record for *Tìree* since 1999.

**Breeding 2004.** Great Tits were found in all 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4; a decrease of 31.2% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). A new record total of 21 territories was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR, well above the long term average of 12 during 1990-2004

**2005.** Numbers at Taynish NNR continued to increase, with 24 territories found in the CBC plots. Nine or more pairs were in Colonsay House Gardens *Colonsay* in late Mar. An adult was seen taking food to a nest in the roof of an old mink farm at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 6 Jun. proving that mink are not all bad news for all bird species!

**CRESTED TIT** *Lophophanes cristatus* Gulpag-stuic 1454

***Vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one near Water of Tulla, North Argyll in November 1991 and one at Tobermory Mull in October/November 2002.***

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**COAL TIT** *Periparus ater* Smutag 1461

***Widespread and abundant resident breeding bird, except on Coll and Tìree.***

**2004.** One was at Arinagour *Coll* on 26 Jan and a single lost looking bird was feeding on open coastal turf west of Balevullin *Tìree* on 31 Mar. A maximum of 20 were at Martin's Wood, (Gallanach) *Coll* on 11 Oct and 4 were at The Lodge *Coll* on 2 Nov. A single very vocal bird was in gorse at Scarinish *Tìree* on 18 Oct.

**2005.** Maximum numbers at garden bird feeders were 20 in Jan in Dunoon and 6 in Jun in Connel *Mid-Argyll*. There were no records from *Tìree*.

**Breeding 2004.** One was singing at The Lodge *Coll* on 12 Apr and breeding was subsequently confirmed (adults seen carrying faecal sacs) both there and at Martin's Wood, (Gallanach) *Coll*. These are the first proven breeding records for *Coll*. Coal Tits were found in all 29 broadleaved woods in Second Woodland Bird Survey in 2003/4; a decrease of 30% since the similar survey in 1985(Amar *et al.* 2006). A count of 13 territories in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR was down on 2003 (15) but still above the long term average of 10 during 1990-2004.

**2005.** Numbers at Taynish NNR continued to decline with only 9 territories on the woodland CBC plot. Birds were again present at both sites on *Coll* but no evidence of breeding was submitted.

- WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montanus* Currac-ghiuthais 1442  
 Vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one near Water of Tulla, North Argyll in June 1991.  
**2004.** No records.  
**2005.** No records.
- EURASIAN NUTHATCH (NUTHATCH)** *Sitta europaea* 1479  
*Vagrant. Three accepted records 1975 to 1999.*  
**2004.** No records.  
**2005.** No records. (But see records for which descriptions are still awaited, p. 147).
- EURASIAN TREECREEPER (TREECREEPER)** *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear 1486  
*Widespread and common resident but rare on Tiree and Coll.*  
**2004/2005.** Birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas except *Tiree*. On *Coll*, there were single birds at Arinagour on 26 Jan 2004 and The Lodge on 4 Mar 2004. One was taken by a Sparrowhawk at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct 2005.  
**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in 27 of 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4; a decrease of 27.1% since the similar survey in 1985(Amar *et al.* 2006). Six territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (*cf* long term average of 5 territories, 1990-2004).  
**2005.** Five territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR.
- GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus* 1508  
*Rare and irregular passage migrant, mainly in spring.*  
**2004.** A male was seen singing on 31 May and again on 7 Jun at a site near Connel *Mid-Argyll*.  
**2005.** A pair was reported on 7 Jul near the site where a male was singing in May/Jun 2004.
- RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio* 1515  
*Very rare passage migrant. Only eight accepted records for Argyll, 1977-1998.*  
**2004.** A first winter bird was seen and photographed at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 27 Sep. It remained in the area until 29 Sep [J & F Dickson/I & A Campbell]. Record accepted by ABRC.  
**2005.** No records.
- LESSER GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius minor* 1519  
*Vagrant. Only two Argyll records; on Mull in 1974 and on Coll in 1988.*  
**2004.** No records.  
**2005.** No records.
- GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor* Feòladair-glas 1520  
*Increasingly rare passage migrant and winter visitor.*  
**2004.** No records.  
**2005.** No records.
- WOODCHAT SHRIKE** *Lanius senator* 1523  
*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerned a juv. on Islay in Sep 1996.*  
**2004.** No records.  
**2005.** No records.

**EURASIAN JAY (JAY)** *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraicheap 1539

***Widely distributed but scarce woodland resident on most of the mainland but rarely reported from the islands. Some immigration in autumn.***

**2004.** Birds were found in 12 of 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4; an increase of 50% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). Up to 3 were reported widely in *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*. One was seen at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 10 Jan and a maximum of 5 were at Blairmore *Cowal* in Jan. One near Ben More *Mull* on 9 Apr was the only record from the islands.

**2005.** Up to 3 were again widely reported in *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*. Five were seen in Saddell Woods *Kintyre* from late Jan to late Apr. One at Torosay *Mull* on 23 Nov was the only island record. Higher counts included 7 on the outskirts of Dunoon on 25 Jul, 10 at Otter Ferry on 1 Sep, 6 in Glen Euchar (near Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep and 4 were at Port Ann *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec.

**MAGPIE** *Pica pica* Pioghaid 1549

***Breeds locally in Cowal and only a sporadic visitor elsewhere. All records required.***

**2004.** In *Cowal*, single birds were seen away from the Dunoon area at Ardyne Point, Kames and Strachur. The maximum count was six at Blairmore in Jan. The only record outwith *Cowal* was one at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 28 Mar.

**2005.** An impressive 22 birds were counted in single tree in Dunoon on 29 Jan. Elsewhere in *Cowal* singles were reported from Blairmore, Kames and Otter Ferry. The other mainland records involved single birds in *Mid-Argyll* at Minard on 29 Mar, Moine Mhor on 23 May, Kilmichael Glen on 25 May and The Oyster Bar (L. Fyne) on 22 Sep and one at Carradale *Kintyre* on 21 Mar. Unusually there were records of single birds on *Mull*, at Grasspoint on 30 Mar, Fionnphort on 31 Mar and Dervaig on 27 May. It is possible that these all relate to the same individual.

**RED-BILLED CHOUGH (CHOUGH)** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Cathag-dhearg-chasach 1559

***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 required.***

**2004.** The largest roost counts were 51 at Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Dec and 48 at The Strand *Colonsay*, also on 1 Dec. On 2 Dec, 47 were counted feeding on the larvae of mining bees (*Colletes succinctus*) at a massive colony in the south of *Colonsay* near The Strand.

**2005.** There was an apparently reliable report of a single bird at Ballygrogan *Kintyre* on 11 Oct (see below).

The largest roost counts were 54 at Ardnave *Islay* during Dec and 53 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 27 Oct. A total of 28 were feeding among cattle dung at Milbuie *Colonsay* on 27 Jul.

**Breeding 2004.** On *Colonsay* (including Oronsay) breeding was confirmed for 18 pairs and 3 more possibly bred. Twelve successful pairs reared 35+ young and the outcome of 3 was unknown. A total of 19 non-breeders were also found (D. C. Jardine/M. Peacock). There was no census on *Islay*.

**2005.** At 25 occupied sites on *Colonsay* (including Oronsay), 19 pairs bred and 34 young were reared from 14 successful sites. The outcome was unknown at 5 nests and 6 prospecting pairs were seen as well as 19 non-breeders. There was no census on *Islay*.

In August 2004 at least 7 Red-billed Choughs bearing colour ring combinations that definitely identified them as birds from Anglesey appeared at The Calf of Man (Isle of Man). To get there they had flown over the sea for at least 80km from their natal sites. Only two birds from Welsh colonies had been found on the Isle of Man previously. This occurrence, together with

immigration from *Islay* to *Colonsay* (also detected from colour-ringed birds) in the past means that re-colonisation of e.g. *Kintyre* at some time must be at least a possibility (Moore. 2006).

**WESTERN JACKDAW (JACKDAW)** *Corvus monedula* Cathag 1560

***Resident breeding bird, common throughout much of mainland Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on Tiree or Coll. Breeding colonies often located in towns and villages.***

**2004.** Up to 5 were seen around the rubbish dump at Cliad *Coll* from Mar to May. Up to 4 were seen at various locations on *Tiree* from Jan to Mar and a surprising flock of 16 were on stubbles at Cornaig Bay *Tiree* on 9 Mar. There were records on *Mull* from Pennyghael and Iona. Reports of larger flocks included: 350 flying E over Otter Ferry on 23 Feb, 150+ at Killail (Otter Ferry) on 6 Jul, 130+ at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) on 22 Dec, 115 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 7 Jan and 41 at Port Sgibinis *Colonsay* on 11 Apr.

**2005.** A single bird was at Moss *Tiree* on 10 Nov and there were records on *Mull* from: Iona, Tobermory, Scarisdale Wood, Fidden, and Lochdon. Reports of larger flocks included: 220 at L. Gruinart on 20 Nov, 200+ at Otter Ferry on 6 Jan, 200+ at Ballimore *Cowal* on 7 Dec and 82 at Drum Farm *Cowal* on 25 Jan.

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus* Ròcas 1563

***Resident breeding bird, common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on Colonsay, Coll or Tiree. Post breeding influx of juveniles to some islands, e.g. Mull and Tiree.***

**2004.** A count at the RSPB L. Gruinart rookeries found 130 apparently occupied nests. Single adult and immature birds were found on *Tiree* from Aug to Oct. All the records of larger flocks came from *Islay* and included; 500 at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 5 Aug, 200 during a farmland bird survey at RSPB L. Gruinart on 7 Jan and 181 during an arable bird survey at Giol (The Oa) on 30 Sep.

**2005.** A count at the RSPB L. Gruinart rookeries found 142 apparently occupied nests. Eight flew over the RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 8 Sep and single immature birds were found on *Tiree* in Nov. Reports of larger flocks included: 260 at Bridgend *Islay* on 24 Nov, 142 at L. Gruinart on 1 May, 54 at Barguilean Farm (Glen Lonan) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 May and 50 at L. Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan.

**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone* Feannag-dhubh 1567

***Most crows in east Cowal are this species and it is also spreading into Kintyre and Mid-Argyll with a broad area of hybridisation. There are occasional records from outwith this area of birds showing all the characteristics of corone.***

**2004.** Away from the main breeding area in Cowal, birds showing *C. corone* characteristics were found at: Taynish NNR, Dunadd *Mid-Argyll*, Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll*, Rossal and Tobermory *Mull*, and Sanda Islands.

**2005.** Records away from the main breeding areas included birds at: Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll*, L. Feochan, Dalavich (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll*, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll*, Furnace *Mid-Argyll*, Blarghour (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll*, Glenegedale and Machrie *Islay*, Bellochantuy *Kintyre*, Fidden and Tobermory *Mull*, and Castle Stalker *North Argyll*.

**HOODED CROW** *Corvus cornix* Feannag-ghlas 1567.3

***Widespread and very common resident breeding species. Hybridises with Carrion crow where ranges overlap.***

**2004.** Twenty or more were feeding on defoliating caterpillars at Taynish NNR on 30 May. Larger flocks included: 136 at the head of L. Feochan on 4 Sep, 54 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 3 Oct, and *ca* 50 at L Gorm *Islay* on 16 Oct.

**2005.** Larger flocks included: 64 feeding on stubble on the airstrip on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Sep, 26 on a hill top near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Oct, 24 at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, 56 at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 15 Nov, and 40 at L. Gruinart on 22 Nov.

**Breeding 2004.** An estimated 26 pairs bred on *Coll*, 5 pairs reared 14 young on *Colonsay*, 3 or 4 pairs bred on Sanda Island, at least one pair bred on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) and a pair bred in the Taynish NNR Common Bird Census plots.

**2005.** A total of 17 pairs on *Colonsay* produced at least 5 broods totalling 11 young. Four or five pairs bred on Sanda Islands, 2 pairs at both RSPB L. Gruinart and Ardnave *Islay*; and on the Treshnish Isles 2 pairs bred on Lunga and one pair on Fladda. For the first time since the CBC began at Taynish NNR no territories were located.

# **COMMON RAVEN (RAVEN)** *Corvus corax* Fitheach

1572

**Common resident breeding species on both mainland and islands. Large flocks may occur, especially in winter. Numbers are increasing.**

**2004.** Counts of 30 or more included: 75 at Baugh *Tiree* on 9 Apr, 63 at Gott *Tiree* on 8 Jun, 47 flying over Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 26 Sep, 44 at Tallant *Islay* on 14 Apr, 31 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 Oct, and 30 at Ardlarach (near Bowmore) *Islay* on 24 Apr.

**2005.** Counts of 30 or more included: several at Gott rubbish tip *Tiree*, peaking at 95 on 17 Jun, 44 near Dervaig *Mull* on 27 Aug and 32 at The Reef *Tiree* on 21 Apr.

**Breeding 2004.** The following breeding records were received in addition to those listed in table 48.1. An estimated 21 pairs bred on *Coll* of which 5 pairs that bred at RSPB Reserve *Coll* fledged 17 young. Two moulting adults and 5 juvs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) in Jun suggest breeding and a pair on Sanda Island fledged 5 young.

**2005.** Breeding records in addition to those in Table 48.2 include: a pair on a cliff face at Lochan na Curaich (near Bridgend) *Mid-Argyll* with a fully fledged juv. on the nest on 30 May, a pair on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) with 3 young, and a pair fledged 4 young on Sanda Islands.

Table 48.1 *Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2004.*

Area	Sites checked	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Colonsay	13	12	10	8	2	26	3.25
Islay	2	2	2	2	0	10	5.00
Cowal	25	25	23	12	10	34	2.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>35</b>	22	<b>12</b>	70	3.18

(ARSG per RAB).

Table 48.2 *Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2005*

Area	Sites checked	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged
Coll	5	5	5	5	0		23
Tiree	7	7	7		1	6	?

Colonsay	17	13	10	9	1	0	30
Islay	8	8	8	1	0	7	4
Jura	1	1	1	0	0	1	?
Mid-Argyll	1	1	1	1	0	0	4
Cowal	59	47	40	20	12	8	34+
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>95+</b>

(ARSG per RAB).

It was not possible to calculate the number of young per successful site in 2005 due to incomplete data.

#### **COMMON STARLING (STARLING) *Sturnus vulgaris*** Druid 1582

*A common resident on Islay, Coll, Tiree, and part of Kintyre but 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.*

**2004.** Reports of larger flocks included: 84 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 Jan, 650 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 6 Feb, 1,600 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 21 Mar, 340 going to roost at Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 11 Apr, 50 on Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) on 25 Jun, 60 on Sanda Islands on 28 Jun, 460 at Coul Point *Islay* on 3 Aug, 460 at Tayinloan on 5 Aug, 600 at L. Gruinart on 16 Aug, 1,200 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 6 Sep, 1,400 at L. a' Phuill on 15 Sep, 1,000 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 6 Nov, and 70 on Iona *Mull* on 31 Dec. A minimum of 3,000 were estimated to be on *Coll* at the end of Mar. By contrast, a single bird in the garden at Tullochgorm (Minard) was a very unusual sight!

**2005.** Reports of larger flocks included: 2,400 in two flocks at Heylipol *Tiree* on 6 Feb, 350 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 2 Jul, 50 at Grasspoint *Mull* on 8 Jul, 2,100 on a cut field at Cornaig Bay *Tiree* on 14 Jul, 300 at Tayinloan on 27 Aug, 1,600 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 8 Sep, 150 at West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 19 Sep, 1,400 at L. a' Phuill on 21 Sep, 150 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 24 Sep, 2,000+ at Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 29 Sep, 100+ at Killail (Otter Ferry) on 27 Oct, 300-400 at Kames *Cowal* on 5 Nov, 120 at L. na Cille (L. Sween) on 13 Nov, 450 at Bridgend *Islay* on 24 Nov, and 1,900 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 4 Dec.

**Breeding 2004.** Only one territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, the lowest number since 1998 (*cf* long term average of 2 territories, 1990-2004). There were reports of widespread breeding on *Coll*, *Islay* and *Tiree* but no counts were available.

**2005.** Two territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*. On Treshnish Isles in Jun, a pair with 4 juvs were on Sgeir a' Chaisteil and family parties were present on Lunga.

#### **ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus*** Druid-dhearg 1584

*A rare visitor in summer and autumn but with larger numbers in 2002 and 2003.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records. (But see records for which descriptions are still awaited, p. 147).

#### **HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*** Gealbhonn 1591

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

**2004.** There were records from all recording areas during the year including Iona but none from the Treshnish Isles. Reports of larger flocks included: 25 at Friesland *Coll* on 6 Jan, 87 in a field near Smaull *Islay* on 15 Apr, 20+ at Skipness *Kintyre* on 20 Jun, 17 (incl. recently fledged

young) at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jun, 90 in a reed-bed at Corsapol *Islay* on 1 Aug, 240 at Arileod *Coll* on 6 Sep, and 120 at Miodar *Tiree* on 24 Sep.

**2005.** Reports of larger flocks included: 33 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 3 Apr, 20+ at the head of L. Gilp on 21 May, 21+ (Garden Bird Watch maximum) in Jul at High Askomil (Campbeltown) *Kintyre*, 150 at Arileod *Coll* on 1 Aug, 120 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 8 Aug, 95 at Whitehouse *Tiree* on 14 Aug, 100 at Vault *Tiree* on 19 Nov, and 35 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 23 Nov.

**Breeding 2004.** Eleven nests were located in the cattle shed on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Jun.

**2005.** Two recent fledglings were noted at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 23 May and the first fledgling on *Tiree* was noted at Heylipol on 1 Jun.

**TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus* Gealbhonn-nan-craobh 1598

**Currently a very scarce visitor, last recorded on Iona in Jun 1996. All records required.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**RED-EYED VIREO\*** *Vireo olivaceus* 1633

**Vagrant. The only record concerns one at Arinagour (Coll) in Oct 1992.**

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**COMMON CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan-beithe 1636

**Abundant resident breeder, except on Coll (in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather outwith the breeding season, when numbers augmented by winter visitors.**

**2004.** Reports were received from all recording areas, including on Iona but not the Treshnish Isles. On *Tiree*, there were scattered records of up to 3 birds from Jan to Mar with 10 at Vault on 21 Feb. A late female was at Carnan Mor on 2 May. Birds were present again from Oct to Dec, with a maximum of 12 at Cornaig on 30 Oct. Elsewhere records of 50 or more birds included: 50+ at Tayinloan on 3 Jan, 69 at Bushmill (RSPB L. Gruinart) on 9 Jan, 250 at Laggan Bridge *Islay* on 15 Feb, 60+ at Kildalton *Islay* on 18 Oct, 400 at West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 25 Oct, 50+ near the golf course at Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov, ca 100 in a garden in Dunoon on 17 Dec, and 90 at Craigfad *Islay* on 19 Dec. A male with virtually all pink plumage was taken by a Eurasian Sparrowhawk at Otter Ferry on 7 Apr.

**2005.** Small numbers were seen regularly on *Tiree* from Jan to May and from Oct to Dec with a maximum of 24 in two groups at Balephuill on 5 Nov. A flock of 26 were at Totronald *Coll* on 21 Oct. Records of 50 or more birds included: 400+ at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 3 Aug, 50+ in a garden in Dunoon on 13 Aug, ca 200 at Otter Ferry on 12 Sep, 75 near Cluanach *Islay* on 17 Nov, 95 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 21 Nov, and 50 at RSPB L. Gruinart during Dec.

**Breeding 2004.** A record 43 territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, (cf long term average of 30 territories, 1990-2004). Breeding was recorded on *Coll* at: the RSPB Reserve, Arinagour, The Lodge, Martin's Wood, Grishipoll, Cliad, Sorisdale, Acha, Foxes, Uig, and Garden House; no attempt was made to determine numbers. Birds were found in all 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 but at slightly lower levels (3.7% decrease) than during a similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006).

**2005.** A total of 35 territories was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla* Breacan-caorainn 1638

**An uncommon winter visitor. Numbers vary from winter to winter but here have been fewer birds in recent years. There are a few summer records.**



**2004.** Single birds were seen at: Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan, at RSPB L. Gruinart 13-16 Feb, and at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar. All records from the latter part of the year were from the islands and included single birds at Kilchoman and Leckgruinart Cottage *Islay* in Oct and at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 21 Oct. On *Coll*: 6 were at Arinagour and 26 at Martin's Wood on 24 Oct, 4 were at Totronald on 5 Nov, 12 at Arileod on 18 Nov and 8 at Arinagour on 23 Nov.

**2005.** A single bird at Ballygrant *Islay* on 19 Feb was the only record from the early part of the year. During Oct: singles were seen at Otter Ferry and Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll*, 8 were at Arileod *Coll* and 'several' were reported in Campbeltown. Three seen near Kilninver *Mid-Argyll*, at Lagganmore on 2 Nov and at Auchnasaul *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov, were possibly the same birds, and 8 were at Bridgend *Islay* on 24 Nov. A male and female were in a garden in Dunoon on 17 Nov, and singles were at L. Gruinart in Nov and at Blarghour (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov.

**GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean-daraich

1649

*A locally common resident and partial migrant but fewer breed on the islands.*

**2004.** Records of 30 or more birds included: 35 at Garra Eallabus (L. Gruinart) *Islay* on 9 Jan, 46 at Upper Smaull *Islay* on 23 Jan, 30 at Tayinloan on 21 Aug, 65 feeding on arable crops on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Aug, 30 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Sep, 40 at Arinagour *Coll* on 23 Oct, 50 at a roost at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 7 Nov, 30 at Totronald *Coll* on 20 Nov, 60 at Craigfad *Islay* on 19 Dec, and 34 at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec. Smaller numbers were present elsewhere on *Tiree* from Jan to Apr and from Oct to Dec.

**2005.** A bright yellow, presumably male, bird was photographed at a bird feeder at Barranrioch farm near Oban on 1 Nov. A flock of 78 feeding on grain put out for chickens at Crossapol Farm *Tiree* on 17 Feb was a record count for the island. Other records of 30 or more birds included: ca 120 with a few Lesser Redpolls at Killail (Otter Ferry) on 28 Jul, 86 at RSPB L. Gruinart during Nov, and 45 at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 13 Nov.

**Breeding 2004/2005.** Breeding occurred on *Coll* in 2004 at, amongst other places, Arinagour, The Lodge, Martin's Wood, Grishipoll, Acha, Foxes, Uig, and Garden House. No other records of breeding numbers were submitted in either year.

**GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair-choille

1653

*A thinly distributed resident. Absent as a breeding species from Coll, Colonsay, Tiree. Flocks occur in autumn.*

**2004.** Reports were received from all recording areas apart from *Jura*, including on *Iona*. Birds were seen regularly on *Tiree* from Jan to May and in Aug, Oct and Nov with a maximum of 8 on 18 Feb. A maximum of 12 were at The Lodge *Coll* on 18 Aug. Flocks of 20 or more included: 20 flying N at Tayinloan on 6 Jan, 20+ at Killail (Otter Ferry) on 30 Aug, 24 at Largiemore (near Otter Ferry) on 10 Sep, 38 flying along the shore near Kames *Cowal* on 20 Sep, 30+ (mostly juvs.) at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Sep, 20 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 30 Sep, and 30 at Whin Park (near Bridgend) *Islay* on 26 Nov.

**2005.** One was heard for several minutes in full song at Tullochgorm (Minard) on 1 Jan and a record total of 8 were at the peanut feeder there on 14 Jan. Birds were seen regularly on *Tiree* from Jan to May and from Oct to Dec with a maximum of 40 in two flocks at Ruaig on 21 Oct. Other flocks of 20 or more included: ca 40 at Clachan of Glendaruel on 2 Jan, 20 (mostly juvs.) at L. Frisa *Mull* on 2 Aug, 45 with Twites and Linnets at L. na Cille (L. Sween) on 12 Sep, ca 50 on wires at Killail (Otter Ferry) on 12 Sep, 30 at Keills (L. Sween) on 20 Sep, 22 at Achnamara (L. Sween) on 15 Oct, and 20+ at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 28 Oct.

**Breeding 2004.** Two territories were found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR (cf long term average of one territory, 1990-2004). Several pairs were reported as breeding in the Arinagour area of *Coll*, the first confirmed breeding record for the island. Although 9 or more

pairs were reported on *Colonsay* in Jun, there was apparently no confirmation of breeding. A nest was found near the Abbey on Iona *Mull* on 29 May.

**2005.** Two territories were again found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR. Once again pairs were reported as breeding in the Arinagour area of *Coll*. No less than 17 pairs were reported on *Colonsay* in Jun but breeding was still not confirmed. A pair with 3 recently fledged young was at Tayvallich on 3 Jun.

**SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus* Gealag-bhuidhe

1654

*A locally common partial migrant. Absent from Tiree and Coll except as an occasional visitor.*

*Numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on cone crops.*

**2004.** There were reports from all recording areas except *Jura*. Up to 2 were recorded on *Coll* from Jan to May. On *Tiree*, an pair was at Kilmoluaig on 18 Jun was unexpected and 4 flew S at Corraigmore on 9 Oct. Flocks of 20 or more included: 20 at Lochdon *Mull* on 3 May, 20 at Ballygrant *Islay* on 27 Oct, 35+ at L. Craiglin (L. Sween) on 12 Dec, 30+ near Dunoon Hospital on 13 Dec, 26 at Moine Mhor on 18 Dec, and 40+ at Drum Farm (near Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 27 Dec.

**2005.** Birds appeared earlier than usual in higher numbers at garden bird feeders including 10 at Tullochgorm (Minard) on 2 Feb, possibly indicating a poor cone crop. Elsewhere records at bird feeders included: 8+ at Kames *Cowal* on 16 Mar, max. 25 in Dunoon during Apr, 30 at Otter Ferry on 6 Apr and 11 at Tullochgorm on 17 Apr. The only large flock reported apart from this was 60+ at Grasspoint *Mull* on 26 Aug. A male bird with a ring was found dead at Invernoaden (Glenbranter) *Cowal* on 26 May. It had been ringed as an adult at Meols, Wirral on 30 Mar 2004, a distance of 329km.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were recorded in 24 of 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey 2003/4 but numbers had decreased by 37.3% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). There were records from the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR but no territories were defined.

**2005.** Birds were reported in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR but again no territories were found. Large numbers at garden feeders at Invernoaden (Glenbranter) in Jun included many juvs. indicating a good breeding season in the area.

**LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan-lin

1660

*A sparsely distributed partial migrant, breeding mainly on Islay and in Kintyre. Flocks occur locally in autumn and winter but it is absent from some areas at this time, with most reports coming from Colonsay, Islay and Kintyre.*

**2004.** A flock of 15 Heylipol *Tiree* on 11 Apr, plus a pair at Moss, were the first noted on the island since November 2003. Records of 50 or more included: 93 at Garra Eallabus (L. Gruinart) on 27 Jan, 85 at Kilnave *Islay* on 10 Feb, ca 150 with Twite at Tayinloan on 5 May, up to 100 at RSPB Reserve *Coll* in Aug, 175 at Leckgruinart Cottage (L. Gruinart) on 10 Aug, 95 at Leacann (The Oa) *Islay* on 10 Aug, 120 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 19 Aug, 230 at Barrapol *Tiree* (with 65 more elsewhere) on 2 Sep, 105 at Grainel (L. Gruinart) on 7 Sep, 280 at Balephuill and 180 at Milton *Tiree* on 13 Sep, 55 feeding amongst seaweed and along the shore at Ardlamont Point *Cowal* on 15 Sep, ca 120 at Tayinloan on 23 Sep, 550 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 28 Sep, and 80 at Craigfad *Islay* on 19 Dec

**2005.** Records of 40 or more included: 320 at RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 25 Apr, 40 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 22 Aug, max. 229 at RSPB L. Gruinart during Aug, 250 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Sep, 120 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 21 Sep, 150 feeding on arable stubble on Oronsay on 3 Oct, and 70 roosting at Heylipol, *Tiree* on 4 Oct.

**Breeding 2004.** Three territories were found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR (*cf* long term average of 3 territories, 1990-2004). Approx. 12 pairs are thought to have bred on Sanda Island but with poor success and 5 males were located on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Jun, during a breeding bird survey. Breeding also occurred at Ardnave and L. Gruinart RSPB reserves and on *Tiree* where they were widespread and common with many fledglings noted from 21 Jun.

**2005.** Only two territories were found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR. Some 70 pairs were around on *Tiree* in Jun with every indication of a good breeding season. The 10-12 pairs breeding on Sanda Island are also thought to have had a successful season.

**TWITE** *Carduelis flavirostris* Gealan-beinne

1662

*A local resident mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands. Winter flocks may comprise resident birds and migrants.*

**2004.** Birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas except *Jura* (although birds were undoubtedly present there). Records of 50 or more included: 900 in fields around Totronald *Coll* on 31 Aug, *ca* 300 at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 28 Sep, up to 500 at Totronald during Oct, 240 at Balevullin *Tiree* on 19 Nov, 220 at Cornaig Bay *Tiree* on 4 Sep, up to 200 feeding on marram seed at Hogh Bay *Coll* during Oct, 190 at Ardnave *Islay* on 8 Oct, *ca* 150 with Linnets at Tayinloan on 5 May, and 90 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug.

**2005.** Records of 50 or more included: *ca* 1,00 at RSPB Reserve *Coll* during Aug, 500 at The reef and 50 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Oct, up to 250 at RSPB Reserve *Coll* during Jan, 250 at The Reef *Tiree* on 8 Nov, a peak count of 160 at Machrihanish SBO on 24 Sep, 140 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 21 Nov, 100+ at Glean Seilisdair *Mull* on 4 Sep, max. 86 during Jan at Ardnave *Islay*, 70 feeding on stubble on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Sep, and 50 at Keills (L. Sween) on 20 Sep.

**Breeding 2004.** Ten pairs were found on Oronsay and 25 pairs on *Colonsay*. On the Treshnish Isles, at least 3 broods on young were noted on Lunga and 2 family parties on Fladda. Ten to 12 pairs bred on Sanda Island and pairs were widespread on the moors and hills of *Tiree*. They also bred on the RSPB reserves on *Coll* and at Ardnave and L. Gruinart *Islay* but no counts were made.

**2005.** At least 4 pairs were located on Oronsay and 28 pairs on *Colonsay*, approx. 10 pairs are thought to have bred on Sanda Island and family parties were noted on Lunga (Treshnish Isles). Five males were singing at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 15 May (with scattered pairs elsewhere) and the first fledged brood were noted at Balephuill on 17 Jun.

**Ringling returns.** Six Twites ringed as juveniles on Sanda Island in Jul 2004 or Jul 2005 were recovered at either Askham-in-Furness, Cumbria (4) or Heysham, Lancashire (2) in the winters of 2004/5 or 2005/6. One bird colour-ringed as a nestling on N Uist in 2003 was seen on Sanda on 27 Jul 2004.

**COMMON REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea* (includes Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea* & Greenland Redpoll *C. f. rostrata*)

1663.1

*Scarce passage migrant and irregular winter visitor.*

**2004.** Records of 4 birds at Cornaigmore *Tiree* and one at Balephuill, both of the race *flammea*, were accepted by ABRC after extended consideration of the pitfalls associated with the identification of this species and its races [J. Bowler].

**2005.** A group of 5 *flammea* birds were seen well and photographed at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Oct [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

(Records were also submitted of birds on *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll* in 2005 but none were accompanied by suitable descriptions).

**LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis cabaret* Dearcan-seilich

1663

*A locally common partial migrant with numbers fluctuating from year to year. Post breeding flocks gather from July and most birds move south for the winter.*

**2004.** Larger counts included: 30 passage birds on *Coll* on 14 May, 10 at Grasspoint *Mull* on 29 May, ca 50 with Twites at RSPB Reserve *Coll* during Sep, 120 at Martin's Wood (Gallanach) *Coll* on 24 Oct, and 20+ at Achnacloich (near Connel) on 12 Nov.

**2005.** The only counts in double figures were: 70 at the mouth of the R. Orchy (L. Awe) *North Argyll* on 6 Feb, 15 at Ardchnnell (near Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jul and 10 near Salen *Mull* on 29 Jul.

**Breeding 2004.** Birds were found in 21 of 29 broadleaved woods during the Second Woodland Bird Survey in 2003/4 and numbers had increased by 90.3% since the similar survey in 1985 (Amar *et al.* 2006). The total of 3 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, was the lowest since 1995 (*cf* long term average of 4 territories, 1990-2004). Breeding took place at RSPB Reserve *Coll* and elsewhere on the island. No attempt was made to determine breeding numbers but there were certainly significantly more than the 2-4 pairs previously estimated, perhaps as many as 20 pairs.

**2005.** On 16 Jul two pairs with fledged broods of 3 and 2 were found at Carnan Mor *Tiree*. This constitutes the first confirmed breeding record for *Tiree*. Four territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR and two pairs are thought to have bred on Sanda Island. Five pairs were noted at Eriska *North Argyll* on 13 May.

**ARCTIC REDPOLL** *Carduelis hornemanni*

1664

*Vagrant. The only accepted Argyll record is one of the race exilipes on Islay in Sep 2001.*

**2004.** A splendid white male considered to be of the race *exilipes* was seen at the Manse, Scarinish *Tiree* with an immature bird that could have been either Arctic or Common Redpoll [J. Bowler]. The record of the male bird was accepted as an Arctic Redpoll by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:95) and becomes only the second record for Argyll.

**2005.** No records.

**COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra* Cam-gheb

1666

*Numbers, distribution and breeding season vary depending on the abundance of conifer cone crops.*

**2004.** Single birds were recorded at Aucherlochan Farm (Kames) *Cowal* on 19 Feb, Braevallich (L. Awe) on 16 Apr, Uig *Coll* on 6 May, and Cornabus *Islay* on 2 Jun. A flock of ca 20 flew over Taynish NNR on 9 Jun and 2 yellow birds flew over Tighnabruaich Forest *Cowal* also on 9 Jun. Up to 5 birds were seen at Kames *Cowal* almost daily from 9 Jun to 18 Jul. A lone female type bird was at Heylipol *Tiree* on 11 Sep and a pair in a garden at Fearnoch (Kilmichael) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct.

**2005.** There were several reports in Jan and Feb including: 3+ in Minard woods *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan, 3 at Invernaden (Glenbranter) *Cowal* on 16 Jan, one flying over Kames on 18 Jan, one near Otter Ferry on 26 Jan, 8 (two pairs) in the conifer forest at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb, and singles at Clashgour (Blackmount) *North Argyll* on 19 Feb and L. Melldalloch *Cowal* on 20 Feb. Unusually, two were foraging on the shore at Machrihanish for sea pink seeds on 19 Jun. A fine male was at Baugh *Tiree* on 18 Jul and at Balephetrish on 21 Jul, 5 flew over Kames on 5 Aug, and several were heard calling in conifers at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 21 Nov.

**Breeding 2004.** No records.

**2005.** Two pairs with broods of 2 and 4 young were found in Barcaldine Forest *North Argyll* on 20 Jun.

**COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

1679

*A rare visitor, which may have bred.*

**2004.** A first year male was seen at Jura House *Jura* on 27 May [Catriona Murray]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** An adult male was seen at Maol Bhuidhe (L. Gruinart) on 3 Jun [Irene & Tony Miller]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille

1710

*A widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull.*

**2004.** larger groups reported included; 7 in a garden at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr, 7 at Torosay Castle gardens *Mull* on 17 Jun, 10 at L. an Fhir Mhaoil (near Tayvallich) on 14 Sep, 5 at Otter Ferry during Oct and 12 near Kilfinan *Cowal* on 27 Dec. A male reported at Mannaal *Tiree* on 16 Oct was only the second record for the island.

In autumn 2004 there was a well documented influx in Scotland of Bullfinches of the larger and brighter-coloured northern race *pyrrhula*. A description provided of a female at The Manse (Scarinish) *Tiree* was accepted by ABRC as the first documented occurrence of this sub-species in Argyll. Records were also received of up to 8 birds on *Coll* and *Islay* from late Oct to late Nov.

**2005.** The only larger groups reported were 12-15 near Otter Ferry on 2 Jan and 12 at Lossit House (near Machrihanish) *Kintyre* on 5 Oct.

**Breeding 2004.** Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (cf long term average of 2 territories, 1990-2004). Pairs were also reported during the breeding season from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *North Argyll*.

**2005.** Only a single territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*.

**HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Gobhach

1717

*A rare visitor. Only 8 Argyll records 1953-2000.*

**2004.** For the first time there were two records in a single year. On 19 Jan one was feeding on seed at bird table with Chaffinches at Benderloch *North Argyll* [Mrs S. McKay/D. Trigg]. On *Tiree*, an adult was seen at a garden bird table eating sunflower seeds at Heylipol on 10 May. It remained there until 12 May [J. Bowler]. Both records were accepted by ABRC.

**2005.** One seen and photographed in a garden in Oban on 29 Oct remained until the following day [F. Donn per S. Gibson]. Record accepted by ABRC.

**AMERICAN REDSTART\*** *Setophaga ruticilla*

1755

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in November 1982.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**LAPLAND BUNTING** *Calcarius lapponicus*

1847

*Scarce passage migrant, recorded most frequently in autumn.*

**2004.** All the records were in autumn. A first winter bird was feeding in stubbles on Oronsay *Colonsay* 29-30 Sep, one flew S over Garra Eallabus (L. Gruinart) on 5 Oct, one was calling flight over The Reef *Tiree* on 14 Oct, two flew over Totronald *Coll* calling on 18 Oct and at Upper Killeyan *Islay* four were seen on 13 Nov with three still there on 23 Nov.

**2005.** One of the two males at Totronald *Coll* on 18 Apr was in sub-song as was a male in almost complete breeding plumage at Crossapol Farm *Tiree* early on 19 Apr. In autumn and winter; one was on Oronsay on 15 Sep, 2 were at Ardnave early on the morning of 27 Sep, one

flew over Rubha Fasachd *Coll* calling on 16 Nov, one was at Salum *Tiree* on 5 Dec and 3 were with Snow Buntings at Smaull Farm *Islay* on 8 Dec.

**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealach-an-t-sneachda 1850

***Occurs in varying numbers on passage and in winter. Has probably bred in North Argyll.***

**Jan- May 2004.** Single birds were recorded from Jan to May from *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. Larger groups included; ca 40 feeding on a hillside near Binnein an Fhìdhleir (Glen Kinglas) *Cowal* on 17 Jan, 6 in Glen More *Mull* on 26 Feb, 4 on barley stubbles at Port na Luing *Coll* on 22 Mar and 5 at Traigh Bhi dunes *Tiree* on 6 May. Three late males in breeding plumage were at Hynish *Tiree* on 15 May and a female was at Machrihanish SBO 15-17 May.

**2005.** Unusually large numbers on *Islay* included; up to 33 at Ardnave during Jan, 38 at Ardnave on 15 Feb and 48 at Upper Killeyan on 8 May. There were singles on Oronsay on 3 Mar and 5 Apr and a flock of 10 were at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 20 Feb. Up to 4 were on various mountains in the Ben Cruachan and Stob Ghabhar areas of *North Argyll*, from Jan to Apr.

**Sep-Dec 2004.** The first returning birds were two flying S at Machrihanish SBO on 18 Sep followed by singles or two together at various locations on *Tiree* in Sep. In Oct, numbers on *Tiree* peaked when 21 were at Traigh Ghrianaidh on 10<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, 14 were at Totronald *Coll* on 27 Oct, 6 at Ardnave Point *Islay* and 6 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Oct, 4 at Beinn an Dothaidh near Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 30 Oct. During the winter period, *Tiree* had 2 at The Reef on 10 Nov, 2 at L. Bhasapoll on 19 Nov and singles on 28 Nov and 2 Dec. *Islay* had 5 on The Oa on 18 Nov, 9 at Ardnave on 28 Nov and 32 at Traigh Nostaig (Ardnave) on 31 Dec. Two were on Oronsay on 6 Nov, on *Coll*, 8 were at Breachacha on 8 Nov and 18 at Arileod on 18 Nov and

2 were near Craignure *Mull* on 20 Nov.

**2005.** The first returning birds were a single at Machrihanish SBO on 24 Sep, 16 at Totronald *Coll* on 25 Sep and one at Aird *Tiree* on 27 Sep. Up to 5 were at various places on *Tiree* from Oct to Dec with 5 at Ard Ear and 4 over Balephetrish Hill on 5 Dec. The highest counts on *Islay* was 13 during Nov at Ardnave with 12 at Upper Killeyan on 16 Nov. Singles or twos were seen at Carskey Bay *Kintyre*, Frenchman's Rocks, Oronsay and near Creach Bheinn *North Argyll* from Oct to Dec; 16 were at Hogh Bay *Coll* on 13 Nov and 3 near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Dec.

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag-bhealaidh 1857

***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.***

**2004.** The highest number on reported on *Islay* was 8 feedings in the stack yard at RSPB Upper Smaull on 3 Feb. Up to 3 were reported at six other sites on *Islay* including 2 males apparently on territory N of Bunnahabhainn on 27 Apr. There records from six locations on *Mull* during the breeding season and a single male reported at Acha *Coll* on 27 Apr was the first on the island since 1993. The mainland records were all in *Mid-Argyll* and included up to 8 throughout the year at Carsaig, up to 3 in a garden at Connel and singles at 3 other sites.

**2005.** Up to 4 were at Carsaig through the year, 4 were at Mill Park (near Southend) *Kintyre* on 1 Dec and up to 3 were at Connel during Dec. In *North Argyll*, one was singing at Glenstockdale in Apr and 2 or more were near Achnaba Church in May. One at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 21 Oct was unexpected. All the remaining records involved just one or two birds, from 3 sites on *Islay*, six sites in *Mid-Argyll* (incl. 2 on Seil Island) and two on *Mull*.

**CIRL BUNTING** *Emberiza cirrus*

1858

***Vagrant. A pair at St. Catherine's, Loch Fyne in June 1920 is the sole record.***

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**RUSTIC BUNTING** *Emberiza rustica*

1873

*Vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one on Islay in May 1980 and one on Tiree in June 1987.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla*

1874

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record is of a bird found dead at Skerryvore Lighthouse (about 15 km south-west of Tiree), in Sep 1985.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING\*** *Emberiza aureola*

1876

*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in September 1981.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Gealag-lòin

1877

*A locally distributed resident. Small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season.*

Reported during 2004/2005 from all recording areas except *Jura*.

**Jan-May 2004.** Counts of 10 or more birds included; 21 at Giol (The Oa) *Islay* on 13 Jan, 27 at The Roundhouse *Coll* on 1 Feb, 16 feeding in the stack yard at RSPB Smaull *Islay* on 3 Feb, 12 perched on an electricity cable near the Mull of *Kintyre* lighthouse on 4 Apr, 30+ at Port na Luing *Coll* on 15 Apr and 27 feeding in stubble at The Roundhouse *Coll* on 24 Apr.

**2005.** Counts of 10 or more birds included; max. 57 during Jan at RSPB L. Gruinart, max 21 at Ardnave *Islay* during Feb, 11 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Feb and 12 (all but one male) at Tayinloan on 26 Mar.

**Breeding 2004.** A casual survey at RSPB L. Gruinart found 36 territorial pairs, 17 pairs bred on *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay), 3 or 4 pairs bred on Sanda Island and 3 pairs bred on moorland on *Tiree* with a small numbers of pairs in reedy wetland elsewhere. Pairs also bred at RSPB reserves on *Coll* and at Ardnave *Islay*, but no counts were made. No territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (cf long term average of one territory, 1990-2004).

**2005.** A total of 14 pairs were found on *Colonsay*, 3 or 4 pairs bred on Sanda Island and odd pairs were at scattered reedy sites on *Tiree*. Pairs also bred at Moine Mhor and at the RSPB reserves at Ardnave, L. Gruinart and Oronsay but no counts were made. There were again no territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR.

**Jul-Dec 2004.** Counts of 10 or more birds included; ca 40 around the west end of *Coll* on 5 Nov, 14 at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 8 Dec and 16 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 24 Dec.

**2005.** The only counts of 10 or more birds were 25 near Cattadale *Islay* on 17 Nov and a maximum of 17 at RSPB L. Gruinart during Dec.

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

1881

*Vagrant. Seven previous records, all of singles from May to Jul.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** A male was seen at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* in the late afternoon of 12 Jun but was not seen again [M. Davidson/D. Jardine/J. Jardine/A. Middleton]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:102).

**CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra* Gealag-bhuachair 1882  
*Formerly resident on Tiree but recently extinct. There are occasional records of wandering birds.*

Last reported in Jan 2003 on Oronsay *Colonsay* and Jan-Feb 2003 on *Islay*.

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD\*** *Molothrus ater* 1899  
*Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one at Ardnave Point, Islay in April 1988.*

**2004.** No records.

**2005.** No records.

## 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 (see definitions of categories on p.12). 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, Red Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). These are dealt with in the main systematic list.

**BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus*

Category E\*.

**2004.** An adult flew N over Kilmoluaig *Tiree* with Whooper Swans on the morning of 9 Mar and landed at L. Bhasapoll. I had gone by 14:30hrs.

No records in **2005**.

**BAR-HEADED GOOSE** *Anser indicus*

Category E\*.

**2004.** Five were seen with Greater Canada Geese at the head of L. Feochan on 11 Aug. 2004.

**2005.** Three were seen with Greater Canada Geese at Eilean an Ruisg (L. Feochan) on 24 Jun 2005 and 5 adults were present at the head of L. Feochan at least from 15 to 22 Aug. The increasing numbers of records of this frequent escape from wildfowl collections must raise the possibility of feral breeding at some time in the future.

**INDIAN PEA FOWL** *Pavo cristatus*

Category E.

**2004.** A male was seen wandering along the main road (A83) S of Inveraray on 22 Sep.

**WHITE-RUMPED (BACKED) MUNIA** *Lonchura striata*

Category E.

**2005.** One seen and photographed in a garden in Kilbride Ave., Dunoon on 16 Apr 2005 stayed for two days. Before being identified it initially raised expectations of being some species of rare vagrant. It was presumably a local escapee.



## 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 rejected since the publication of ABR 19.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
Northern Goshawk	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	23/10/2004	ABRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Cowal</i>	21/03/2005	ABRC
Hobby (juv.)	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	07/07/2005	ABRC
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Coll</i>	07/07/2004	ABRC
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Jura</i>	22/09/2005	ABRC
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Islay</i>	28/10/2005	BBRC
European Bee-eater	<i>Islay</i>	06/04/2004	ABRC
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Coll</i>	04/05/2004	BBRC*
Common Rosefinch (adult feeding young)	<i>North Argyll</i>	30/07/2005	ABRC

\*Red-rumped Swallow now being appealed by observer.

Most records are rejected 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.

The following records of species on the BBRC, SBRC or ABRC are currently in circulation around the relevant rarity committees. In some instances the decision has been delayed pending receipt of further details.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
Redhead	<i>Tiree</i>	14/12/2005	BBRC
North Atlantic Little Shearwater*	Machrihanish SBO	07/09/2000	BBRC
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Kintyre</i>	12/07/2005	SBRC
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Islay</i>	22 & 26/09/2005	BBRC

\* BBRC is currently reviewing the identification criteria for this species.

Details of the following claimed 2004 and 2005 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.

Species	Place	Recording area	date
American Wigeon	RSPB L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	01/03/2004
Green-winged Teal	?	<i>Coll</i>	17/06 & 13/07/2005

White-billed Diver	Kennacraig-Islay Ferry	<i>Islay</i>	04/04/2005
Cory's Shearwater (2)	Oban-Coll Ferry	<i>Coll</i>	22/08/2005
Great Shearwater	Oban-Coll Ferry	<i>Coll</i>	22/08/2005
North Atlantic Little Shearwater	Machrihanish SBO	<i>Kintyre</i>	21/07/2005
Black Kite	L. Scridain	<i>Mull</i>	20/04/2004
Black Kite	Crossapol	<i>Coll</i>	23/05/2004
Northern Goshawk <sup>2</sup>	Arinagour	<i>Coll</i>	28/02/2004
Northern Goshawk	Castle Toward	<i>Cowal</i>	30/03/2004
Northern Goshawk	3 records, in Apr/May/Jul	<i>Mull</i>	2004
Northern Goshawk	Knocklearoch	<i>Islay</i>	27/10/2005
Hobby	Aros Moss	<i>Kintyre</i>	Jun 2004
Hobby		<i>Mull</i>	02/08/2004
Hobby	Uig	<i>Coll</i>	17/08/2004
Hobby	Machrihanish	<i>Kintyre</i>	27/05/2005
Hobby	Kilbride	<i>Coll</i>	09/08/2005
Hobby (juv.)	Carse House, Knapdale	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	14/09/2005
Gyr Falcon	L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	20/12/2004
Common Crane	Tireragan	<i>Mull</i>	24/08/2004
American Golden Plover	Arileod	<i>Coll</i>	20/09/2004
Temminck's Stint	Port na Luing	<i>Coll</i>	04/05/2005
Baird's Sandpiper	Breachacha Bay	<i>Coll</i>	21/09/2004
Pectoral Sandpiper (2 juvs.)	Ballard	<i>Coll</i>	20/09/2004
Long-billed Dowitcher	Breachacha	<i>Coll</i>	29/11/2004
Red-necked Phalarope (juv.)	Machrihanish	<i>Kintyre</i>	27/08/2005
Mediterranean Gull	Port Ellen	<i>Islay</i>	Feb 2005
Mediterranean Gull	Hogh Bay	<i>Coll</i>	30/05/2005
Sabine's Gull	Records of some 23 individuals mostly on <i>Coll</i>	<i>Coll/Islay</i>	Sep/Oct 2004
Sabine's Gull	Oban-Craignure Ferry	<i>Mull</i>	23/09/2005
Sabine's Gull	Arinagour	<i>Coll</i>	24/09/2005
Ring-billed Gull <sup>1</sup>	Various locations	<i>Islay</i>	21/04-05/05/2005
Lesser Yellowlegs	Dervaig	<i>Mull</i>	13/03/2005
Yellow-legged Gull		<i>Coll</i>	11 & 14/05/2004
Yellow-legged Gull	Citra	<i>Islay</i>	03/07/2004
Black Tern	L. Eatharna	<i>Coll</i>	05/06/2005
Roseate Tern	Iona	<i>Mull</i>	12/05/2005
Richard's Pipit	L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	25/09/2005
Blue-headed (Yellow) Wagtail	?	<i>Islay</i>	18/05/2005
Reed Warbler	?	<i>Mull</i>	16/05/2005
Barred Warbler	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	08/09/2004

Barred Warbler	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	28/10/2004
Lesser Whitethroat <sup>2</sup>	Acha	<i>Coll</i>	05/05/2004
Lesser Whitethroat	?	<i>Coll</i>	18/10/2005
Yellow-browed Warbler	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	15-18/10/2004
Yellow-browed Warbler	?	<i>Islay</i>	15/10/2005
Yellow-browed Warbler	Arinagour	<i>Coll</i>	15-24/10/2004
Yellow-browed Warbler	Port Ellen	<i>Islay</i>	01/11/2005
Firecrest	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	07/10/2005
Firecrest	Dalmally	<i>N. Argyll</i>	22/12/2005
Eurasian Nuthatch	Barcaldine	<i>N. Argyll</i>	24/04/2005
Rose-coloured Starling	Arinagour	<i>Coll</i>	11/05/2005
Rose-coloured Starling	Croc-a-bhadain	<i>Coll</i>	26/07/2005
Common Redpoll (race: <i>islandica</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	?	<i>Islay</i>	02/10/2005
Common Redpoll (race: <i>flammea</i> ) (18)	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	24/10/2004
Common Redpoll (race: <i>flammea</i> ) (40)	Martin's Wood, Gallanach	<i>Coll</i>	24/10/2004
Common Rosefinch	Tottronald	<i>Coll</i>	05/07/2004

<sup>1</sup> several other records of Ring-billed Gulls, mainly on Islay and around Oban, were published on BirdGuides but no supporting descriptions were ever supplied.

<sup>2</sup> Records already circulated but further details are awaited.

<sup>3</sup> Photographs have been supplied but a description is still awaited. This race is still not officially accepted by BOURC.

**Anyone who saw any of these birds is encouraged to send in details. The records will not be referred to again in future reports unless details have by then been forwarded to ABRC, BBRC or SBRC.**

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Sandpiper, Broad-billed	71	Stone-curlew	63
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Sandpiper, Common	79	Storm-petrel, European	46
Sandpiper, Curlew	69	Storm-petrel, Leach's	46
Sandpiper, Green	79	Storm-petrel, White-faced	17
Sandpiper, Pectoral	69	Storm-petrel, Wilson's	17
Sandpiper, Purple	70	Swallow, Barn	110
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	68	Swan, Bewick's	17
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Sandpiper, White-rumped	69	Swan, Mute	17
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Tern, Caspian	96	Woodpecker, Green	108
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