

**June 2009**  
**Number 89**

# The Eider



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**Field Reports**

**Argyll Bird Club Website Design**

**Members Articles**

**Argyll Bird Recording System**

**Spring Migrants– Arrival Dates**

## Editor

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## Acknowledgements

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John Bowler, Danielle Clark, Paul Daw, Jim Dickson, Bob Furness (photocopying and dispatch), J M Harrison, Jimmy MacDonald, Mary-MacIntyre, Eddie Maguire, David Merrie, David Palmar, Katie Pendreigh, Steve Petty, Nigel Scriven.

## Front Cover Photo

A stunning **Long-Billed Dowitcher**. Just one of the many fabulous birds seen during the Spring meeting on Islay.

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## Stop Press:

Morag Rae is currently recovering from a major operation. We wish her a full and speedy recovery.

## Editorial

**As** the new editor of The Eider, I have been amazed at the amount of enthusiasm, skill, artistry and hard work shown by those who contribute to the work of the Argyll Bird Club.

With this in mind, I would like to thank Steve Petty, on behalf of the club members, for the outstanding work produced over 7 years as editor of The Eider. Steve will certainly be a hard act to follow.

Nevertheless, I hope The Eider will continue to reflect the diverse interests of its members and other organisations involved in wildlife observation and conservation in Argyll. So, please continue to submit your observations, thoughts, scientific papers, projects, photographs, responses to forums etc.. Nothing is too large or small for inclusion.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to play a small part in presenting the interests of the Argyll Bird Club members.

**Mark Williamson**

**Argyll Bird Club Website. [www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://www.argyllbirdclub.org)**

**After** the facelift the website received over Christmas, we are now focussing on reviewing and updating the contents of the existing pages and articles. In particular the Bird Recording and Bird Watching in Argyll sections, so that this becomes an up-to-date and easy to read website for anybody interested in bird watching in Argyll and not just for experienced bird watchers! We hope to have this task finished by the end of this Summer.

**'Activities' section.** These pages are now updated as soon as possible to show any programme changes, or if a new Field Trip is planned. We endeavour to have a full Field Trip report, enhanced with photographs, posted within 2 weeks after the trip so that participants do not have to wait for the publication of the next Eider to have the full list of species recorded. The Field Trip Reports will also be accessible from the Bird Watching in Argyll sections, so that people, going on a bird watching trip somewhere in Argyll, can consult them easily and gain ideas of where to go and which species to expect.

**Bird Report .** We endeavour to have the latest update available, enhanced by images of the sightings, within 2 days of Paul Daw finishing the report.

**Subscribers to the e-mail notification of the News section** (only 1 or 2 emails per month), will be able to consult the update of Activities and Latest Bird Report as soon as the pages have been updated, so if you want to stay right up-to-date, subscribe, it only takes a minute!

**The Photo Gallery** Updated approximately once a week. Feel free to email your bird pictures for inclusion but do not forget to mention the place and the date you took the snapshot – and the species!

**Sound Clips.** A new section will be added in the next few days for sound clips. We welcome any sound clips you make of singing birds so that we can make this a real bird sound library!

**Forums.** Forums are social platforms in which everybody can participate. The more people participate in a Forum the more value it adds for the participants and readers. However, the number of Forum members and postings is still small and some members have never posted anything! We encourage everybody to join the Forums and start posting.

There are currently 5 Forums:

<b>Garden birds &amp; other wildlife.</b>	Garden bird watching is probably one of the most popular bird-watching forms. This forum provides you with the opportunity to post not only your sightings, but also any gardening tips to encourage birds and wildlife questions.
<b>Latest bird sightings.</b>	This forum gives you a chance to remain up to date with the latest bird sightings in Argyll.
<b>Magpie sightings in Argyll.</b>	Paul Daw is putting together a short paper on the distribution of Magpies in Argyll and the possible origins of some of the birds seen away from the main breeding area. He would be grateful for any records of Magpies seen in the county including those seen in the area in and around Dunoon and for any comments on their limited distribution in Argyll.
<b>Travel Reports &amp; Blogs.</b>	This provides you with the opportunity to read and transmit bird watching travel reports & blogs both within and beyond Argyll for the benefit of all readers.
<b>Website comments</b>	We appreciate feedback about the website layout, functionality and contents so that we can continue to improve it.

We hope that with these changes, the Argyll Bird Club's website will become a birding tool everybody will benefit from.

**Danielle Clark De Bisschop**

## Autumn Field trips in 2009

### Kilbrannan Sound and Skipness Saturday 26th September

Meet at the Skipness Castle car park for 10.00hrs.

We will take a walk through woodland and return along the coast to Skipness Castle. Paths may be muddy, so suitable footwear should be worn.

Refreshments will be available at the Seafood Cabin if required.

On the homeward journey we will probably stop to check Kilbrannan Sound and the moorland between Claonaig and the A83. If the forecast is really bad, we may be able to postpone till the next day.

Please contact me by Friday, 25th September if you plan to join us. This will allow me to contact the Seafood Cabin if necessary.

**Katie Pendreigh**

Tel: 01583 441359 email [katiependreigh@aol.com](mailto:katiependreigh@aol.com)

## ABC indoor meetings 2009

### **AUTUMN MEETING, Cairnbaan Hotel** **Programme for SATURDAY 7th November 2009**

0930	Doors open and coffee/tea
<b>0950 - 1000</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; introduction</b> <i>Nigel Scriven, Chairman of the Argyll Bird Club</i>
<b>1000 - 1015</b>	<b>Recent birds sightings</b> <i>Paul Daw, Argyll Bird Recorder</i>
<b>1015 – 1100</b>	<b>100 years of Bird Ringing</b> <i>BTO Scotland</i>
1100 - 1130	Coffee/tea
<b>1130 – 1215</b>	<b>Wind farms and birds in Argyll</b> <i>ScottishPower Renewables</i>
1215 - 1345	Lunch (available in the hotel)
<b>1345 - 1430</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>
<b>1430 – 1515</b>	<b>Parrots and Penguins of Oban (NZ)</b> <i>Malcolm Chattwood</i>
1515 - 1545	Tea/coffee
<b>1545 - 1600</b>	<b>The funny business of Comic terns</b> <i>Bob Furness.</i>
1600 - 1615	Raffle and end of meeting

Details of Cairnbaan Hotel near Lochgilphead can be found at <http://www.cairnbaan.com>

**Information: 11 Beavers have been released into Knapdale. Reported on Radio 4 29/5/2009**

## Argyll Bird Club Spring Meeting: Islay 24th– 26th April 2009



Intrepid members of the Argyll Bird Club pose for the camera at Port Charlotte. © Steve Petty 2009

The spring meeting of the Club was to be held on Islay and 45 members and guests from the mainland were to join three members already living or working on the island. Whilst some had made the crossing the previous day, the bulk of the members travelled on Friday.

### West Loch Tarbert – Port Askaig

Those arriving for the Friday lunchtime ferry from Kennacraig, were greeted by **Wheatears** on the rocks by the ferry terminal and a **Great Northern Diver** in winter plumage no more than 25 metres from the end of the car park. Introductions followed for the twenty or so members present before the serious business of the weekend started as we sailed down West Loch Tarbert bound for Port Askaig.

There was no shortage of divers with twelve **Great Northern** and eight **Red-throated** seen in the loch by observers sheltering on the north side of the boat from the chilly breeze. Five **Black-throated Divers** were seen outside the loch. Various auks were on the water including two **Puffins**. The overcast conditions turned to drizzle as we approached the Sound of Islay and only nine **Shag** and seven **Red-throated Divers** were seen in the sound by the few remaining observers before Port Askaig was reached. It transpired that we had had by far the best of the conditions and those on the earlier and later boats saw very little.

### Loch Indaal area

Light rain continued as we drove across the island but it didn't dampen the thrill of seeing the Loch Indaal mudflats dotted with waders. Groups of members stopped at various places across the head of the loch to observe the **Shelduck**, **Redshank**, **Oystercatcher**, **Scaup**, **Little Terns** and more before heading for their accommodation, mainly in and around Port Charlotte. An impromptu gathering in the bar of the Port Charlotte Hotel allowed notes to be swapped of who had seen what and where on the way and, with the arrival of members off the late ferry, a good time was had by all well into the night.

Mustering at nine o'clock outside the youth hostel on a grey Saturday morning the members divided into two groups for the first period of field trips; one group would concentrate on Loch Indaal while the other went to Gruinart and the north west of the island. The Loch Indaal party, which included your



Whimbrel in flight  
©David Palmar www.photoscot.co.uk



Long-Billed Dowitcher  
©David Palmar www.photoscot.co.uk



Dotterel  
©David Merrie

reporter, drove to the power station at Bowmore before working back along the shore of the loch. **Shelduck, Curlew, Whimbrel and Ringed Plover** were seen along with various gulls and small passerines. The sun was starting to shine through the remaining thin cloud by the time we stopped at the junction with the high road to Port Ellen. **Skylark, Buzzard, Sedge Warbler and Lesser Redpoll** were seen here, and a **Great Tit** carrying nest material into the top of a road sign pole. Bridgend Woods was the next stop and this produced **Song and Mistle Thrushes, Goldcrest, Blue Tit** and a beautiful male **Grey Wagtail** on the River Sorn. With only three hours available for the field session on Saturday the pace was somewhat hectic as we returned to Loch Indaal. A raft of about 60 **Scaup** were seen from the next stop, Rubha Ban, before two **Long-tailed Ducks** flew in and landed right in front of the group. A stop at Uiskentuie produced an excellent close view of a group of twelve **Whimbrel** before the final stop at the west end of the beach, Traigh an Luig produced a pale-bellied **Brent Goose**, two **Little Terns** and a **Sandwich Tern**.

### Indoor meeting: Islay Natural History Centre

Returning breathless to Port Charlotte the members enjoyed a splendid buffet lunch at the Islay Natural History Centre, organised for us by Malcolm Ogilvie, before settling down to an afternoon of Islay-related talks. After a brief introduction from **Steve Petty, Malcolm** gave us an introduction to the Islay Natural History Trust (now more than twenty years old), describing the Trust's history and the development of the Natural History Centre which is currently located with the youth hostel in an old distillery building in the village.

**Tom Callan** gave a brief round-up of recent sightings with special mention of arrival dates for spring migrants and made a plea for members to send in more of their observations to the Recorder in order to increase further the quality of the Argyll records database.

The first main speaker was **George Jackson** who has lived and farmed on Islay for many years, increasing the biodiversity where possible by digging ponds. George gave us a very interesting general review of Islay wildlife accompanied by some stunning slides, many of which featured wildlife attracted by the ponds he had dug.

**James Howe** of the RSPB told us about the society's work on Islay, particularly in the Loch Gruinart area. He emphasised that the reserves are working farms which are expected to pay their way while being managed to support wildlife; geese and Choughs being the main beneficiaries of this work.

**Eric Bignal** gave us a detailed account of the social life of the Choughs of Islay and the factors which influence their breeding success. One factor is the availability of nest sites and Eric outlined the work which has taken place to provide additional sites. His pictures of Chough nests and the visual clues left behind by

their feeding activity proved useful to your reporter a few days later.

The final speaker was **Malcolm Ogilvie**. His talk, 'Geese on Islay', was based on more than forty years experience in the field and covered not only the natural history of the different goose populations but also the conflicting interests of goose management and farming. After expressing their appreciation of the speakers' efforts the members had a short session to compile the first 107 species of the list which accompanies this report.

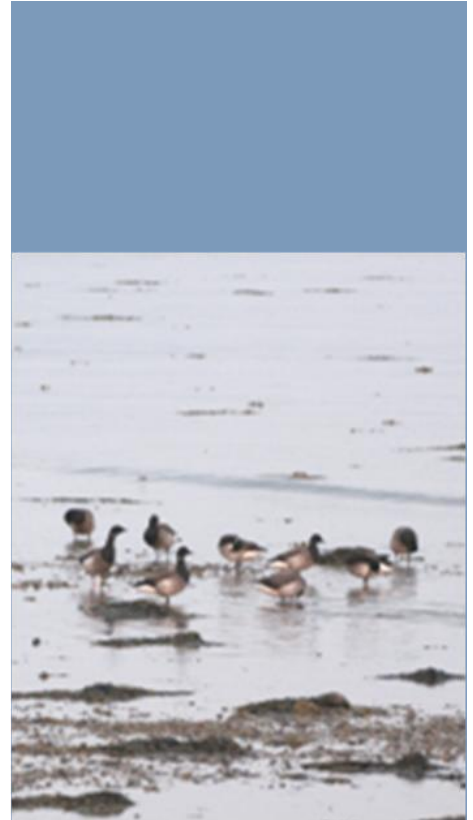
After a quick wash and brush-up, and/or a walk round the village in search of some more species, the members and guests assembled for dinner in the Port Charlotte Hotel. The challenge of serving all the members (almost) simultaneously was well met by the hotel staff and, with the addition of live traditional music in the bar, another good time was had by all.

### Port Charlotte- Kilchoman

Sunday dawned grey with dark threatening clouds but, as on Saturday, brightened up before long. The members once again mustered at the Natural History Centre and, after group photographs were taken for posterity and the Oban Times, set off on the alternate route from Saturday, although word of **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Gruinart Flats tempted some to skip the organised route. Leaving Port Charlotte we saw a **Bar-headed Goose** with its partner, a white domestic goose, and a single downy gosling. A short stop at the war memorial just north of the village produced a flock of 50-60 **Whimbrel**, indeed, more Whimbrel were seen than Curlew over the weekend. Two **Sandwich Terns** were on the rocks further north along the Loch Indaal shore along with **Common Sandpipers** and a **Great Northern Diver** was offshore. An excellent viewpoint on the road to Loch Gorm produced **Hen Harriers**, **Sparrowhawk** and a **Buzzard**. Three **Ravens** flew off a grassy knoll and put up a couple of **Grey Herons** from a heronry in a small stand of conifers at Cnoc Fada. A **Stonechat** and a **Peregrine** were added to the list along the south side of Loch Gorm before a diversion to Kilchoman found **Fulmar** nesting on the cliffs behind the old church (just like they were when the your reporter stayed in the old school house next to the church in 1977). **Chough** were found in the dunes at Machir Bay with **Linnets** by the car park there. A flock of 27 **Golden Plover** settled in a field at Saligo just as the members drove past on the way to the RSPB reserve at Loch Gruinart. Members at the back of the convoy, who stopped for a close look, also heard **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Twite**. And everywhere there seemed to be **Skylarks**, **Meadow Pipits** and **Goldfinches**, not to mention the **Brown Hares** on all the improved grassland.

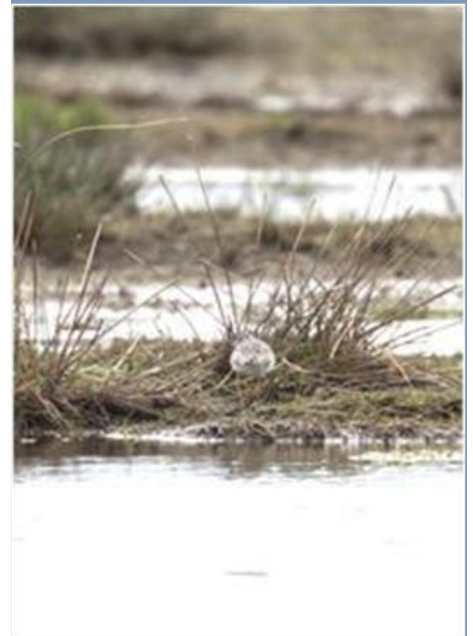
### Loch Gruinart

And so to Gruinart. Local member John Armitage was on hand to greet the visiting members with the news of not one but three transatlantic visitors; a **Long-billed Dowitcher** and a **Green-winged Teal** had joined the **Lesser Yellowlegs** on Gruinart Flats. From the end of the access road to the hide, John patiently trained various telescopes on the waders as they dodged behind



Brent Geese

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Lesser Yellowlegs

©David Palmar [www.photoscot.co.uk](http://www.photoscot.co.uk)

clumps of rushes on the fields below. After preliminary views from there at least members knew what they were looking for when they got into the hide. The view from the hide revealed **Wigeon**, **Teal**, **Mallard** and **Shoveler**; **Redshank**, **Lapwing** and **Snipe**. A group of about ten **Black-tailed Godwit** in almost full summer plumage landed just in front of the hide. And, eventually, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** came through the rushes and were feeding so close together that they could be photographed in the same shot. The **Green-winged Teal** was further away, trying to consort with some local **Teal** but being rebuffed.

Sadly, time was now pressing and members returning home on the evening ferry had to tear themselves away from the spectacle without finding the **Pintail** and **Gadwall** which had been seen by the Saturday group. They did, however, add two more species to the weekend list with **Kittiwake** and **Manx Shearwater** seen from the ferry on the way back to the mainland.

Our thanks for an excellent weekend go to Steve Petty, who organised the whole trip; to the speakers who gave us such a good insight into the natural history of Islay; to Malcolm Oglvie and the Islay Natural History Trust for the use of the Centre; and to John Armitage and Malcolm for the local knowledge without which we may just have ended up chasing wild geese and missing the rest.

Some lucky members were able to stay on the island into the following week. The extra species found after the end of the Club weekend are shown in the second part of the species list.

Would members please note that the list of species included with this report does not constitute an official record of these observations and will not feed into the Argyll Bird Report or the Argyll database. Members should report their own observations to the Argyll Bird Recorder, Paul Daw, in the usual way. **Rarities reports are required for the Long-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Yellowlegs and Green-Winged Teal.**

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More pictures of the wonderful wildlife on Islay, taken during the Spring meeting.

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All photographs ©Steve Petty 2009

## Bird species observed by Club members during the Spring meeting on Islay, 24-26 April 2009

For the purposes of this list, the weekend was deemed to start and finish at the Kennacraig ferry terminal, Kintyre, and hence the total of 119 species and races includes birds seen during the ferry crossings to and from Islay.

Mute Swan	Moorhen	House Martin
Whooper Swan	Common Coot	Meadow Pipit
Pink-footed Goose	Oystercatcher	Rock Pipit
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Ringed Plover	Grey Wagtail
Greylag Goose	Dotterel	Pied Wagtail
Barnacle Goose	European Golden Plover	White Wagtail
Brent Goose (Pale-bellied)	Northern Lapwing	Wren
Shelduck	Sanderling	Dunnock
Eurasian Wigeon	Dunlin	Robin
Gadwall	Common Snipe	Common Stonechat
Eurasian Teal	Long-billed Dowitcher	Northern Wheatear
Green-winged Teal	Black-tailed Godwit	Greenland Wheatear
Mallard	Whimbrel	Blackbird
Pintail	Eurasian Curlew	Song Thrush
Shoveler	Common Redshank	Mistle Thrush
Tufted Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	Grasshopper Warbler
Greater Scaup	Common Sandpiper	Sedge Warbler
Common Eider	Turnstone	Wood Warbler
Long-tailed Duck	Black-headed Gull	Willow Warbler
Common Goldeneye	Common Gull	Goldcrest
Red-breasted Merganser	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Blue Tit
Red-legged Partridge	Herring Gull	Great Tit
Common Pheasant	Iceland Gull	Coal Tit
Red-throated Diver	Great Black-backed Gull	Red-billed Chough
Black-throated Diver	Kittiwake	Western Jackdaw
Great Northern Diver	Little Tern	Rook
Fulmar	Sandwich Tern	Carrion Crow
Manx Shearwater	Common Tern	Hooded Crow
Northern Gannet	Common Guillemot	Common Raven
Great Cormorant	Razorbill	Common Starling
Shag	Black Guillemot	House Sparrow
Grey Heron	Puffin	Common Chaffinch
Marsh Harrier	Rock Dove	Greenfinch
Hen Harrier	Feral Pigeon	Goldfinch
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Wood Pigeon	Siskin
Common Buzzard	Collared Dove	Linnet
Golden Eagle	Common Cuckoo	Twite
Peregrine Falcon	Sky Lark	Lesser Redpoll
Water Rail	Sand Martin	Reed Bunting
Corn Crake	Barn Swallow	

Members who extended their stay on Islay beyond Sunday afternoon reported nine additional species.

Canada Goose	Bar-tailed Godwit	Dipper
Common Kestrel	Little Auk	Common Whitethroat
Ruff	Short-eared Owl	Yellowhammer

## Sound of Gigha field trip Saturday 4th April 2009



Long Tailed Ducks ©David Palmar [www.photoscot.co.uk](http://www.photoscot.co.uk)

**One day** our luck with the weather for the Argyll Bird Club field trip to the Sound of Gigha had to run out – and from the conditions in the morning this looked to be the day! However, despite the steady rain first thing at least 22 members and friends turned up at the car park at Ronachan.

This year we were too early for the newly arrived Willow Warblers that are usually singing here and one could hardly blame them! It was difficult to see anything much through the rain but one **Great Northern Diver** (probably first winter) obligingly came close enough to the shore for us all to get reasonable views of it. Otherwise, the odd **Rock Pipit** was hopping about on the shore and some gulls and the usual **Shags** and **Red-breasted Mergansers** were around the offshore rocks. The only waders noted were a pair of **Oystercatchers**. In view of the weather we decided to move on early to our next stop.

Conditions at 'West Coast Salmon' were not a great deal better - if anything the rain was heavier! There were plenty of birds about including **Great Northern Divers**, **Slavonian Grebes**, **Long-tailed Duck** and **Common Scoters** but it was very difficult to get reasonable views. At this point a few people decided to call it a day, but as the forecast was for things to improve later in the day, most of us decide to stick it out.

Mercifully Katie Pendreigh kindly offered to provide her refreshment break early so that we could shelter from the rain for a bit. So, not long afterwards, an almost unfeasibly large number of people crammed into Katie's house. We all relaxed in the dry at last and really appreciated a hot drink with cake and biscuits. A beautiful male **Reed Bunting** appeared, on cue, just outside the window.

Time passed amazingly quickly as we chattered away and it was soon time to catch the 12:00 ferry to Gigha. As well as the continuing rain, the wind was now increasing and a **Raven** flying over as we walked from Katie's house appeared to moving diagonally! Not surprisingly, most people stayed in the saloon during the rather choppy crossing. For the few who braved the weather there were good sightings of **Great Northern Divers**, **Common Scoters** and a group 5 of auks – almost certainly **Common Guillemots**.

As we reached Gigha the island provided shelter from the wind and the rain began to ease off a little. As we walked to the hotel it was actually possible to see a few birds and someone soon spotted what, for most of us, was the first **Swallow** of the year. There have been a few early sightings in Argyll this year, including at least two in late March. We also picked up a good variety of other commoner species on the island (see species list below).

During our lunch break an interesting discussion developed over the subject of the crow family. Despite their almost universally bad reputation I have always rather admired Rooks, Ravens and even Hooded Crows – what would we do without them to clear up the mess from road kills etc.? And, of course, I think Magpies are quite beautiful birds. Research has shown that the widely held view that the latter are responsible for the fall in numbers of common garden birds is largely unfounded. I was delighted to find that several people present were of the same mind and we are now thinking of starting a 'corvid appreciation group'!... As always the Gigha Hotel

did us proud at lunch time and by the time we left the weather had cleared at last: no more rain and even the wind had dropped.

Before catching the ferry back we walked down a footpath to the beach south of the ferry terminal, flushing a **Common Snipe** on the way. Here we picked up **Red-breasted Mergansers**, two more **Slavonian Grebes**, a group of **Turnstone** with what were almost certainly a couple of **Dunlin**. A group of 5 waders circled overhead. The four larger birds were obviously **Curlews** but the smaller wader with them could have been a Bar-tailed Godwit or even a Whimbrel. Ian Hopkins and Dougie Menzies decided to stay here for a bit and catch the later ferry. They caught up with us later and told us we had missed three **Sandwich Terns** and a flock of at least 50 **Kittiwakes**.

The rest of us caught the 2.30p.m. ferry back and with better weather were able to stay out on deck. This was just as well as we had a very rewarding ferry journey. As well as the usual **Common Eiders**, **Red-breasted Mergansers**, **Gannets**, gulls (including a **Lesser Black-back**) and **Black Guillemots** we had very good views of **Common Scoters** both on the water and in flight and, best of all, four magnificent male **Long-tailed Ducks** very close to the boat. Despite the pitching of the ferry and fact that the birds were constantly bobbing up and down in the waves David Palmer managed to get some wonderful photos of both the **Scoters** and the **Long-tailed Ducks**.

In the fields at Tayinloan a nice mixed flock of crows included **Jackdaws**, **Hooded Crows**, **Carriion Crows**, and **Rooks** (but sadly no Magpies!). We had decided to go back to 'West Coast Salmon' to see if we could catch up with some of birds we hardly managed to see earlier in the day. On the way back up the main road we saw a flock of mixed geese in one their usual feeding fields and some of us stopped to take photographs. At 'West Coast Salmon' we were looking at the photographs Danielle Clark had taken, to check that both Greylag and Greenland White-fronted Geese were present when we saw that one of them was neither species. It was in fact a Pink-footed Goose and there was at least one more there. When David Palmer arrived we looked at his photos and could see that there were at least 4 **Pink-footed Geese**. Fortunately Richard Allan had thought to count the geese and had come up with 40+ **Greylags**, 150+ **White-fronts** and no less than 5 **Pink-footed Geese**!

In better viewing conditions (despite a cold wind) we had good sightings of **Long-tailed Duck**, **Red-breasted Mergansers**, **Common Scoters**, **Shags** and **Slavonian Grebes**. One of the Scoters appeared to have a small white patch by the eye and was probably a Velvet Scoter: although just too far out to be certain.

The 9 members from Cowal & Bute who took the 17:15 ferry from Tarbert were rewarded with a 'feeding frenzy' (birds that is, not club members) just before the ferry reached Portavadie and among the many gulls, over 100 **Kittiwakes**, and some **Gannets** was a 1<sup>st</sup> winter **Iceland Gull**.

So, despite a very unpromising start we had quite a successful day in all. At least 52 species in all – see list below. As always, many thanks are due to Katie for kindly providing the refreshments for such a large group and for the fortitude of members in sticking with it despite the dreadful conditions early on!

**Paul Daw**



Mixed goose flock, Tayinloan. ©D & G Clark

### Species List for Sound of Gigha field Trip

Code	Species
ND	Great Northern Diver
SZ	Slavonian Grebe
GX	Northern Gannet
CA	Great Cormorant
SA	Shag
H	Grey Heron
MS	Mute Swan
PG	Pink-footed Goose
NW	Greenland White-fronted Goose
GJ	Greylag Goose
SU	Common Shelduck
MA	Mallard
E	Common Eider
LN	Long-tailed Duck
CX	Common Scoter
VS	Velvet Scoter?
RM	Red-breasted Merganser
BZ	Common Buzzard
PH	Common Pheasant
OC	Oystercatcher
DN	Dunlin
SN	Common Snipe
BA	Bar-tailed Godwit?
CU	Eurasian Curlew
RK	Common Redshank
TT	Turnstone
BH	Black-headed Gull
CM	Common Gull
LB	Lesser Black-backed Gull

HG	Herring Gull
IG	Iceland Gull
GB	Great Black-backed Gull
KI	Kittiwake
TE	Sandwich Tern
GU	Common Guillemot
TY	Black Guillemot
SL	Barn Swallow
MP	Meadow Pipit
RC	Rock Pipit
PW	Pied Wagtail
WR	Wren
D	Dunnock
R	Robin
B	Blackbird
BT	Blue Tit
GT	Great Tit
CT	Coal Tit
RO	Rook
C	Carrion Crow
HC	Hooded Crow
RN	Common Raven
SG	Common Starling
HS	House Sparrow
CH	Common Chaffinch
GR	Greenfinch
GO	Goldfinch
RB	Reed Bunting

### Caption Competition



Can you think of a humorous caption to go with this photograph of Eiders, provided by Danielle Clark? Submissions to the editor please. The winning entry will be announced in the next edition of The Eider

## A Startling Discovery

**On Tuesday** 12<sup>th</sup> May Bill Allan and I headed for Loch Nell near Oban to try and relocate a Green-winged Teal that had been observed there, but were unsuccessful. Whilst checking sites down the north-east corner of the loch, a male Redstart was seen flitting to the ground from an Oak tree.

Watching from my car I noticed that this bird was actually more interested in a disused Land Rover about 20 metres away, rather than the Oak tree! The male Redstart was jumping repeatedly against the windscreen. At this point I noticed a female Redstart together with the male, also at the windscreen and I assumed they must have found a source of insects or spiders. I then realised the hen bird was actually inside the Land Rover!

Intrigued, Bill and I watched both birds for a few more minutes and it became clear that the female Redstart was trapped inside. As all the car windows were tightly closed, we assumed she must have got in through a small gap somewhere but could not get back out. Both birds appeared quite frantic and the male kept moving from the windscreen to the wing mirror and back, as if trying to lead the hen bird away to safety!

Fortunately when I tried the door of the vehicle it was not locked and I managed to catch the frightened looking bird. It was impossible to say how long this bird had been trapped, though presumably not too long, as it appeared to still be in good shape.

On release she immediately flew to the Oak tree where the male bird had been seen earlier. I must admit I felt a strong empathy towards those birds when I considered how that female might have succumbed in the following days with the male looking on.

**Jim Dickson**



Male Redstart©Jim Dickson



Trapped female Redstart©Jim Dickson

## A Drama Unfolds

**On the warm**, sunny Thursday afternoon of 14th May, I was sitting with my binoculars trained on the tidal island off the A85 Connel/Oban road at Kilmarnaig, trying to work out whether the pink flowers on the island were cuckoo flowers (*Cardamine pratensis*) or sea pinks (*Armeria maritima*).

I had already listed the birds - 66 Common gull nests were visible on the flat plain and tussocky island grass, with possibly more on the far side. There were also five adult Canada geese with six and four young between two of the pairs (the fifth one was sitting on a nest). I counted 13 male Eiders – (presumably failed/non breeders), and one female; a Grey Heron, an Oystercatcher, and a Redshank. All was peaceful.

Suddenly, the whole colony rose into the air screaming and just as suddenly returned to normal. Ten minutes passed and then the colony rose as one mass as a male peregrine flew over my left shoulder, making for the island. As he flew through the birds, one gull tailed him and tried to knock him off balance. However, the peregrine, undeterred by this attention, flew down on the far side of the island.

I was left in no doubt that he was still there on the ground over the next 15 minutes because the gulls



Peregrine Falcon©Jimmy MacDonald

flew in turn to a certain point low down near the ground screaming, and then rising vertically and wheeling away as new birds took over the same ritual. Meanwhile, the Canada geese pair with six young, who happened to be near this spot, walked the young away- one adult at the front-one bringing up the rear. It all ended as suddenly as it had begun. The peregrine rose and flew off into the woods of Kilmarnaig from where it had emerged. There was nothing in its mouth. Had it landed to pluck and eat a gull or some other species of bird which was now in its belly, or was it only resting after a failed attempt at a kill?

The colony settled quickly. But, what a wonderful insight into the daily risks of living in the wild - the balancing act of energy expenditure over intake, the instincts, the emotions, the potential for injury and death at all times. Had I not seen this incident, I would have come away with an impression of a small piece of heaven on a warm island on Loch Etive.

**Mary Macintyre**

### Argyll Bird Club Recording System

**At present**, bird records are supplied in a variety of formats: e-mails, letters, phone calls, lists in various formats etc.. These all have to be processed into a standard format before they can be added to the database. Delays in publishing various reports result from the backlog of work on processing records (the database for 2005 holds over 18,000 records).

As well as being a valuable resource for producing the various reports on the website, in the Eider and in annual reports, the database is extensively used when answering queries about birds in Argyll from all sorts of organisations e.g. RSPB, BTO, SNH, WWT, JNCC, Rare Breeding Birds Panel, government departments, environmental consultants, research students etc.

If all records are received in an approved standard format it is very quick and easy to maintain an up- to- date and accurate database. To facilitate this process, Committee member Danielle Clark has devised a brilliant (and I use the word advisedly!) automated bird record template. You simply enter the basic information about the birds you have seen and the template produces a standardised Excel file of records that can be automatically e-mailed to the Recorder. With just a little practice you can also use it to keep your own bird records.

To use this system you will need a PC with Excel software and an internet connection. The software comes complete with full instructions and I am also happy to talk people through the system on the phone if help is needed. Why not try the Argyll Bird Record System out and save myself and the kind people who have assisted me with processing bird records over recent years (Tom Callan, Morag Rea\*, Mary Gregory and Jane Mitchell) literally hours (indeed days!) of our time. \*Morag is currently recovering from a major operation. Can I take this opportunity to wish her, on behalf of the club, a full and speedy recovery.

All you need to do to obtain this brilliant and time saving system is to e-mail me at [monedula@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:monedula@globalnet.co.uk) and I will send you a ZIP-file of the software and the instructions for using it. For those of you who do not have access to a computer or the internet I am happy to continue to receive your records on paper (record forms available on request).

**NB** All reports of rare birds (as listed in the Argyll Bird Report Vol.20 pages 7/8, plus any species not listed in the report at all) should be telephoned or e-mailed to Jim Dickson (01546 603967 or [j.dickson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:j.dickson@tiscali.co.uk)) as soon as possible after they are seen -

**Paul Daw – Argyll Bird Recorder 27 May 2009**

**Argyll: Spring Migrants– arrival dates 2009**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Observer</b>
<b>Marsh Harrier</b>	13/04/2009	Dervaig (N), Mull	1	Alan Spellman
	17/04/2009	Tayinloan Jetty & Bay, Kintyre	1	Katie Pendreigh
<b>Osprey</b>	23/03/2009	West Loch Tarbert (dump), Kintyre	1	Iain Weir
	30/03/2009	Fairy Isles, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll	1	Bill Allan
	30/03/2009	Fairy Isles, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll	1	Bill Allan
	05/04/2009	Inverliever Forest, Loch Awe, Mid-Argyll	1	Karl Pipes
	18/04/2009	Kilbride, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
	10/05/2009	Loch Melldalloch, Cowal	1	David Warden
	10/05/2009	Uig, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
<b>Spotted Crake</b>	12/04/2009	Arileod, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
<b>Corn Crake</b>	08/04/2009	Coll ( general dump)	1	Simon Wellock
	09/04/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	24/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	1	Mike Peacock
	26/04/2009	Loch Gruinart (dump), Islay	1	John Armitage
<b>Dotterel</b>	21/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	1	Mike Peacock
<b>Ruff</b>	27/04/2009	Loch Gruinart RSPB hide, Islay	1	Tom Callan
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	10/04/2009	Loch a' Phuill, Tiree	12	John Bowler
	12/04/2009	Loch a' Phuill, Tiree	15	John Bowler
	21/04/2009	Otter Ferry, Cowal	1	Tom Callan
	21/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	68	Mike Peacock
	23/04/2009	Westport Marsh, Kintyre	4	Eddie Maguire
<b>Whimbrel</b>	17/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	1	Eddie Maguire
	22/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	16	Eddie Maguire
	24/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	2	Mike Peacock
	27/04/2009	Port Ban Caravan Park, Mid-Argyll	1	Mark Williamson
	28/04/2009	Blackpark, Islay	16	Tom Callan
	29/04/2009	Loch na Cille, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll	12	John Aitchison
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	13/04/2009	Colonsay (general dump)	1	David Jardine
	14/04/2009	Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll	3	Jim Dickson
	17/04/2009	Pier House, Otter Ferry, Cowal	1	Tom Callan
	22/04/2009	Loch Eck (N end), Cowal	2	Peter Woods
	22/04/2009	Loch Eck (N end), Cowal	2	Peter Woods
	24/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	1	Eddie Maguire
	29/04/2009	Milton, Tiree	3	John Bowler
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	18/05/2009	Gott Bay, Tiree	1	John Bowler/Richard Marks
<b>Little Tern</b>	14/04/2009	Gott Bay, Tiree	3	John Bowler
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	30/03/2009	Tayinloan Village, Kintyre	1	Katie Pendreigh
	07/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	2	Eddie Maguire
	07/04/2009	Hynish Headland, Tiree	1	Simon Wellock
	13/04/2009	Kirn Pier, Cowal	1	Andrew Webster
	18/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	12	Eddie Maguire

Species	Date	Location	No..	Observer
Arctic Tern	06/04/2009	Tayinloan Village, Kintyre	4	Katie Pendreigh
	25/04/2009	Gott Bay (W), Tiree	1	John Bowler
Common Cuckoo	12/04/2009	Colonsay (general dump)	1	David Jardine
	13/04/2009	Slockavullin, Mid-Argyll	1	Brian John
	15/04/2009	Glen Lean, Cowal	2	George Newall
	17/04/2009	Carnan Mor (E), Tiree	1	John Bowler
	19/04/2009	West Tarbert, Kintyre	1	Barbara McMillan
	20/04/2009	Fasnacloich, North Argyll	1	Richard Wesley
	21/04/2009	Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	21/04/2009	Glean Sheilleach (E), Mid-Argyll	1	Anne-Lise Dickie
	22/04/2009	Ardachuple Lodge, (E), Cowal	3	Tom Callan
	23/04/2009	Crear, Knapdale, Mid-Argyll	1	Mark Williamson
	25/04/2009	Lagganmore, Mid-Argyll	1	Anne-Lise Dickie
	26/04/2009	Bridgend, Mid-Argyll	1	Malcolm Chattwood
Common Swift	10/05/2009	Campbeltown, Kintyre	9	Eddie Maguire
	10/05/2009	Oban & Harbour, Mid-Argyll	1	Bill Allan & Anne-Lise Dickie
	11/05/2009	Connel, Mid-Argyll	4	Mike Harrison
	12/05/2009	Oban & Harbour, Mid-Argyll	3	Jim Dickson
	12/05/2009	Moine Mhor (dump), Mid-Argyll	6	Jim Dickson
	14/05/2009	Bridgend, Mid-Argyll	1	Sue Chattwood
Sand Martin	19/03/2009	Calgary Bay, Mull	1	Alan Spellman
	20/03/2009	Loch Ederline, Mid-Argyll	3	Jim Dickson
	21/03/2009	Lagganmore, Mid-Argyll	1	Bill Allan
	26/03/2009	Kilchurn Castle, Mid-Argyll	1	Alan Gray
	30/03/2009	Loch Leathan, Mid-Argyll	75	Jim Dickson
	31/03/2009	Treshnish, Mull	2	Anand Prasad
	02/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	6	Eddie Maguire
	03/04/2009	Achnaba Church, North Argyll	1	Richard Wesley
	04/04/2009	Bridgend, Mid-Argyll	1	Malcolm Chattwood
	09/04/2009	Loch a' Phuill, Tiree	18	John Bowler
	11/04/2009	Colonsay (general dump)	1	David Jardine
	14/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	1	Mike Peacock
Barn Swallow	21/03/2009	Arinagour, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
	31/03/2009	Ardkinglas House, Cowal	1	Glyn Toplis
	31/03/2009	Sorobaidh Bay (S), Tiree	1	John Bowler
	01/04/2009	Bridgend, Mid-Argyll	1	Lynsey Gibson
	05/04/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	4	Simon Wellock
	06/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	1	Eddie Maguire
	07/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	20	Eddie Maguire
	09/04/2009	Loch a' Phuill, Tiree	2	John Bowler
	09/04/2009	Colintraive, Cowal	1	Graham & Danielle Clark
	10/04/2009	Sonachan House, Loch Awe, Mid-Argyll	2	Delys Marks
	10/04/2009	Otter Ferry, Cowal	1	Tom Callan
	10/04/2009	Millhouse, Cowal	1	Tom Callan
	10/04/2009	Kilfinan, Cowal	1	Tom Callan
	10/04/2009	Otter Ferry, Cowal	1	Tom Callan
	10/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	1	Mike Peacock

Species	Date	Location	No..	Observer
Barn Swallow	11/04/2009	Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	11/04/2009	Colonsay (general dump)	1	David Jardine
	12/04/2009	Bridgend, Mid-Argyll	3	Malcolm Chattwood
	13/04/2009	Loch head (E), Loch Riddon, Cowal	1	Graham & Danielle Clark
	15/04/2009	Taynuilt (S), Mid-Argyll	2	Richard Wesley
	15/04/2009	Treshnish, Mull	1	Anand, Prasad
	18/04/2009	Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	19/04/2009	Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll	2	Paul Daw
	19/04/2009	Ballimore, Kerrera, Mid-Argyll	1	Richard Wesley
	19/04/2009	West Tarbert, Kintyre	4	Barbara McMillan
House Martin	05/04/2009	Kilchurn Castle, Mid-Argyll	1	Alan Gray
	07/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	1	Eddie Maguire
	07/04/2009	Hynish, Tiree	1	Simon Wellock
	10/04/2009	Loch a' Phuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	11/04/2009	Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll	2	Jim Dickson
	20/04/2009	Balvicar, Seil, Mid-Argyll	3	Richard Wesley
	26/04/2009	Bridgend, Mid-Argyll	2	Malcolm Chattwood
Tree Pipit	14/04/2009	Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	16/04/2009	Eas a' Ghuaillich, Glendaruel, Cowal	3	Tom Callan
	23/04/2009	Crear, Knapdale, Mid-Argyll	2	Mark Williamson
	28/04/2009	Creag an Fhasgaidh, Cowal	1	David Warden
	28/04/2009	Torr an Tuirk, Glenan, Cowal	2	David Warden
	03/05/2009	Ardgenavan, Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll	2	Paul Daw
	03/05/2009	Ardgenavan (W), Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll	3	Paul Daw
	11/05/2009	Auchantiobairt, Mid-Argyll	6	Paul Daw
White Wagtail	28/03/2009	Broadhills, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
	30/03/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	2	Eddie Maguire
	17/04/2009	Balemartine, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	19/04/2009	Sorobaidh Bay (N), Tiree	19	John Bowler
	19/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	6	Eddie Maguire
	20/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	14	Mike Peacock
Common Redstart	28/04/2009	Inistrynich, Loch Awe, Mid-Argyll	1	Roger Broad
	29/04/2009	Taynish NNR (dump), Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	12/05/2009	Loch Nell (dump), Mid-Argyll	2	Jim Dickson/Bill Allan
	12/05/2009	Bonawe, North Argyll	3	Jim Dickson/Bill Allan
	13/05/2009	Carnasserie Castle, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
Whinchat	21/04/2009	Hyne, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
	23/04/2009	Barr Lagan, Cowal	1	Tom Callan
	30/04/2009	Port Haunn, Mull	1	Anand Prasad
	02/05/2009	Glen Euchar, Mid-Argyll	1	Bill Allan & Anne-Lise Dickie
Northern Wheatear	14/03/2009	Arinagour, Coll	1	Simon Wellock

Species	Date	Location	No..	Observer
Northern Wheatear	16/03/2009	Lochdon, Mull	1	Alan Spellman
	17/03/2009	Acha, Coll	1	Ben Jones
	18/03/2009	Beinn Hough, Tiree	5	John Bowler
	18/03/2009	Loch na Cille, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll	3	Bill Allan
	18/03/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	1	Eddie Maguire
	18/03/2009	Cruachan Treshnish (E), Mull	1	Anand Prasad
	19/03/2009	Lower Auchalick, Cowal	2	Tom Callan
	19/03/2009	Coll ( general dump)	4	Simon Wellock
	20/03/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	1	Mike Peacock
	20/03/2009	Port Ban Caravan Park, Mid-Argyll	1	Mark Williamson
	21/03/2009	Loch na Cille, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll	1	Bill Allan & Anne-Lise Dickie
	21/03/2009	Port Haunn, Mull	1	Anand Prasad
	23/03/2009	Tayinloan Jetty & Bay, Kintyre	1	Katie Pendreigh
	28/03/2009	West Hynish, Tiree	2	John Bowler
	02/04/2009	Tom na Gobhair, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	05/04/2009	Keillmore, Mid-Argyll	4	Malcolm Chattwood
	06/04/2009	Tayinloan Village, Kintyre	2	Katie Pendreigh
	10/04/2009	Barsloisnoch, Mid-Argyll	1	Brian John
Greenland' Wheatear	16/04/2009	Clabhach, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
	19/04/2009	Coll ( general dump)	4	Gibson, Betty
	19/04/2009	Sorobaidh Bay (N), Tiree	4	John Bowler
Grasshopper Warbler	14/04/2009	South Shian, North Argyll	1	David Jardine
	16/04/2009	Eas a' Ghuaillich, Glendaruel, Cowal	3	Tom Callan
	20/04/2009	Balvicar, Seil, Mid-Argyll	1	Richard Wesley
	23/04/2009	Croitachonie, Cowal	1	Peter Woods
	23/04/2009	Port Ban Caravan Park, Mid-Argyll	1	Mark Williamson
	27/04/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	27/04/2009	Barr Lagan, Cowal	1	David Warden
	28/04/2009	Tom an Uile, Cowal	1	David Warden
	28/04/2009	Torr an Tuirk, Glenan, Cowal	2	David Warden
	29/04/2009	Craigglass, Mid-Argyll	2	Malcolm Chattwood
	30/04/2009	Loch Loskin, Cowal	1	George Newall
	30/04/2009	Islandadd Bridge, Mid-Argyll	1	Malcolm Chattwood
	01/05/2009	Mid Loch Fada, Colonsay	1	Jim Dickson
	03/05/2009	Ardgenavan, Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	04/05/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	2	John Bowler
	10/05/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	4	John Bowler
Sedge Warbler	27/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	1	Mike Peacock
	27/04/2009	Port Haunn, Mull	1	Anand Prasad
	30/04/2009	Ardfern, Mid-Argyll	2	Delys Marks
	01/05/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	01/05/2009	Loch Cholla, Colonsay	1	Jim Dickson
	02/05/2009	Craobh Haven, Mid-Argyll	1	Bob Grove
	10/05/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	6	John Bowler
	11/05/2009	Pennymore Point, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
Blackcap	10/04/2009	Knapdale (dump), Mid-Argyll	2	John Bowler
	11/04/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler

Species	Date	Location	No..	Observer
<b>Blackcap</b>	12/04/2009	Achadacaie, Kintyre	1	Barbara McMillan
	19/04/2009	Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	20/04/2009	Lochgilphead (W), Mid-Argyll	1	Lynsey Gibson
	25/04/2009	Campbeltown, Kintyre	1	Eddie Maguire
	28/04/2009	Kilfinan, Cowal	2	David Warden
	29/04/2009	Taynish NNR (dump), Mid-Argyll	8	Paul Daw
<b>Garden Warbler</b>	21/04/2009	Arileod, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
	27/04/2009	Kilfinan, Cowal	1	David Warden
	03/05/2009	Ardgenavan, Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll	2	Paul Daw
	03/05/2009	Ardgenavan (W), Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	12/05/2009	Bonawe, North Argyll	5	Jim Dickson/Bill Allan
<b>Lesser White-throat</b>	10/05/2009	Carnan Mor (E), Tiree	1	John Bowler
	10/05/2009	Kilbride, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
<b>Common White-throat</b>	28/04/2009	Creag an Fhasgaidh, Cowal	2	David Warden
	01/05/2009	Balerominmore, Colonsay	1	Jim Dickson
	11/05/2009	Kilmoluaig, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	12/05/2009	Carnan Mor (E), Tiree	1	John Bowler
	13/05/2009	Carnasserie Castle, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
<b>Wood Warbler</b>	28/04/2009	Inverawe House, North Argyll	1	Roger Broad
	29/04/2009	Taynish NNR (dump), Mid-Argyll	6	Paul Daw
	03/05/2009	Ardgenavan, Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	12/05/2009	Bonawe, North Argyll	3	Jim Dickson/Bill Allan
<b>Common Chiff-chaff</b>	17/03/2009	Kilkenneth, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	26/03/2009	Bridgend, Mid-Argyll	1	Malcolm Chattwood
	28/03/2009	The Lodge, Coll	1	Simon Wellock
	30/03/2009	Achnabreck, Mid-Argyll	3	Jim Dickson
	01/04/2009	Kilfinan, Cowal	1	David Warden
	02/04/2009	Ardgenavan, Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	06/04/2009	Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	07/04/2009	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre	1	Eddie Maguire
	10/04/2009	Knapdale (dump), Mid-Argyll	2	John Bowler
	10/04/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	11/04/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	11/04/2009	Torinturk, Mid-Argyll	1	Barbara McMillan
	11/04/2009	Colintraive, Cowal	1	Graham & Danielle Clark
	12/04/2009	Benderloch, North Argyll	1	Robin Harvey
	14/04/2009	Eriska (N), North Argyll	1	David Jardine
	16/04/2009	Eas a' Ghuaillich, Glendaruel, Cowal	2	Tom Callan
<b>Willow Warbler</b>	10/04/2009	Knapdale (dump), Mid-Argyll	2	John Bowler
	10/04/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	10/04/2009	Colonsay (general dump)	1	David Jardine

Species	Date	Location	No..	Observer
Willow Warbler	11/04/2009	Otter Ferry, Cowal	3	Tom Callan
	11/04/2009	Balephuill, Tiree	1	John Bowler
	11/04/2009	Colintraive, Cowal	1	Graham & Danielle Clark
	11/04/2009	Port Haunn, Mull	1	Anand Prasad
	12/04/2009	Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll	1	Paul Daw
	12/04/2009	Crarae Gardens, Mid-Argyll	2	Paul Daw
	12/04/2009	Kerrara (dump), Mid-Argyll	12	Richard Wesley
	12/04/2009	Elleric, Glen Creran, North Argyll	1	Robin Harvey
	12/04/2009	Oronsay (dump), Colonsay	1	Mike Peacock
	12/04/2009	Ronachan coast, Kintyre	1	Malcolm Chattwood
	13/04/2009	Portavadie Ferry Slip, Cowal		Graham & Danielle Clark
Spotted Flycatcher	12/05/2009	Bonawe, North Argyll	1	Jim Dickson/Bill Allan
Pied Flycatcher	18/04/2009	Barr Lagan, Cowal	2	Tom Callan
Brambling	15/04/2009	Mannal, Tiree	1	John Bowler

### Recent Sightings ( February– April 2009 )

#### ARGYLL SPRING MIGRANTS 2009 – early arrivals & passage migrants

As always, thanks are due to all those who took the trouble to send in records. We have had a good response to the request for arrival dates of spring migrants in Argyll and as a result have quite a good picture of the pattern this year. Many thanks to all of you and to Eddie Maguire for many of the records for Kintyre. If any of you have observations that would add to this picture it is not too late to send them in.

#### Departure of winter visitors.

From the records received it appears there was no clear cut pattern of departure of winter visitors this year so I have omitted most of them from the tables. There were no late records of Snow Buntings but a **Brambling** at Mannal on 18 April was the first spring record for Tiree.

#### Spring arrival pattern.

As is often the case, the pattern of arrivals showed a mixed picture but on the whole it seems to have been a fairly 'normal' year. Despite generally poor weather here some migrants were relatively early, while a few others were somewhat later than has been the case in recent years. Of course, arrival times are usually more to do with weather patterns further south.

An **Osprey** at West Loch Tarbert on 23 March was the earliest arrival in Argyll in recent years and the

#### Recent Report Updates

The latest bird sightings in Argyll are available on the Argyll Bird Club website at:  
<http://www.argyllbirdclub.org>

next one on 30 March was more typical. The 12 April was also early for the **Spotted Crake** (see also Stop Press) heard at Arileod, Coll and **Corn Crakes** on 8/9 April were on the early side too. The first **Common Sandpiper** on Oronsay on 13 April was fairly typical and 3 were in the Add Estuary the following day.

**Common Cuckoos** on 12 and 13 April were around the usual time for first records but several observers have said they seem to have been less numerous than in previous years. I'd be glad to hear from anyone who disagrees! Oban and Campbeltown both had their first **Common Swifts** on 10 May, again a fairly typical date.

The first **Sand Martin** on 30 March was probably a little later than usual but this is a species whose arrival dates in Argyll seem to vary considerably from year to year. On the other hand a **Barn Swallow** on 21 March was on the early side as were two other sightings before the end of March. They were more widespread by 10/11 April, much as usual. As in most recent years, early **House Martins** appeared in the first week of April though most were two or three weeks later.

**Tree Pipits** are one of the more predictable migrants and one was at Tullochgorm on 14 April: exactly the same date as last year.

The last week in April is fairly typical for the first

**Common Redstarts** and it's encouraging that there have been more reports than usual of this declining species.

Unlike last year (when they did not appear until the end of March) the first **Northern Wheatear** was recorded on 14 March and by 19 March they had been reported from most areas of Argyll. The first **Whinchats** and **Grasshopper Warblers** and **Sedge Warblers** were all on fairly typical dates as were the 'sylvia' warblers (including **Blackcap** and **Garden Warbler** and 'leaf warblers' (including **Willow Warbler** and **Common Chiffchaff**). My own impression is that Blackcaps and Garden Warblers seem to have been more numerous than usual but perhaps I've just been in the right places at the right time. The pair of **Pied Flycatchers** near Otter Ferry on 18 April on the other hand, were quite early.

### Passing Spring migrants

**Marsh Harriers** seem to be appearing more regularly than in the past presumably because recent increases in the breeding population. As well as the birds on Mull and at Tayinloan there was apparently one on Islay at about the same time.

A **Dotterel** on Oronsay on 21 April was on the early side and birds were also present on Islay during the Argyll Bird Club visit on 25/26 April and on Oronsay and Tiree in early May. **Black-tailed Godwits** on Tiree on 10 April were fairly typical but the first **Whimbrel** on 17 April were a little later than usual (although there has been a steady flow of records since). A female **Red-necked Phalarope** at Gott Bay, Tiree on 18 May was an unexpected bonus for those lucky enough to see it. **Sandwich Terns** have been quite numerous and 30 March was an unexceptional date for the first record.

Except for **Lesser Whitethroat** the scarcer passerine spring migrants have, so far, been very thin on the ground. No Turtle Doves or Golden Orioles reported for example.

### Stop Press...

A **Honey Buzzard** was soaring over Monieruadh Wood, Carradale, Kintyre at 10:00 hrs on 1 May (Eddie Maguire). The first May record of this species in Argyll. There was a rather mysterious report of an **Ortolan Bunting** at Craignure, Mull on Saturday 9 May. Photographs were apparently taken but have not so far been forthcoming. If confirmed this would be a new species for Argyll.

It is almost unprecedented for an Argyll bird record to arrive in the form of a sound recording but one made of a bird calling on the evening of 21 May at Port Ann (near Lochgilphead) was clearly the unmistakable repeated call of a **Spotted Crake** – very unusual for the mainland and presumably a migrant.

**New species for the Argyll list.** The description of a **Gull-billed Tern** found in the Crossapol area of Tiree on 29 September 2008 by Mike McKee has recently been accepted by BBRC. It was later seen and

photographed by Jim Dickson and Simon Wellock and remained in the Crossapol - Loch an Eilein area until 3 October. This brings the Argyll total to 334 species, with at least 2 further species currently awaiting decisions by BBRC.

Other February to April 2009 highlights included the following (see Latest Reports 81 - 83 on the club website for full details of sightings during this period) :

### Wildfowl (and Gamebirds):

The Seil Natural History Group had an excellent morning on the island of Luing on 14 February and counted around 700 **Barnacle Geese**, 60 **Greylag Geese** and 40 **Canada Geese** (Richard Wesley).

Five **Pink-footed Geese** were with **Greylag Geese** and **Greenland White-fronted Geese** in a field about a mile north of Tayinloan on 4 April during the club Sound of Gigha field trip (see this issue of The Eider for a full account of the Sound of Gigha field trip). The adult white-morph **Snow Goose** was rather amazingly back in his/her field at the Craobh Haven turnoff of the A816 on 27 March. Between 3 different people, the immediate area has been checked almost daily since the most recent sighting on Sunday 15 March (BA). The origin of this bird is something of a mystery but as it seems to always associate with a flock of what are presumed to be Icelandic Greylag Geese and disappears with them in spring it could well be a wild bird. Unusual visitors in the form of 3 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** appeared on the spit at Otter Ferry on the morning of 12 April (TC).

On 1 February, the flock of **Common Goldeneyes** at the mouth of Leacann Water, Furnace, Mid-Argyll numbered at least 196 (PD) and 167 **Goldeneyes** were counted at Loch Caolisport near Ormsary (JD). Six more **Common Goldeneyes** were on Loch Leathan (near Lochgilphead) with 6 **Tufted Ducks** and 2 **Goosanders** (JD). With 363 **Common Goldeneyes** at the two main sites alone, at least 120 regularly at the WeBS sites and smaller numbers elsewhere, there must be well in excess of 600 **Common Goldeneyes** in Argyll at this time of year.

A walk along the River Cur on 11 February, down to where it flows into Loch Eck, Cowal produced a group of 4 male **Mandarin Ducks** in splendid breeding plumage with at least 2 females. Further along were another group, this time of five female Mandarin Ducks (Peter Woods).

Wildfowl in Loch Riddon, Cowal on 27 March included 7 **Greylag Geese**, 10 **Common Shelducks**, 54 **Eurasian Wigeon**, 31 **Mallards**, 11 **Common Goldeneyes** and 7 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (TC).

The drake **Ring-necked Duck** was again at Loch an Eilein, Tiree on 10 March and the female **Surf Scoter** was back at Hough Bay together with 7 **Long-tailed Ducks** (JB). Two drake **Ring-necked Ducks** at Loch an Eilein, Tiree on 9 April had been present daily since 6 April - the long-staying adult plus a probable 1st-winter bird (JB).

On 27 April, a male **Gadwall** was at Loch an Eilein,

Tiree. 3 females and a male **Gadwall** were at Loch Bhasapol (JB) and a drake **Green-winged Teal** was seen from the Loch Gruinart RSPB hide (TC).

### Seabirds – divers, grebes, shearwaters, herons etc (and other seawatch species):

Between the Sound of Gigha and Kennacraig on 27 February, 16 **Red-throated Divers**, 14 **Black-throated Divers** and 32 **Great Northern Divers** were counted from the ferry (JB).

An adult **White-billed Diver** was seen at Laggan Bay, on the west side of Mull on 1 March - viewed from the lay-by there (Andy Carroll). A good description has already been sent to BBRC. It was reported there again on 7 March (per JD).

A total of 49 **Great Northern Divers** were counted off Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree on 28 April (JB).

A **Great Crested Grebe** seen around the pontoon in the harbour at Campbeltown on 8 February had been present on and off for a couple of weeks. (Neil Brown). A **Great Crested Grebe** in almost complete breeding plumage was seen near the hump-backed bridge at Inveraray on 10 March. It was there again the following day and is quite possibly the same individual that was seen in the area on 28 January, when it was still in winter plumage. (JD/BA).

At least 40 **Great Cormorants** were visible on Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) from Otter Ferry on 17 April (TC).

### Raptors, rails etc.:

Two ring-tailed **Hen Harriers** were seen bathing in the shallows of one of the 'three lochs' in Glen More, Mull on 10 February (Bryan Rains).

During a Timed Tetrads Visit for the Atlas near Otter Ferry on 16 February a sub-adult **Golden Eagle** was seen being escorted rather than harried by no less than three Buzzards, three Ravens, and a couple of apparently minute crows! (TC).

A single **Coot** was present on a pond near Calgary, Mull on 21 February (per Alan Spellman) and a single **Coot** was on Loch Luachracht, Oban on 16 March and remained until at least 20 March. Coots are very scarce birds in Argyll these days (BA/Anne-Lise Dickie).

An unconfirmed report of a male **Gyr Falcon** on Islay on 10 March was only known about from a note left in the hide at Loch Gruinart, Islay. It was not confirmed until Ian Brooke saw it near Sunderland, Loch Gorm and obtained photos at c10.40 am on 21 March while going for his morning papers! James How caught a brief view of it later that day as it flew from Gruinart back towards the Loch Gorm area (JD).

Amazingly a second **Gyr Falcon** appeared on Tiree on 24 March. It was found at Kilmoluaig by a local crofter (Neil Munn). He phoned John Bowler who watched and photographed it for 40 minutes from 17:00hrs. From the photographs it was clearly a different individual from the Islay bird. It was seen again subsequently on several dates until 7 April.

According to Bird Guides more Gyr Falcons than usual have been reported in Britain this spring.

A **White-tailed Eagle** with yellow wing-tags was seen talon grappling with a **Golden Eagle** at Reudle, Mull on 12 April (Malcolm Ward per Anand Prasad).

A **Spotted Crake** was calling for several hours round about 0200-0300 near Drimcruy, Coll on 12 April. (SW).

A **Moorhen** found at Westport March, Machrihanish on 29 April and still present the following day was an unusual visitor there (Eddie Maguire).

### Waders:

The flock of **Purple Sandpipers** near the crazy gold course at Dunoon numbered 44 on 12 February, equaling the previous record for the mainland of 44 at Southend, Kintyre on 11 March 1973. Now if he could just find one more... (George Newall).

Good numbers of waders on Tiree on 12 March included 115 **Sanderlings** and 32 **Common Redshanks** at Sorobaidh Bay, 245 **Sanderlings** and 28 **Common Redshanks** at Balephetrish Bay and 2,300 **Golden Plover** and 130 **Turnstones** at The Reef (JB). A count of waders from Ardnadam Pier, Sandbank to West Bay, Dunoon on the same day found: 190 **Oystercatchers**, 2 **Ringed Plovers**, 6 **Purple Sandpipers**, 22 **Common Redshanks** and 52 **Turnstones** (TC).

Numbers of **Purple Sandpipers** (16) and **Turnstones** (7) at Machrihanish SBO during March both peaked on 30 March (Eddie Maguire).

A **Greenshank** in breeding plumage was on the little river by Kelly's pier, Taynuilt on 31 March (BA).

On 21 April, 285 **Black-tailed Godwits** were counted at Loch Bhasapol, Tiree (including 4 colour-ringed birds) and five more **Black-tailed Godwits** were at the Reef (JB). A single **Black-tailed Godwit** in breeding plumage, a pair of **Common Sandpipers** and 27 **Turnstones** were at Otter Ferry (TC).

The most notable species recorded during the Argyll Bird Club Spring Meeting trip to Islay 24-26 April were a **Long-billed Dowitcher** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** seen at Loch Gruinart. There were also 4 **Dotterel** on the Oa Reserve on the 24/25th and may they have been there longer as at least two had been seen a couple of days previously (John Armitage). (An account of the weekend and a full list of species seen during the weekend appears elsewhere in this issue of The Eider).

A male **Ruff**, and the **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present at Loch Gruinart RSPB hide, Islay on 27 April and 36 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 36 **Bar-tailed Godwits** were in Bridgend Bay (TC).

On 30 April, at least 50 **Whimbrels** were at Tayinloan, Kintyre (Katie Pendreigh) and 26 **Purple Sandpipers** were still near the crazy golf course at Dunoon together with a **Dunlin** showing characteristics of the nominate race *alpina* (George Newall).

### Skuas (see also 'Seabirds'), gulls, terns and auks:

Exceptional numbers of **Glaucous Gulls** were found on Tiree on 2 February. Second winter birds were at Sorobaidh Bay and Traigh Bhagh and a late check of the

Rubha Chraiginis roost after work found a total of 16 **Glaucous Gulls** there including a new 3rd-winter bird (JB). There were many reports of Glaucous Gulls elsewhere in Argyll around this time, but the exceptional numbers here seems to have been a local phenomenon as George Gordon tells me there have been very few in Northern Ireland this winter.

No less than five **Iceland Gulls** were present at Tarbert, Loch Fyne on 9 March. Three first winters from inner to outer harbour and another 1st winter and adult bird with a shelling prawn boat at the mouth of the harbour. Another 1st winter **Iceland Gull** was at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport (BA).

A very white second calendar year **Iceland Gull** was seen at Inveraray on 25 April (Roger Broad).

The adult **Ring-billed Gull** (now completely white headed) was on it's usual spot at George St foreshore Oban on the evening of 30 March (BA)

An adult **Mediterranean Gull** (un-ringed) was at Loch Gilp, Argyll on the afternoon of 5 February and two 1st winter **Glaucous Gulls** were at the fish cages south of Inverneill (JD).

A single **Great Skua** was seen at dawn on 12 April off Ceann a' Mhara, Tiree as well as 21 **Black Guillemots** and approx. 2,500 **Common Guillemots** and 400 **Razor-bills** (JB).

#### Doves, owls, woodpeckers etc.:

At least 100 **Wood Pigeons** were at Otter Ferry on 15 February (TC). The **Stock Doves** have made an appearance again in the garden near Slockavullin, Mid-Argyll on 10 April. A single had been present for the previous few days and on this day there were two (Brian John).

On 12 February, three **Barn Owls** were seen at Loch Beg. Mull today and two more **Barn Owls** were in Glen More (Bryan Rains).

A **Short-eared Owl** was hunting at dusk on the road between Calgary Beach and Ensay, Mull on 10 April (Anand Prasad).

A lucky birder on Lismore was looking out of her window at about 18:30hrs on 27 April when they saw a **Long-eared Owl** sitting in a small ash tree (Cristall Lutyens). This is often thought to be an under-recorded species in Argyll and it's interesting that a pair bred on Seil Island recently.

A **Common Kingfisher** was seen in Outer Loch Etive during the WeBS count on 15 February (Mike Harrison). Unlike in other recent winters very few Kingfishers have been reported.

#### Passerines:

A flock of 21 **Sky Larks** were flying N at Drum Farm near Kilfinan, Cowal on 6 March (David Warden).

After waiting all winter for one, a single **Waxwing** was seen just outside the door at Rhugarbh Croft, Appin, North Argyll on 16 February (Mary Gregory). Apart from one at Eredine on 27 December there have been no other records since the major influx last November. Four more **Waxwings** were calling in flight over Inveraray, Mid-Argyll on 22 February (JB).



Lesser Redpoll (male)©Eddie Maguire



Gyr Falcon, Tiree. ©John Bowler



White-tailed sea eagle. Mull. ©Danielle Clark

A pair of **Pied Flycatchers** at Strone (near Otter Ferry), came as something of a surprise to Tom & Shirley Callan on 18 April. Migrant Pied Flycatchers have been reported in the past in woodland along Loch Fyne, so it's possible small numbers pass through every year but are mostly overlooked. A minimum of 14 **Common Stonechats** were seen along the road to Strone (near Otter Ferry), Cowal. A few individuals but mostly pairs (TC).

A **Magpie** was reported by Iomhar McMillan at Tarbert, Kintyre on 5 March and another **Magpie** was reported at Killellan Park (near Stewarton), Kintyre on 22 March (per Eddie Maguire).

A total of 22 **Common Ravens** were involved in a spectacular display near Loch Tarsan, Cowal on 11 February and 42 **Common Starlings** were with 19 **Fieldfares** and **Redwings** at Kilfinan, Cowal (TC).

For some reason large numbers of **Hooded Crows** sometimes assemble at the head of Loch Feochan near Oban but approx. 200 there on 3 February was exceptional (Anne-Lise Dickie/BA).

Always the opportunist, a **Hooded Crow** was seen perched on a lamppost in Manse Brae, Lochgilphead on 10 February clutching a bag of crisps in one claw and eating the contents! (Malcolm Chattwood).

Numbers of **Goldfinches** at the two feeding stations and bird table in the garden at Colintrave, Cowal today reached 18 on 8 February. In addition there were 5 **Robins**, 4 **Blackbirds**, 3 **Blue Tits**, 5 **Great Tits**, 14 **House Sparrows**, 6 **Common Starlings**, 17 **Greenfinches** and an estimated 100 **Common Chaffinches**. No wonder Danielle and Graham had to refill the mixed seed and sunflower hearts feeders that had been full only the day before! (Graham & Danielle Clark).

The bird feeders at Colintrave attracted even higher numbers on 21 April, including 7 **House Sparrows**, 7 **Greenfinches**, 83 **Common Chaffinches**, 19 **Goldfinches**, 32 **Siskins** and two **Redpolls** that have generated much discussion. One, at least, of them showed many of the characteristics of **Common Redpoll**. The whole question of Redpoll identification is very complex. It is certainly possible that some of the Redpolls in Argyll that we cheerfully identify as 'Lesser' could in fact be 'Common (or Mealy as they are sometimes called)'. Or they may be a sort of hybrid? (Graham & Danielle Clark).

An impressive total of 38 **Common Crossbills** was found at Doire Darach, Loch Tulla, North Argyll on 26 April - 14 red males and a mixed flock of 25 (Roger Broad).

Equally impressive was the total of at least 42 **Siskins** in a garden at West Loch Tarbert. They were accompanied by two **Lesser Redpolls** – a first for this garden (Barbara McMillan – who says she'll have to increase her stock of nyger seed!). **Lesser Redpolls** have also been seen regularly at a garden in Colintrave (see above) and at a garden in Dunoon (Andrew Webster). Makes one wonder if this is a developing trend, similar to the increasing use of garden bird feeders by Goldfinches in recent years.

Birds in a garden at Fernoch Drive, Lochgilphead on 9 February included two **Robins**, 3 **Blackbirds**, 4 **Blue Tits**, 10 **Coal Tits**, approx. 26 **Common Chaffinches**, 4 **Greenfinches**, 2 **Goldfinches**, and, most surprisingly, 8 **Yellowhammers**. The secret, apparently, is to mix left over Nestlé's Golden Nuggets breakfast cereal in with the bird seed! (Lynsey Gibson).

#### Other sightings:

A very early **Small Copper** butterfly was seen twice in the spring sunshine on 2 April at Ardgenavan (Loch Fyne (PD)). An **Orange-tip butterfly** seen flying through the garden at Tullochgorm (Minard) on 25 April was one of an unusual number reported this spring (PD/TC).

Three **Basking Sharks** were off Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree on 28 April (JB).

Observers' full names in brackets except:  
Simon Wellock = SW, JB = John Bowler, TC = Tom Callan, PD = Paul Daw, JD = Jim Dickson, BA = Bill Allan

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Red-necked Phalarope. Tiree©John Bowler



Iceland Gull (3rd winter)  
©Eddie Maguire

Please remember:

All the articles, photographs and information contained in this edition can be accessed on the club website:

<http://www.argyllbirdclub.org>

## Articles for the June issue of the *Eider* should with the Editor before the 24th May 2009

### Officials and Committee of the Argyll Bird Club (2008/2009)

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**T**he *Eider* is the quarterly newsletter of the **Argyll Bird Club**. The editor welcomes articles about birds, wildlife conservation and ecology in Argyll, including articles of a wider natural history interest, notices of forthcoming events, book reviews, press releases and letters. Whenever possible, contributions should be submitted to the editor as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word or rtf format. But, this should not deter potential contributors, as hand-written scripts are also acceptable. If in doubt about whether an article is suitable, please contact the editor for advice.

Suitable illustrations greatly enhance the attractiveness of the *Eider*, and artists and photographers are encouraged to submit artwork and digital photographs (jpeg files preferred) of birds and their habitats to the editor. Digital photographs of Schedule 1 species taken at or near the nest will not be accepted for publication unless the photographer was covered by an appropriate SNH licence.

The *Eider* is published during the first week of March, June, September and December. Articles for each issue must be with the editor before the 24th day of the month prior to publication. However, it greatly helps if material can be submitted well before these deadline dates. Contributions are accepted in the order they are received, which may result in some late submissions being held over until the next issue.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author/s and not necessarily those of the **Argyll Bird Club**.

**Advertising rates:** £80 for a full page, £20 for a quarter page, 7p per word for smaller adverts. Payment must accompany adverts, with cheques made payable to the **Argyll Bird Club**. Contact the Editor for further information.

### More about the Argyll Bird Club

The club was established in 1985. Its main role is to encourage an interest in wild birds and their habitats in Argyll; an area of outstanding natural beauty and biological diversity.

The club endeavours to provide a friendly and sociable forum for members of all ages, to meet and enjoy their common interest. This in itself provides a challenge as the human population of Argyll is relatively small and widely dispersed. The club hosts two one-day meetings each year, in spring and autumn. The venue of the spring meeting is rotated between different towns, including Dunoon, Oban and Lochgilphead. The autumn meeting/AGM is held in a convenient central location, usually near Lochgilphead. The club organises field trips for members. It publishes the annual *Argyll Bird Report*. Additional or past copies can be purchased from the Treasurer. Your annual subscription entitles you to one copy of the *Argyll Bird Report*, four issues of the *Eider* and free admission to the two indoor meetings. New members are always welcome, whether you live in Argyll or not. Membership categories and rates are:

Ordinary	£10
Junior (under 17)	£3
Family	£15
Corporate	£25

Subscriptions are due on 1st January and can be paid by cheque or standing order. New members joining after 1st October are covered until the end of the following year. Further information can be obtained from the Membership Secretary (see the box opposite).