

RECENT REPORTS April 2015

30 April: A male **Greenland Wheatear** was on Lochgilphead Green this evening (David Jardine).

Birds found during the 1km walk from Machrihanish Seabird Observatory to Machrihanish village this morning included: 14 **Common Shelduck**, 54 **Common Eider**, 5 pairs of **Ringed Plover**, 10 **Sandwich Terns**, 12 **Northern Wheatears** and 2 **Twite** (Eddie Maguire).



Northern Wheatear – MSBO, Kintyre 30 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



Ringed Plover – MSBO, Kintyre 30 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



Sandwich Tern – MSBO, Kintyre 30 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

19 **Purple Sandpipers** were still at the Crazy Golf in Dunoon today, with 2 **Dunlin** and 8 **Turnstones**: the latter showing signs of moulting into breeding plumage (George Newall).



Purple Sandpipers & Dunlin – Dunoon, Cowal 30 Apr (George Newall).



Turnstones – Dunoon, Cowal 30 Apr (George Newall).

29 April: Most of the mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts for April 2015** are now in. As would be expected at this time of year wildfowl numbers were generally fairly low. However there were 6 **Mandarin Ducks** at the Ford Lochs; 61 **Common Eider** in Kilfinan Bay and 46 in Loch Long and 10 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 23 **Common Scoter** and 56 **Red-breasted Mergansers** in the Sound of Gigha. All three diver species were noted at Kilfinan Bay and the Sound of Gigha (47 **Black-throated Divers** at the Sound of Gigha included a raft of 18 together) and **Black-throated Divers** were also seen at Loch Tulla. **Ospreys** were seen at three sites and 2 **Water Rails** responded to tape lures at Loch Ederline. Waders included: 4 **Whimbrel** at the Sound of Gigha, 6 **Greenshank** at Loch Tulla, 18 **Common Redshank** at Loch Crinan and up to 3 **Common Sandpipers** at no less than 7 sites. **The full table for April 2015 can be found under the WeBS Count tab.**

Three flocks of **Whimbrel** totaling 30 (largest 17) flew S at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today as well as a single **Common Scoter** (first this month) (Eddie Maguire).



Whimbrel – MSBO, Kintyre 29 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today 32 **Black-tailed Godwits**, 2 **Dunlin** and the second summer **Little Gull** (Jim Dickson).

A **Dotterel** and a pair of **Garganey** on were found Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan).



Dotterel – Oronsay, Colonsay 29 Apr (Morgan Vaughan).

28 April: Whilst out at first light this morning, checking for lambs, the Oronsay (Colonsay) team found 2 Icelandic **Black-tailed Godwits** and at least 6 **Whimbrel** at the pools there (Morgan Vaughan).



Black-tailed Godwit – Oronsay, Colonsay 28 Apr (Morgan Vaughan).



Whimbrel – Oronsay, Colonsay 28 Apr (Morgan Vaughan).

Also on Oronsay, the first **Little Tern** of the year on the reserve was spotted on the evening lambing round. The other birds of note were 10 **Whimbrel** (Luke Wake).

On Tiree today, a **Stock Dove** seen briefly at Balephuill this afternoon was John's first on the island in 14 years. Also a big influx of **Black-tailed Godwits** with some 425 birds around West Tiree including 5 colour-ringed birds, 6 pairs of **Gadwall** on the lochs and a scattering of **White Wagtails**. And at Sorobaidh Bay, a single **Common Tern**, 6 **Arctic Terns** and 6 **Little Terns** as well as 105 Gannets feeding offshore (John Bowler).



Black-tailed Godwits – West Tiree 28 Apr (John Bowler).

An impressive total of 59 **White Wagtails** was found at Tayinloan, Kintyre today along with at least 8 **Whimbrel** (Angus McNab per John Nadin).

A **Nuthatch** was seen briefly in a garden at Maltlands, Inveraray, Mid-Argyll at lunch-time today (Glyn Toplis).

27 April: At The Reef, Tiree today: 1,200 **European Golden Plover** and 3 **Whimbrel** (John Bowler).

A **Common Redstart** heard singing in Minard Woods, Mid-Argyll this morning was the first locally (Paul Daw).

At Loch Gilp today: 4 Pale-bellied Brent Geese ; the second-summer Little Gull still present and 2 Kittiwakes on the mud (Jim Dickson/Bill Allan).

At Rhunahaorine Point, Kintyre this morning, a quick count found five **Long-tailed Ducks**, around 20 **Black-throated Divers**; well over 50 **Great Northern Divers** (including 35 in one group); and two **Slavonian Grebes**. Also a juvenile **Iceland Gull** in fields north of Tayinloan; two **Purple Sandpipers** at Skipness Point, along with a dozen **Turnstones** and two **Dunlin**. A 2nd summer male **Hen Harrier** was on the moor between Claonaig and Kennacraig; four **Iceland Gulls** at Ormsary fish farm and the **Little Gull** was still at Lochgilphead (Jonathan Platt).

This **Ruff** on Oronsay today looks to be moulting into breeding plumage (Morgan Vaughan).



Ruff – Oronsay, Colonsay 27 Apr (Morgan Vaughan).

The Coll Bird-watching Festival trip to Lunga, Treshnish Isles on Friday 24 April found hundreds of **Puffins** and auks back in and displaying. But they had all gone the next day with the change in the weather! (John Bowler).



Razorbill – Lunga, Treshnish Isles 24 Apr (John Bowler).



Common Guillemots – Lunga, Treshnish Isles 24 Apr (John Bowler).



Puffins – Lunga, Treshnish Isles 24 Apr (John Bowler).



Shags – Lunga, Treshnish Isles 24 Apr (John Bowler).

26 April: Two **Brent Geese** were at Loch Gilp this afternoon. Unusually, one was a **Pale-bellied** (*B. b. hrota*) and one a **Dark-bellied** (*B. b. bernicla*). As far as Jim knows, only 8

records of *bernicle* in Argyll in the last 20 years (Jim Dickson).

A male **Black Grouse** flew over the road at Barravullin (nr Craobh Haven), Mid-Argyll this morning. More **Black Grouse** were heard lekking in Scammadale, Mid-Argyll and a **Tawny Owl** was heard in the wood at the end of the road. Also along the Scammadale road were plenty of **Northern Wheatears**, at least six **Common Sandpipers**, a single male **Whinchat** and an overflying **Brambling**, which was unexpected! Elsewhere in Mid-Argyll, a 1st winter **Iceland Gull** at Ganavan Bay, Oban; a **Northern Lapwing** mobbing a male **Peregrine Falcon** with food and a couple of **Yellowhammers** at Loch Nell and a **Golden Eagle** near Loch Avich (Jonathan Platt).

A single **House Martin** and 2 **Greenland Wheatears** were at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree (John Bowler).



Pale-bellied Brent Goose & Dark-bellied Brent Goose – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 26 Apr (Jim Dickson).



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25 April: At Lochgilphead ‘meadows’, Mid-Argyll today a **Sedge Warbler** singing. This afternoon at Loch Gilp, a second-summer **Little Gull**, while these **Treecreepers** were at Crinan Ferry (Jim Dickson).

A single **Little Grebe** was at Ballyhough Loch, Tiree (John Bowler).



Eurasian Treecreepers – Crinan Ferry, Mid-Argyll 25 Apr (Jim Dickson).



Little Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 25 Apr (Jim Dickson).



Little Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 25 Apr (Jim Dickson).

40 **Whimbrel** at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, today was the peak count to date (Eddie Maguire).



Whimbrel – MSBO, Kintyre 25 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

24 April: A **Sedge Warbler** was at Balephuill, Tiree this morning: a **Corn Crake** was calling there last night. Also on Tiree today: an **Arctic Skua** (dark morph) in Gunna Sound and 43 **Great Northern Divers** in Gott Bay (John Bowler).

Common Sandpiper on the River Add, Kilmichael Glen, this morning and **Wood Warbler**, **Common Chiffchaff**, **Willow Warbler**, **Common Redstart** and **Common Cuckoo** were all seen/heard during a stroll along nearby Rhudle Glen this afternoon (Blair Urquhart).

At Dalvore (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll, 2 **House Martins** and at Crinan Ferry, Mid-Argyll a male **Common Redstart** (Jim Dickson).

15 **Purple Sandpipers** were still at the Crazy Golf in Dunoon today (George Newall).

23 April: Today on Tiree: an **Arctic Tern** in Gunna Sound; 49 **Black-tailed Godwits** (including 2 colour-ringed birds) and a second calendar year **Glaucous Gull** at Loch a' Phuill and 3 **Corn Crakes** (and a Basking Shark) at Mannal (John Bowler). Also a **Common Cuckoo** on Coll (per Ben Jones).

At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today: 7 **Whimbrel**, 11 **Purple Sandpipers**, a second-winter **Glaucous Gull** flying S and 7 **Sandwich Terns** (Eddie Maguire). At the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 6 **White Wagtails** (Jim Dickson). And on Colonsay; **Common Cuckoos** at Scalasaig and Kilchattan and a **Grasshopper Warbler** at Sgreadan croft. Also a **Sedge Warbler** heard on Oronsay (Mike Peacock).



second winter Glaucous Gull – MSBO, Kintyre 23 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



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22 April: A **Spotted Flycatcher** was seen about a mile north of Port Ellen, Islay this morning (George Newall). Although BirdTrack currently lists several April 2015 records in England and even a couple in Scotland this is the earliest ever record of Spotted Flycatcher in Argyll.

Jim heard his first **Grasshopper Warbler** today, in the field beyond the garden at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

First **Common Cuckoo** heard locally at West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre at noon today (Allen Duckworth).

A **Sedge Warbler** singing at Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll this morning was our first so far (David Jardine).

A **Little Tern** on the rocks at Langamull, Mull was still present 19:00 (Anand Prasad per Alan Spellman).

21 April: A **Garden Warbler** was singing at Kilmartin, Mid-Argyll this evening. Our first so far (David Jardine).

On Tiree, the first **Corncrake** was calling at Mannal this afternoon. A flock of 55 **Black-tailed Godwits** flew north over The Reef at 06:30 and 9 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 6 **White Wagtails** were at Loch Bhasapol. A Wood Pigeon, 2 Goldfinches, a Common Chiffchaff and a Robin in song were at Balephuill (John Bowler).

A **Hoopoe** seen today at Ardchattan Priory gardens, North Argyll has probably present for a few days (Sarah Anderson/Christopher Lavis-Jones). Could be our third Hoopoe this spring or possibly one of the two seen previously in Lochgair and Oban.



Hoopoe – Ardchattan Priory, North Argyll 21 Apr (Christopher Lavis-Jones).



White Wagtail – Loch Bhasapol, Tiree 21 Apr (John Bowler).

A flock of 153 **Black-tailed Godwits** was on the low tide line at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll around 10:00 along with 2 **Whimbrel**. Sadly, all gone by 11:00: birds disturbed by a team of cockle pickers (Jim Dickson).

A flock of 55 **Black-tailed Godwits** flew N over the Reef, Tiree at 06:30h this morning (John Bowler) and on Coll, 25 **Barnacle Geese** flying over and 12 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** and 3 **Whimbrel** at Breachacha this morning (Ben Jones per John Bowler).

At last! A **Common Cuckoo** calling at Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll this morning was the first heard locally (Margaret Daw).



Black-tailed Godwits – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 21 Apr (Jim Dickson).



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Black-tailed Godwits – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 21 Apr (Jim Dickson).

20 April: A male **Common Redstart** was feeding in a garden at Carsaig (nr Tayvallich), Mid-Argyll at 09:00 this morning (Jon Close).

Two **Corn Crakes** were heard early this morning at RSPB Reserve, Coll (Ben Jones per John Bowler).

The first **Grasshopper Warbler** of the year locally was next to the house at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll this afternoon (Stuart Crutchfield).

On Tiree, a single **Pink-footed Goose** at Loch Bhasapol; 2 **Common Redpolls**, a **Common Chiffchaff** and 2 **Blackcaps** at Balephuill; 5 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at Balephetrish Bay and just 4 **Barnacle Geese** at Balephetrish (John Bowler).

A pair of **Goldcrests** in the garden at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll all day with the male singing : hopefully they will nest. And only the best for this pair's nest at Lochgilphead : **House Sparrows with Teal feathers** (Jim Dickson).



Goldcrest – Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 20 Apr (Jim Dickson).



House Sparrows – Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll 20 Apr (Jim Dickson).



Goldcrest – Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 20 Apr (Jim Dickson).

19 April: A **Eurasian Nuthatch** was seen feeding in garden at Glen Forsa Cottage, Pennygowan, Glen Mull today (Pete Gibson).

Single **Blackcap** and **Tree Pipit** singing in Minard Woods, Mid-Argyll at 08:30 this morning (Paul Daw).

Grasshopper Warblers singing at Fernoch and along Moss road, Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll this morning (John Halliday).

At Taynish NNR, Mid-Argyll this morning **Willow Warblers** were everywhere with a few **Blackcaps** too. A striking male **Common Redstart** was a pleasant surprise and a **Goldcrest** was seen singing (Malcolm & Sue Chattwood).

A **Wood Warbler** was present in the woods above Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll this morning (Colin MacFarlane). The first reported so far.

On Tiree early this afternoon: a female **Marsh Harrier**, a **Wood Pigeon**, 2 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, 6 **Willow Warblers** and 3 **Blackcaps** at Balephuill; 4 **Barn Swallows**, 15 **Northern Wheatears** (1 colour-ringed) and 6 **White Wagtails** at West Hynish and 35 **Great Northern Divers** off Sorobaidh Bay as well as 5 **White Wagtails** there (John Bowler).

A flock of 10 **Whimbrel** were at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today (Eddie Maguire).

On Islay today: a **Whimbrel** at Traigh an Luig and 8 **White Wagtails** on the shores of Loch Indaal. A **Mallard with a brood of 7 young** was seen at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, Islay (David Jardine).

A **Common Chiffchaff** and several **Willow Warblers** at South Shian, North Argyll today. Lots of **Willow Warblers** around Loch Creran and at North Shian: clearly a major influx of Willow Warblers since the previous weekend. One **Common Sandpiper** was at the head of Loch Creran (Robin Harvey).

18 April: Lots of new arrivals today in the Moine Mhor area of Mid-Argyll, inc. a single **Whinchat** (at Dalvore), 2 calling **Common Cuckoos**, a **Tree Pipit**, single **White Wagtail** and 8 **Northern Wheatears** (Dalvore area). Also 60+ grey geese going N at 10:00 (very distant but probably Pink-footed). And this afternoon a **Tree Pipit** singing at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

John Halliday also reported **Common Cuckoo** and **Tree Pipit** at Moine Mhor today and a **Whinchat** near Loch Leathan today was his earliest ever in Kilmichael Glen by a day.

And migrants encountered in the Kilmichael Glassary area included: a **Common Cuckoo**, a

Common Chiffchaff, good numbers of **Willow Warblers**, 2 male **Northern Wheatears** and a **Tree Pipit** (Blair Urquhart).

A **Barn Swallow** at Otter Ferry, Cowal this morning was the first locally (Tom Callan).

Two more **Common Cuckoos** over Ormsary, Mid-Argyll this morning, and a **House Martin** (Stuart Crutchfield).

A **Common Sandpiper** was seen from Bellanoch bird hide on the Crinan Canal, Mid-Argyll (Colin MacFarlane).

On Islay: a **Common Cuckoo** and 5 **Black-tailed Godwit** yesterday at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, a **House Martin** and a **Blackcap** at Bridgend and 5 **Sandwich Terns** at Bruichladdich today (David Jardine).

And on Tiree, a 4 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** and 15 **White Wagtails** at Sorobaidh Bay (John Bowler).



Whinchat – Dalvore, Mid-Argyll 18 Apr (Jim Dickson).

17 April: More **Common Cuckoos** this morning: one calling at Taynish NNR, Mid-Argyll (Chris Purslow), two calling over Ormsary, Mid-Argyll first thing (Stuart Crutchfield) and one seen flying over a garden at Carsaig (nr Tayvallich), Mid-Argyll calling at 10:30 (Jon Close) .

A pair of **Garganey** were on a pool at Balinoe, Tiree this morning. Also on Tiree: 1,000+ **Barnacle Geese** headed north over the island in the first hour of daylight, a **Whimbrel** at Traigh Bhagh, three **Common Redpolls**, 2 **Blackcaps**, a **Common Chiffchaff**, 2 **Willow Warblers**, a **Goldcrest** and 3 **Redwings** at Balephuill and a handful of **Black-tailed Godwits** around the lochs (John Bowler).

A **Great White Egret** was reported at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, Islay today (no details of finder). Also a **Corn Crake** there (Jack Fleming per Ian Brooke).

On Oronsay today: 4 **Pintail** (2 pairs), a **Merlin** and 45 **Twite** at the South end pool area. And **Goldfinch**, **Willow Warbler**, 3 **Barn Swallows** and a **House Martin** at Oronsay Farm (Morgan Vaughan) .

Two **Common Sandpipers** were at the mouth of the Killail Burn Otter Ferry, Cowal today. Also several **Common Chiffchaffs** singing locally and a male **Blackcap** (Tom Callan).

James How saw a **Common Redstart** at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, Islay today – first in Argyll so far.

16 April: **Common Cuckoos** were heard calling today in hills above Ford, Mid-Argyll (John Halliday) and near Inveraray this morning (Chris Bradshaw/ Andy Mckee).

A **Common Chiffchaff** was singing from regular spot in Benderloch village, North Argyll.

The **Magpie** that seems to have taken up residence at Butterbridge (nr. Rest and Be Thankful), Cowal was seen again this morning (Malcolm Chattwood).

In Connel, Mid-Argyll this morning a **Willow Warbler** was singing and a single **Barn Swallow** was seen (Mike Harrison).

On Tiree today: two **Little Terns** and a **Whimbrel** at Traigh Bhagh; a **Little Tern** at Gott Bay; 5 **Redwings** in sub-song, a male **Willow Warbler**, a male **Common Chiffchaff**, 2 **Lesser Redpolls**, a **Goldfinch**, a **Chaffinch** and a Peacock butterfly at Balephuill; a **Willow Warbler** and a **Goldcrest** at Carnan Mor; 2 **Willow Warblers** at Cornaigbeg, a **Willow Warbler** and a Small Tortoiseshell at The Glebe and a **Barn Swallow** at Balinoe (John Bowler).

Today at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre : five **White Wagtails**, 10 **Sanderlings**, the first **Dunlins** (3) seen there this year and 19 **Great Northern Divers**. Also yesterday's Puffin was back ashore, moribund and died later (Eddie Maguire).

Two **Tree Sparrows**, at least 4 **Willow Warblers** and a male **Blackcap** were all at Kinnabus, The Oa, Islay today (David Wood).

A **Greenshank** was calling over Lochgilphead today (Jim Dickson).

A pair of **Goosander** were sleeping at the head of the loch in Lochgilphead this morning (Jon Close).

A **Grasshopper Warbler** was reported reeling at Portnahaven, Islay this morning (Mary Redman per Ian Brooke).



Tree Sparrow – Kinnabus, Islay 16 Apr (David Wood).



White Wagtail – MSBO, Kintyre 16 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



Willow Warbler – Balephuill, Tiree 16 Apr (John Bowler).

On Oronsay today: a pair of **Shoveler** and 4 **Pintail** at south end pools; 2,415 **Barnacle Geese**, 353 **European Golden Plover** and a **Black-tailed Godwit** at the old airfield and a **Barn Swallow** around the farm. Pair of **White-tailed Eagles** at south end Oronsay, both looked to be adult: some display noted (Mike Peacock).

A single **Puffin** was in the narrows at Otter Ferry, Cowal today. A less than annual occurrence. And a Common Cuckoo was calling near Kilfinan (Tom Callan).

At Glen Kin (nr Sandbank), Cowal today, a **Common Cuckoo** was calling and a **Tree Pipit** singing and a **Barn Swallow** was seen at Sandbank (Nigel Scriven).

A pair of **Common Sandpipers** were at Claggain Bay, Islay (George Newall).

15 April: At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today a first winter **Mediterranean Gull** and a notable influx of 254 **Common Redshanks**! (Jim Dickson).

The first **Common Sandpiper** seen locally was along the shore next to the fish-farm at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll this morning (Stuart Crutchfield).

On Tiree today: 13 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein and 8 **Black-tailed Godwits** & 6 **Whooper Swans** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

A **Common Kestrel** soared on a thermal above Benderloch, North Argyll today (Robin Harvey).

A **House Martin** was at Portavadie, Cowal today (Tom Callan).

A **Common Cuckoo** was heard at Benderloch, North Argyll (Robin Harvey).

This **Puffin** came ashore at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today: after an hour's rest it was returned to the sea and swam offshore (Eddie Maguire).



Puffin – MSBO, Kintyre 15 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

14 April: A **Hoopoe** in Lochgair, Mid-Argyll at about 11:30 this morning was a surprise find for Davie Rutherford.

New birds today on Oronsay: 4 **Pintail** (2 pairs) at the south end pools, 420 **European Golden Plover** on the old airfield and 2 **Rooks** (Mike Peacock).

The rain brought a few waders down today, at Loch Gilp: a flock of 45 **Common Redshanks** and 2 breeding plumage **Dunlin** with the usual flock of 20 or so **Bar-tailed Godwits** and the first winter **Caspian Gull** still there. At the Add Estuary 31 **Common Redshanks** (Jim Dickson).

The drake **Green-winged Teal** still at Loch an Eilein, Tiree this afternoon in the drizzle. Also: 14 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 1,800 **Golden Plover** at Loch a' Phuill and 2,500 **Golden Plover** and 22 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** at The Reef (John Bowler).

An **Osprey** was seen diving to catch a fish at Lussa Loch (N. of Campbeltown), Kintyre at 15:00 today (Lee Holland/Sandy McSporran per Steve Walker).

13 April: A drake **Green-winged Teal** was newly arrived at Loch an Eilein, Tiree this rainy lunch-time (John Bowler).

Six **Sandwich Terns** flying north at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre this morning (Eddie Maguire).

Sightings in the Campbeltown area today included: a single **Manx Shearwater** seen offshore from the coastal road near Davaar Island, 14 **Sandwich Terns** at Campbeltown Loch this afternoon and two at Southend, single **Sand Martin** at Kilchenzie, three **Sand Martins** at Gobagrennan, single **Barn Swallow** at Gobagrennan, single **House Martin** flying N over the B843 at Stewarton, (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre and a single **Willow Warbler** singing at Peninver (Chris Bradshaw/ Andy Mckee).

Also a male **Ring Ouzel** at Gobagrennan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre (Andy Mckee).

Common Chiffchaff singing in Cairnbaan today and a **Barn Swallow** at the Add Estuary (Jim Dickson).

12 April: A **Hoopoe** found in Oban yesterday (11 Apr) was last seen at 15:45 today. Fortunately it was photographed before it left – thanks to Sandra Elliot for the photos. (Sandra Elliot per Janet Hunter).



Hoopoe – Oban, Mid-Argyll 12 Apr (Sandra Elliot).



Hoopoe – Oban, Mid-Argyll 12 Apr (Sandra Elliot).

The sight of 27 **European Golden Plover** in the field between Kilmichael Glassary the River Add in the direction of Dunamuck from his back window today was a welcome first for Malcolm Chattwood.

At Taynish NNR, Mid-Argyll today: a male **Blackcap**, 4 **Sand Martins** and 3 **Little Grebes**; and at the Add Estuary a **Common Sandpiper** (Jim Dickson). Jim met David Palmer and his wife there, who had seen a **Common Sandpiper** at Loch an Losgairn Mor (near Kilmelford), Mid-Argyll earlier in the day.

Two **Willow Warblers** singing at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll this morning and (finally!) a single **Sand Martin** (Stuart Crutchfield).

Iceland Gulls seen today: the 3rd – 4th winter at Oban was still there, the second winter was in Oban bay and a second winter bird was at Tobermory, Mull (David Jardine).

11 April: A **Common Cuckoo** was heard calling in Glen Fyne, Mid-Argyll this morning and again in the afternoon (Lucy Sumsion). The first report from the south of England was on 03 Apr, but as far as we know this is **the first in Scotland this year!**

At Gobagrennan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre today: a single **Barn Swallow** and in the evening a **Hobby** being mobbed by Meadow Pipits (Neil Brown).

A pair of **Greylag Geese** at Loch Leathan (nr Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll today were the first John had seen on Loch in 25 years! And a **Willow Warbler** was singing there (John Halliday).

At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today: two **Whimbrel**, a **Sandwich Tern** and 3 **White Wagtails** (Eddie Maguire).

Some highlights of the **ABC field trip trip to Lismore** today: 10 **Eurasian Teal**, 6 **Tufted Ducks**, 6 **Grey Herons** and 2 pairs **Little Grebe** at Kilcheran Loch; a **Greenshank** heard migrating over Balnagown Loch; 2-3 **Sand Martins** hawking over Kilcheran Loch; 6 – 7 **Northern Wheatears** throughout the island and single **Willow Warblers** at Port Ramsay and Kilcheran Loch (per David Jardine).

A few more arrivals on Tiree today: 6 **Black-tailed Godwit**, 800 **European Golden Plover**, 3 **Sand Martins** and a **Barn Swallow** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

Three **Twite** were on the Crinan Ferry road, Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll this morning and a **Dipper** on the small river up from Rhudle Mill (2 miles N of Bridgend), Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).



Meadow Pipit – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 11 Apr (Jim Dickson).

10 April: A **Willow Warbler** and two **Common Chiffchaffs** were singing in Minard Woods, Mid-Argyll at 08:00 this morning and a lone **House Martin** was circling over Minard village (Paul Daw).

Male and female **Northern Wheatear** at the at the Islandadd bridge, Add Estuary Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).

Four **Sand Martins** seen at Glen Aros, Mull (Craig Round).

A **Magpie** seen in a garden in Dewar Ave., Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll had also been there the previous night (Chris Kilmichael).

A male **Blackcap** and a singing **Willow Warbler** were in the garden at Cairnbaan (nr Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll at around 17:30 (Jim Dickson).

A male **Northern Wheatear** was at Carradale Bay, Kintyre and 4 **Barn Swallows** flying north there (Alasdair Paterson).

An **Osprey** and 7 **Sand Martins** were at Loch Leathan (nr Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll (John Halliday).

A few more arrivals on Tiree: a **Barn Swallow** at Sorobaidh Bay and lots more **Wheatears** about the island (John Bowler).



Northern Wheatear – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 10 Apr (Jim Dickson).



Willow Warbler – Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 10 Apr (Jim Dickson).

09 April: First two **Sandwich Terns** at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today – much later than usual for there (Eddie Maguire). And none reported elsewhere in Argyll so far.

A **Barn Swallow** over the Maltlands, Inveraray, Mid-Argyll this evening was the first seen locally (Glyn Toplis).

A **House Martin** was along Moss Road at Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll this evening (John Halliday).

Three **Common Chiffchaffs** were singing at Kilmory Pond (behind Council Offices), Lochgilphead today (Blair Urquhart).

A **Willow Warbler** and an **Iceland Gull** at The Oa Reserve, Islay today (David Wood).

On Tiree: a newly arrived male **Blackcap** in the garden at Balephuill. Also 2 **Lesser Redpolls**, 2 **Goldcrests** and 5 **Redwings** there (many of the latter passing over last night). The juvenile **Iceland Gull** at Loch an Eilein again and about 4,750 **European Golden Plovers** and a single **Black-tailed Godwit** at The Reef (John Bowler).

Single **Osprey** over the Add estuary at 16:30 this afternoon (Stuart Crutchfield).

A **Willow Warbler** was in the scrub opposite the car park at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, Islay today (Peter Gill per Ian Brooke).

A **Sandwich Tern** was seen off Port Charlotte, Islay today (Carl Reavey per Ian Brooke).

Five Greenshanks were at Loch Scridain, Mull and a **Willow Warbler** singing at Loch Beg, Mull (Craig Round).

A **Common Chiffchaff** in the garden at Carradale, Kintyre (Alasdair Paterson).

Jim Dickson had the following feedback regarding the three **Whooper Swans with darvic rings** at the Add Estuary On 4 Apr. “The three birds in the photos attached are all carrying orange rings, and I think this is a family from our WWT Caerlaverock centre in Dumfriesshire. We ringed a family with two cygnets in Feb this year and both had dark stained heads, one of the cygnets was also showing signs of being a ‘dark-neb’ bird – which is a complete black stripe down it’s bill and I think the ringed bird on the right hand side of this photo is that bird. Therefore as both of these cygnets were ringed on the left leg = female and both have darvic rings on their left legs in your photo, I think we can say that they are orange YHY and YJF. The other bird (far left) is an adult with a darvic on the left leg and I think this is the parent of these two cygnets = orange YFZ. It looks like the male is possibly sat down in the water and therefore not showing his darvic ring.” Kane Brides, Monitoring Assistant, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT). Kane also sent a summary

showing the parent bird has been a regular winter visitor to Caerlaverock.
Amazing what they can do without even knowing the darvic ring codes!

This nice male **Linnet** was photographed at the Machrihanish Seabird Observatory feeding station today (Eddie Maguire).



Linnet – MSBO, Kintyre 09 Apr (Eddie Maguire)



Linnet – MSBO, Kintyre 09 Apr (Eddie Maguire)

08 April: A flock of around 30 **Whooper Swans** were sleeping on Loch Gilp at 08:30 this morning (Lynsey Gibson).

The first **Tree Pipit** of the spring was at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll as well as a female **Yellowhammer** seen briefly (Stuart Crutchfield).

Two **Greenshanks** at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll at 14:00 today (Linda Kerr) were still there later in the afternoon (Jim Dickson).



Greenshank – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 08 Apr (Linda Kerr).

On Tiree today: a juvenile **Iceland Gull** and 700 **European Golden Plovers** at Ruaig machair; a **Common Chiffchaff** and a **Greenshank** at Salum, a **Pink-footed Goose** and a **Duncock** singing at the Glebe; 3 newly arrived **Lesser Redpolls**, a **Greenfinch** and a **Small Tortoiseshell** at Balephuill; a **White Wagtail** at Loch an Eilein (first of the year on Tiree); 2,400 **Golden Plovers** at The Reef and 3 male **Northern Wheatears** at Balephetrish. (A possible adult Ring-billed Gull reported from Ruaig machair last night but no further sign yet today) (John Bowler).

Today at The Oa Reserve, Islay: 3 **Sand Martins**, 5 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **House Martins** and 11 **Northern Wheatears** (David Wood).

Total of 31 **Purple Sandpipers** at the Crazy Golf, Dunoon today (George Newall).

A single **Barn Swallow**, ca 15 **Sand Martins** and 4 **Northern Wheatears** at Gobagrennan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre and a **Willow Warbler** at Aros Moss (nr Campbeltown) (Neil Brown). Two **orange-collared Greylag Geese** at Keills (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll (a female with black NDH and a male with black NDI) turned out to have been ringed on Islay at Ronnachmore, near Bowmore, on 11 Nov 2014 and seen near Glenbarr, Kintyre on 0 Mar 2015 (Morag Rea).

First **Barn Swallow** of spring at Tayvallich, Mid-Argyll was seen today (Chris Purslow).

07 April: Two adult **Greenshank** were on the shore at Hunters Quay, Dunoon today, near the holiday village (Andrew Webster).

A single **Barn Swallow** was seen flying N at Tayinloan, Kintyre (Mark Wood).

A survey at Ceann a' Mhara, Tiree at first light survey found: a **Pink-footed Goose**, 2 **Great Skuas**, 20 **Black Guillemots** and 4 male **Northern Wheatears**. Also a **House Martin** (first reported so far) at Scarinish, 30 **Redwings** at Meningie and 17 **Whooper Swans**, 8 **Pintail** and 12 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch a' Phuill (no further sign of yesterday's Red Kite) (John Bowler).

The **colour-ringed Herring Gull** seen on Campbeltown pier on 25 March has moved back south. Ringed as a chick on Sanda Island in Jul 2012 and seen regularly from Jan 2013 to Feb 2015 at Loch Ryan, near Stranraer has now returned to the Stranraer area where it was seen at Agnew Park on 3 Apr (Brian Henderson per Iain Livingstone).

A **Common Sandpiper** was seen by the old boathouse on Loch Na Keal, Mull (Martin Keivers per Alan Spellman).

Two **Iceland Gulls** (1ad, 1 1st-winter) in Oban Harbour today and a **Common Chiffchaff** singing at Craignure, Mull (Craig Round).

06 April: Three **White Wagtails** at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today and a flock ca 50 **Sanderling** flying south (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today: a **Red Kite** drifted SW early afternoon over Cornaigmore, Heylipol and Loch a' Phuill. Also a juvenile **Iceland Gull** and juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Loch an Eilein; a male **Common Chiffchaff**, 6 **Goldcrests**, 6 **Linnets** and 2 **Collared Doves** at Balephuill and 7 **Whooper Swans** flying over NW at 13:30 (John Bowler).

Two more male **Northern Wheatears** at Ormsary this afternoon, and the first **White Wagtail** locally (Stuart Crutchfield).

Also at Ormsary today: 5 **Iceland Gulls**, first winter **Kumlien's Gull** and the adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was on the rocky island just south of Ormsary (John Nadin & Mark Wood).

Two **Barn Swallows** were at Ardrishaig harbour, Mid-Argyll this morning (Allan Dykes).

Elsewhere, two **Barn Swallows** were seen at The Oa, Islay today as well as 3 **Northern**

Wheatears (David Wood) and at 18:00 two more **Barn Swallows** appeared, flying over the house at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll (Stuart Crutchfield).

A **Sand Martin** was seen flying over the garden at Kilmichael Glassary, Mid-Argyll today and later in the afternoon a **Common Chiffchaff** was singing by the Crinan Canal near Bellanoch (Malcolm Chattwood).

One Swallow may not make a summer – but six might possibly? Not to mention Sand Martins and lots of Chiffchaffs and Wheatears.



Common Chiffchaff – Balephuill, Tiree 06 Apr (John Bowler).

05 April: Three **Common Chiffchaffs** were singing in Minard Woods, Mid-Argyll at 08:30 this morning (Paul Daw).

On an odd calm mostly misty day on Tiree, with birds dropping out of the mist: a **Great Skua** at Ceann a' Mhara (first of the year there), also 2 **Redwings**, a **Linnet**, a male **Northern Wheatear**, a **Common Kestrel** and low tens of Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtails arriving. Also a **Common Chiffchaff** at Balephuill (first of spring there) as well as 3 **Goldcrests**, 3 **Goldfinches**, a **Common Chaffinch** and ca 50 **Redwings** including one in full song. Two Red Chestnut and one Diamond-backed moth trapped last night (John Bowler).

A flock of ca 50 **Whooper Swans** were flying up Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll at 10:00 and a flock of ca 40 flew up Loch Gilp at 17:00 and landed on the sand (Colin MacFarlane).

45 **Whooper Swans** flying along the Meadows near Lochgilphead were a spectacular sight this evening (Blair Urquhart).

The 3rd winter **Iceland Gull** was back at its usual perch on the Esplanade at Oban today (Linda Kerr).

Two **Puffins** in near complete breeding plumage and a **Northern Wheatear** were at Craignish Point, Mid-Argyll late this morning (Dave Grant).

A single **Barn Swallow** flew across Fidden beach, Mull this morning (Carol Marshall per Alan Spellman).

04 April: Two newly arrived spring migrants at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll today: a singing **Common Chiffchaff**, and a male **Northern Wheatear** (Stuart Crutchfield).

A single **Red-throated Diver** was on Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll today (Colin MacFarlane).

These **Lesser Redpolls** at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre nicely demonstrate just how varied their plumage can be (Eddie Maguire).



Lesser Redpoll – Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre 04 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



Lesser Redpoll – Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre 04 Apr (Eddie Maguire).
And three more **Northern Wheatears** (all males) were on the road just south of the Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll. At the Add Estuary 42 **Whooper Swans** were on the mud: 3 of the birds had orange darvic rings on the left legs with white letters/numbers but too far to read (600+ metres). Interesting that these 3 birds were next to each other in the flock and looked the same age: immatures, presumably 2cy but wonder if they could be 3cy? (Jim Dickson).

The female **Osprey** returned to a traditional site in Mid-Argyll this evening and the female **Red-breasted Merganser** was still on Loch Leathan (John Halliday).

On Tiree today: 50 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** flying north over Milton from the Mull direction, 48 **Whooper Swans** and 9 **Common Goldeneyes** at Loch a' Phuill and a **Dunnock** singing near Heylipol Church (John Bowler).

An **Osprey** spent around 15 mins flying slowly over the River Add at Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll today (Lynsey Gibson).

A **Common Chiffchaff** was singing along The Crinan Canal, Mid-Argyll today (Dave Grant).



Whooper Swans – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 04 Apr (Jim Dickson).



Northern Wheatear – Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll 04 Apr (Jim Dickson).



Whooper Swans – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 04 Apr (Jim Dickson).

03 April: Four **Sand Martins** at Loch Ederline (nr Ford), Mid-Argyll today (John Halliday). A female **Goosander** on Loch Leathan (nr Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll was not unusual: however a female **Red-breasted Merganser** there was more unexpected (Jim Dickson).

The following were seen during a trip to Colonsay today: 52 **Brent Geese** at Eilean Glas, Jura (from the ferry), 59 **Great Northern Divers** between Kennacraig and Port Askaig, Islay, single **Puffins** from ferry off Jura and Colonsay, 20 **Meadow Pipits** passed the ferry in small groups in mist between Gigha and Port Askaig together with a female **Yellowhammer** and on Colonsay itself, 3 **Water Rails** and 6 **Fieldfares** (but no Wheatears) (David Jardine).

02 April: Conditions in the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre today were ideal for this impressive count in the Rhunahaorine Point area: 25 **Long-tailed Ducks** (all close to the point), 5 **Velvet Scoters**, 6 **Red-throated Divers**, 43 **Black-throated Divers** (groups of 25, 15 & 3), 175 **Great Northern Divers**, 23 **Slavonian Grebes** and a juvenile **Iceland Gull**. In the afternoon two **Sand Martins** were over the Kilmichael Glen quarry (Jonathan Platt).

The first **White Wagtails** (2) rested briefly on the point at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today before flying off N (Eddie Maguire).

Common Chiffchaff singing at Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll at 08:50 this morning (Paul Daw).

On Tiree today: 7 **Common Goldeneyes**, 11 **Pintail** and 2 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch a' Phuill; a first winter **Iceland Gull** at Loch an Eilein, a **Mistle Thrush** at Balemartine, a **Goldcrest** at Balephuill and a **Jack Snipe** at the Reef (John Bowler).

An **Osprey** was reported at West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre today – first of the year so far (Brian Baird per David Jardine).

A single **Pink-footed Goose** was with Greylag Geese at Poltalloch (Moine Mhor) Mid-Argyll this evening (David Jardine).

01 April: A drake **Green-winged Teal** seen at RSPB Gruinart reserve, Islay today by James How was first seen there on 26 Mar by Ron McNab et al.

A 1hr sea-watch from Aird, Tiree in NW5 winds at lunch-time produced: 2 **Great Northern Divers**, 40 **Fulmars**, 450 **Manx Shearwaters**, 180 **Northern Gannets**, 1,520 **Kittiwakes** and 490 auks (mostly **Razorbills**) – all heading W (John Bowler).

A first-winter **Mediterranean Gull** heading S past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre at 11:00 hrs this morning and a first-winter **Iceland Gull** there this afternoon (Eddie Maguire).



1w Mediterranean Gull MSBO 01 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

A nice breeding plumage '**Scandinavian**' **Rock Pipit** (*A. p. littoralis*) at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll late morning today on the salt-marsh with 20 or more Meadow Pipits. This ties in with the winter plumage *littoralis* looking birds that arrived here back in November 2014 (Jim Dickson).



'Scandinavian' Rock Pipit – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 01 Apr (Jim Dickson).



'Scandinavian' Rock Pipit – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 01 Apr (Jim Dickson).



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