

## RECENT REPORTS April 2016

**30 April:** Five **Dotterel** on Oronsay, Colonsay this evening. The first Lapwing brood there was seen on 28 April! (Morgan Vaughan).



**Dotterel** - Oronsay, Colonsay 30 Apr (Morgan Vaughan).

On Mull today: first **Spotted Flycatcher** of the year reported at Garmony and 4 separate male **Hen Harriers** at various parts of the island (Peter Hall per Alan Spellman). Also a female **Common Redstart** seen on the Lochbuie road (Ewan Miles per Alan Spellman). Birds at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today included; a **Great Northern Diver** flying south, the **leucistic adult Herring Gull**, 20+ **Sandwich Terns**, a **Little Tern**, 30+ **White Wagtails**, 18 **Goldfinches**, a **Linnet** and 6 **Twite** (Eddie Maguire/Iomhar McMillan).



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



**leucistic Herring Gull** – MSBO, Kintyre 30 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



**Linnet** – MSBO, Kintyre 30 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



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

Still 18 **Black-tailed Godwits** remaining from the flock at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson). Simon Lawrence managed to detect colour rings on 3 of yesterday's birds (one probably from France) and is waiting to hear about their origins.

**29 April:** A drake **Ring-necked Duck** was at Loch Finlaggan, Islay today (David Shallcross/ Leigh birders per Ian Brooke).



**Ring-necked Duck** - Loch Finlaggan, Islay 29 Apr (David Shallcross).

A **Glaucous Gull** was seen from the SW car park at Arrochar, Cowal with six **Greenshanks** on the shore opposite The Tree Shop. Two **White-tailed Eagles** seen in Mid-Argyll (Jonathan Platt).



**Glaucous Gull** – Arrochar, Cowal 29 Apr (Jonathan Platt).

At Westport Marsh (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre this afternoon there were 6 **Shoveler**, 5 **Little Grebes** and 2 **Moorhens**. At least four pairs of **Northern Lapwings** are nesting with one bird incubating by the track (Eddie Maguire).



Incubating **Lapwing** – Westport Marsh, Kintyre 29 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

Meanwhile, on Tiree today, the first **Northern Lapwing** chicks at The Reef had clearly survived yesterday's snow: also there were 3,600 **Golden Plover**. Elsewhere on the island: 52 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch Bhasapol; 8 **Black-tailed Godwits**, juvenile **Glaucous**

**Gull** and 6 **White Wagtails** at Loch a' Phuill; 5 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese**, a **Common Sandpiper**, 30 **Sand Martins**, 5 **Barn Swallows** and 5 **White Wagtails** at Sorobaidh Bay; 22 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).



**Lapwing** and chick – The Reef, Tiree 29 Apr (John Bowler).

In the Keills area of Loch Sween today: several **Northern Wheatears** and **Common Stonechats** and a pair of **House Martins** by Coshandrochaid; a few **Barn Swallows** and **Sand Martins** hawking below Keills chapel; a **Great Northern Diver** on Loch na Cille; six more **Great Northern Divers** and a **Black Guillemot** off Keillmore. A few more **Northern Gannets** than of late over the Sound of Jura with **Common Guillemots** passing south occasionally and 3 Curlews at the head of Loch na Cille. Later from Coshandrochaid: an **Osprey** passed down Loch Sween at 17:15, returning at 18:00 and three **Black-tailed Godwits** appeared briefly at The Puddle at 20:15 (Kevin & Sue Richardson). After yesterday's appalling weather improving conditions today brought in some migrants – especially Northern Wheatears. At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning 110 **Black-tailed Godwits** remained from yesterday's large flock at 06:15 (Jon Close): they were still there at 09:30 (Jim Dickson). Also 4 **Northern Wheatears** and 35 **Meadow Pipits** on the shinty pitch. In fields at Moine Mhor, from Drimvore around to the Add Estuary, a minimum of 41 **Northern Wheatears**, 180 **Meadow Pipits** and 8 **White Wagtails** counted. Also 7 **Whimbrels**, 2 **Common Cuckoos**, a **Whinchat**, 6 **Linnets** and 3 **Grey Wagtails**. At Cairnbaan: 25 **Chaffinches**, 11 **Siskins**, 2 **Goldfinches** and 2 **Bullfinches** in the garden (Jim Dickson).



**Northern Wheatear** – Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 29 Apr (Jim Dickson).





**Whimbrel** – Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 29 Apr (Jim Dickson).

**28 April:** A flock of *ca* 300 **Black-tailed Godwits** were grounded on the shinty pitch at Lochgilphead Academy, Mid-Argyll at 17:15 this afternoon (Dougie Menzies). They were still there at 18:00, when Jim took these photos, together with 2 **Whimbrel** and 20+ **Meadow Pipits** (Jim Dickson).



**Whimbrel** – Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll 28 Apr (Jim Dickson).



**Black-tailed Godwits** – Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll 28 Apr (Jim Dickson).



**Black-tailed Godwits** – Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll 28 Apr (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today, where it snowed all-day (12 cm): a single **Tree Sparrow** newly arrived at Baugh (Bill Welstead); a female **Greater Scaup**, 3 **Black-tailed Godwits**, a **Common Sandpiper** and 12 **White Wagtails** at Loch an Eilein; a **Dunnock**, 2 **Goldfinches**, 16 **Linnets** and a **Common Redpoll** at Balephuill (John Bowler).



**Wheatear** in snowy Tiree 28 Apr (John Bowler).



**Tree Sparrow** – Baugh, Tiree 28 Apr (Bill Welstead).

**27 April:** Six **White Wagtails** today in a field near Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

In the Keills area of Loch Sween today: **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Common Snipe** at Coshandrochaid; 6 **Great Northern Divers** off Keillmore; another **Great Northern Diver** in Loch na Cille with 5 **Curlews**, single **Common Guillemot** and **Black Guillemot**, occasional Gannets and Shags; pair of **Common Sandpipers**, quite a few **Barn**

**Swallows** and **Sand Martins** as well as first **House Martin** of the week; **Treecreepers** and **Goldcrests** by Keills House and **Common Whitethroat** by road to Danna. In the evening an **Osprey** flew over mobbed by a Hooded Crow followed by a **White-tailed Eagle**. Aside from birds, an **Otter** was seen off Telford's pier, a Sand Lizard basking nearby and a mass migration of Marsh Fritillary caterpillars crossing road from salt-marsh to pasture (Kevin & Sue Richardson).



**Otter** – Keills (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll (Kevin & Sue Richardson).

At least 4 **Wood Warblers** singing at Taynish NNR, Mid-Argyll this morning (Jon Close).

At last - first **Barn Swallow** seen in Minard, Mid-Argyll this morning. Also first **Blackcaps** heard singing locally; at Crarae Gardens and Tullochgorm (Paul Daw).

**26 April:** On Tiree today: a newly arrived **Greater Scaup** at Loch an Eilein; juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** again at Crossapol Farm; a **Red Knot** and 19 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch a' Phuill; **Collared Dove**, **Dunnock** and **Common Redpoll** at Balephuill (John Bowler).



**Greater Scaup** - Loch an Eilein, Tiree 26 Apr (John Bowler).

A single **Whimbrel** at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning and a single male **Whinchat** at Dalvore was the only one seen in the Moine Mhor area this afternoon. Cold winds must be holding up migration... (Jim Dickson).

A single dark morph **Arctic Skua** off Lagavulin, Islay this morning (Alasdair Paterson).

A description has been received for a **Water Pipit** seen on the east side of Loch Gruinart, Islay on 11 Apr by Elaine and Eddie Prince (only one previous Argyll record).

**25 April:** A **Common Cuckoo** heard for a couple of hours mid afternoon near Loch Mhic Mhairtein, Craginish peninsula, Mid-Argyll today (Phil Dickinson).

Six **Gadwall** on the Loch Gruinart Floods, Islay today (James How per Angus Murray).



On Tiree today: 6 **Whooper Swans** and 35 **White Wagtails** grounded at Loch an Eilein and the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** still there; **Wood Pigeon**, 2 **Redwings**, **Robin**, **Dunnock** and **Common Redpoll** at Balephuill; a **Snow Bunting** at Balephetrish Bay; a **Red Knot** at Sorobaidh Bay (John Bowler).



**Common Redpoll** - Balephuill, Tiree 25 Apr (John Bowler).



**White Wagtail** - Loch an Eilein, Tiree 25 Apr (John Bowler).

This single **Red Knot** was by Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre all morning (Eddie Maguire).



**Red Knot** – MSBO, Kintyre 25 Apr (Eddie Maguire).





Red Knot – MSBO, Kintyre 25 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

In the Keills area of Loch Sween today: **Yellowhammers** by Barrahormid; male **Common Cuckoo** flying around above Dun Mhurrich; flock of **Linnets**; small flock of **Redpolls** below Lower Fearnoch where a **Tree Pipit** was in song flight; **Sedge Warbler** and male **Whinchat** between Coshandrochaid and Barrahormid. (Kevin & Sue Richardson).

**24 April: Later reports.** A walk as far as the ponds at Glen Strae (nr. Dalmally), North Argyll 12:00 – 13:00 produced: at least 11 singing **Willow Warblers** and a **Common Buzzard** overhead; a female **Mandarin Duck** on the ponds [we assume these Mandarins are free-flying here - clearly there is every intention of encouraging breeding by the number of artificial nests there now are set up on poles!]. About a dozen male **Mallards** and at least three females (one with five very small ducklings); 3 male and two female **Teal** and single **Grey and White Wagtails** (Mike Anderson).

And in the Keills area of Loch Sween today. A walk from Telford's Pier at Keillmore produced: a **Common Cuckoo** calling, **Willow Warblers** singing at regular intervals, several **Northern Wheatears**, singing **Sedge Warbler** and **Common Whitethroat** (first in Argyll so far) nr. Coshandrochaid, **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Blackcap** singing at Keills Chapel, **Great Northern Diver** and 10 **Whimbrel** at Loch na Cille, a pair of **Common Sandpipers** at Keills jetty, 4 **Black-throated Divers**, a **Black Guillemot** and few passing Eiders and Gannets off Keillmore. Later: pairs of **Lesser Redpoll** and **Twite** at Coshandrochaid and an **Osprey** over 'the Puddle' for 30 mins. (Kevin & Sue Richardson). On Colonsay today; a second calendar year **Glaucous Gull** flew past Pig's Paradise and the **Common Pochard** was still on East Loch Fada, Colonsay (David Jardine).

**24 April:** Some satisfactory photo opportunities at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today including a pair of **Gadwall**, **Great Northern Diver**, **Whimbrel** (11) and **Twite**. Also, 22 **Sandwich Terns** in the area (Eddie Maguire).



**Twite** – MSBO, Kintyre 24 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



**Great Northern Diver** – MSBO, Kintyre 24 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



**Whimbrel** – MSBO, Kintyre 24 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



**Gadwall (female)** – MSBO, Kintyre 24 Apr (Eddie Maguire).



**Gadwall (male)** – MSBO, Kintyre 24 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

Jim managed to get these photos of the male **Hawfinch** at Lochdon, Mull today. It seems this is a third bird as the male & female were seen a few miles away at Loch Uisg yesterday just shortly before this bird was found (Jim Dickson). There have been reports of Hawfinches turning up elsewhere in Scotland recently (Angus Murray).



Hawfinch – Lochdon, Mull 24 Apr (Jim Dickson).



Hawfinch – Lochdon, Mull 24 Apr (Jim Dickson).



Hawfinch – Lochdon, Mull 24 Apr (Jim Dickson).



On Tiree today: 19 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein (1 colour-ringed bird); single **Corn Crake**, **Wood Pigeon**, **Dunnock**, **Goldcrest**, **Redwing**, **Common Redpoll** and 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

Two **Grasshopper Warblers** singing near Nursery Cottages, Minard this morning and two seen **Bullfinches** at Tullochgorm (Paul Daw).

**23 April:** At ca 18:30 a **White-tailed Eagle** glided across 'the Puddle' (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll and flew west (Kevin & Sue Richardson).

On Mull, a male and female **Hawfinch** were in a garden at Loch Uisg today (Chris Philo) and a male **Hawfinch** in a garden at Lochdon (Alan Spellman).



**Hawfinch** – Lochdon, Mull 23 Apr (Alan Spellman).

Today at Taynish NNR, Mid-Argyll a juvenile **Whooper Swan** with a pair of **Mute Swans** and a **Grasshopper Warbler** singing (John Halliday).

A **Blackcap** was singing in the centre of Connel, Mid-Argyll this morning (Mike Harrison).

A **Common Pochard** and a **Sedge Warbler** were at East Loch Fada, Colonsay today (David Jardine)

First confirmed **House Martins** at Bridgend, Mid-Argyll today with three around the house this morning. Also, a bit of a surprise last night for Malcolm: a **Common Snipe** drumming over the top of his house (Malcolm Chattwood).

A total of 67 **Common Eiders** (inc. 49 adult males) were by Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre this morning. Also 40 **Whimbrels** resting (Eddie Maguire).



**Common Eiders** - MSBO, Kintyre 23 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today: 5 **Pink-footed Geese** and a **White Wagtail** at Loch a' Phuill; 2 **Gadwall**, 37 **Black-tailed Godwits**, a **leucistic Common Gull**, 35 **Sand Martins** and one **Barn Swallow** at Loch Bhasapol; 2 **Barn Swallows** at Sorobaidh Bay creek; a **Wood Pigeon**, a **Robin** and 2 **Goldfinches** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**BUFFLEHEAD** - Thanks to Bryan Rains we have now received a photo of the adult male Bufflehead found by Richard Turner in Oban Bay on 15 April. A description is being supplied and if accepted by BBRC, this will be a new species for Argyll. As Buffleheads are very popular in wildfowl collections there can sometimes be questions over the origins of such individuals.



**Bufflehead** - Oban Bay, Mid-Argyll 15 Apr (Richard Turner).

**22 April:** An **Osprey** at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this afternoon was being mobbed by Black-headed Gulls and Hooded Crows (Blair Urquhart).

On Tiree, today: a **Corn Crane** at Kilkenneth (one was also reported from Balinoe on 19th April); a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** and 16 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** at Loch a' Phuill; 33 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein (including a colour-ringed bird); 5 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at Sorobaidh Bay. Nine more **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** were at The Green on 20th April (John Bowler).

A **Grasshopper Warbler** was singing at Fernoch (Kilmichael Glen), Mid-Argyll this morning and a **Common Sandpiper** on Loch Leathan (John Halliday).

Six **Sandwich Terns** were at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre (Alasdair Paterson).

**21 April:** An adult dark **Honey Buzzard** was reported over Eleraig, nr Kilmelford, Mid-Argyll today (Bob Grove).

A male and female **Pied Flycatcher** were seen at Knock, Mull today (Martin & Stella Jones). **Corn Crane** heard calling this morning on Iona, Mull (Mike Hogan per Alan Spellman).

A **Common Cuckoo** was calling at the caravan site Carsaig (Tayvallich), Mid-Argyll early this morning. Several (*ca* 10) **Tree Pipits** around Taynish NNR and a **Common Sandpiper** at Danna (Loch Sween) (Dougie Menzies).

A **Tree Pipit** singing was at Clachaig (nr Dunoon), Cowal today with 2 **Grasshopper Warblers** nearby at Stronafian (Neil Hammatt).

Present at Kilmory Woods, Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll today: **Common Chiffchaff**, **Willow Warbler**, **Blackcap**, **Common Redstart**, **Common Crossbill**, **Bullfinch** and **Reed Bunting** (Blair Urquhart).

On Tiree today: 7 **White Wagtails** at The Reef this morning were the first of the spring here. Also, 2 **White Wagtails** at Balephetrish Bay; 4 **Black-tailed Godwits** and a **Peregrine**

**Falcon** at Loch Bhasapol (John Bowler).

Two **Common Sandpipers** calling along the shore at Minard, Mid-Argyll this morning (Paul Daw).

An apparent pair of **House Martins** (my first of year) prospecting nest sites around the house at Otter Ferry, Cowal this morning (Tom Callan).

**20 April:** Spring migrants arriving thick and fast now.

Six male and a female **Northern Wheatears** in Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll and **Barn Swallow, House Martin, Common Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Common Redstart** and **Tree Pipit** as well as a **Common Kestrel** in nearby Rhudle Glen (Blair Urquhart).

A **Common Sandpiper** was at Scalasaig Pier, Colonsay today (Alasdair Paterson).

First **Whinchat**; at Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll today (David Jardine) and a **Ring Ouzel** was seen at Cruach Mhor, Mid-Argyll (Blair Urquhart).

On Tìree today: 5 **Little Terns** at Traigh Bhagh this morning; one **Little Tern**, one **Sandwich Tern** and 15 **Whimbrel** in the Sorobaidh Bay area; 6 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein and 15 more at Loch a' Phuill; 2 **Goldcrests**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, and 4 **Willow Warblers** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

First **Grasshopper Warbler** reported today, on the canal bank beyond the Riverside Garage, Lochgilphead. Lots of **Common Chiffchaffs** and **Willow Warblers** singing nearby (Colin MacFarlane).

A glorious day at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre: birds included a **Whimbrel** on the point all morning, 15 **Sandwich Terns** loitering and 18 **White Wagtails** flying N (Eddie Maguire).

Finally heard first **Common Cuckoo** at Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll this morning (Paul Daw). They seem to be arriving in numbers now.

A male **Common Redstart** and a **Tree Pipit** reported at Taynish NNR, Mid-Argyll today (Stan Philips per Colin MacFarlane).

**19 April:** Three **White-tailed Eagles** over Loch Leathan, Mid-Argyll today (1 adult and 2 immatures) - like vultures circling overhead! (John Halliday).

First **Common Cuckoo** heard at Tayvallich, Mid-Argyll this afternoon - calling from south of Carsaig Bay (Lottie Goodlet). Lottie has been monitoring a pair of **Whooper Swans** on a small loch south of Tayvallich. Until last Friday there were two of them but since then only one.

Pleased to hear his first **Common Cuckoo** this evening at 19:45 on Ardmarnoch Estate, Cowal (Dave Warden).

A male **Hen Harrier** seen crossing low over main road (A816) about 1km south of the Moleigh Dump entrance near Oban at 18:45 hrs this evening (John Sedgwick).

On Tìree today: an adult **White-tailed Eagle** circling over Balinoe; 28 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch a' Phuill; 2 **Goldcrests**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, a male **Blackcap** and a **Willow Warbler** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**18 April:** More **Whimbrels** at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, with 20 flying S this morning (wind - NW f5). Also 3 **Bar-tailed Godwits** flying S (Eddie Maguire/Iomhar McMillan).

On Tìree today: 5,500 **Golden Plover** at The Reef - highest count so far this spring; 45 **Sand**



**Martins** and a single **Barn Swallow** at Loch an Eilein; a male **Blackcap** and a male **Merlin** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**17 April:** First **Wood Warbler** heard singing today; in Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll (Blair Urquhart).

12 **Whimbrel** flying south at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today were the first recorded there this spring - also the first for Argyll (Eddie Maguire).

In the Tullochgorm, Minard area of Mid-Argyll at 08:30 this morning: 5 **Willow Warblers** and two **Tree Pipits** singing and 5 **Jays** seen together (Paul Daw).



**Whimbrel** – MSBO, Kintyre 17 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

**Osprey** seen fishing in West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre today (Colin MacFarlane).

On Tiree today: the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** again at Crossapol Point; 50 **Redwings** at Balephuill (John Bowler) Also 3 **Whimbrel** at Milton - the first of the spring on Tiree (Martin Finnigan per John Bowler).

**16 April:** The first **Corn Crake** was reported at Friesland, Coll today (Ben Jones per John Bowler).

Spring arrivals at Taynish NNR today included: one **Blackcap**, 6 **Common Redstarts** and 2 **Tree Pipits** (John Halliday).

This morning a **Common Cuckoo** was calling at Durran, Loch Awe, Mid-Argyll, where 3 **Mandarin Ducks** have been visiting bird feeders regularly (Mary Stewart).

Female **Pied Wagtail** with a beak full of nesting material in the garden at Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll this morning (Paul Daw).

Nine **Red Knot** were on the beach at Otter Ferry, Cowal this morning (Tom Callan).

On Tiree: 2 **Goldcrests**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** and 2 **Greenfinches** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**15 April:** A single **Barn Swallow**, several **Willow Warblers** and a male **Northern Wheatear** in Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll today. Also, 2 **Common Cuckoos** and several **Willow Warblers** nearby, in Rhudle Glen (Blair Urquhart).

A **Blackcap** was singing at Arduaine Gardens, Mid-Argyll today and a drake **Mandarin Duck** on (nr. Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll (John Halliday).

A **Blackcap** also singing at Kilmory (Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll (Malcolm Chattwood).

A **Greater Scaup** was reported at Glenfinnart, nr, Ardentinn, Cowal at noon today (Gerry McGinty).

On Tiree: a **Common Redpoll** newly arrived at Balephuill today; 2 **Goldcrests** and 2 **Common**

**Chiffchaffs** also there. And at Happy Valley, Hynish this morning a **Lapland Bunting** with 70 **Meadow Pipits** (John Bowler).



**Common Redpoll** – Balephuill, Tiree 15 Apr (John Bowler).

**14 April:** Eight **Barn Swallows** in flight together out of the back window at Bridgend at 18:50. As Malcolm says – “summer’s here - just seen the weather forecast, snow tomorrow up north!” (Malcolm Chattwood).

Another **Common Cuckoo** was seen at Duart, Mull this afternoon (Debby Thorne per Alan Spellman).

A first of the year **Common Sandpiper** at Otter Ferry, Cowal today (Tom Callan).

A **Common Cuckoo** was heard near Lochan Add (Kilmichael Glen), Mid-Argyll today, probably the earliest ever here says John (John Halliday).

Four **Common Chiffchaffs** and 9 **Willow Warblers** singing in Kilmory Woods (behind council offices in Lochgilphead) and a male **Northern Wheatear** at Bridgend, Mid-Argyll (Blair Urquhart).

On Tiree: a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** and a Greenshank at Loch a’ Phuill; 3 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein and a **Wood Pigeon**, 2 **Goldcrests**, a male **Blackcap**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** and 2 **Goldfinches** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

Two **House Martins** seen at Killiemore House, Kilfinichen, Mull today (Paul Thomas per Alan Spellman).

**13 April:** 13 April: **First Cuckoo of spring.** A **Common Cuckoo** was calling at Kilmartin, Mid-Argyll this evening, where a Blackbird was collecting food for young - the first evidence of hatching David’s seen so far. (David Jardine).

Two **Common Chiffchaffs** and a **Tawny Owl** at Daltote (nr Achnamara), Mid-Argyll today and a male **Northern Wheatear** at Lochgilphead Joint Campus (Blair Urquhart).

Two **Sandwich Terns** and a **Greenshank** at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today. Also, 2nd winter **Iceland Gull** at head of Loch Fyne and the 1st winter **Glaucous Gull** still at the head of Loch Long (Jim Dickson).

At Balephuill, Tiree today: a **Collared Dove**, 2 **Goldcrests**, a male **Blackcap** and 2 **Greenfinches** but no further sign of the Great Tit (John Bowler).



**Blackcap** – Balephuul, Tiree 13 Apr (John Bowler).



**Collared Dove** – Balephuul, Tiree 13 Apr (John Bowler).



**Goldcrest** – Balephuul, Tiree 13 Apr (John Bowler).





**Greenfinch** – Balephuill, Tìree 13 Apr (John Bowler).

**12 April:** A **Wood Pigeon** was newly arrived, in the drizzle, at Balephuill, Tìree today where it joined the Great Tit (both are scarce species on Tìree). And the second calendar year **Kumlien's Gull** was near Loch an Eilein again this morning (John Bowler). On Islay today, a **House Martin** was at a pool at head of Loch Indaal and a **Cackling Goose** with Barnacle Geese N or Port Ellen (Bob Swann per Ian Brooke).



**Wood Pigeon** - Balephuill, Tìree 12 Apr (John Bowler).

**11 April:** A single **Barn Swallow** at the hump-backed bridge at Bridgend nr. Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll this morning (Blair Urquhart). On Tìree today: a **Great Tit** at Balephuill this afternoon was a big surprise: also there were 2 **Goldcrests**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** and 2 **Goldfinches**. A second calendar year **Kumlien's Gull** in the gull roost at Loch an Eilein has been on Tìree since mid-January. Elsewhere on Tìree: 2 **Canada Geese**, 2 **Gadwall** and 6 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch a' Phuill, **Lesser Redpoll** flying north over Ceann a' Mhara at 07:00 during the **Black Guillemot** survey (25 birds present). Scattered **Northern Wheatears** and **Linnets** around the island, plus around 5,000 **Golden Plovers** and several **Sand Martins** now on the lochs. Just one **Barnacle Goose** remaining at Balephetrish but still scattered flocks of **Greenland White-fronts** about and small numbers of **Manx Shearwaters** offshore (West Hynish and Gunna Sound) (John Bowler).



**Great Tit** – Balephuill, Tiree 11 Apr (John Bowler).



**Kumlien's Gull** (centre) - Loch an Eilein, Tiree 11 Apr (John Bowler).

**10 April:** An obvious arrival of migrants on Tiree today included: a female **Blackcap**, a male **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** and 2 **Northern Wheatears** at Balephuill, together with 12 **Redwings**, a **Dunnoek** and 2 **Goldcrests** there. Elsewhere on Tiree: a **Willow Warbler** at Meningie; 3 male **Goldeneyes** and 35 **Wigeon** at Loch a' Phuill; 2 **Northern Wheatears** and 2 **Canada Geese** at West Hynish and 22 **Barnacle Geese** flying N at Sorobaidh Bay at 08:30hrs (John Bowler).



**Redwing** - Balephuill, Tiree 10 April (John Bowler).



**Northern Wheatear** - Balephuill, Tiree 10 April (John Bowler).



**Blackcap** - Balephuill, Tiree 10 April (John Bowler).



**Willow Warbler** - Balephuill, Tiree 10 April (John Bowler).

During a WeBS Count at Loch Creran, North Argyll today, 3 **Red-throated Divers** were out on the loch calling and 2 **Greenshanks** at the head of the loch. Also a **Common Chiffchaff** heard singing at South Shian (Robin Harvey).

Several **Willow Warblers** at Taynish today: also of interest 15 **Greenland White fronted Geese** and a single **Redwing** - a first for the CBC plot! (John Halliday).

An **Osprey** was seen at Holy Loch, Cowal at 12:15 today. It dived successfully, coming up



with a mackerel, approx 25 cm. It was harassed for a moment by a gull but did not lose its catch, settled with the fish held as torpedo and flew north westward to hillside forest (Geoff Evans).

Found during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll today were single **Red-throated Diver** and **Great Northern Diver** (in partial breeding plumage) – both located initially by Morag Rea. Also a flock of at least 200-250 geese flying over Danna Island – too far away to identify but at this time of the year possibly Pink-footed Goose? - and 5 **Sand Martins** at Achnamara (Paul Daw).

**09 April:** This **Common Scoter** was seen twice in the harbour at Bowmore, Islay (George Newall).



**Common Scoter** - Bowmore, Islay 09 Apr (George Newall).

At 17:00 today: a solitary **Barn Swallow** at Dail, Glen Etive, North Argyll and an hour later, at 18:00, a solitary **House Martin**, both moving NE towards the head of the glen (John Sedgwick).

On Tiree today: 4 **Northern Wheatears** at Ceann a' Mhara; 6 **Sand Martins** at Loch a' Phuill and a **Common Chiffchaff** and 10 **Redwings** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

First **Willow Warbler** at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll heard this morning (Stuart Crutchfield) and on Mull, a **Willow Warbler** was heard in scrub next to the path between Garmony and Fishnish this afternoon (Juliet Vines per Alan Spellman).

An **Osprey** was at Carradale Bay, Kintyre this morning (Alasdair Paterson).

Highlights of the Loch Crinan/Add Estuary WeBS count at this morning were 7 **Whooper Swans** and 2 **Pink-footed Geese**. Also single **Common Chiffchaffs** singing at Bellanoch and Kilmartin, Mid-Argyll, a pair of **Yellowhammers** near Kilmartin gravel pits and small numbers of **Sand Martins** around (Jim Dickson).

**08 April:** This **Nuthatch** was photographed feeding at a bird table in garden at The Old Smiddy, Toward, Cowal today (Jan Ferguson).



**Nuthatch** - Toward, Cowal 08 Apr (Mr. Ferguson)

On Tiree today: 6 **Linnets** at Balephuill as well as 2 **Goldcrests**, a **Common Chiffchaff** and 2 **Goldfinches**; 2 **Linnets** at Mannal and 2 more at The Reef; 6 **Sand Martins** at Loch an Eilein and 425 **Sanderling**, 8 **Purple Sandpipers**, 230 **Turnstones** and 95 **Black-headed Gulls** at Balephetrish Bay (John Bowler).



**Linnets** – Balephuill, Tiree 08 Apr (John Bowler).



**Linnets** – Balephuill, Tiree 08 Apr (John Bowler).

An adult **White-tailed Eagle**, being mobbed by gulls, was on the shore by Putechan, nr Bellochantuy, Kintyre today (Davie Robertson / Michael Sim per Eddie Maguire).

A **Sparrowhawk** was photographed eating a Starling at MSBO (that's not lipstick its wearing) and 2 **Magpies** were seen again in Campbeltown (per John Martin) (Eddie Maguire).



**Sparrowhawk** – MSBO , Kintyre 08 Apr (Eddie Maguire).

**07 April:** Two more migrants north of Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll today: a **Common Chiffchaff** in Rhudle Glen and a **Northern Wheatear** in Kilmichael Glen (Blair Urquhart). Also a 100% convincing report of a **Magpie** watched feeding and then flying across the road at Croche in East Tiree last Wednesday (30 March) seen by Mark and Jo Vale (per John Bowler). John says “Mull seems like a reasonable set off point for the Tiree Magpie. I guess it's even possible it could have hitched a ride on a boat from there. It would have found more suitable habitat had it gone to Coll. Will see if I can relocate it this weekend”. The only other Tiree Magpie record was one seen in January 1986 (see *Magpies in Argyll* under the Publications tab). **NB.** We’ve since heard that **two Magpies** were seen near Scarinish, Tiree on 02 April (John Hughes).

A **Magpie** was also seen on the track to Carradale Bay, Kintyre today (James Mckinven).

A first-winter **Iceland Gull** this evening by the A83 at Kilmichael (nr. Campbeltown), Kintyre and a **Willow Warbler** at Barr Glen, Kintyre (Angus Murray).

A 10min watch at Westport Marsh, nr. Campbeltown, Kintyre revealed that **Shoveler** numbers had increased to 6 (3 pairs): however, there appears to have been a major decrease in numbers of **Little Grebes** (from 6 to 3) and **Moorhens** (from 7 to 1) in just a few days (Eddie Maguire).

Flock of 45 **Meadow Pipits** on the shinty pitch at Lochgilphead High school, Mid-Argyll this afternoon (Jim Dickson).

**Common Chiffchaff** singing today in the garden, Bullwood Road between Dunoon and Innellan, Cowal. Small group (10 max) of **Northern Gannets** passing through again today – flocks of up to ca 70 over the last 2 weeks (Cherry Cook).

The flock of about 60 **Redwings** first seen in Connel, Mid-Argyll, on 30 March was feeding on rough pasture today close to where the birds were seen last time. A **Lesser Back-backed Gull** seen on Loch Etive today is the of the spring in this area (Mike Harrison).

On Tiree today: one **Great Skua** at Loch a’ Phuill and a **Common Chiffchaff** at Main Road Farm, Balephuill (John Bowler).

**06 April:** A **Common Chiffchaff** and 20 Redwings at Balephuill, Tiree today (John Bowler) and four **Greenshanks** were at Holy Loch (Nigel Scriven).

No spring migrants seen at Carradale, Kintyre yet but a second winter **Iceland Gull** at Portrigh Bay this morning, and a pair of **Stonechats**. Peak numbers so far this year



of **Goldfinches** (17) and **Siskins** (22) at our niger seed feeders today (Alasdair Paterson). A 6hr sea-watch at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre in a NW F6 / squalls: species flying S included a drake **Tufted Duck**, 33 **Northern Gannets**, 2 **Northern Fulmar** (normally scarce here), an immature **Red-throated Diver**, 30 **Ringed Plover**, 7 **Purple Sandpipers**, 3 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** and a first-winter **Iceland Gull**.



**Iceland Gull** – MSBO, Kintyre 06 April (Eddie Maguire).



**Fulmar** – MSBO, Kintyre 06 April (Eddie Maguire).



**Northern Gannet** – MSBO, Kintyre 06 April (Eddie Maguire).



**Iceland Gull** – MSBO, Kintyre 06 April (Eddie Maguire).

**05 April:** At Ardtur, North Argyll a pair of **Gadwall** and **Sand Martin**, also a **Common Chiffchaff** near Oban, Mid-Argyll (David Jardine).

**04 April:** In Dunoon this morning, 30 **Purple Sandpipers** were at the Crazy Golf and at least 4 **Lesser Redpolls** on the niger feeders in George's garden (George Newall).  
Three **Barn Swallows** at the Caravan site, Carsaig Bay (Tayvallich), Mid-Argyll today (Dougie Menzies -Bute).

**03 April:** A single **Barn Swallow** was seen at Tiretigan, south of Kilberry (Knapdale), Mid-Argyll this lunch-time (Errol Crutchfield).

During a sea-watch at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre there was a light passage of **Barn Swallows** going N over the sea with 12 singles / 6hrs. Also logged were a **Grey Plover** flying north, and a **White Wagtail** and 2 **Northern Wheatears** on the shore (Eddie Maguire / Iomhar McMillan).

**Sand Martins** were flying over the lochan at Suidhe Farm, Buessan, Mull and **Barn Swallows** were also present at Buessan (Tony Jeffree per Alan Spellman).

**Common Chiffchaffs** were singing this morning at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll (Stuart Crutchfield) and near Minard Castle and at Tullochgorm, Mid-Argyll (Paul Daw).

Most of the **Argyll WeBS Counts** for March 2016 are now in and have been added to the website. **The full tables of counts for March 2016 can be found under the WeBS Count tab.**

**02 April:** Highlights from the Argyll Bird Club field trip to the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre, enjoyed both fine weather and fine birds today. Three **Sandwich Terns** at Ronachan Point were the first of three summer migrant species, followed by five **Sand Martins** at West Coast Salmon and two **Northern Wheatears** at Tayinloan ferry pier. Winter visitors were still present, of course, with good numbers of **Great Northern** and **Black-throated Divers**, a single **Red-throated Diver**, three **Slavonian Grebes**, about eight **Long-tailed Duck**, and good numbers of **Common Scoter**. A low flying **Merlin** was seen at West Coast Salmon by two members who arrived earlier. The birds were less spectacular onshore but included two **Bar-tailed Godwits** and two **Redshank** at Tayinloan and a pair of **Bullfinches** and a **Treecreeper** on Gigha prospecting what looked like a suitable crack in a tree for a nesting site. A full report will appear in the next edition of The Eider (Malcolm Chattwood/Mike Harrison).

Westport Marsh, nr. Campbeltown, Kintyre was bustling with wetland species today, including: 18 **Greylag Geese**, 11 **Greater Canada Geese**, 4 **Shoveler** (2 pairs), 140 **Teal**, 125 **Wigeon**, 2 **Mallard** (drakes), 7 **Little Grebes** (continuous display), 6 **Moorhens**, 12 **Lapwings** (many displaying) and 16 **Curlews** (Eddie Maguire).

A **Common Chiffchaff** was singing in Dunoon this morning and then one seen this afternoon (George Newall) and another **Common Chiffchaff** was singing in the garden Pennyghael, Mull this evening (Bryan Rains per Alan Spellman).

Single **Barn Swallow** at the Caravan site, Carsaig Bay (Tayvallich), Mid-Argyll today (Dougie Menzies - Bute).

**01 April:** Miserable day with small group (maybe 30+) of **Kittiwakes** blown into Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning and small numbers of **Gannets** seen from Ardrishaig out in Loch Fyne. In the garden at Cairnbaan a female **Brambling**, 6 **Siskins**, 4 **Greenfinches**, 35 **Chaffinches** and a pair of **Bullfinches** (Jim Dickson).

After the flock of about 60 **Redwings** near Connel, Mid-Argyll, on Wednesday one turned up in the garden this morning (Mike Harrison).



**Redwing** - Connel, Mid-Argyll 01 Apr (Mike Harrison).