

RECENT REPORTS April - June 2015

RECENT REPORTS June 2015

30 June: A striking adult **Mediterranean Gull** flew S past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre early this afternoon. First ever June record at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory (Eddie Maguire).



Mediterranean Gull – MSBO, Kintyre 30 Jun (Eddie Maguire).

Proud parents, picture taken today. It seems Oronsay has a small colony of **Great Skuas** forming, with two pairs and a single bird, all seen flying around the area. (Mike Peacock).



Great Skuas at nest – Oronsay, Colonsay 30 Jun (Mike Peacock).

29 June: The **Gadwall** pair on Oronsay still with a brood of 10 today (Mike Peacock). After last year's first breeding attempt, a pair of **Great Skuas** have hatched one chick so far, second pair are on territory in the same area on Oronsay (Mike Peacock).



Gadwall brood – Oronsay, Colonsay 29 Jun (Mike Peacock).



Great Skua nestling – Oronsay, Colonsay 30 Jun (Mike Peacock).

A single **Eurasian Treecreeper** was a surprise at Balephuill, Tiree today, feeding on the walls of an old barn – found by a visiting birder. The **Common Quail** is still at Balephuill and 13 **Tufted Ducks** were at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler). There are only three previous records of Eurasian Treecreeper on Tiree.

A **Great Northern Diver** in breeding plumage was in Tobermory Bay, Mull today and two adult **White-tailed Eagles** were picking up offal and discards behind a fishing boat in the bay (Bob Furness).

28 June: An adult **Greenshank** was at Strath Farm pool, The Laggan nr Campbeltown this morning. Eddie reports that **Common Eider** productivity at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory so far this year has been the lowest ever recorded. Following last year's total of just 25 ducklings in May – June, up to now only three broods (of 1, 2 and 5) have been seen this year. It may possibly be that broods are late owing to the very cold late spring but it will be interesting to see what the situation is at other sites in Argyll (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today, the **Common Quail** was still calling at Balephuill, the 2CY **Iceland Gull** was at West Hynish, the 2CY **Glaucous Gull** at Traigh Bhi and 3 **Sanderling** were at Traigh nan Gilean (John Bowler)

27 June: This unusual sighting, by the main road south of Fort William, had the observer's heart racing for a while...



Almost a Black Woodpecker!... 27 Jun (Cyril Bonnett).

On Tiree today, 2 **House Martins**, a **Goldfinch** and a **Common Redpoll** were at Balephuill and a lone **Barnacle Goose** at Gott Bay (John Bowler).

26 June: An impressive nest site for this **Oystercatcher** near Quarry Point, Crarae, Mid-Argyll. As Davie says, a big nest for 3 eggs!



Oystercatcher nest – Crarae, Mid-Argyll 26 Jun (Davie Rutherford).



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25 June: David Jardine has just heard from Ian M Spence, Bird Recorder for Vice Counties Denbighshire and Flintshire, that two colour ringed **Twite** he saw on Luing, Mid-Argyll on 20 June were ringed at Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire on 18 March this year. Ian tells us there are now several links between the birds wintering on the Dee and Scotland (incl. Machrihanish Seabird Observatory).

24 June: A **Great White Egret** was reported at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, Islay today (Louise Muir per Jim Dickson).

On Tiree, a breeding plumage **Black-throated Diver** was at Gott Bay together with a single **Barnacle Goose**, 12 **Little Terns**, a **Sandwich Tern**, a **Common Tern** and 15 **Arctic Terns** (John Bowler).

A female **Long-tailed Duck** was on Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll, opposite the school, this afternoon (Oliver Metcalf). Also on Loch Gilp, a **Black-throated Diver** in breeding plumage was off Ardrishaig (Jim Dickson).

23 June: There was a report from un-named visitors of three **European Bee-eaters** today; in the Port Charlotte area of Islay. If anyone has information to confirm this please contact Jim Dickson. No-one else has been able to locate them so far... (Ian Brooke per Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today, the **Common Quail** was heard again at Balephuill, 3 **Whimbrel** were at Baugh and 2 **Sandwich Terns** off Traigh Bhagh. And in flat calm seas, an **Orca**, 2 **Minke Whales**, 12 **Common Dolphins** and 5 **Porpoises** were visible off Crossapol (John Bowler).

22 June: On Tiree today, the **Common Quail** was still calling intermittently at Balephuill (John Bowler) and the 2CY **Iceland Gull** and 2CY **Glaucous Gull** were at Traigh Bhi (Graham Todd).

21 June: A single **Whimbrel** was at Hynish, Tiree today (John Bowler).

20 June: The **Common Quail** was still calling at Balephuill, Tiree today. A **Great Northern Diver**, **Great Skua**, 155 **Kittiwakes** and a 2nd calendar year **Little Gull** were at Loch a' Phuill and the 2CY **Iceland Gull** and 2CY **Glaucous Gull** were on Loch a' Phuill machair (John Bowler).

19 June: On Tiree today, the **Common Quail** was still calling intermittently at Balephuill, the 2CY **Glaucous Gull** was again at Traigh Bhi and 3 **Whimbrel** were at Clachan (John Bowler). A **Spotted Flycatcher** and a **Common Chiffchaff** were in the gorse at Barrapol (Geoff Carr).

18 June: A **Common Quail** was heard calling on Iona, Mull today. It was in the field behind the Corncrake information board on the hill from Sligneath (Dave Wilson).

We've just received a couple of Keith Gillon's photos of the adult **Cedar Waxwing** that was present very briefly at Scarinish, Tiree on 10 June. It was not seen subsequently: what it is to be in the right place at the right time! Many thanks to Keith for the photos.



Cedar Waxwing – Scarinish, Tiree 10 Jun (Keith Gillon).



Cedar Waxwing – Scarinish, Tiree 10 Jun (Keith Gillon).

17 June: This **Long-eared Owl** was found and photographed yesterday by Ann McGregor on the Isle of Kerrera, Mid-Argyll.



Long-eared Owl – Isle of Kerrera, Mid-Argyll 16 Jun (Ann McGregor).

On Tiree, the **Common Quail** calling again at Balephuill, Tiree from late morning, the 2nd calendar year at **Glaucous Gull** seen again west of Loch a' Phuill and the breeding plumaged **Great Northern Diver** was on the loch there (Toby Green per John Bowler). A 2nd calendar year **Iceland Gull** was on the Traigh Bhi machair with the 2CY **Glaucous Gull** again nearby this pm (John Bowler).

16 June: A **Common Quail** was calling at Balephuill, Tiree at midday. A stranded dead cetacean found at Balephetrish Bay yesterday was eventually identified as an aborted Long-finned Pilot Whale baby, perhaps linked to the recent mass stranding event on Skye (it only measured 0.73m long, cf a typical new-born length of 1.8m) (John Bowler).

Two or three **Tree Pipits** present near Garvalt, Glenbarr, Kintyre today, one singing. Steve & Sue haven't knowingly seen one in South Kintyre before (Steve & Sue Walker).

Four **Greater Canada Geese** with 7 young swimming in Holy Loch this afternoon. George usually sees a few adults in winter but hasn't seen family groups before (George Newall).

15 June: Today on Tiree: a single **Barnacle Goose** and 24 **Sanderling** at Gott Bay, a **Greenfinch** at the Glebe and a breeding plumage **Great Northern Diver** at Loch a' Phuill (also seen there by Keith Gillon on 13th) (John Bowler).

This beautiful, almost pure white, 2nd calendar year **Iceland Gull** photographed on Iona, Mull today had the observers thinking excitedly of Ivory Gull at first! (Vic & Rachel Theaker).



2nd calendar year Iceland Gull – Iona, Mull (Rachel Theaker).



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14 June: On Tiree today: a **Curlew Sandpiper** on a pool near Heylipol Church, a 2nd calendar year **Glaucous Gull** at Traigh Bhi and a 2nd calendar year **Iceland Gull** at Loch a' Phuill. Also a male **Common Cuckoo**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and 2 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill (John Bowler).



Curlew Sandpiper (left) Heylipol Church, Tiree 14 Jun (John Bowler).

13 June: A **Little Egret** was seen at Kennacraig, Kintyre today (Allan Hall).
A male **Common Rosefinch** was seen at feeders in garden at Ach nabreck (nr Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll this morning (Adrian Ward per John Halliday).
And at least 8 **Common Swifts** were over High Street, Oban this evening (Mike Anderson).

12 June: On Tiree today: a 2nd calendar year **Iceland Gull** and a 2nd calendar year **Glaucous Gull** on machair west of Loch a' Phuill and the **Common Quail** was still calling at Hynish (Keith Gillon). Also a **House Martin** and 2 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

11 June: A striking **leucistic juvenile Common Starling** was seen near the Crinan Ferry road, Moine Mhor this morning (Jim Dickson).



leucistic juvenile Common Starling – Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 11 Jun (Jim Dickson).



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leucistic juvenile Common Starling – Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll 11 Jun (Jim Dickson).

Sadly no further sign of the Cedar Waxwing on Tiree today: Keith Gillon's photos confirm it was an adult.

A **Common Quail** was calling at Hynish, Tiree today and a single **Spotted Flycatcher** was there (Keith Gillon). 12 **Common Swifts**, a **House Martin** and 2 **Common Redpolls** were at

Balephuill. The drake **Garganey** was seen again at Kilmoluaig and the first **Marsh Fritillaries** were on the wing this afternoon (John Bowler).



drake Garganey – Kilmoluaig, Tiree 11 Jun (John Bowler).



Marsh Fritillary – Tiree 11 Jun (John Bowler).

10 June: An adult **Cedar Waxwing** was seen briefly at Scarinish, Tiree this morning: found and photographed by Keith Gillon at around 09:00 but not seen since despite much searching. Also on Tiree, a **Canada Goose** at Moss and a **Common Cuckoo** and **Spotted Flycatcher** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

A **Little Egret** was seen at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre late this morning (Valerie Wells).

A rather shabby looking **Magpie** appeared in a garden E of Campbeltown at about 15:30 this afternoon. It checked the bird table before flying off in a westerly direction (Steve & Sue Walker).

09 June: On Tiree today: a pair of **Garganey** briefly at Kilmoluaig and single **Garden Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and male **Greenfinch** at The Glebe (Keith Gillon per John Bowler).

Also a 2nd calendar year **Iceland Gull** at Balinoe, a **Wood Pigeon** and **Sandwich Tern** Crossapol, a **Golden Plover** at The Reef, a **Spotted Flycatcher** at An Airidh, Cornaigmore and 58 **Sanderling** and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Gott Bay (John Bowler).

Six **Common Swifts** circled over Benderloch, North Argyll briefly this evening (Robin Harvey) and two were seen a Kilmartin, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

08 June: A single **Common Swift** was seen near Park Road, Dunoon today (Andrew Webster). The first-summer **Caspian Gull** put in an appearance at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll again (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today: a **Common Cuckoo** and 3 **Spotted Flycatchers** at Carnan Mor (John Bowler). A male **Muscovy Duck** was seen from Furnace swimming at speed down Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll Yesterday early this morning (Roddy MacLeod). While the species is frequently kept domestically there are feral populations in some parts of Britain.

07 June: At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today: a **Black-throated Diver** in non-breeding plumage in early morning, an **Osprey** flying north high over the Observatory late morning, three **Turnstones** all day and a dark adult **Arctic Skua** all afternoon (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today: 120 **Sanderling** at Greenhill and single **Common Cuckoo**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Common Chiffchaff** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

Black Grouse were calling from the hills above Birdfield (Minard), Mid-Argyll early this morning (Paul Daw).

06 June: During a 7hr sea-watch (from 08:00hrs) at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today, the first **Storm Petrels** of the year appeared early afternoon, with 6 >S / 1.5hrs during a period of poor visibility. Also an interesting large auk movement S, with 740 **Common Guillemots** but only 35 **Razorbills** logged during this period (Eddie Maguire). The 'record shot' photo is of interest for a species not often seen from the shore.



European Storm-petrel – MSBO, Kintyre 06 Jun (Eddie Maguire).

An adult **Greenshank** was at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).

05 June: Mike Peacock got these fascinating photos of a pair of **Corn Crakes** displaying (showing red on the wings) then mating. Taken from the kitchen on Oronsay late this evening, when it was almost dark! (Mike Peacock).



Corn Crane – Oronsay, Colonsay 05 Jun (Mike Peacock).



Corn Cranes – Oronsay, Colonsay 05 Jun (Mike Peacock).

On Tiree today, a drake **Greater Scaup** at Loch a' Phuill, a **Spotted Flycatcher** at Balephuill and a **Garden Warbler**, **Common Chiffchaff** and female **Blackcap** at Carnan Mor (John Bowler).



Greater Scaup – Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 05 Jun (John Bowler).



Spotted Flycatcher – Balephuill, Tiree 05 Jun (John Bowler).

04 June: David Sexton (RSPB Mull Officer) had a nice surprise when he looked out of his office window at Salen, Mull this morning. A male **Hawfinch**, in bright breeding colours was on the lawn before flying off into the trees.

More late **Sanderling**; approximately 40 were feeding on the tide line on Oronsay, Colonsay today (Luke Wake).

Four **Common Cuckoos**, one possibly laying, at Craigendive, Loch Striven, Cowal this evening as well as several **Common Stonechats**, a **Whinchat** and a **Reed Bunting** (George Newall).

On Tiree today, a male **Blackcap** at Balephuill and a **Great Skua** at Loch a' Phuill, with 220 **Sand Martins** and 60 **Barn Swallows** also there in the drizzle (John Bowler).

This **Whooper Swan** was sitting in the marsh near Ulva Lagoon (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).



Whooper Swan – Ulva Lagoon (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll 04 Jun (Jim Dickson).

03 June: Four **Common Swifts** at Ballymeanoch (between Bridgend and Kilmartin this morning) (Jim Dickson).

A late **Whooper Swan** was at Barrahormid (Linne Mhuirich – Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll today (Jon Close).

A male **Common Redstart** was seen close to, by the pond at Achamore Gardens, Gigha (Colin & Gillian McCormack per Eddie Maguire).

02 June: Waders still struggling to move north included 3 **Sanderling** at Loch Gilp this morning (Jim Dickson) and two **Sanderling** on the beach at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll (unusual here) this evening (Stuart Crutchfield). Also three **Common Swifts** over the Meadows near the Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll turn-off this afternoon (Stuart Crutchfield). Meanwhile at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today an **Arctic Skua** (dark adult) was present all day, mainly targeting the **Sandwich Terns** (20+ present). Also a drake **Tufted Duck** flying south early afternoon (a very scarce passage visitor here). And in Campbeltown, roof nesting **Herring Gulls** were busy: three nests with incubating adults included one in Davaar Avenue and two in Albyn Avenue (Eddie Maguire).



Tufted Duck – MSBO, Kintyre 02 Jun (Eddie Maguire).



Arctic Skua pursuing Sandwich Tern – MSBO, Kintyre 02 Jun (Eddie Maguire).



Nesting Herring Gull – Campbeltown, Kintyre 02 Jun (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today: an adult **Sabine's Gull** briefly at the north end of Loch a' Phuill this afternoon (again with Black-headed Gulls) before heading west toward Sandaig and a **Common Redpoll** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

01 June: A sea-watch from Hynish, Tiree in SSE7 after the front had cleared 6-7pm produced (all heading SW): one **Great Northern Diver**, 166 **Fulmars**, 2,650 **Manx Shearwaters**, three **European Storm-petrels**, 108 **Northern Gannets**, 124 **Kittiwakes**, 4 **Arctic Terns**, 410 large auks and 6 **Puffins**. Also, 65 **Sanderling** at Hynish and at Gott Bay, 76 **Sanderling**, a dead metal-ringed **Northern Gannet** and a dead Common Dolphin (John Bowler).

RECENT REPORTS May 2015

31 May: On Tiree today: a **Whimbrel** and a **Great Skua** at Barrapol, a male **Greenfinch** and a female **Hen Harrier** at Milton and the first **Starling** fledglings at Balephuill (John Bowler).

30 May: Two male **Gadwall** at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree today (John Bowler).

Fewer mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts** are carried out at this time of the year, partly due to other survey commitments. Not to mention the recent unseasonable weather conditions! However notable sightings for those who did brave the weather included: 10 **Common Shelducks** and 28 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Loch Craignish (Mid-Argyll), 3 **Eurasian Wigeon** and 3 **Goosanders** and 4 **Common Sandpipers** at Loch Tulla (North Argyll), 12 **Ringed Plovers** and 14 **Dunlin** at Dunstaffnage Bay (Mid-Argyll) and 40+ **Common Terns** and 17 **Black Guillemots** at Loch Creran (North Argyll).

The table of counts for May 2015 can be found under the WeBS Count tab.

29 May: At Loch Gilp this morning: the **Common Terns** have arrived, with 60+ at Duncuan Island. Also a **Little Tern** feeding at the head of Loch Gilp (unusual here), a **Black-throated Diver** off Ardrishaig and two **Common Swifts** over Loch Crinan area and one over Dalvore, Mid-Argyll. Still a combined flock of around 250 **Dunlin/Ringed Plover/Sanderling** at the Add Estuary (Jim Dickson).

At MSBO today birds flying south during a 7hr watch included: a **Pomarine Skua** (pale adult), a **Great Northern Diver** in breeding plumage, 400 auks (majority **Guillemots**), 170 **Kittiwakes** (majority first-winter) and ca 60 **Sand Martins** feeding over the shore - some resting on Observatory security guys!

At Strath Farm flood, The Laggan: a **Hybrid Barnacle X Canada Goose**, 3 **Greylag Geese**, a **Whooper Swan** and a pair of **Shelduck** with 13 ducklings! And a first-winter **Iceland Gull** was at Campbeltown (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today: a **Barnacle Goose** with a damaged wing, 215 **Dunlin**, 6 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 180 **Arctic Terns** were east of Salum. Also a **White Wagtail** near the Ringing Stone and a **Goldfinch** at Balephuill (John Bowler).



first-winter Iceland Gull – Campbeltown, Kintyre 29 May (Eddie Maguire).



Little Tern – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 29 May (Jim Dickson).



Sand Martin – MSBO, Kintyre 29 May (Eddie Maguire).

A **Wood Warbler** was singing and calling in the woods by Brainport Bay, Mid-Argyll this morning. Despite frequent visits, the first heard at this regular site this year - very late. And at least 4 **Common Sandpipers** were calling along the shore between Brainport Bay and Minard (Paul Daw).

28 May: A male **Garganey** was seen at the south end pools Oronsay, Colonsay today together with 2 pairs of **Shoveler** and a pair of **Gadwall** (Mike Peacock).

At Loch Gilp today: one **Whimbrel** and one **Bar-tailed Godwit**. Also, **Bullfinches** seen at four sites in Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson). Co-incidentally Davie Rutherford also commented on the number of **Bullfinches** he'd seen in Lochgilphead/Minard area that day.

Five **Bar-tailed Godwit** were at Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree (John Bowler).

27 May: On Tiree today: an adult **Sabine's Gull** at the east end of Gott Bay (perhaps the same as one reported from Salum Bay on 23 May), 5 **Tree Sparrows** (still) and a Goldfinch at Balephuill and 10 **Tree Sparrows** at Milton (since 24 May). They've not had such high numbers of **Tree Sparrows** on Tiree since the end of the 19th century! (John Bowler).

A **Short-eared Owl** was seen over the high moorland between Kennacraig and Claonaig, Kintyre today (Alasdair Paterson).

Jim checked out the report of a possible singing **Greenish Warbler** at Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll today. It turned out to be a **Willow Warbler**, probably of the pale N Fenno-Scandian race *acredula*. The white throat, lack of yellow on the underparts and stunted song (less melodic than usual for Willow Warbler) all fit *acredula*. A single **Moorhen** was also there (Jim Dickson).



Moorhen – Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll 27 May (Jim Dickson).



Sabine's Gull – Gott bay, Tiree 27 May (John Bowler).



acredula type Willow Warbler – Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll 27 May (Jim Dickson).

26 May: Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** on a flood pool on The Laggan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre were a very unexpected find this morning by Eddie Maguire. They look like two males: one is slightly brighter than the other but not enough to make it a female (John Bowler agrees with this ID). Also 2 drake Shovelers nearby, on Westport marsh (Jim Dickson). This appears to be the first Argyll spring record away from Tiree, Islay and one on Mull in May 2011.



Red-necked Phalarope – The Laggan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre (Eddie Maguire).

The **Red-necked Phalaropes** photographed later by Jim Dickson:



Red-necked Phalaropes – The Laggan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre (Jim Dickson).



Red-necked Phalarope – The Laggan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre (Jim Dickson).



Red-necked Phalarope – The Laggan (nr Campbeltown), Kintyre (Jim Dickson).

A **Red Kite** was seen at West Hynish, Tiree today and a dead (2.0m) Risso's Dolphin was found west of Vaul (John Bowler).

25 May: This afternoon and early evening a further increase in small waders at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll achieved the highest numbers Jim had ever seen there: **795 in total** comprising 308 **Ringed Plover**, 25 **Sanderling** with 462 **Dunlin**. One of the Sanderlings was colour ringed: Left: (pale) green flag/ white/ blue, Right: metal above 'knee' blue/green.



Impressive wader assembly – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 25 May (Jim Dickson)



Impressive wader assembly – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 25 May (Jim Dickson)

At the Add Estuary this morning, a significant influx of small waders included: 139 **Ringed Plover**, 23 **Sanderling** and 296 **Dunlin** (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today: 5 **Wigeon** at Loch a' Phuill, a **Whimbrel** at Crossapol Point, 2 male **Common Chiffchaffs** at Balephuill, including a new metal-ringed bird and a **Red-throated Diver** flying north across the island in the mist (John Bowler).

A pair of **Greenfinches** at Hunters Quay (Dunoon), Cowal this evening with 3 recently fledged young (Callum Satchel).

24 May: Two **Pomarine Skuas** and 2 **Arctic Skuas** seen in waters off N Mull today (Ewan Miles per Alan Spellman).

Two **Canada Geese** at Milton, Tiree today (John Bowler).

Both **Common Shelduck** and **Common Eider** were seen with small ducklings at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).

23 May: A visit to Colonsay today found a female **Common Scoter** at Kiloran Bay and 2 **Sandwich Terns** seen from the ferry off Ardencaple, Seil, Mid-Argyll (David Jardine).

Four **Arctic Skuas** and a **Great Skua** were seen from the ferry just out of Port Ellen, Islay (Jane Ashall & Andrew Greenwood per Alan Spellman).

On Tiree today: 2 adult **White-tailed Eagles** at The Green (John Bowler), one **Greenland White-fronted Goose** at Balevullin and a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Barrapol (Jim Dickson).

A **Snow Bunting** was at Kilmoluaig, Tiree today (John Bowler).

Despite the often poor weather, Jim Dickson managed to capture these birds on camera during a week's visit to Tiree:



Sanderlings - Balephetrish Bay, Tiree 18 May (Jim Dickson).



Gadwall pair – Tiree 16 May (Jim Dickson).



Whooper Swans - Loch Bhasapol, Tiree 18 May (Jim Dickson).



Whimbrel – Caolas, Tiree 19 May (Jim Dickson).



Lapwing chick – Balevullin, Tiree 20 May (Jim Dickson).

22 May: An **Egyptian Goose** was found at The Laggan (nr Campbeltown) , Kintyre today. Although there have been past rumours of this species in Argyll this is the first confirmed record (Eddie Maguire).



Egyptian Goose – The Laggan, Kintyre 22 May (Eddie Maguire).



Egyptian Goose – The Laggan, Kintyre 22 May (Eddie Maguire).

Recent photos from Tiree taken by Jim Dickson:



Dunlin - Gott Bay, Tiree 22 May (Jim Dickson).



Arctic Tern – Tiree 22 May (Jim Dickson).



Common Sandpiper – Tiree 21 May (Jim Dickson).

An **Osprey** with a fish at Kennacraig, Kintyre was being mobbed by several Common Gulls and another **Osprey** was seen at Port Ellen, Islay (Alasdair Paterson).

21 May: One **Pomarine Skua** and a **Great Skua** seen off West Hynish, Tiree today (Jim Dickson).

Two **Arctic skuas** at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre (Alasdair Paterson).

20 May: A male **Pied Flycatcher** was seen flying west to east across the main road to Oban, just south of Kilninver, Mid-Argyll at around 10:40 today (Morag Rea). The first Pied Flycatcher reported so far this year.

At around 11:30 today, as the Cal-Mac ferry approaching Oban it disturbed a party of **Pomarine skuas**, which were resting on the sea about 5 miles off Oban. They milled around the ferry then flew close alongside giving superb close views then they moved off heading towards Loch Ness. Ken counted 17 of them plus a possible **Arctic Skua**. The Pomarine skuas were predominantly pale-phase and their twisted tail feathers were clearly visible. His wife, who was a couple of decks below him and on the other side of the ferry, also saw them (Ken Earnshaw).

Four **Long-tailed skuas** and a **Pomarine Skua** were in waters off N Mull (Ewan Miles per Alan Spellman).

Sixteen **Pomarine skuas** were seen from the Oban to Tiree ferry (Mark Finn et al per Alan Spellman).

19 May: Finally, a **Spotted Flycatcher** - one in the garden at Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll at 07:00 was the first seen locally. A pair of **Greater Canada Goose** in Brainport Bay had four very small goslings (Paul Daw).

A **Red-throated Diver** was seen during a WeBS Count at Loch Creran, North Argyll today and a **Spotted Flycatcher** at South Shian (Robin Harvey).

18 May: Today on Tiree, an adult **Long-tailed Skua**, loosely associating with **Arctic Terns**, headed west across Hynish Bay at 05:00. Also there this morning were 2 **Canada Geese**, a female **Ruff (Reeve)** and 2 **Black-tailed Godwits**. The five **Tree Sparrows** were still at Balephuil (John Bowler). Also, 3 **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Sorobaidh Bay (Jim Dickson). A **Pomarine Skua** and 2 **Arctic Skuas** were in waters off N Mull (Ewan Miles per Alan Spellman).

17 May: At Dunstaffnage Bay today: five very young **Common Eider** ducklings, 12 **Ringed Plovers**, 14 **Dunlin** and two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (unusual here) (Robin Harvey). Today at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre: at least 35 **Sandwich Terns** and ca 60 **Gannets** foraging: some very close to shore (Eddie Maguire).



Sandwich Tern – MSBO, Kintyre 17 May (Eddie Maguire).



Sandwich Tern – MSBO, Kintyre 17 May (Eddie Maguire).



Northern Gannet – MSBO, Kintyre 17 May (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today: 3 **Whimbrel** and a 2nd calendar year **Glaucous Gull** at Barrapol (John Bowler). Also, a **Common Cuckoo**, a **Common Whitethroat** and 5 **Tree Sparrows** at Balephuill and a **Greenland White-fronted Goose** (which flew off later) and a **Wood Pigeon** at Balevullin (Jim Dickson).

An early morning sea-watch for Skuas on Colonsay found just one **Arctic Skua**. There was a cold wind and most things were keeping their heads down (David Jardine)

16 May: On Colonsay: a **Common Coot** first found by Alan Davies on East Loch Fada was still present today (David Jardine).

Four adult **Pomarine Skuas** flew north off West Hynish, Tiree at 10:45 today. Also on Tiree, a **Whinchat** at Meningie and a female **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, male **Common Cuckoo**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** and a **Tree Sparrow** at Balephuill. And a female **Siskin** was at Balephuill and a female **Hen Harrier** and 2nd calendar year **Glaucous Gull** at Barrapol (John Bowler).



Siskin – Balephuill, Tiree 16 May (John Bowler).



2nd calendar year Glaucous Gull – Barrapol, Tiree (John Bowler).

The best sighting at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today involved 2 dark adult **Arctic Skuas** present in the area all day (Eddie Maguire).



Arctic Skua – MSBO, Kintyre 16 May (Eddie Maguire).

15 May: An elusive **Reed Warbler** was at Balephuill, Tiree in the rain this morning: among the irises with Sedge Warblers. Also there, a least one **Spotted Flycatcher** and 5 **Tree Sparrows**. And at Loch a' Phuill, a lone **Common Swift** with 80 **Sand Martins** (John Bowler). About 150 terns were present at the raft colony in Loch Creran, North Argyll this morning, predominantly **Common Terns** but with at least two **Arctic Terns**. The colony was put to flight by a **Peregrine Falcon** which landed on one of the breeding rafts before flying off, pursued by a screaming cloud of terns. About 20 **Black Guillemots** were on and around the rafts. A **Great Northern Diver** was seen in the Lyn of Lorn and another was in the Firth of Lorn near to Dunstaffnage Bay. Several groups of up to 20 mixed **Common Guillemots** and **Razorbills** were flying around in the same area (Mike Harrison).

14 May: On Tiree, four newly arrived **Spotted Flycatchers** were at Balephuill as well as a **Wood Pigeon**, **Common Cuckoo** and 4 **Tree Sparrows**. Also a **Curlew Sandpiper** with other waders at Vault Bay and a female **Marsh Harrier** at Moss. In the evening, a total of 5 **Spotted Flycatchers** at Carnan Mor / Balephuill, with one more at The Glebe and 5 **Tree Sparrows** at Balephuill (John Bowler).



Curlew Sandpiper – Vaul Bay, Tiree 14 May (John Bowler).



Spotted Flycatcher – Balephuill, Tiree 14 May (John Bowler).



Curlew Sandpiper – Vaul Bay, Tiree 14 May (John Bowler).

Counts of 38 **Ringed Plover** and 80 **Dunlin** and at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll this morning.
Also a male **Whinchat** at Dalvore (Moine Mhor) (Jim Dickson).
Photo of **Corn Crakes** taken on Oronsay at 05:30 this morning (Mike Peacock).



Corn Crakes – Oronsay, Colonsay 14 May (Mike Peacock).



Whinchat - Dalvore (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll 14 May (Jim Dickson).

The last **Barnacle Goose** left on Oronsay was taken by a **White-tailed Eagle** today. The eagle departed in the direction of Islay at around 15:30. And, in the evening, a **Ruff** moulting into breeding plumage was on the south end pools (Mike Peacock).



Ruff – Oronsay, Colonsay 14 May (Mike Peacock).



White-tailed Eagle – Oronsay, Colonsay 14 May (Mike Peacock).



White-tailed Eagle – Oronsay, Colonsay 14 May (Mike Peacock).

13 May: Two **White-tailed Eagles** were feeding at Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll today and more House Martins are around now (Jim Dickson).

Today at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory: 22 **Whimbrel** flying N, 16 **Sandwich Terns**, 15 **Arctic Terns**, 5 **White Wagtails** and a male **Greenland Wheatear** (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree: 4 **Tree Sparrows**, a **Common Whitethroat**, a **Grasshopper Warbler** and 9 **Collared Doves** were at Balephuill and a male **Greater Scaup** at Loch Bhasapol (John Bowler). Also on Tiree, a 2nd calendar year **Glaucous Gull** and a **Little Grebe** at Caoles (Mel Shepherd-Wells). A **Grasshopper Warbler** and a **Common Cuckoo** were both *seen* at Craigendive, Loch Striven, Cowal today (George Newall).

At Crinan Ferry, Mid-Argyll this morning a male **Common Whitethroat** was in song and 30 Dunlin were present (Jim Dickson).

A **Common Whitethroat** in song at Minard, Mid-Argyll this morning was the first heard locally (Paul Daw).



Common Whitethroat - Crinan Ferry, Mid-Argyll 13 May (Jim Dickson).

12 May: Four **Long-tailed Skuas** and a first-winter **Glaucous Gull** were flying past Keillmore (Sound of Jura), Mid-Argyll this evening (Alan Lauder).

An **Osprey** was seen over Loch Lussa, Kintyre today (Bart and Betty Rovins per Eddie Maguire).

11 May: 16 **Whimbrel** were on the mud at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this morning but no sign of the 2 Red Knot or Dunlin flock from yesterday (Jim Dickson).

At least five Blackcock were at a **Black Grouse** lek site above Loch Striven, Cowal at dusk this evening (George Newall). George had to watch from the road to avoid disturbing them so clear photos were not possible, but the one below shows five of them.



Black Grouse - above Loch Striven, Cowal 11 May (George Newall).

10 May: On Oronsay, Colonsay today: 56 **European Golden Plover**, 6 **Whimbrel** and spectacular views of 3 **Corn Crakes** having a scrap (Morgan Vaughan).

A **Pomarine Skua** was in waters N of Mull (Ewan Miles per Alan Spellman).

At Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll today: a pair of **Greylag Geese** at Danna had 7 small goslings, a male **Whinchat** was by Loch na Cille and, unusually, 4 **Dunlin** in summer plumage on Ulva Lagoons (Morag Rea).

A quick look at Loch Gilp this afternoon revealed: 17 **Dunlin** and 2 **Whimbrel** and at the Add Estuary: 25 **Ringed Plover** and 21 **Dunlin**. A **Barn Swallow** in the rain, on Crinan Ferry road, was wondering if it was still too early to be here... (Jim Dickson).



Barn Swallow - Crinan Ferry, Mid-Argyll 10 May (Jim Dickson)



Corn Crake - Oronsay 10 May (Morgan Vaughan)

At the Add Estuary, a **Garden Warbler** was near the bird hide today. Also 2 singing **Wood Warblers** at Dalvore wood (Moine Mhor) and another between Cairnbaan and Bellanoch (Jim Dickson).

Today at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre: a **leucistic adult Herring Gull**, the first **Common Terns** (3) and 12 **White Wagtails flying S** (Eddie Maguire).

Also today: an adult **Whooper Swan** on floodwater by The Strath Farm, The Laggan, nr Campbeltown and the first **Common Swifts** (8) at Campbeltown were over Burnside Square at 19:30 this evening (Eddie Maguire).



Whooper Swan - The Laggan, nr Campbeltown 10 May (Eddie Maguire).



leucistic Herring Gull – MSBO, Kintyre 10 May (Eddie Maguire).



leucistic Herring Gull – MSBO, Kintyre 10 May (Eddie Maguire).

09 May: A single **Common Swift** was seen over Oronsay, Colonsay today. Also 24 **European Golden Plover** and 11 **Whimbrel** (Morgan Vaughan).

Interestingly, the heavy passage of **Barn Swallows** at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory yesterday was followed by the arrival of most of the local population of Swallows at Minard, Mid-Argyll early this morning, much later than usual (Paul Daw).

Two **Common Whitethroats** at Ormsary this morning and a noticeable increase in **Sedge Warbler** numbers (Stuart Crutchfield).

At the Add Estuary a **Greenshank** was near the bird hide (Jim Dickson).

Garden Warbler seen and heard during BBS survey at North Shian, North Argyll (Robin Harvey).

A **Tree Pipit** was at Balephuill, Tiree (John Bowler).

08 May: A 3hr watch at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today found the following: total of 80 **Great Black-backed Gulls** flying N, including 32 adults: immatures (all age categories) accounted for 60% of the passage; four dark adult **Arctic Skuas** and one pale adult (all flying S) and a total of 27 **Sandwich Terns** in the area. Also a heavy coastal passage of **Barn Swallows** this morning with 160 flying N and many other in off the sea (Eddie Maguire).

At Taynish NNR this morning: at least 5 singing **Wood Warblers**, two displaying **Tree Pipits** and two pairs of **Common Redstarts** (Jon Close).

Also at Taynish this morning a **Whimbrel**, 2 pairs of **Canada Geese**, 2 pairs of **Greylag Geese** and a single **Pink-footed Goose** (John Halliday).

A male **Whinchat** was at Craigendive, Loch Striven, Cowal today (George Newall).

Two **Dotterel** on the 'lawns' at Oronsay, Colonsay today - suspect they could be new birds.

Also on Oronsay today: 9 **Whimbrel**, 25 **Arctic Terns** , a **Little Tern** and one **White Wagtail** (Morgan Vaughan).



Dotterel - Oronsay, Colonsay 08 May (Morgan Vaughan).

07 May: Two **Common Swifts** were flying around Kilmichael Glassary, Mid-Argyll this morning (Blair Urquhart). Our first report so far.

At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today: flock 33 **Whimbrel** flying north and at least 24 **Sandwich Terns** in the area (peak count to date) (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree, 4 **Pomarine Skuas** flew north off Scarinish and a 2nd calendar year **Glaucous Gull** was at Sandaig (John Bowler).

On Oronsay, Colonsay today Mike Peacock said "Right we'd better check the **Dotterel** lawns" and sure enough there were 4 of them! Also today on Oronsay: a single **Tufted Duck**, 150+ **Ringed Plovers**, 350+ **Dunlin**, a single **Black-tailed Godwit** and 10 **Whimbrel** (Morgan Vaughan).



Dotterel - Oronsay, Colonsay 07 May (Morgan Vaughan).



Dotterel - Oronsay, Colonsay 07 May (Morgan Vaughan).

06 May: Today on Tiree: 4 **Dotterel** briefly on the machair at Loch a' Phuill, a first winter **Glaucous Gull** at Sandaig and at Balephuill; 5 **Blackcaps**, a **Common Whitethroat**, 2 **Tree Sparrows** and 2 **Greenfinches**. Also 100s of **Dunlin** and **Sanderling** around the beaches and 40+ **Whimbrel** passing through (John Bowler).

A 2nd calendar year **Iceland Gull** was at Gott Bay, Tiree (John Bowler).

05 May: Despite the heavy rain some species were still moving past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today, including: 2 **Gadwall** flying north (most unusual there in May), flock of 30 **Turnstones** flying south, 6 **Whimbrel** >north, 8 **Common Sandpipers** >north, 10 **Arctic Terns** >north (the first there) and 18 **Sandwich Terns** >north. A minimum of 12 **White Wagtails** were also in the area (Eddie Maguire).



Common Sandpiper – MSBO, Kintyre 05 May (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree: two **Dotterel** were at a breeding wader site today and 22 **Arctic Terns** were at Loch a' Phuill. No further sign of the Tiree Sparrow at Balephuill (John Bowler). The SNH wader team found 6 **Dotterel** at Hough and juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at Balevullin and Sandaig.

Despite the atrocious conditions on Seil island, Mid-Argyll today David Jardine managed to get these shots of the **Little Egret** at Balvicar and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** in breeding plumage in a field at Loch Caithlim.



Little Egret - Balvicar, Mid-Argyll 05 May (David Jardine).



Bar-tailed Godwit - Loch Caithlim (Seil), Mid-Argyll 05 May (David Jardine).

04 May: A **Spotted Flycatcher** in the woods to the east of Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll at lunchtime today was David's earliest ever, by almost a week. This evening (while ringing in Kilmartin) he caught a **fledgling Siskin** –the first youngster he's seen on the wing this year. There has been an excellent cone crop in the Spruce forests this last winter, which has led to very early breeding this season (David Jardine).

On Tiree today: a **Sandwich Tern** was with a mixed group of terns at Sorobaidh Bay, 55 **Arctic Terns** were at Traigh Bhagh, the **Tree Sparrow** was still at Balephuill, a single **Barnacle Goose** was at Gott Bay and more **Corn Crakes** were around the island following the southerly winds (John Bowler).



Corn Crane – Tiree 04 May (John Bowler).

03 May: On Tiree today: a **Green Sandpiper** on floods at Balephuill in the rain was initially in the car park! Also, a **Tree Sparrow** and 8 **Collared Doves** in the garden at Balephuill, a **Curlew Sandpiper** (not in breeding plumage) and a **Dunlin** at Loch a' Phuill, 10 **Arctic Terns** at Sorobaidh Bay and a female **Blackcap** at Meningie (John Bowler).



Tree Sparrow – Balephuill, Tiree 03 May (John Bowler).

02 May: On Tiree, a **Whimbrel** and 4 **White Wagtails** were West Hynish with 2 **Arctic Skuas** offshore there. Seven **Whooper Swans**, 4 **Gadwall**, 180 **Ringed Plover**, 150 **Dunlin**, 6 **Arctic Terns**, 55 **Sand Martins** and 3 **White Wagtails** were at Loch a' Phuill. And 3 **Collared Doves**, 2 **Goldcrests**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** and a **Robin** were at Balephuill (John Bowler).

On Islay today: ca 2,000 **Dunlin** in the estuary at Loch Gruinart and 11 **Black-tailed Godwits** and a **White Wagtail** at Loch Gruinart Floods (Roger Broad).

On Luing, Mid-Argyll today: 2 **Greenland Wheatears** and 5 **Yellowhammers** at Black Mill Bay; a male **Common Scoter** flying south and a **Common Whitethroat** (first spring report) at Cullipool; 2 **Whimbrel** and a **Common Whitethroat** at Toberonochy and 4 **Little Grebes**, 2 **Water Rails** and 10 **Sand Martins** at Lochan Iliter. And on Seil Island a **Water Rail** at Balvicar and 2 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch Caithlim (David Jardine).



Water Rail – Lochan Iliter, Luing 02 May (David Jardine).



Yellowhammer - Black Mill Bay, Luing 02 May (David Jardine).



Water Rail – Lochan Iliter, Luing 02 May (David Jardine).

This immature **Glaucous Gull** was found on Oronsay, Colonsay this evening (Morgan Vaughan).



Glaucous Gull - Oronsay, Colonsay 02 May (Morgan Vaughan)

01 May: On Tiree: a **Grasshopper Warbler** was reeling at Balephuill first thing with 2 **Common Redpolls** and a **Goldfinch** also there. Three **Whimbrel**, 25 **White Wagtails**, a colour-ringed **Twite**, and a **Lapland Bunting** were all at Crossapol Point during a BBS there. The hundreds of Black-tailed Godwits and thousands of Golden Plovers from yesterday had all left (John Bowler).

A **Hawfinch** was reported in a garden in Strachur this afternoon (Paul Emery). If confirmed this would be only the 20th record of Hawfinch in Argyll since 1953.

A **Corn Crake** calling at dusk this evening was the first confirmed record on Oronsay, Colonsay this spring (Luke Wake).

On Islay today: a single flock of 97 **Whimbrel** were on the beach at Uiskentuie and later, a single **Whimbrel** at Loch Gruinart Flats and another 2 flying over the Loch Gruinart Floods. Also, a pair of **Pintail** and 34 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch Gruinart (Roger Broad).

A **Tree Sparrow** was on a garden bird feeder near Tiroran, Mull today (Marie Fox per Alan Spellman).

At Benderloch Gravel pits: **Reed Bunting** male and **Sedge Warbler**. **Common Sandpipers** back and **Sand Martins** hawking over water (Robin Harvey).

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).



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



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

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).



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

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).



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



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 Losgainn 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 **Duncock** 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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