

RECENT REPORTS January-March 2015

31 March: A 1hr sea-watch off Aird, Tiree, 08:00-09:00 in WNW 7-8 winds, produced: one **Great Northern Diver**, 104 **Fulmars**, 520 **Manx Shearwaters**, 164 **Northern Gannets**, 425 **Kittiwakes**, 960 auks (mostly **Razorbills**) and 4 **Black Guillemots** – all heading west out of the Minch (John Bowler).

28 March: The **colour-ringed Herring Gull** (white ring with red letters 1D7-C) seen on Campbeltown pier on 25 March was ringed as a chick on Sanda Island 04.07.2012 and seen regularly from 25.01.2013 until 10.02.2015 at Bishop Burn, Loch Ryan, near Stranraer (NX0761). Thanks to Iain Livingstone for the information: he says “I would assume it’s moving back closer to natal site now it’s maturing”.

A 1hr sea-watch off Aird, Tiree at noon, in W7 winds, produced: 3 **Great Northern Divers**, 72 **Fulmars**, 195 **Manx Shearwaters**, 165 **Northern Gannets**, 920 **Kittiwakes**, 750 auks (mostly **Razorbills**) and 3 **Black Guillemots** (John Bowler).

27 March: Two **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch a’ Phuill at lunchtime – the first of spring on Tiree and a single Pink-footed Goose at Scarinish (John Bowler).

A **Common Chiffchaff** was singing at Kilmory Loch (nr Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll today. It was there again on 03 Apr (Colin MacFarlane).

Five juvenile/first winter **Iceland Gulls** at Ormsary fish farm, Mid-Argyll area 13:00-14:00 today. The adult **Bonaparte’s Gull** has now moved to the head of Loch Caolisport (NR765775), 14:00-14:30 at least. The first winter **Caspian Gull** still present at Loch Gilp 15:00-15:40 at least (Jim Dickson).

A pair of **Pintail** were in amongst 14 newly arrived **Whooper Swans** on Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan). The only other records for Colonsay/Oronsay in recent years are: four on Colonsay during a goose count on 18 Nov 1998, a pair on Oronsay 29 Apr 1999 and a female on Loch Breac, Colonsay on 24 Apr 2007.

A **Common Kingfisher** was seen at 15:00 today at NR790316, the mouth of Saddell Water, Kintyre. It came from upstream, flew under bridge, crossed river and disappeared into shrubby area by castle near mouth of river (Sue & Steve Walker).

A large **Golden Eagle** was seen soaring low over Achnacarron (N Loch Awe), Mid-Argyll in the direction of the village of Kilchrenan at around 10:40 today. It had been seen the previous day (26 Mar), at around 14:30, chasing Greater Canada Geese on Loch Awe, just off Achnacarron/Ardbrecknish (Ken Williams).



adult Bonaparte’s Gull Loch Caolisport, Mid-Argyll 27 Mar (Jim Dickson).



adult Bonaparte's Gull Loch Caolisport, Mid-Argyll 27 Mar (Jim Dickson).



adult Bonaparte's Gull Loch Caolisport, Mid-Argyll 27 Mar (Jim Dickson).

26 March: A busy sea-watch off Aird, Tiree in NW7 winds, for 1hr at midday, produced the following (all heading W out of the Minch): 105 **Fulmars**, 36 **Manx Shearwaters**, 220 **Northern Gannets**, 330 **Kittiwakes**, 196 large auks (mostly **Razorbills**) and 6 **Little Auks**. NB No further sign of the Bonaparte's Gull since 24 March (John Bowler).

An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was found at this morning at Ormsary (fish farm), Mid-Argyll by Mark Wood & John Nadin It was still there until 16:15 at least. Also 5 **Iceland Gulls** (4 juvenile/first winters & a second winter) and the juvenile/first winter **Kumlien's Gull** were still there as well as a **Peregrine Falcon** and a pair of **Ravens** close to (Mark Wood/John Nadin/Jim Dickson/ Stu Crutchfield).



Bonaparte's Gull – Ormsary (fish farm), Mid-Argyll 26 Mar (Jim Dickson).



Bonaparte's Gull – Ormsary (fish farm), Mid-Argyll 26 Mar (John Nadin).



Bonaparte's Gull – Ormsary (fish farm), Mid-Argyll 26 Mar (Jim Dickson)



Ravens- Ormsary (fish farm), Mid-Argyll 26 Mar (Jim Dickson)

25 March: The **Iceland Gull** was showing well in Oban Bay. Jim still thinks this bird is not fully adult as has remnants of a bar near the bill tip and no red gonys spot and the orbital ring is not yet red....so would suggest third-summer or even fourth-summer as some individual gulls take longer to reach full adult.....anyway a nice bird. Three **Greenshanks** at the head of Loch Feochan, Mid-Argyll and 8 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** still at

Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) (Jim Dickson).

A pair of **Bullfinches** in the “garden” at work, (Whitegates, Lochgilphead) today and flock of around 50 **Whooper Swans** flying high to the north over Loch Gilp at around 07:30 this morning (Lynsey Gibson).

Northern Wheatear seen on the Dana Road, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll this morning (Jon Close).

Four first winter **Iceland Gulls** at Campbeltown Loch today (2 pale birds & 2 biscuit coloured birds). Also 2 male **Northern Wheatears** at Machrihanish and a **colour-ringed Herring Gull** (white ring with red letters 1D7-C) on Campbeltown pier (John Nadin and Mark Wood).



colour-ringed Herring Gull – Campbeltown Pier 25 Mar (John Nadin).



Iceland Gull – Oban Bay, Mid-Argyll 25 Mar (Jim Dickson).



Iceland Gull – Oban Bay, Mid-Argyll 25 Mar (Jim Dickson).



first winter Iceland Gull – Campbeltown Loch 25 Mar (John Nadin).

24 March: A first winter **Bonaparte's Gull** was found at Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree this afternoon: a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was there too (John Bowler).

Totals of 29 **Purple Sandpipers** and 29 **Turnstones** at the Crazy Golf, Dunoon today (George Newall).

Coming out of the Co-op in Lochgilphead at 18:15 Jim noted 42 **Whooper Swans** going N overhead (Jim Dickson).



first winter Bonaparte's Gull (centre of photo) – Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree 24 Mar (John Bowler).

23 March: A **Little Gull** was in front of the shore-side bus shelter (Lochgilphead campus), Loch Gilp today and a **Northern Wheatear** was at the same spot (Alan Dykes).

The first winter **Caspian Gull** showing well again today at the head of Loch Gilp late morning and six **Whooper Swans** on the mud at Loch Crinan today were newly arrived (Jim Dickson). A breeding plumage **Slavonian Grebe** paired up with a winter plumaged bird has been present at Otter Ferry, Cowal for the past couple of days. Also at Otter Ferry at least 5 pairs of **House Sparrows** (very unusual here) have been present over the past few days – possible range expansion going on? And a male **Yellowhammer** in the garden late evening was also something of a rarity here (Tom Callan).

An **Iceland Gull** was at Ballochroy south of Clachan, Kintyre today (Chris Bradshaw).

Most of the mainland Argyll WeBS Counts for March 2015 are now in. Numbers generally were fairly low but notable sightings included 8 **Whooper Swans** at Loch Crinan, 30 **Common Shelducks** at Loch Sween, 17 **Tufted Duck** at Loch Leathan, 14 displaying **Long-tailed Ducks** in the Sound of Gigha, 33 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Loch Gilp, 2 **Black-throated Divers** at Loch Tulla and a **Dipper** at Kilfinan Bay.

The full table for March 2015 can be found under the WeBS Count tab.

22 March: Two **Sand Martins** at Loch Leathan (nr Lochgilphead), Mid-Argyll today (Blair Urquhart).

Two male **Northern Wheatears** at Keills (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll (Morag Rea).

On Tiree today: 40 **Whooper Swans** flew north at Balephuill at 10:30, a total of 120 **Whooper Swans** at Loch a' Phuill (up from 46 on 21 March), a **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** at Sorobaidh Bay and 7 **Goldcrests** and 2 **Eurasian Sparrowhawks** at Balephuill / Carnan Mor (John Bowler).

NB This is the third report of a flock of 40 Whooper Swans flying in a generally northerly direction in the past two days (at Carradale, Tayinloan and now Tiree). Perhaps they all relate to the same flock?

A nice selection of birds found during a short walk up the River Eckaig between the confluence of the River Massan and the top of the Holy Loch, Cowal today included a **Common Kingfisher**, a **Dipper** and two pairs of **Grey Wagtails**. And a Great Spotted Woodpecker was in the Halfton estate behind Hunters Quay (Alistair McGregor).

A **Northern Wheatear** was at Peninver, Kintyre and an **Iceland Gull** in Campbeltown Harbour (Chris Bradshaw).

This **Iceland Gull** sitting on a post in Oban Bay – was easily viewed from the station taxi rank this morning. It was also there on Friday 20 Mar (Mike Anderson). Jim thinks it's a third summer bird.

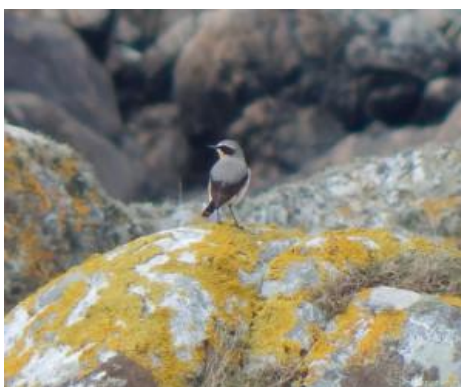


Iceland Gull – Oban Bay 22 Mar (Mike Anderson).

21 March: A lovely sighting at Carradale, Kintyre this morning of 40 **Whooper Swans** flying low over the house in an almost perfect V formation, followed shortly after by a group of 38. Flying from the SW and held a NE course (Alasdair Paterson).

Two **Northern Wheatears** and 26 **Common Scoter** at Tayinloan today. And on Gigha: 40 **Whooper Swans** flying North-west, 25 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** flying west, a **Slavonian Grebe** in summer plumage at East Tarbert bay, 28 **Black-throated Divers** by Gamhna Gigha and a **Merlin** at Ardlamey (David Jardine).

A male **Northern Wheatear**, a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** and 25 **Great Northern Divers** were at West Hynish, Tiree this morning. Also 3 Goldcrests and 6 Chaffinches at Balephuill (John Bowler). And another **Northern Wheatear** was near Totronald, Coll today (Ben Jones per John Bowler).



Northern Wheatear – West Hynish, Tiree 21 Mar (John Bowler).

This handsome pair of **Common Starlings** in breeding plumage were photographed at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).



Common Starlings – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 21 Mar (Jim Dickson).

20 March: Still plenty of white-winged gulls at the fish-farm at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll today: the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull**, second winter **Iceland Gull** and 5 first winter **Iceland Gulls**. Also an interesting first winter Lesser Black-backed Gull – much darker on the underparts than normal (Stuart Crutchfield).

A female **Northern Wheatear** was on Carradale Golf Course, Kintyre today. Also a **Magpie**,

which has apparently been present in Carradale for at least a year! (Alasdair Paterson).
A single juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Traigh Bhagh, Tiree (John Bowler).

19 March: A **Whimbrel** was flying north calling at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today (Eddie Maguire).

A male **Yellowhammer** was at garden feeders in Carradale, Kintyre (Alasdair Paterson).

Two juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree (John Bowler).

18 March: Common Chiffchaff and Goldcrest were seen on the Oa Reserve, Islay today and an **Iceland Gull** that has been around for a while was still present (David Wood).

An adult **Iceland Gull** was in Oban Harbour this afternoon (Mike Harrison).

A **Northern Wheatear** was seen at Sorisdale during the goose count on Coll today. Also lots of **Northern Lapwings** displaying and calling as well as many **Common Redshanks** and a flock of 30 **Golden Plover**. They also had a male **Hen Harrier**, **Merlin**, paired up Common Buzzards, **Common Kestrel** and **Sparrowhawk**. An **Icelandic Gull** from the ferry to Oban (Colin MacFarlane).

A **Red-legged Partridge** was seen from the Broxwood (Holy Loch), Cowal hide this afternoon (George Newall).

A **Jack Snipe** was found at Carradale, Kintyre today (Alasdair Paterson).

A single **Pink-footed Goose** was at Balephuill, Tiree with 2 Goldcrests in the garden there. 50 Redwings at Meningie were in sub-song (John Bowler).



Common Chiffchaff – Oa Reserve, Islay 18 Mar (David Wood).

17 March: An early **Barn Swallow** was seen on the Oa Reserve, Islay today (David Wood) and two **Northern Wheatears** were singing on Jura (Andy Robinson).

A single **Stock Dove** was seen near East Lodge (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll this morning. The first Jim's seen in that area for about 3 years so hopefully will nest this year (Jim Dickson).

The first **Greenshank** of spring at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory this afternoon was flying north calling (Eddie Maguire).

Two **Common Crossbills** were feeding on a Rowan tree in a garden in Dunoon today and a brief burst of song from what was probably a Common Chiffchaff was heard (George Newall).

The second leg of the Tiree goose count today found: a juvenile **Iceland Gull** and juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Sandaig, juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Greenhill, juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Hough Bay (at least 5 juvenile Glaucous on the island just now), one Rook at Moss, 4 Canada

Geese (large-race) at Heylipol and 2 **Goldcrests** at Balephuill. 24 **Whooper Swans** landed briefly on Balephetrish Bay, Tiree (John Bowler).



Goldcrest – Balephuill, Tiree 17 Mar (John Bowler).

16 March: The long-staying first winter **Caspian Gull** again at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll this afternoon, until 15:10 at least. At Ormsary fish farm the first winter **Kumlien's Gull** was still present along with 2 first winter **Iceland Gulls** and a second winter **Iceland Gull**.

The odd gull at Loch Gilp last week initially thought to be a new first winter Caspian turned out not to be and remains a mystery....(Jim Dickson).

The first leg of the Tiree goose count found: juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at Gott Bay and Sorobaidh Bay, a female/immature **Common Scoter** in Gunna Sound, 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** at Balephetrish Bay, 30 **Fieldfares** at Caoles and 2,300 **Golden Plover** at The Reef. Also widespread Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtails and some 150 Black-headed Gulls (John Bowler).

15 March: A **Magpie** was seen in the back garden of a house at Dalavich (Loch Awe), Mid-Argyll. Seen for about five minutes at 17:45 it flew down to feed near one of their feeding stations (David Wallace). Another 'spring wanderer'.

Two **Northern Wheatears** today at Claddach, Islay. It must be spring! (Mary Redman).

A single **Pink-footed Goose** near Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll today in with at least 250+ Greylag Geese (Jim Dickson).



Pink-footed Goose – Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll 15 Mar (Jim Dickson).

14 March: An immature **Iceland Gull** was in Slaterich Bay, Kerrera, Mid-Argyll today (Mary Redman).

On Tiree, a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was at Sorobaidh Bay, with 19 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls in same area and 50 Black-headed Gulls in amongst ca 250 Common Gulls. At least 8 Jackdaw still at Loch an Eilein, a Goldcrest at Balephuill and 25 Black-headed Gulls and a male Pied Wagtail at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

A second calendar year male **Hen Harrier** was near Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).



2cy male Hen Harrier – Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll 14 Mar (Jim Dickson).

13 March: On the way to Islay today, 50 **Black-throated Divers** (including one flock of 23 birds, a few in summer plumage), 9 **Great Northern Divers** and a single **Red-throated Diver** were counted from the ferry between Kennacraig and north end of Gigha. An immature **Iceland Gull** was flying east past Am Fraoich Eilean, Jura NR4762 (Roger Broad).

A juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** was over Achnashelloch Farm (N of Lochgilphead) at 09:00 this morning. It was being mobbed by a single Raven which looked absolutely tiny compared to it (Lynsey Gibson).

There were 300+ **Greylag Geese** at Toward/Ardyne, Cowal today but no Canada Geese with them. About 12 **Northern Lapwings** were with the usual Oystercatchers and Curlews there, with a few Teal and Mallards in the flooded fields (George Newall).

A **Little Auk** between Lismore and Mull was seen from the Tiree ferry and just avoided being run over by it! A first winter **Iceland Gull** was off Glengorm, Mull, feeding with Herring Gulls around a creeling boat (John Bowler).

Eight **Whooper Swans** flew into Loch Crinan today, one of the local Mute Swans wandered up and joined them for a bit- probably curious (Jim Dickson).



Whooper Swans – Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 13 Mar (Jim Dickson).

This **Common Crossbill** was photographed at Bishops Glen, Dunoon today (Alistair McGregor).



Common Crossbill – Bishops Glen, Dunoon 13 Mar (Alistair McGregor).

12 March: Approx. 30 **Pink-footed Geese** were grounded at Inveraray this morning (David Jardine).

Two juvenile **Iceland Gulls** were in Oban Bay today (Morgan Vaughan).



juvenile Iceland Gulls – Oban Bay, Mid-Argyll 12 Mar (Morgan Vaughan).

10 March: As Jim Dickson was rising at 07:10 this morning he heard the distinctive call of **Common Crane** going over his house at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll. He heard the call three times but unfortunately could not see it (them?) as he was unsure which way the flight path was (Jim Dickson).

Naturally we'd be very interested to know if anyone else sees/hears them!

A new first winter **Caspian Gull** appeared at Loch Gilp today. A much larger and longer legged individual than last month's bird so probably a big male. David Jardine is fairly sure it's the same bird he saw there on 8 Mar (Jim Dickson).



first winter Caspian Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 10 Mar (Jim Dickson)



first winter Caspian Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 10 Mar (Jim Dickson).



first winter Caspian Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 10 Mar (Jim Dickson)

This **Redwing** was foraging alongside Jim Dickson's car at Loch Gilp this morning and looks like an Icelandic bird.



Icelandic Redwing – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 10 Mar (Jim Dickson)



Icelandic Redwing – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 10 Mar (Jim Dickson)



Icelandic Redwing – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 10 Mar (Jim Dickson)

09 March: Lots more **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** in today it appears, with 27 in a field at Drimvore (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

08 March: A single **Greenshank** at the head of Loch Scotnish (near Tayvallich) and 30 **Common Shelducks** at Ceann an t-Sailein (Ulva Island) during the Loch Sween WeBS Count today (Paul Daw).

A **Jack Snipe** was flushed at Benderloch, North Argyll this morning (Stuart Crutchfield).

A first winter **Iceland Gull** was seen at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory flying south at ca 15:00hrs. Three first-winter **Iceland Gulls** (2 typical / 1 faded) were at Campbeltown and the drake **Pintail** and 53 **Eurasian Wigeon** on floodwater at Strath Farm, The Laggan near Campbeltown today.

The **Caspian Gull** was seen at Loch Gilp again around 14:30 (David Jardine).

07 March: A **Common Kingfisher** was seen at Inveraray, Mid-Argyll this morning (Ewan Weston).

06 March: A **Moorhen** seen swimming in the Crinan canal, just in front of Linnet Court, Ardrishaig has been present every morning this week. Up to 24 **Siskins** and 11 or 12 **Goldfinches** have been on the bird feeders in a garden here recently and Tawny Owls have been calling away loudly every night. A Great Spotted Woodpecker has been demolishing the fat balls and peanuts: it empties one feeder, then moves to the next and doesn't leave until they're both empty! (Lynsey Gibson).

The drake **Pintail** was at The Laggan near Campbeltown again today with 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a Common Raven was incubating a nest on an old watchtower at Campbeltown Airport. And one first winter **Iceland Gull** at Campbeltown Harbour (Eddie Maguire).

Off S. Ardrishaig/L Fyne this morning, 5 **Great Northern Divers** and a breeding plumage **Black-throated Diver** were present and 54 **Kittiwakes** were heading out of the loch. Four adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and a first winter bird were at the head of Loch Gilp as well as 3 **Little Gulls** (2adults and a 1w) and a first winter **Mediterranean Gull** (Jim Dickson). Neil Brown reports four Iceland Gulls at Campbeltown today.



Drake Pintail – Strath Farm, The Laggan, Kintyre 06 Mar (Eddie Maguire).



Common Raven on nest – Campbeltown Airport, Kintyre 06 Mar (Eddie Maguire).

05 March: A first winter **Iceland Gull** was at Campbeltown today. Also today: 108 **Eurasian Wigeon**, single drake **Pintail** (sleeping) and 2 adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** on floodwater at Strath Farm, The Laggan, Kintyre (Eddie Maguire).

A single **Redwing** was in a garden in Dunoon this morning (George Newall).



First winter Iceland Gull – Campbeltown 06 Mar (Eddie Maguire).

04 March: A pair of **Common Crossbills** were sitting on top of a pine tree in a conifer plantation at Colintrave, Cowal today (Graham Clarke).

A group of 29 **Sky Larks** were at Drimvore (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll today: a good number for around here (Jim Dickson).

A flock of 645 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** near Tayinloan, Kintyre today included 4 with orange neck collars and 1 with a white satellite collar (John Nadin).

Three pairs of Eurasian Wigeon and a pair of Greylag Geese were in Brainport Bay (Minard), Mid-Argyll this morning. And a **Tawny Owl** was calling in Minard Woods, at 09:00. Obviously hasn't adjusted to the lighter mornings yet... (Paul Daw).

03 March: A male **Yellowhammer** was seen sitting then flying off some gorse bushes at Colintrave, Cowal, near the ferry. The first one Graham's seen there in **over 40 years!** (Graham Clarke).

A juvenile **Iceland Gull** was seen on Colonsay this morning (Mike Peacock/Morgan Vaughan). The bird wouldn't stand still in the hail storm so these are the best shots I could manage! (Morgan Vaughan). A juv/1w Iceland Gull still at Campbeltown Harbour today (Eddie Maguire).



Juvenile Iceland Gull – Colonsay 3 Mar (Morgan Vaughan).



juv Iceland Gull Campbeltown Harbour 3 Mar 15 (Eddie Maguire).

02 March: An adult **Iceland Gull** at Ormsary fish-farm, Mid-Argyll today was a new arrival. The four juvenile **Iceland Gulls**, second winter **Iceland Gull**, juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** and juvenile **Glaucous Gull** are all still there (Stu Crutchfield).

Bryan Rains found this first winter **Ring-billed Gull** just outside his house at Glen More, Mull when he got home this evening.



First winter Ring-billed Gull – Glen More, Mull 2 Mar (Bryan Rains).

RECENT REPORTS February 2015

28 February: Still two **Iceland Gulls** in Campbeltown Harbour this afternoon (juv & 2w) (Chrish Bradshaw).

27 February: A **Magpie** was seen flying up Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll today (possibly the Lochgilphead bird?) and four **Yellowhammers** were in a garden opposite Tesco's in Lochgilphead. Still one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** in Loch Gilp (Jim Dickson). A juv/1w Iceland Gull at Campbeltown Harbour today (Eddie Maguire).

26 February: The Lochgilphead **Magpie** was heard calling by David Jardine from his desk at Whitegates, Lochgilphead today. Always an instantly recognisable call!

25 February: At Ormsary, Mid-Argyll today, there were 4 juvenile **Iceland Gulls**, 1 juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** and a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** (John Nadin).

One adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).

The juvenile **Iceland Gull** was on Oronsay (Colonsay) this morning (Morgan Vaughan).



juvenile Iceland Gull Oronsay (Colonsay) 25 Feb (Morgan Vaughan).

24 February: About 20 **Northern Lapwings** were feeding on pasture at Saul Mor Farm near Oban today (Mike Harrison).

Flock of 85 **Redwings** at Killinochonoch (yes, that's really what it's called!) between Bridgend and Kilmartin, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).

23 February: Another wandering **Magpie**, this time in the trees at Whitegates, Lochgilphead at 09:00 this morning. It was there for maybe three or four minutes before flying up Kilmory road in the direction of the school (Lynsey Gibson).

Four **Yellowhammers** joined the Chaffinches feeding in a garden in Connel, Mid-Argyll this morning (Mike Harrison).

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was in a field at Killinochonoch, between Bridgend and Kilmartin, Mid-Argyll today (David Jardine).

22 February: A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was at the Add Estuary today (Blair Urquhart) and 10 **Northern Lapwings** were together in a field at Drimvore near the Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll (David Jardine).

21 February: As happens regularly in Argyll at this time of the year, **Magpies** seem to be on the move again. One was photographed in a garden at Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll at 14:55 today (Blair Urquhart) and another was seen yesterday (20 Feb) in the young native woodland at Butterbridge (nr the Rest and Be Thankful – NN2309) (Roger Broad).



Magpie – Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll 21 Feb (Blair Urquhart)

20 February: On Tiree today: 12 adult Black-headed Gulls and a juvenile Lesser Black-backed Gull at Sorobaidh Bay at lunchtime. Also 5 Chaffinches at Balephuill (John Bowler).

19 February: A long-awaited **Iceland Gull** appeared on Oronsay (Colonsay) this morning (Morgan Vaughan).

Three **Common Scoter** were in Kilfinan Bay, Cowal this afternoon with a pair of **Dippers** on the Kilfinan Burn (Dave Warden).

On Tiree today: a **Grey Plover**, 40 **Purple Sandpipers** and 3 adult Black-headed Gulls at Balephetrish Bay; 3 **Grey Plovers** and a dead Common Dolphin at Salum Bay and 5 adult Black-headed Gulls at Sorobaidh Bay (John Bowler).

18 February: Three juvenile **White-tailed Eagles** over Cairnbaan at 10:30 were a long-awaited tick there, although didn't expect 3 at once! They took their time following the line of the canal circling round and drifted towards the Add estuary.

The first winter **Caspian Gull** still at the head of Loch Gilp (12:40-13:30 at least)...along with a second winter **Mediterranean Gull** and 3 **Little Gulls** (an adult and 2 first winters).

Also a very brief view of a possible Stock Dove while driving into Cairnbaan... (Jim Dickson).

On Oronsay (Colonsay) today: 42 **Ringed Plover**, 54 **Sanderling**, 20 **Dunlin** and 11 **Sky Larks** and on Colonsay itself today: 39 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, 4 **Tufted Duck**, 4

Common Goldeneye, one **Little Grebe**, 29 **Western Jackdaws** and a **Mistle Thrush** (Morgan Vaughan).



first winter Little Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 18 Feb (Jim Dickson).



first winter Little Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 18 Feb (Jim Dickson).



adult Little Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 18 Feb (Jim Dickson).

17 February (p.m.): In the afternoon Jim Dickson got a chance to study a **very large Common Gull** at Loch Gilp: a good candidate for '**Russian**' Common Gull (*L. c. heinei*) not currently on the Scottish list (i.e. no confirmation from ringing recoveries or trapping). Noticeably larger than the Common Gulls, appearing size of Ring-billed and not much smaller than the Herring Gull nearby! Noticeably a shade darker upperparts. Dark head markings coming from neck and across the breast. Long wings and primary projection and very pointed wings in flight. Appears to be a 3rd winter with some brown markings on primary coverts rather than a typical second winter Common. White spots on closed wing small (for adult Common) but larger than second winter Common. See photos below:



Possible Russian' Common Gull (*L. c. heinei*) – Loch Gilp 17 Feb (Jim Dickson).



Possible Russian' Common Gull (*L. c. heinei*) – Loch Gilp 17 Feb (Jim Dickson).



Possible Russian' Common Gull (*L. c. heinei*) – Loch Gilp 17 Feb (Jim Dickson).

17 February: No sign of the Caspian Gull at Loch Gilp today but may just have been hanging about the landfill site. Much disturbance there when a juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** went over: it circled a few times then headed N over Lochgilphead. Also there was a **colour-ringed second winter Common Gull** (Yellow 2A32 looks like a Scottish bird). A second winter **Mediterranean Gull** and 21 **Bar-tailed Godwits** were also present, as well as male and female Sparrowhawks over the loch. A male Sparrowhawk was chasing Chaffinches in the garden at Cairnbaan (Jim Dickson).

Jim heard very promptly from Iain Livingstone that the colour-ringed Common Gull was ringed as a chick EY64126 at Hunterston, Ayrshire 07.07.2013: this is the first re-sighting. On Tiree today: a Moorhen at Cornaigmore and a Fieldfare and 4 Goldfinches at Middleton (John Bowler).

On Oronsay (Colonsay) today: a raft of 30 **Common Eider** (off –shore to the south), 242 **European Golden Plovers** and 127 **Northern Lapwings** (Morgan Vaughan).

Two **Iceland Gulls** (a first and a second year) were in Campbeltown Harbour today (Andy Robinson).



Colour-ringed Common Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 17 Feb (Jim Dickson).



Bar-tailed Godwits – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 17 Feb (Jim Dickson).



Juvenile White-tailed Eagle – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 17 Feb (Jim Dickson).

16 February: Most of the mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts for February 2015** are now in. Notable counts included 156 Greylag Geese at Loch Etive, 200 Greater Canada Geese at Loch Creran, 121 Eurasian Teal on Holy Loch, good numbers of Common Goldeneye everywhere including 24 at Loch Etive, 6 Goosanders at Loch Etive and 7 at Loch Tulla, 6 Great Northern Diver and a Black-throated Diver and 5 Slavonian Grebes at Kilfinan Bay, 42 Grey Herons at Loch Etive, a White-tailed Eagle at Loch Craignish, 16 Common Snipe at Loch Etive and 234 Oystercatchers, 28 Dunlin and 20 Bar-tailed Godwit at Loch Gilp.

The full table for February 2015 can be found under the WeBS Count tab.

On Tiree today, two juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at Traigh Bhagh, one juvenile **Glaucous Gull** and a Black-headed Gull at Sorobaidh Bay, a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Gott, a Pink-footed Goose

at Scarinish and 25 **Fieldfares** at Gott (John Bowler).

On Oronsay (Colonsay) today: 200 **European Golden Plovers** and 100 **Northern Lapwings** (Morgan Vaughan).

15 February: The first winter **Caspian Gull** was still at Loch Gilp at mid-day (Jim Dickson).
Four Blue Tits on Oronsay (Colonsay) today (Morgan Vaughan).

14 February: A **Common Crossbill** was photographed near the top of the hill road up Bishops Glen behind Dunoon today. Two pairs of Bullfinches and 30+ Siskins were also seen there (Alistair McGregor).

On Tiree, a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Traigh Ghrianaidh; a second winter **Glaucous Gull** at Rubha Chraiginis; a Pied Wagtail at Loch a' Phuill and 43 Common Shelducks at Salum (John Bowler).

The first winter (female) **Caspian Gull** was showing well today at the head of Loch Gilp from 11:00 until 14:00 at least (Jim Dickson).



Common Crossbill – Bishops Glen, Dunoon 14 Feb (Alistair McGregor).



First winter Caspian Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 14 Feb (Jim Dickson).



First winter Caspian Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 14 Feb (Jim Dickson).

13 February: At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll at around 16:30 a first winter **Caspian Gull** – presumably the same bird as 3 weeks ago. At Inverneill: juvenile/first winter **Iceland Gull**; at Tayinloan a first winter **Glaucous Gull** and at the Laggan nr. Campbeltown, an albino type Herring Gull with a dark tail! (Jim Dickson/Bill Allan).

On Tiree, a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** and a **Snow Bunting** at Hynish; a **Brambling** reported from Kenovay (John Bowler).

A walk around Oronsay this morning revealed: 13 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, 1,403 **Barnacle Geese** (minimum), 156 European Golden Plovers, 112 Northern Lapwings, one Greenshank, 30 Curlews, a Black Guillemot (in summer plumage, off west coast), 58 **Twite** and two **Snow Buntings** (Morgan Vaughan).



Snow Buntings – Oronsay 13 Feb (Morgan Vaughan).



Greenland White-fronted Geese – Oronsay 13 Feb (Morgan Vaughan).

12 February: On Tiree today: 2 juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at Traigh Bhagh; 10 Fieldfares and 60 Redwings at Crossapol Point (John Bowler).

Four **Snow Buntings** on Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan).

11 February: Three **Grey Plovers** at Salum, Tiree today (Martin Finnigan).

10 February: A 1st winter **Little Gull** was at Inverneill (near Lochgilphead) today and about 45 **Great Northern Divers** from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry. On Islay: 40 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** and 60 **Scaup** at Traigh an Luig, Loch Indaal, and 4 **Greenshank** at RSPB Loch Gruinart – a nice day out (Bob Furness).

A 1st-winter **Iceland Gull** and the 1st-winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were at Campbeltown at 16:20hrs (Eddie Maguire).



First winter Lesser Black-backed Gull Campbeltown 6 Feb (Eddie Maguire).

09 February: Numbers of **Common Shelduck** are building up at The Puddle (near Keills), Loch Sween with 18 noted there during the WeBS Count today and two more at Ceann an t-Sailein. Also a flock of 64 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** there, flying over calling (Paul Daw).

The WeBS Count on Oronsay today found 36 **Common Shelducks** (Morgan Vaughan).

30 Purple Sandpipers and 16 Turnstones at the Crazy Golf, Dunoon this afternoon (George Newall).

Birds seen during the WeBS Count on Tiree today included a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Traigh Bhagh; 2 **Gadwall** and a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Loch a' Phuill, a Pale-bellied Brent Goose with Barnacle Geese at Loch Bhasapol and 15 Jackdaws and a Rook (**both scarce species on Tiree**) still at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler). Also on Tiree, a **Jack Snipe** and 6 Goldfinches at Milton (Martin Finnigan).



Rook and Jackdaws – Loch an Eilein, Tiree 9 Feb (John Bowler).

08 February: At Loch a' Phuill, Tiree this afternoon: a juvenile **Glaucous Gull**, a **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** with 500 **Barnacle Geese** and 2 Gadwall (John Bowler).

At Loch Caolisport and Ormsary, Mid-Argyll late morning: 22 **Black-throated** and 10 **Great Northern Divers**, 1 **Slavonian Grebe**, 3 **Common Scoters**, a first winter **Glaucous Gull**, 3 juvenile **Iceland Gulls** and the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull**. Later (16:30) at Loch Gilp 3 **Little Gulls** (2 first winters and an adult) and an adult **Mediterranean Gull** (un-ringed).

There have been three **Dippers** on the Baranlongart Burn near Clachbreck (N. Of Ormsary), Mid-Argyll recently including this one photographed today (Errol Crutchfield).



Dipper – Baranlongart Burn, Mid-Argyll 08 Feb (Errol Crutchfield).

07 February: A **Common Kestrel** was seen in the Lusragan valley just south of Connel, Mid-Argyll this morning (Mike Harrison).

The first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** (the wintering bird from Loch a' Phuill) was at Loch an Eilein, Tiree today with 15 Jackdaws and a Rook. A single Woodcock and a Goldfinch were at Balephuill (John Bowler).

06 February: David Jardine has just received details of the **Red colour-ringed Mediterranean Gull** which was in Loch Gilp last month (18 Jan). It was ringed on 06/06/2004 (so quite an old bird) by Paweł Szewczyk, as a nestling at RZ.WISŁA, ZASTÓW KARCZMISKI, Lubelskie, Poland. ZASTÓW KARCZMISKI is a village in eastern Poland, south east of Warsaw near Lublin and **1860 km from Loch Gilp!**

David also heard 4 **Water Rails** at Loch Ederline this evening.

An early WeBS count on Loch Etive today produced good numbers of some regular species, e.g., 130 Wigeon, 148 Mallard, 24 Goldeneye, and 42 Grey Herons. As on 22 January, Snipe were feeding in the open at the Nant Marshes, Taynuilt; at least 16 were seen. Additionally, a **Kingfisher** was seen close to Dunfuinary, Connel and a **Glaucous Gull** was in a mixed flock of gulls at Inverawe (Mike Harrison).

At Loch Gilp late afternoon an un-ringed adult **Mediterranean Gull** was there again and an adult **Little Gull**. Also two first winter **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** which are new there.

Coincidentally, Eddie Maguire also had a first winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Campbeltown Harbour today (photo).

05 February: A **Black-throated Diver** and 4 **Little Grebes** were in Brainport Bay (Minard) Mid-Argyll early this morning (Paul Daw).

Two juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** again at Traigh Bhagh, Tiree (and on 4th Feb) (John Bowler). 32 Purple Sandpipers and 3 Turnstones at the Crazy Golf, Dunoon this afternoon (George Newall).

This **curious Coat Tit** managed to get itself stuck in an oil lamp when it entered a house at Connel, Mid-Argyll! It soon escaped when the householders took the lamp outside and lifted the glass off (Trish Russell).



Coal Tit in lamp 5 Feb (Patricia Russell).

04 February: On Tiree, a group of 15 **Great Northern Divers** and 3 **Red-throated Divers** were in Sorobaidh Bay and an adult Black-headed Gull at Gott Bay (John Bowler).

At Ormsary today: now three first winter **Iceland Gulls** (no sign of the Kumlien's) and the first winter **Glaucous Gull** present (John Nadin).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** seen at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today was presumably the same bird seen there on 30/31 Dec 2014? A **Little Gull** was also present. A family party of 2 adult and 2 juvenile **Whooper Swans** were on Campbeltown Loch this morning (Chris Bradshaw).

Both **Blackcaps** were in the garden at Hunter's Quay today (Callum Satchel).

This juvenile **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** with unusual plumage was photographed in the garden at Otter Ferry, Cowal today. Also around Otter Ferry this afternoon were 43 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (almost all in pairs) and a single pair of **Goosanders** (Tom Callan).



Juvenile Eurasian Sparrowhawk – Otter Ferry, Cowal 04 Feb (Tom Callan).

03 February: A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was at Salum, Tiree (John Bowler).

A female **Blackcap** was feeding on sunflower hearts in a garden at Hunters Quay, Dunoon today. A male **Blackcap** was there yesterday (02 Feb) (Callum Satchel).



Male Blackcap – Hunters Quay, Dunoon 04 Feb (Callum Satchel).



Female Blackcap – Hunters Quay, Dunoon 04 Feb (Callum Satchel).

02 February: Jim Dickson had a good look at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll late morning for the new candidate American Herring Gull but no sign unfortunately and a big drop in gull numbers there. Still present there: a juvenile /first winter **Glaucous Gull**, 2 juvenile **Iceland Gulls** and the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull**. And at Loch Gilp at 13:30, a second winter **Mediterranean Gull** and an adult **Little Gull**.

On Tiree today: 2 juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at Traigh Bhagh. Also 72 Tufted Ducks, 55 Goldeneye and single second winter and third winter **Glaucous Gulls** at lunch-time at Loch a' Phuill: but no sign of the Ring-necked Duck (John Bowler).

01 February: A **Nuthatch** was seen, for a good ten mins or so, at garden bird feeder at Glencruitten, Oban at about 12:00 today. It returned for a brief visit later in the day (Kyle Dods).

At least 4 **Eurasian Jays** together near Minard Castle, Mid-Argyll early this morning (Paul Daw).

Four **Glaucous Gulls** (3 juveniles and a second winter) between Greenhill and Rubha Chraiginis, Tiree today. Also a single **Rook** at Loch an Eilein and 2 **Fieldfares** at Middleton (John Bowler).

RECENT REPORT January 2015

31 January: A male **Brambling** was with Chaffinches and a few Goldfinches feeding from the cones on the Sitka spruce next door to George Newall in Dunoon.

At Ormsary fish farm area this morning a different solid dark tailed **American Herring Gull type** was present together with the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull**, 2 juvenile **Iceland Gulls** and a pure white first winter **Glaucous Gull** (Jim Dickson/Stu Crutchfield).

Birds found on Oronsay today included: 9 Eurasian Wigeon, a **Peregrine Falcon** and a **Snow Bunting** (Morgan Vaughan). He says he 'spent the afternoon trying to turn up a Glaucous Gull but failed – must be one here somewhere'!



Juvenile Iceland Gull – Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 31 Jan (Jim Dickson).



Possible American Herring Gull – Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 31 Jan (Jim Dickson).



Possible American Herring Gull – Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 31 Jan (Jim Dickson).

30 January: Despite the cold weather, most of the mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts for January 2015** are now in. As well as sightings already mentioned (see 19 & 20 January), notable birds included 173 Common Eiders on Loch Long, 6 Goosanders at Loch Tulla, 2 Great Crested Grebes on Loch Long, 42 Dunlin at Loch Crinan, 41 Dunlin and 30 Turnstones at Loch Gilp, single Dipper at Kilfinan Bay and 2 Dippers at Loch Tulla.

The full table for January 2015 can be found under the WeBS Count tab.

At Ormsary fish farm, Mid-Argyll today: the presumed first winter **American Herring Gull** (now showing a paler head), juvenile **Iceland Gull**, juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** all still present and now joined by a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** (Stu Crutchfield).

A total of 10 **Glaucous Gulls** were found around West Tiree today: a second winter and 2 juveniles at The Reef and 7 juveniles (plus 1 juvenile Iceland Gull) between Hough Bay and West Hynish. Also a feeding aggregation which included 600 auks, 90 Kittiwakes and 4 Gannets seen off Greenhill; 360 Common Gull s, 15 Jackdaws and 1 Rook at Loch an Eilein plus and 4 Goldfinches at Balephuill (John Bowler).

29 January: Birds found on Oronsay today included: 79 Ringed Plovers, 230 European Golden Plovers, 90 Northern Lapwings, 47 Sanderling, 4 Dunlin, 11 Turnstones, 27 Common Chaffinches and 28 Twite (Morgan Vaughan).

28 January: Three **Glaucous Gulls** (2 juveniles and a 2nd-winter) on floods at The Reef, Tiree today (John Bowler).

Siskins appear to be back in force. After just single birds since November, George Newall had 16 together in the garden today. (Also a Greenfinch, two Goldfinches and ca 50 Chaffinches). He doesn't get Starlings in the garden very often but they have been present for all this year so far: usually about 6 (George Newall).

A total of **24 Grey Herons** were found on Oronsay today (Morgan Vaughan).

27 January: Two juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at The Reef, Tiree today and it turns out that the **colour-ringed Herring Gull** seen yesterday had been ringed as a chick on Oronsay on 04 Jul 2014 (John Bowler).

26 January: A colour-ringed first winter Herring Gull "4D2C" was found at Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree today and the juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was still at Traigh Bhagh (John Bowler).



Colour-ringed first winter Herring Gull "4D2C" Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree 26 Jan(John Bowler).

25 January: John Sedgwick's daughter Orla found what turns out to be a **Greenland White-fronted Goose neck tag** (Y9H) washed up on the foreshore at Seaview, Isle of Seil (Port a' Mhuilinn, OS grid ref NM752169). This SW facing shore faces straight down the Firth of Lorn to the open Atlantic and collects a lot of debris. After a bit of detective work they were put in touch with Tony Fox at the Dept of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark who had the following to say on the subject: "...Y9H was a Greenland White-fronted Goose that was caught on the 21st April 2013 at a place called Hvanneyri in west Iceland. It was an adult (i.e. older than first spring) female and we know from subsequent re-sightings there that it was, in all probability, paired to an adult male which bore the collar Y5H and was caught at the same place and time... In autumn 2013 we had records of Y9H and Y5H at Hvanneyri again on 24 September and 2 October, but we have no idea where they wintered in 2013/14. However, they were back again at Hvanneyri the following spring, seen on 8 April, 12 April and finally (by myself) on 5 May 2014 the last sighting of either bird alas until your remarkable correspondence!"

24 January: A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was at Traigh Bhi, Tiree; two Fieldfares at West Hynish and a Jack Snipe at Balemartine (John Bowler).

Three **Snow Buntings** and precisely 352 **Common Starlings** on Oronsay today ((Morgan Vaughan).



Fieldfare West Hynish, Tiree 24 Jan (John Bowler).

23 January: Two juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at The Reef / Traigh Bhagh, Tiree today. Also a Pale-bellied Brent Goose with Barnacle Geese at Whitehouse and an adult Black-headed Gull at Loch an Eilein – the first here this year! (John Bowler).

22 January: No sign of the candidate for American Herring Gull in amongst the ca 240 Herring Gulls and 450 Common Gulls in the Crossapol / Sorobaidh area of Tiree today. Juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** were at Sorobaidh Bay and at Traigh Bhagh (John Bowler). The WeBS count on Loch Etive found the local geese had sorted themselves to facilitate counting; 102 **Canada Geese** were at Inveresragan and 195 **Greylag Geese** were at the next farm, Blarcreen. A single Pink-footed Goose was with the Greylags, as usual. The ducks at the Nant marshes, Taynuilt were not so cooperative; 27 Mallard, 26 Teal and 6 Wigeon were feeding in the same creek and about 10 **Common Snipe** were flushed from the wet salt-marsh (Mike Harrison).

A juvenile **Iceland Gull** was at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll today. Also present there was the presumed first winter **American Herring Gull** again and the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** (John Nadin per Jim Dickson).

21 January: At Loch Gilp today, only 2 adult Mediterranean Gulls, however 3 **Little Gulls** (2 adults + first winter). Also a first winter Kittiwake and a white colour/ringed adult Black-headed Gull...too far away to read. (John Nadin reports one first winter **Glaucous Gull** still at Tayinloan and Mark Wood saw the **Kumlien's Gull** at Ormsary.)

Two Jays at the Cairnbaan/ Lochgilphead road junction and 14 Long-tailed Tits in the garden at Cairnbaan (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree, 2 juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** at Traigh Bhagh this afternoon and 100s of gulls in the Sorobaidh Bay / Crossapol area included a good candidate for **first winter American Herring Gull**. An adult Moorhen was at Crossapol Farm (John Bowler).

A single **Woodcock** was flushed from closed canopy Sitka this afternoon near Otter Ferry: sadly many are being shot in the area (Tom Callan).



Glaucous Gulls – Tayinloan, Kintyre 19 Jan (John Nadin).

20 January: The Loch Sween WeBS Count today produced a nice mixed goose flock, all in one field at Ulva Lagoons, comprising 152 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, 2 **Greylag Geese**, 39 **Greater Canada Geese** and 33 **Barnacle Geese**. Other species found included: 116 Eurasian Teal, a male Goosander, a **Woodcock**, 3 **Greenshank** and two male **Common Stonechats**. Also an **Otter** at Loch na Cille (Paul Daw).

After 14:00 the Black-headed Gulls started to arrive to the head of Loch Gilp (ca 400+). With them were seven **Mediterranean Gulls** (4 adults, 2 second winter & first winter; all un-ringed). Also an adult **Little Gull** there and a **Kingfisher** briefly on the old pier. No sign of the first winter Caspian Gull (Jim Dickson/John Nadin).

An adult Herring Gull waiting to be fed chips near the taxi rank in Oban this morning was wearing a metal ring which could be read with the naked eye. Details of the sighting have been submitted and the bird's history is awaited (Mike Harrison). **Update 24.2:** The bird was ringed as a nestling in July 2008 by Argyll Bird Club member Clive Craik on Eilean Mor, Dunstaffnage Bay, all of 7km from where it was seen last month! (Mike Harrison). A total of 17 **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen off Tayinloan, Kintyre and the two first winter **Glaucous Gulls** were still there (John Nadin/Angus McNab).

19 January: WeBS Counts today produced the following: at Holy Loch, Cowal: 82 Wigeon, 177 Teal, 112 Mallard, 6 Eider, 9 Goldeneye, 11 Red-breasted Mergansers, a lovely drake

Goosander, 11 Little Grebes, a **Great Crested Grebe**, 355 Oystercatchers, 13 **Northern Lapwings**, 65 Curlews and 25 Redshank (George Newall); on Tiree: a juvenile and second winter **Glaucous Gulls** were at Traigh Bhagh, a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** at Gott Bay and 4 juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** and 2 Fieldfares in the West Hynish / Loch a' Phuill. Also: the first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** at Loch a' Phuill with 13 **Shoveler**; a **Great Northern Diver** at Loch Bhasapol; 2 Little Grebes, 19 **Shoveler** and 2 **Pintail** at Loch Riaghain and 15 Jackdaws and a Rook at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler), and the highlights at Loch Creran, North Argyll were the first **Pintail** seen in the Loch (2 males), 5 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, a **Greenshank** and 3 male **Goosanders**. A distant Eagle perched on a boulder on the shore was tentatively identified as a White-tailed. An Otter and several Common Seals completed the tally (Robin Harvey).

The first winter **Caspian Gull** was seen this morning near the Rubbish tip (Lingerton) near Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll (John Nadin/Angus McNab).

Two un-ringed **Mediterranean Gulls** (adult and second winter) were at the head of Loch Gilp (Jim Dickson). The ringed adult Mediterranean Gull there yesterday is apparently likely to be Polish ringed (per David Jardine).

The **Kumlien's Gull** was back at the Ormsary fish-farm, Knapdale this afternoon. Also 3 **Snow Buntings** up near the Alt Dearg wind turbines. No sign of the American Herring Gull though (Stuart Crutchfield).

Two **Snow Buntings** were on Tralee beach, Benderloch, North Argyll amongst the many Meadow Pipits and Rock Pipits (Bob Grove).

After a prolonged period of high water levels a **Dipper** was seen again on the Lusragan Burn in Connel, Mid-Argyll (Mike Harrison).

Jim Dickson flushed a **Woodcock** from under his feet when topping up the garden bird feeders this morning!

30 Redwing and 10 Fieldfares near Millhouse Crossroads, Cowal (first seen this winter) (Tom Callan). Several people have commented on the scarcity of Redwing and Fieldfare this winter.

18 January: A pair of **Reed Buntings** were feeding below the bird table in a garden in Connel this afternoon (Mike Harrison).

The first winter **Caspian Gull** was still at Loch Gilp at mid-day today together with a colour ringed adult **Mediterranean Gull** (Jim Dickson with David Jardine).

During a stroll up from Barnluasgan to the point overlooking the Add Estuary late this morning a nice adult **White-tailed Eagle** was floating by not very far overhead in the direction of Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (wrong angle for wing tags unfortunately) (Malcolm Chattwood).

A 4th calendar year **Herring Gull** of the nominate *argentatus* race, (which overwinter in Scotland from their Fenno-Scandian breeding grounds) was seen at Tobermory, Mull today (Stuart Gibson per Alan Spellman).

Four **Snow Buntings** were seen near Portsonachan (Loch Awe), Mid-Argyll (Chris Bradshaw).

17 January: A first-winter **Caspian Gull** was a nice surprise at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll at lunch time today (12:30-13:25). If accepted by the SBRC this would be the sixth record for Scotland (one each in 2006, 07, 08, 09 & 2013). All have been on the east coast apart from a bird at Strathclyde Country Park in Feb 2008 (Jim Dickson).

Four juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** were found in the West Hynish / Loch a' Phuill area of Tiree (

John Bowler).

A single **Snow Bunting** seen on Creag Buireinich (above Fernoch, Kilmichael Glen), Mid-Argyll today (John Halliday).

A **Snow Bunting** was seen north of Drumore (nr Bellochantuy), Kintyre. Another **Snow Bunting** was at Tayinloan Ferry and 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** were off-shore there (Chris Bradshaw).



First-winter Caspian Gull Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 17 Jan (Jim Dickson).



First-winter Caspian Gull Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 17 Jan (Jim Dickson).



First-winter Caspian Gull Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 17 Jan (Jim Dickson).

15 January: One or more **Nuthatches** were present at Ardkinglas garden (Loch Fyne) today and a **Barn Owl** was seen at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (David Jardine).

A **Hen Harrier** ringed in Cowal, Argyll by Dave Anderson on 01 Jul 2014 (yellow CA on black) was photographed wintering in Poole harbour, Dorset (Aidan Brown).



Cowal Hen Harrier at Poole harbour, Dorset 02 Jan (©Aidan Brown).

14 January: Two juvenile **Glaucous Gulls** seen in Kintyre today: one in fields near Rhunahaorine Point and the other along the shoreline at Bellochantuy (Stuart Crutchfield). On Tiree, a **Greenland Redpoll** with House Sparrows and 2 Chaffinches at Hynish; first winter male **Ring-necked Duck**, immature/female **Scaup** and 4 Goldfinches at Loch a' Phuill; pair of Gadwall at Sandaig and single Fieldfares at Balevullin, Middleton and Heylipol Church. Also island totals of: 600 Redwings, 3,045 Lapwings, 3,280 Golden Plover and 140 Whooper Swans (John Bowler).

13 January: A **Glaucous Gull** was photographed at Bellochantuy, Kintyre today and a juvenile Glaucous Gull was at Campbeltown Loch (Chris Bradshaw).

The goose count for the East end of Tiree today found: the juvenile **Glaucous Gull** again at the Reef, an immature/female **Common Scoter** in Gunna Sound, 25 Fieldfares at Milton, 6 Fieldfares and 3 Goldfinches at Gott Tip. Approx. 300 Redwings were seen around the eastern half of the island alone (cold weather influx?) (John Bowler).



Glaucous Gull Bellochantuy, Kintyre 13 Jan (Chris Bradshaw).

12 January: A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was at The Reef, Tiree today – later flew towards Balemartine: also 60 Common Gulls there. 12 Jackdaws and 240 Common Gulls at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).

Two male **Bullfinches** visited the garden at Cairnbaan (nr Lochgilphead) late afternoon at 16:15 at it was starting to get dark. Also a male Siskin back yesterday and 65 Chaffinches there (Jim Dickson).

A pair of **Golden Eagles** were circling over Oronsay this afternoon (Morgan Vaughan).



Golden Eagles Oronsay (Colonsay) 12 Jan (Morgan Vaughan).



Bullfinch Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 13 Jan (Jim Dickson).



Bullfinch Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll 13 Jan (Jim Dickson).

11 January: The first winter male **Ring-necked Duck** again at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree today and an immature Pomarine Skua heading NW of West Hynish at 14:10hrs (John Bowler). A female **Common Crossbill** was foraging on the gravel path at Otter Ferry, Cowal this morning. Also up to 70 or so Common Chaffinches around the feeders – the vast majority males. A solitary Dolphin first noticed during July 2014 is still resident by the red navigation buoy off Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) by Port Ann (Otter Ferry Narrows) (Tom Callan).



Female Common Crossbill Otter Ferry, Cowal 11 Jan (Tom Callan).

10 January: Two **White-tailed Eagles** circling over Tullochgorm (Minard) Mid-Argyll at 13:30 today, just prior to a spectacular hail shower. One definitely an adult the other probably so (Paul Daw).

A recently dead juvenile **Kemp's Ridley Turtle** found washed ashore at Ruaig, Tiree today (John Bowler).

09 January: The long staying **Little Egret** photographed on Oronsay today. Also present were 19 Reed Buntings, a single Whooper Swan and a single Jack Snipe (Morgan Vaughan). Single **Woodcock** at Balephuill, Tiree today (John Bowler).



Little Egret Oronsay (Colonsay) 9 Jan (Morgan Vaughan).

08 January: On Tiree, 20 Fieldfares at Druimbuidhe Cornaigmore; 28 Purple Sandpipers, 4 Long-tailed Ducks and 4 Northern Gannets at Balephetrish Bay and 8 Goldfinches at Balephuill today (John Bowler).

07 January: At least **80 Blue Tits** were foraging on the lawn at Tayvallich, Mid-Argyll this morning. One or two other types with them, but virtually nothing but them. The flock stayed for about an hour, then disappeared (Morag Rea). This must surely be a record number of Blue Tits to be seen in Argyll at any one time.

Morag reports that Ewan Halley saw no fewer than 5 juvenile **White-tailed Eagles** together at Danna (Loch Sween) Mid-Argyll on Saturday 20th December. Quite unprecedented here and very unusual for the mainland.

06 January: Totals of 56 Turnstones and 32 Purple Sandpipers at the Crazy Golf course, Dunoon this morning (George Newall).

05 January: The juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** still at Ormsary, Mid-Argyll today (Jim Dickson).



Juvenile Kumlien's Gull Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 6 Jan (John Nadin).



Juvenile Kumlien's Gull Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 6 Jan (John Nadin).



Kumlien's Gull Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 4 Jan (Jim Dickson).

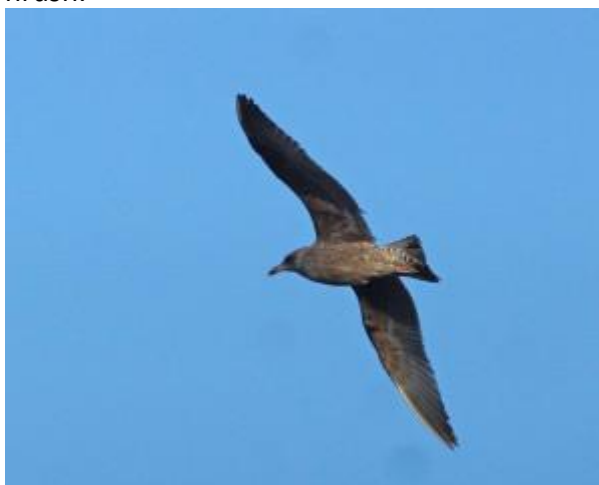
04 January: Lots of Black-headed Gulls at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today: also one adult **Little Gull** and one adult **Mediterranean Gull** present. A male **Mandarin Duck** was at Loch A' Choire, Ford, Mid-Argyll earlier today (David Jardine).

David has obtained details of two **Mute Swans with orange darvic rings** seen in Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll on 13 Nov 2014.

1. 3CXS / (metal W12424). Male first year (9.6 kg) ringed on 22 Apr 2006 at Auchenharvie Golf Course, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire. Also seen 03 Feb 2007 at Richmond Park, Glasgow and 03 Mar 2007 at Knightswood Park, Glasgow.

2. 3CCL / (metal W04335). Adult female already with metal ring (most probably Clyde Ringing Group). Orange darvic ring added 24 Apr 2004 at Largs Boating Pond, North Ayrshire. Also seen at Largs Centre on 19 Jun 2004 with male 3AZL / metal W05651. The male was ringed in 2001 (already adult) and later reported dead.

03 January: (Update by Jim). At Ormsary, Mid-Argyll the presumed 1w **American Herring Gull** still there and a fly-over **Merlin**. Kestrel and Grey Wagtail there yesterday with about 30 Goldfinches and the juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** (Jim Dickson/Stu Crutchfield/David Jardine). On Tiree the 1w male **Ring-necked Duck** again showing at Loch a' Phuill and also 4 Shelduck new there. Also 12 Goldfinch and 1m Hen Harrier at Sandaig, 9 Long-tailed Duck and 1 ad Gannet at Hough Bay. A dead 5.75m **Cuvier's Beaked Whale** at Crossapol, but no small white gulls there yet....(John Bowler). In North Argyll, Robin Harvey saw 2 Slavonian Grebes off Tralee beach, 2 Greenshank at An Sailean, Benderloch and at Kiel Crofts, Benderloch 20 Redwing and 1 Mistle Thrush.



1w American Herring Gull Ormsary 03 Jan1 2015 (Jim Dickson).

02 January 2015: Two **White-tailed Eagles** were seen together today, between Ardcastle and Lochgair near Asknish House, Mid-Argyll (Andy Craven).

David Jardine found a **ringed Black-headed Gull** (right leg – white 2ADK, left leg – metal) at Ardrishaig, Mid-Argyll this morning. The ringer informs him it was first ringed as a chick at a colony (NT3453) in the Moorfoot Hills (south of Edinburgh) on 16 Jun 2013. It was seen again at Balloch, West Dunbartonshire on 02 Nov 013, Feb & Mar 2014 and again in Oct 2014 but not since (David Jardine).

01 January 2015: The presumed **American Herring Gull** was still at Ormsary (at 13:00) however weather was poor and not able to get within 300 metres but some pics taken.

The juvenile **Kumlien's Gull** was still there and the single Lesser Black-backed Gull.
Fewer gulls at Loch Gilp this afternoon but 2, possibly 3 adult **Little Gulls** were present.



American Herring Gull Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 01 January (Jim Dickson)



American Herring Gull Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 01 January (Jim Dickson)



American Herring Gull Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 01 January (Jim Dickson)