

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 Balephuill (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 Vaul 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).