

## RECENT REPORTS July - August 2015

### RECENT REPORTS August 2015

**31 August:** Observations on Tiree today included: 12 **Ruff** at Balevullin; 7 **Ruff** at Hynish; a single **Ruff** at Upper Kenovay, Hough pools and Sandaig; single **Red Knot** at Sandaig and Vaul; 6 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Greenhill; 4 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Sandaig; 4 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Balemartine; 16 **Black-tailed Godwits**; 170 **Ringed Plover**, 365 **Sanderling** and 103 **Dunlin** at Gott Bay; single **Robins** at Balephuill and Beinn Hough and 19 **Wigeon** and 5 **Gadwall** at Loch Bhasapol (Keith Gillon/ Mark Fanshawe/John Bowler).

**30 August:** At the Add Estuary today: 112 **Ringed Plovers**, 40+ **Dunlin**, 14 **Red Knot**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, 28 **Common Redshank**, 1 **Turnstone**, 7 **Cormorants**, 8 **Goosanders**, 2 **Wigeon**, 1 **Osprey**, 4 juvenile **Whinchats** (Jim Dickson).



Whinchat Add Estuary 30 Aug 2015 (Jim Dickson).

Observations on Tiree today included: a **Little Stint**, a **Red Knot** and 2 **White Wagtails** at Clachan; 10 **Ruff** at Balephuill; 5 **Red Knot** at Balephetrish Bay and a **Common Sandpiper** at West Hynish (Keith Gillon/ Mark Fanshawe/John Bowler).

**29 August:** Some highlights from the ABC trip from Kennacraig to Colonsay today included: 3 **Swifts** in total, 1 **Puffin** west of Islay, 1 **Whimbrel** calling & crossing in front of the ferry, 3 **Chough**, 1 juvenile **Moorhen** on Loch Fada, 6 **Red Knot**, 200 **Ringed Plover** and 100 **Dunlin** at Traigh nam Barc (Malcolm Chattwood/David Jardine).



ABC trip to Colonsay 29 Aug (Davie Rutherford).



ABC trip to Colonsay 29 Aug (Davie Rutherford)



Dunlin - ABC trip to Colonsay 29 Aug (Davie Rutherford).

A single **Common Coot** was on Glenfeochan House lochan, nr. Oban today, together with a Mallard family, 2 **Tufted Ducks** and 3 **Little Grebes** (Bob Grove).

On Tiree: 24 juvenile **Ruff** and 4 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Balephuill with 4 **Willow Warblers** there. 880 **Golden Plover** at Sandaig/Kilkenneth and 4 juvenile **Ruff**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit** and 3 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Kilkenneth (John Bowler). One or two **Greenshank** at Loch a' Phuill and a flock of 75 **Common Redshank** flying south, also 5 **Ruff** and a **Red Knot** at Hynish (Keith Gillon).

Southbound waders at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today included: 80 **Red Knots**, 22 **Sanderling**, 60 **Dunlin**, 3 **Common Sandpipers**, 45 **Common Redshank** and 12 **Turnstones** (Eddie Maguire).



Red Knot - MSBO, Kintyre 29 Aug (Eddie Maguire).

**28 August:** At the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll: 67 **Ringed Plover**, 33 **Dunlin**, 24 **Common Redshank**, 1 **Greenshank**, 8 **Red Knot** and 40 **Teal** (John Halliday).

Waders moving S at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today included: 40 **Red Knots**, ca 80 **Dunlin**, 4 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, 6 **Common Sandpipers**, 35 **Common Redshank** and 12 **Turnstones**. Also, Twite numbers building up daily: the largest flock seen today was 40+.

And at Strath Farm east pool, The Laggan (nr Campbeltown): 62 **Greylag Geese**, one female-type **Shoveler**, 82 **Black-headed Gulls**, 210 **Common Gulls**, 3,000+ **Herring Gulls**, 40 **Great-black-backed Gulls** and 61 **Lesser-black Backed Gulls**. Unfortunately, recent heavy rain has flooded the pool and the muddy margins are gone!



Red Knot & Common Sandpiper - MSBO, Kintyre 28 Aug (Eddie Maguire).



Twite - MSBO, Kintyre 28 Aug (Eddie Maguire).

**27 August:** At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today: 11 **Eurasian Wigeon**, 1st summer **Caspian Gull** still present, 29 **Ringed Plover**, 7 **Bar-tailed Godwits** in non-breeding plumage, a single **Whimbrel** and 6 **Common Redshank**. And at the Add Estuary: 109 **Ringed Plover**, 7 **Red Knot**, one **Sanderling**, 31 **Dunlin**, a juvenile **Bar-tailed Godwit** and 18 **Common Redshank** (Jim Dickson).

At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today: the first **Whoopers Swans** (4 adults) flew S this morning as did the first **Wigeon** (3 drakes) and **Common Scoter** (3 drakes - first appearance this month). Waders included single **Red Knot** and **Black-tailed Godwit**, a few **Sanderlings** (20), **Dunlins** (30), **Turnstone** (6) and **Common Sandpipers** (4). A light early morning southerly movement of **Kittiwakes** (216 / 2hrs) revealed that only 56 / 216 (26%) were juvs.

No first summer-plumaged birds were noted (Eddie Maguire). A **Coot** was on a lochan near Glenfeochan House, Mid-Argyll (Bob Grove).



Black-tailed Godwit – MSBO, Kintyre 27 Aug (Eddie Maguire).



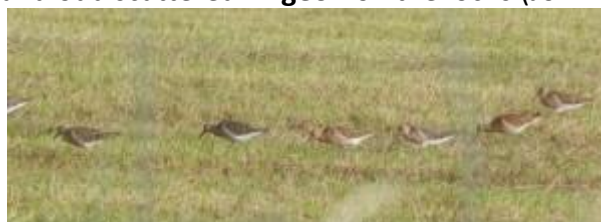
Kittiwake – MSBO, Kintyre 27 Aug (Eddie Maguire).

**26 August:** The **Twite season** commenced at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today and 14 birds were colour ringed. A pair that were ringed during autumn 2013 were re-trapped along with one of their youngsters. Waders moving south there included: 140 **Oystercatchers**, 40 **Red Knot** and a **Greenshank** (Eddie Maguire / Rab Morton).

At the Add Estuary today: 3 **Northern Lapwing**, 4 juvenile **Black-tailed Godwit** and a female **Hen Harrier** (Jim Dickson).

A total of 350-400 **Manx Shearwaters** heading up Loch Long from Ardentinnny, Cowal today was an unusually large number for this location (Steve Petty). A similar number were seen flying up the loch from his house at Blairmore, Cowal by Peter Staley, who also had saw 24 **Goosanders** (redheads) on the shore of Loch Long opposite his house.

**25 August:** Found during today's goose count on Tiree: 13 juvenile **Ruff** and 2 juvenile **Black-tailed Godwits** at Balephuill, a juvenile **Ruff** and a juvenile **Black-tailed Godwit** at Balemartine, 25 juvenile **Black-tailed Godwits** at Middleton, 25 juvenile **Black-tailed Godwits** at Kilkenneth and odd scattered **Wigeon** on the lochs (John Bowler).



Ruffs at Balephuill, Tiree 25 Aug (John Bowler).



While working on the new Twite trap just outside Machrihanish Seabird Observatory this morning a **Green Sandpiper** flew S about 30m above the hide calling at ca10:00hrs. The cameras were in the hide so no cigar! (Eddie Maguire / Iomhar McMillan).

At Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll late morning: a **Wood Sandpiper** (flushed & flew towards Eilean Glas), 29 **Ringed Plover**, 25 **Dunlin**, a **Red Knot**, one **Black-tailed Godwit**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, a **Greenshank** and 17 **Common Redshank**. Also 2 **Eurasian Wigeon** at Loch Gilp and 2 **Common Swifts** over Cairnbaan. And the Add Estuary this evening one **Wigeon**, 2 **Whimbrel**, 3 **Greenshanks**, 25 **Common Redshanks** and 5 **Common Sandpipers** (Jim Dickson).



Red Knot - Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 25 Aug (Jim Dickson).



Red Knot - Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 25 Aug (Jim Dickson).

**24 August:** On Tiree today: a juvenile **Spotted Redshank** with 4 **Bar-tailed Godwits** and 4 **Greenshank** at Sorobaidh Bay; a third calendar year **Little Gull** and 2 **Sandwich Terns** at Gott Bay; at least 28 juvenile **Ruff** on pools on silage fields with 58 **Ringed Plover**, 30 **Dunlin** and a further 13 **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Salum / Ruaig; a male **Sparrowhawk** at Baugh and a **Greenshank** at Sandaig. Also dozens of Black and Common Darter dragonflies in sheltered places (John Bowler).

**23 August:** On Tiree today: 6 juvenile **Ruff**, 15 **Common Snipe** and one **Black-tailed Godwit** at Loch a' Phuill: also 2 **House Martins** at Meningie (John Bowler).

**22 August:** There were good numbers of waders at Ardminish Bay, Gigha today, including 124 **Ringed Plover**, a **Red Knot**, 60 **Dunlin**, a **Whimbrel**, 8 **Curlew**, 4 **Common Redshank** and

a **Turnstone**. Also on Gigha, a **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Eilean Eun, Gigha and a **Little Grebe** chick on Mill Loch (David Jardine).

The Islay **Rose-coloured Starling** was seen again near fisherman's access to Loch Gorm today (Gary per James How).

A juvenile **Common Chiffchaff** was at Balephuill, Tiree (John Bowler).

This group of **Goosanders** on the Holy Loch, Dunoon today comprised 27 birds (Gordon Holm).



Goosanders – Holy Loch, Cowal 22 Aug (Gordon Holm).

**21 August:** The 1st summer **Caspian Gull** still present at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll late morning: in heavy moult/retarded plumage. And at the Add Estuary: 12 **Ringed Plover**, 35 **Red Knot**, 38 **Dunlin**, a **Turnstone** and an **Osprey** (Jim Dickson). John Halliday also saw 2 **Black-tailed Godwits** there.



1st summer Caspian Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 21 Aug (Jim Dickson).



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1st summer Caspian Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 21 Aug (Jim Dickson).

**20 August:** A one hr sea-watch in SE7 from Hynish, Tiree from 17:00 found (all heading SW): 144 **Fulmars**, 710 **Manx Shearwaters**, 570 **Northern Gannets**, 122 **Kittiwakes**, 12 large auks and an **Arctic Tern** (John Bowler).

The first Twite flock (14) arrived at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory feeding station this morning: so, for the sixth season, the **UK Twite Study Project** (colour ringing) will commence directly. The only waders present at Strath Farm east pool (nr Campbeltown) were 10 **Black-tailed Godwits** (Eddie Maguire).

This juvenile **Sparrowhawk** which arrived on the garden fence at Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll this morning looked as surprised to see me as I was him (or her) (Paul Daw).



Sparrowhawk - Tullochgorm (Minard), Mid-Argyll 20 Aug (Paul Daw).

A **Rose-coloured Starling** was seen at Machir Bay, Islay by Richard Scott and the number of **Black Tailed Godwits** on the Flats, Loch Gruinart, Islay today has risen to 39 and **Ruff** to 13 (per Ian Brooke's Islay Blog).



Rose-coloured Starling Machir Bay, Islay 20 Aug (Richard Scott).

**19 August:** A **Hobby** was seen from the Islay ferry as it entered West Loch Tarbert (Bob Davison per Jim Dickson). An adult **Goshawk** was reported from Gribun, Mull and observed being mobbed by a pair of **Peregrines** (Nathan Alblas per Jim Dickson). Recently in the news for attacking people, **Herring Gulls** are not averse to having a go at each other!



Herring Gull stooshie Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 19 Aug (Jim Dickson).



Herring Gull stooshie Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 19 Aug (Jim Dickson).



Herring Gull stooshie Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 19 Aug (Jim Dickson).



**18 August:** The count of redhead **Goosanders** at Loch Riddon, Cowal had increased to 143 today, possibly due to much improved conditions for counting (Tom Callan).

About 20 **Greenfinches**, 60 **Twite**, and a few **Reed Buntings** were at Tayinloan, Kintyre today as well as 2 bright red-chested redpolls that could be Mealy (Common) Redpolls (Katie Pendreigh per Jim Dickson).

**17 August:** A **Nuthatch** was an unexpected visitor at Keillmore (Loch Sween), Mid-Argyll, especially as there are no trees there! It was feeding on the house wall and a lichen covered boulder (Iain Coucher).

An overnight increase in waders at Strath Farm east pool, The Laggan (nr Campbeltown) included: 6 **Ruffs**, 2 **Common Snipe**, 9 **Black-tailed Godwits** and a **Common Redshank**. A juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** spooked the waders this morning but appeared far too inexperienced for this 'fast food' (Eddie Maguire).



Common Snipe - Strath farm, The Laggan, Campbeltown 17 Aug (Eddie Maguire).



Ruff - Strath farm, The Laggan, Campbeltown 17 Aug (Eddie Maguire).



Peregrine Falcon - Strath farm, The Laggan, Campbeltown 17 Aug (Eddie Maguire).

**16 August:** Highlights on the Add Estuary/ Loch Crinan WeBS today were: 13 **Teal**, 4 **Goosanders**, a second calendar year male **Hen Harrier**, 12 **Ringed Plover**, 7 **Red Knot**, a **Ruff**, 2 **Greenshanks** and 3 **Common Sandpipers** (Jim Dickson).

At the Strath Farm east pool, The Laggan (nr Campbeltown) today: 2 **Ruff** and a **Black-tailed Godwit** with a male **Hen Harrier** flying E close by. The only species to appear in any numbers at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today were **Kittiwakes**. A total of 464 flew S in 5hrs and 328 (70%) of these were juveniles. A further 11 birds not included in this analysis were first-summers. Also, a rare bird here, a **Wood Pigeon** flew in-off the sea (Eddie Maguire).



Black-tailed Godwit – Strath farm, The Laggan, Campbeltown 16 Aug (Eddie Maguire).



Black-tailed Godwit – Strath farm, The Laggan, Campbeltown 16 Aug (Eddie Maguire). And on Tiree, 18 juvenile **Ruff** were at Loch a' Phuill and a **Sandwich Tern** and 10 **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Hynish (John Bowler).

**15 August:** On Tiree today a late **Corn Crake** was showing well at Balephuill and 2 adult and a juvenile **Black-throated Divers** were off Hynish (John Bowler).



Corn Crake – Balephuill, Tiree 15 Aug (John Bowler).

**14 August:** An adult **Sandwich Tern** was photographed at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll late this morning, the first Jim's seen there this year and the **Yellow-legged Gull** candidate from yesterday was seen again (Jim Dickson).



Sandwich Tern - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 14 Aug (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today: 9 juvenile **Ruffs**, a **Bar-tailed Godwit**, a **Green Sandpiper** and a **Great Skua** were at Loch a' Phuill and a **Water Rail** at Sorobaidh Bay creek (John Bowler).

**13 August:** A probable juvenile **Yellow-legged Gull** was photographed at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll late this morning (Jim Dickson).



probable juvenile Yellow-legged Gull Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 13 Aug (Jim Dickson).

This **Ringed Plover** was photographed at Ormsary, Knapdale this evening (Davie Rutherford).



Ringed Plover - Ormsary, Knapdale 13 Aug (Davie Rutherford).



Ringed Plover - Ormsary, Knapdale 13 Aug (Davie Rutherford).

**12 August:** A **Common Kingfisher** was photographed by Kilmun Pier, Holy Loch this evening (Ian Giles) and a minimum of 121 redhead **Goosanders** were found at Loch Riddon, Cowal today (Tom Callan).

**Common Swifts** were still around this evening with at least 12 over Oban town centre (Mike Harrison).

**11 August:** A tight flock of 24 redhead **Goosanders** were just north of Western Ferries, Kirn, Dunoon today and an **Osprey** was fishing just south of Lazaretto point, a bit further up the Holy Loch (Tom Callan).

On Tiree, 4 **Ruffs** and 8 **Black-tailed Godwits** were at Loch a' Phuill and a female **Sparrowhawk** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**10 August:** At least 25 **Common Swifts** were over Oban town centre this morning – the most Mike has seen this 'summer' (Mike Harrison).

The first-summer **Caspian Gull** was at Loch Gilp briefly between 10:30 and 11:15 and seen by visiting birders Al McNee, Bob Swann, & Gus Guthrie. An adult **Little Gull** was also there. (Jim Dickson).

The following were located during a rather soggy mowing survey on Tiree today: a moulting adult male and 4 juvenile **Ruffs**, 29 **Black-tailed Godwits**, 40 **Eurasian Curlews** and 170 **Sand Martins** at Loch a' Phuill; 300+ **Golden Plover** and 4 juvenile **Ruffs** at Greenhill; a juvenile **Ruff** at Whitehouse; a juvenile **Ruff** at Balephuill; 5 **Whimbrel** at Ruaig and 44 **Arctic Terns** (including 14 juveniles) and 13 **Common Terns** (including 7 juveniles) at Gott Bay (John Bowler).

**09 August:** Southerly passage of waders this morning at MSBO included 80 **Ringed Plover**, 12 **Red Knot**, 16 **Sanderling**, ca 180 **Dunlin**, 30 **Common Redshank**, 5 **Common Sandpiper** and 2 **Turnstones**. A pale adult **Arctic Skua** flew S in the afternoon and there were 4 **Sandwich Terns** including 2 juveniles. At Strath Farm, The Laggan in late afternoon there were 17 **Greylag Geese** and a single juvenile **Black-tailed Godwit** (Eddie Maguire).





Ringed Plover, Sanderling & Dunlin – MSBO, Kintyre 09 Aug (Eddie Maguire).



Red Knot - MSBO, Kintyre 09 Aug (Eddie Maguire).

At Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today: The first-summer **Caspian Gull** was present 10:00-11:30. Also a juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** overhead, an adult **Black-tailed Godwit** on the shinty pitch and 2 **Bar-tailed Godwits** on the mud inc. one red adult. And at the Add Estuary: an **Osprey**, 10 adult **Black-tailed Godwits** and a **Greenshank** (Jim Dickson).



Adult Bar-tailed Godwit – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 09 Aug (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today: 400+ **Golden Plover**, 12 juvenile **Red Knots** and 5 **Black-tailed Godwits**, at Sandaig with 400 **Manx Shearwaters**, a **Great Skua** and an **Arctic Skua** offshore there (John Bowler).

**08 August:** The long staying first-summer **Caspian Gull** was showing 09:30-11:00 at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today: it has a nice new tail (Jim Dickson).

See heavily cropped long distance photos:



first-summer Caspian Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 08 Aug (Jim Dickson).



first-summer Caspian Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 08 Aug (Jim Dickson).



first-summer Caspian Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 08 Aug (Jim Dickson).

On Jura today at Glas Eilean David Jardine saw 10 species of waders including a single **Little Stint**.

A sea-watch off Hynish, Tiree in SSW7 wind 16.30-17.30hrs produced (all heading SW): 343 **Fulmars**, 13 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 730 **Manx Shearwaters**, 9 **European Storm-petrels**, 195 **Northern Gannets**, 2 **Great Skuas**, 71 **Kittiwakes**, 2 **Black Guillemots** and 12 large auks. Also on Tiree; 3 **Ruffs** and 8 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Barrapol and 6 **Whooper Swans**, 2 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 2 **Great Skuas** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

**07 August:** On Tiree at lunch-time today: 6 **Whooper Swans**, 4 **Ruff**, 4 **Black-tailed Godwits**, a **Wood Sandpiper**, and 3 **Great Skuas** at Loch a' Phuill. Over 500 moths of over 40 species

trapped last night at Balephuill including the first Northern Spinach for Tiree. 8 Ruff were at Sandaig, Tiree late this afternoon (John Bowler).



Ruffs - Loch a' Phuill, Tiree 07 Aug (John Bowler).

**06 August:** This morning a nice **Wood Sandpiper** was with 2 **Dunlin** and a female-type **Shoveler** at the east pool at Strath Farm (The Laggan near Campbeltown) (Eddie Maguire / Neil Black - photos from both). At MSBO the only newsworthy event was an all too brief visit to the garden by a cracking **Humming Bird Hawk Moth** (Eddie Maguire).



Wood Sandpiper - Strath Farm, The Laggan nr Campbeltown 06 Aug (Neil Black).



Wood Sandpiper - Strath Farm, The Laggan nr Campbeltown 06 Aug (Eddie Maguire).  
At the Add estuary, Mid-Argyll today: 2 **Ospreys**, 2 **Red Knot**, 25 **Dunlin**, 2 **Ruffs**, 4 **Black-tailed Godwits**, 2 **Greenshank**, 34 **Common Redshanks** and one **Common Sandpiper** (John Halliday). Also seen there later: a single juvenile **Curlew Sandpiper** and 4 juvenile **Sanderling** (Jim Dickson).

Two juvenile **Ruff** were with 420 **Golden Plover** on the Sandaig machair on Tiree this afternoon (John Bowler).

**05 August:** On Tiree today: 17 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Cornaig, 8 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Crossapol and 6 **Whooper Swans** and 2 **Great Skuas** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler). 12 **Ruff** were at the east pool at Strath Farm (The Laggan near Campbeltown) (Eddie Maguire).

**04 August:** This **Northern Gannet** was standing on the mud at Loch Gilp today looking rather exhausted: it eventually tucked its head in and went to sleep! The first-summer **Caspian Gull** was also there still.



Northern Gannet – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 04 Aug (Jim Dickson).

At the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan today: 2 adult **Red Knots**, 34 **Dunlin**, 2 adult **Black-tailed Godwits**, an adult **Greenshank**, 16 **Common Redshanks** and 9 **Common Sandpipers** (Jim Dickson) and in the afternoon there John Halliday counted 8 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 7 **Red Knot** and he saw a **Peregrine** taking a gull.

Two **Arctic Skuas** were harrying **Arctic Terns** off the SW tip of Lismore today (John Bowler).

**03 August:** Today at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll: 3 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, including a red adult and at the Add Estuary: 7 **Red Knot**, 20 **Dunlin**, 2 **Common Swifts**, 3 **Common Whitethroats** and 4 **Whinchats** (Jim Dickson).

## RECENT REPORTS July 2015

**31 July:** Seen on the ferry crossing from Scalasaig, Colonsay to Oban today were: 300+ **Manx Shearwaters**, 100+ **Northern Gannets** and large numbers of **Common Guillemots** with juveniles, as well as **Razorbills** (Patrick Styles).

A quick jaunt to Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll today yielded 5 **Dunlin**, 4 **Ruffs**, a **Bar-tailed Godwit** and 2 **Greenshank**. The previous high total for Ruff at the Add/L Crinan was 2!

Also no less than 47 **Mistle Thrushes** at Drimvore (inc. good numbers of juveniles) and still 2 **Common Swifts** in the Moine Mhor area.

The photo shows the 4 juvenile Ruffs , 2 adult and a juvenile Dunlin and 2 Greenshank (Jim Dickson).





Waders – Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 31 Jul (Jim Dickson).

A single **Sooty Shearwater** and *ca* 2,000 **Manx Shearwaters** were seen off Gunna Sound from the Tiree-Mull ferry today (John Bowler).

Among the birds seen during the ABC Field Trip to Loch Gilp, Add Estuary and Taynish on Saturday 25 July was the **first-summer Ring-billed Gull** that has been around at Loch Gilp for a few days. Not an easy gull to pick out from the crowd so here are a couple of Jim Dickson's photos (taken on 22 July) of the bird in question, which show the essential ID features. NB in the second photo it's the bird on the right and when seen on Monday 27 Jul it was limping badly....so might be easier to pick out in future!!



first-summer Ring-billed Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 22 Jul (Jim Dickson).



first-summer Ring-billed Gull – Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 22 Jul (Jim Dickson).

**30 July:** On Tiree today: 6 **Whooper Swans**, 35 **Mute Swans**, 4 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 2 **Great Skuas** at Loch a' Phuill. Also 2 **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Gott Bay, a **Greenshank** at The

Reef. A pair of **Moorhens** were seen with a chick at Kilkenneth (rarely prove breeding on Tiree) (John Bowler).

**29 July:** No less than 5 **Basking Sharks** were seen off Milton, Tiree today (John Bowler).

**28 July:** Today on Tiree: one **Osprey** headed NE off Milton with 3 **Common Scoter** also there. Also 6 **Black-tailed Godwits** and a **Greenshank** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

**27 July:** Remarkably, not just one, but two **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Strath Farm pool, near Campbeltown, Kintyre this morning (10:00hrs) along with 3 juvenile **Dunlin** and nearby, 5 female-type **Shovelers** (Eddie Maguire).

A good session at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll today produced the first-summer **Caspian Gull** showing well as well as the first-summer **Ring-billed Gull** and an adult **Mediterranean Gull** (Jim Dickson, Stuart Crutchfield & Scott O'Hara).



Mediterranean Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 27 Jul (Jim Dickson).



Mediterranean Gull - Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll 27 Jul (Jim Dickson).

**26 July:** A **Nuthatch** was on garden bird feeders at Carsaig (Tayvallich), Mid-Argyll at 10:45 today (Jon Close).

**23 July:** Flocks of **Mistle Thrush** building up at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll: 17 this morning with a further 4 in the Moine Mhor area. Also a single **Black-tailed Godwit** at the Islandadd Bridge, Moine Mhor (Jim Dickson).



Black-tailed Godwit – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 23 Jul (Jim Dickson).

**22 July:** The **Pectoral Sandpiper** reappeared at Strath Farm pool (The Laggan near Campbeltown) (15:00hrs). Two fresh female-type **Shoveler** also there (Eddie Maguire/ Rab Morton).

A first-summer into second-winter **Ring-billed Gull** at Loch Gilp this afternoon. Hard to get close to on the mud when first seen but rested on the shinty pitch for a short while with Common Gulls. Also, at the Add Estuary today, there were a single **Golden Plover**, a **Red Knot**, 12 **Dunlin** and a **Greenshank** (Jim Dickson).

**21 July:** A **Laughing Gull** at Portnahaven, Islay today has apparently been around for a while. (John S. Armitage). Looks like a second-summer bird (per Jim Dickson).



Laughing Gull - Portnahaven, Islay 21 Jul (John S. Armitage).



Laughing Gull - Portnahaven, Islay 21 Jul (John S. Armitage).

A **Black Guillemot** nesting at the old Dunoon pier, Cowal this morning, with an adult feeding a well grown chick. Given the pier is closed off for the public the birds are not at risk from disturbance. Three more adults there too (Andrew Webster).

The first-summer **Caspian Gull** was at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll again today (Jim Dickson).

**20 July:** Today on Tiree: the 2CY **Glaucous Gull** was at Traigh Bhi, 10 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein, 3 **Whooper Swans**, 2 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 3 **Great Skuas** at Loch a' Phuill, one **Black-tailed Godwit** with 28 **Curlews** at Kenovay, 192 **Sanderling** on the beaches, a female **Gadwall** with a brood of 6 young at Moss and a juvenile **Common Cuckoo** (unusual on Tiree) at Balephuill (John Bowler).

The adult **Mediterranean Gull** was on the Shinty pitch at Lochgilphead High School, Mid-Argyll today (BirdGuides per Jim Dickson).

**19 July:** This **Pectoral Sandpiper** was on the Strath Farm pool (The Laggan near Campbeltown) all day along with a **Northern Lapwing** and 7 **Dunlin** (Eddie Maguire).

A colour ringed first-summer **Kittiwake** photographed at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 24 May 2015 was found dead on the beach close by today. The bird was ringed in France (probably Brittany). Metal ring details were: Mus. Paris FX24192. There are four previous confirmed records of French colour ringed Kittiwakes at MSBO (Eddie Maguire).



Pectoral Sandpiper - The Laggan, Campbeltown 19 Jul (Eddie Maguire).



colour ringed Kittiwake - MSBO, Kintyre - photographed 24 May 2015 (Eddie Maguire).

**18 July:** On Tiree today: 99 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch a' Phuill, 38 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Loch an Eilein and a **Grasshopper Warbler** showing nicely at Balephuill (John Bowler).





Grasshopper Warbler – Balephuill, Tiree 18 Jul (John Bowler).

**17 July:** The weather conditions today were presumably behind several rewarding sightings of grounded waders.

1. At Strath Farm pool, The Laggan near Campbeltown **Eddie Maguire** had 2 **Red Knot**, a **Curlew Sandpiper** in breeding plumage, 37 **Dunlin**, 27 **Black-tailed Godwits** and 18 **Common Redshank** this morning. A check there later in the afternoon found: 2 **Red Knot** still but the Curlew Sandpiper gone and now 60+ **Dunlin** and 36 **Black-tailed Godwits**. And at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory he had 28 **Red Knot**, 3 **Sanderling**, 80 **Dunlin**, 10 **Common Redshank** and 7 **Common Sandpipers**.
2. At the Add Estuary & Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll **Jim Dickson** found:, 37 **Oystercatchers**, 42 breeding plumage **Red Knot**, one **Sanderling**, 23 **Dunlin**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwits**, 22 **Curlews**, 5 **Common Sandpipers**, 2 **Greenshank** and 145 **Common Redshank**. Also a 2nd sum/winter male **Hen Harrier** over the Moine Mhor and 12 **Dunlin** at Loch Gilp.
3. Meanwhile, on Oronsay (Colonsay) Luke Wake's highlights were: 22+ **Dunlin**, 5 **Sanderling**, 15 **Black-Tailed Godwits**, 2 **Bar-Tailed Godwits** (1 in breeding plumage), a **Whimbrel**, a **Turnstone** and one **Little Tern** and Mike Peacock saw 3 **Red Knot**.
4. On Tiree it was a similar story, with 13 adult **Red Knot**, 15 **Dunlin**, 80 adult **Black-tailed Godwits** and 20 **Curlews** at Loch a' Phuill this afternoon (John Bowler).

It's an ill wind...

Also, a 1hr sea-watch in SSW7 at lunch-time from Hynish, Tiree produced (all heading SW): 92 **Fulmars**, 580 **Manx Shearwaters**, 8 **Storm Petrels**, 144 **Northern Gannets**, 126 large auks, 14 **Kittiwakes** and 22 **Puffins**. A fledged brood of **Common Chiffchaffs** emerged today at Balephuill, also 4 **Common Redpolls** there and the 2CY **Glaucous Gull** was again at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

An adult **Mediterranean Gull** was reported off Ardrishaig, Mid-Argyll this morning (Stuart Witts).

**15 July:** A **Green Woodpecker** was seen at Aros Park, Mull today, flying in the direction of the car park (Ryan P Deal). Green Woodpeckers are rare birds in Argyll. They have been reported occasionally on Mull in the past, the last record being in 2004.

A walk up Glen Strae, North Argyll (N. Of Dalmally) today found the following species: not far from car park a nice male **Whinchat** with at least two still dependent juveniles. The ponds have now had several artificial nests on poles put into the water, and three **Mandarin Ducks** were swimming around, juveniles and/or in eclipse. Also a male and female adult **Teal**

plus one well grown duckling and about 20 **Mallard**, most well into eclipse.

Also one **Common Raven**, one **Sand Martin**, a male **Common Redstart** with either a female or a juvenile, a nice **Tree Pipit** in the scrubby woodland by the bridge up the hill, and a few **Meadow Pipits**, but no sign of any still feeding young.

In Oban harbour the **Black Guillemots** seem to be doing well with five or six on the sea by the nest holes by the Corran Halls this afternoon, and two flew into (different nests) with fish in a 15 minute watch this evening. And the Oban **Common Swifts** are still around - at least ten flying low over High Street in the drizzle on Monday morning (Mike Anderson).

**13 July:** Today at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, a 5hr sea-watch with light rain / poor visibility produced the following, all moving S: 570 **Manx Shearwaters** (2hrs), 14 **Storm Petrels** (4hrs) and the first **Red Knot** recorded at MSBO this year, as well as a few Oystercatchers (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree, the 2CY **Glaucous Gull** and 2CY **Iceland Gull** were still on the Traigh Bhi machair this afternoon and 4 **Common Redpolls** were at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**11 July:** Still relatively quiet at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory today but 5 **Common Scoter** flying south and 11 **Common Sandpipers** also flying south, including a flock of 5. An adult **Rock Pipit** with leucistic / aberrant plumage was photographed. Four adult **Dunlin** were Strath Farm pool (The Laggan) (Eddie Maguire).



Unusual Rock Pipit – MSBO, Kintyre 11 Jul (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree, 5 **Whooper Swans**, a breeding plumaged **Red-throated Diver**, 36 **Golden Plover**, 25 **Dunlin**, a **Great Skua** and 160 **Sand Martins** at Loch a' Phuill this afternoon (John Bowler).

**10 July:** A nice adult drake **Surf Scoter** was found in the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre today. Also there; a total of 276 **Common Scoter** (mainly males). good numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** and eclipse drake **Eiders** and 8 **Red-throated Divers** (Jim Dickson).

A **Pectoral Sandpiper** arrived on Tiree this afternoon, in the rain (John Bowler). He says it felt like autumn!

**09 July:** Following records in 2012 and 2014 another **Reed Warbler** was trapped at Aros Moss CES, nr. Campbeltown early this morning (Neil Brown)

A total of 38 **Common Terns** feeding off Ardrishaig this morning (Jim Dickson).

Today on Oronsay a **Common Quail** was singing near the farm yard and 3 **Black-Tailed Godwits** were on the South End. Also a **Whimbrel**, 4 **Little Terns** and a raft of 45 **Shags** at sea (Luke Wake).



Reed Warbler – Aros Moss, Kintyre 09 Jul (Neil Brown).

On Gunna Island, Tiree today: one **Canada Goose**, one **Barnacle Goose**, a **Sandwich Tern** and a **Short-eared Owl**. Also a male **Greenfinch** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

The smart first summer **Iceland Gull** is still on Iona and was seen today (Tim Parmenter).

**08 July:** This female **Corn Crake** photographed on Oronsay, Colonsay today had a brood of 5 small young, one of which can be seen in the photo (Mike Peacock).



Corn Crake and young - Oronsay, Colonsay 08 Jul (Mike Peacock).

A Eurasian **Nuthatch** has been at a bird feeder in garden at Pennyghael, Mull for last few days (Nigel Burch and Loki per Alan Spellman). Nuthatches now seem to be appearing fairly regularly on Mull.

Three **Greenshank** were at Ardencaple, Seil, Mid-Argyll this evening (David Jardine).

**06 July:** A female **Northern Goshawk** was seen in Scammadale, Mid-Argyll today, being mobbed by a female Sparrowhawk (from the local breeding pair), which chased it off. (Rob Lightfoot). First time he has seen this species in Argyll.

**05 July:** As in May, relatively few mainland Argyll WeBS Counts were carried out in June, partly due to other survey commitments. However they included some notable sightings; among them, 2 **Curlew Sandpipers** at Loch Craignish (Mid-Argyll) on 12 June; 340 **Common Eiders** (nearly all males – 328) in Loch Long (Cowal) on 18 June; 15 **Eurasian Wigeon**, 5 **Dunlin**, 6 **Greenshank**, 7 **Common Sandpipers** at Loch Tulla (North Argyll) on 14 June and in the Sound of Gigha (Kintyre) on 16 June, 15 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were starting to form a moult assembly and in an unusual piece of behaviour, one of two adult **Red-throated**

**Divers** was apparently passing a fish to the other.

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

These **Spotted Flycatchers** were enjoying the abundant insect life at Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll today (Bill Alexander).



Spotted Flycatcher - Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll 05 Jul (Bill Alexander).



Spotted Flycatcher - Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll 05 Jul (Bill Alexander).

A male **House Sparrow** was a cheering sight in St Catherine's, Cowal a few days ago. In the 12 years Graham Thomas has lived there he'd never seen one locally, although they are common in Strachur (4 miles south) and Cairndow (5 miles north) (Graham Thomas). On Tiree today; a **Common Quail** and a **Grasshopper Warbler** singing at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**04 July:** Eddie had a close encounter with 2 eclipse drake **Gadwall**, right outside Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre this afternoon (Eddie Maguire).





Eclipse male Gadwall – Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre 04 Jul (Eddie Maguire).



Eclipse male Gadwall – Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre 04 Jul (Eddie Maguire).  
On Tiree, the 2CY **Iceland Gull** was at Loch a' Phuill this afternoon: also a **Red-throated Diver**, an adult **Bar-tailed Godwit** and a **Greenshank** there (John Bowler).  
On the ferry back from Colonsay today, 6 **Common Scoters** were seen at Feolin, Jura (David Jardine).

**03 July:** Two **Greenshank** at Arinagour, Coll today (Sean Jacques).  
A single **Whooper Swan** was at Loch an Eilein, Tiree (John Bowler).

**02 July:** A **Hobby** flew over David Sexton's garden in Salen, Mull today; heading south pursued by Common Gulls (David Sexton - Mull RSPB Officer).  
Two **Sandwich Terns** at Scarinish, Tiree today (John Bowler).  
Begging calls of young **Long-eared Owls** heard from 22:45 onwards this evening, from coniferous woodland near the Lodge, Arinagour, Coll (Sean Jacques). John Bowler (RSPB - Tiree) comments: "this record follows a recent spate of autumn records on Coll in 2011-12, followed by an incubating bird in an old heron nest in the Gallanach plantation in May 2014. This is the first proven successful breeding on the island and adds weight to the theory that the species has established a breeding toe-hold on the island in recent years (when formerly it was just a vagrant)."

**01 July:** No less than four **European Bee-eaters** were found between Upper Cragabus and Coillabus, The Oa, Islay this afternoon (Mike Hordley and Elisabeth Morrison). There has been something of an influx of Bee-eaters to the UK this spring/summer.  
A **Hobby** was seen briefly at the Add Estuary/ Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll at 09:15 this morning

(John Halliday).

A single **Spotted Flycatcher** was seen at Acha, Coll today (Sean Jacques).

Today on Oronsay, 3 **Common Swifts** and a **Black-tailed Godwit** on the south end (Mike Peacock).



Black-tailed Godwit - Oronsay, Colonsay 01 Jul (Mike Peacock).