

## RECENT REPORTS October 2015

**31 October:** Highlights of the Argyll Bird Club Sound of Gigha field trip: 5 **Pink-footed Geese** in with good numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese, 10 male **Long-tailed Ducks**, numerous Great Northern Divers (some very close to), a group of Red-legged Partridges, 10+ Slavonian Grebes, an adult **Little Gull**, a female Blackcap and 40 Twite. An excellent total of 61 species (Jim Dickson).

An immature/female Greater Scaup was newly arrived at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree today; Also there were: 365 Whooper Swans, the drake **American Wigeon**, 4 Gadwall, 102 Tufted Ducks and 17 Common Goldeneyes. And elsewhere on Tiree; a female Blackcap, 230 Fieldfares (inc. 110 heading south), 22 Goldfinches and a Siskin at Balephuill; 2 Sparrowhawks and a Woodcock and at Carnan Mor and 3 Common Chiffchaffs, a male Blackcap, a Pied Wagtail, a White Wagtail, 10 Goldfinches and 23 Linnets between Sorobaidh Bay and Balemartine (John Bowler).

**30 October:** Today at Loch Gilp: 8 Goosanders....probably the same 8 that have been at the Add Estuary recently? Also continual groups of up to 3-400 thrushes going over/heading S this morning. And a single **Pink-footed Goose** with Canada Geese at Drimvore this morning (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree: some 610 Fieldfares and 550 Redwings in mixed flocks at Balephuill today, also a Common Chiffchaff, a female Blackcap and 15 Goldfinches there; still some 350 Whooper Swans at Loch a' Phuill and 2 **Sooty Shearwaters** off Hynish (John Bowler). Also on Tiree: a male Blackcap at Milton (Christian Verstraete).

**29 October:** Migrant thrushes, often in large numbers, everywhere today. At Strath Farm (The Laggan) Kintyre ; a huge arrival of Fieldfares (ca 2,500) and Redwings (ca 1500) at Strath east and west pools. Both fields were absolutely littered with birds (Eddie Maguire). Approx. 150 Fieldfares on Oronsay, Colonsay this morning and 21 Whooper Swans (inc. 5 juveniles) (Luke Wake).

Good numbers of thrushes moving through The Oa, Islay over the last week but today an impressive flock of ca 900 around Kinnabus, made up mainly of Fieldfares. Also 3 Goldcrests and a female Blackcap today (David Wood).

Several large groups of Redwings moving S at Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll at 09:00 today and a **Short-eared Owl** by the roadside... about 1km N of the Islandadd Bridge. (Jim Dickson).

Several flocks of 20 or more Redwings milling around in the mist at Tullochgorm (Minard) Mid-Argyll early this morning (Paul Daw).

On Tiree today Whooper Swan numbers at Loch a' Phuill had dropped to 344. Also at Loch a' Phuill, the drake **American Wigeon**, 11 Gadwall, 7 Pintail, 7 Common Goldeneyes and 2 Goldfinches. And at Balephuill; a 1 Goldcrest, a female Blackcap, 90 Fieldfares, 120 Redwings, 15 Goldfinches and a Red Admiral butterfly (John Bowler). Also on Tiree: a **Great Skua** off Hynish (Christian Verstraete).

At least 400 Fieldfares over Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) Mid-Argyll, about 150 Fieldfares over Dunamuck nr. Bridgend and about 300 Redwings. Also a Jay at the Moine Mhor forest carrying an acorn (Jim Dickson).

**28 October:** In Kintyre today: 21 Whooper Swans flew over Campbeltown Airport and an impressive 167 Great Northern Divers were counted in the northern part of the Sound of

Gigha with 2 Red-throated Divers, 23 **Slavonian Grebes** and a **Long-tailed Duck** (Chris Bradshaw & Andy McKee).

At Strath Farm (The Laggan), Kintyre this morning a large fall of Redwings with loose flock of 350+ around the east pool. Surprisingly, also 5 **Shoveler** there (Eddie Maguire).

In Dunoon, 86 Turnstones and 7 Purple Sandpipers at Crazy Golf after high tide today (George Newall).

Yet another site record at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree today with an impressive 402 Whooper Swans: also there, the drake **American Wigeon**, 11 Gadwall, 260 Teal and 7 Pintail.

Elsewhere on Tiree: 22 Greenland White-fronted Geese flying south over Balephuill at 08:30h; a small arrival at Balephuill included 1 Goldcrest, 1 **Barn Swallow**, a male & a female Blackcap, 1 Fieldfare, 130 Redwings and a Mistle Thrush and some 1,000+ Redwings scattered around West Tiree in groups of up to 250 today (John Bowler/ Colin MacFarlane).

A late **Barn Swallow** flew up Jim's street in Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll this morning and a Grey Wagtail was feeding on a house roof opposite. A group of 12 Whooper Swans apparently disorientated in the mist have been circling around all day and put down briefly at the small loch between Cairnbaan and Barnakill (Jim Dickson).

**27 October:** On Tiree today: a record count of 364 Whooper Swans at Loch a' Phuill and the drake **American Wigeon** was still present there. Elsewhere on Tiree: 15 Pale-bellied Brent Geese at Gott Bay, a Fieldfare and a male Blackcap at Balephuill, a Common Chiffchaff and a male Blackcap at The Glebe and 750 Barnacle Geese at Balephetrish. Also several Silver Y moths seen flying today (these moths have been widespread in Mid-Argyll in the past week or two – P.D.) (John Bowler). Also 2 **Barn Swallows** at Balinoe (Colin MacFarlane).

In Kintyre today: 4 Whooper Swans with 41 Greenland White-fronted Geese and 8 Barnacle Geese in roadside fields between Kilchenzie and Campbeltown; at least 670 Redwings flew mostly S over near Peninver early morning – flocks moving over throughout the first hour of light. Also smaller numbers of Fieldfares, a few Blackbirds and 3 **Bramblings** involved with the same movement and 85 Redwings feeding in fields at Gobagrennan with 47 Fieldfares (Chris Bradshaw & Andy McKee).

**26 October:** A **Nuthatch** was moving through high in the canopy in woods adjacent to the road at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary, Mid-Argyll this afternoon and four Whooper Swans and 10 Mute Swans were at Loch Gilp (Jim Dickson).

The **Great Grey Shrike** was still at the Duncan Ban Monument, Dalmally but elusive. Also there were 2 Common Buzzards, a pair of Common Kestrels, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, a party of **Common Crossbills** and a Reed Bunting (Bob Grove).

A dark morph adult **Arctic Skua** flew S past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre today, in an easterly near-gale, followed by 2 Pale-bellied Brent Geese and a Goosander (Eddie Maguire).

A lunch-time check of Loch a' Phuill, Tiree revealed a big arrival of Whooper Swans: a total of 287 including 57 cygnets. Also 34 Greenland White-fronted Geese there as well as the drake **American Wigeon**. Elsewhere on Tiree: one Barn Swallow, 2 Goldfinches and 35 Linnets at Meningie and 35 Whooper Swans flying in-off the sea at The Green at 15:00hrs (John Bowler).

**25 October:** A Single **Pink-footed Goose** was in amongst a flock of Barnacle Geese on Oronsay, Colonsay today and Luke has just received details of a colour ringed Ringed Plover

seen there on 23 Aug. It had first been ringed on Iceland on 03 Jun 2014 and subsequently seen at Port Saint Jacques in France on 14 Mar 2015. Next found sitting on a clutch of eggs back in Iceland on 29 Jun this year and last seen at Dawlish Warren NNR, Devon on 30 Aug (Luke Wake).

The flock of Wigeon at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll is now at 282 birds. At Moine Mhor 650 Redwings were in fields in the Drimvore area and a Great Spotted Woodpecker, 10+ Goldcrests, a Grey Wagtail, 45 Common Chaffinches and a single **Brambling** in the Moine Mhor forest area. At the Add Estuary, 4 Whooper Swans flew over and the second winter **Caspian Gull** (the Loch Gilp bird) was seen bathing before flying off to Loch Crinan (Jim Dickson).

A **Firecrest** was reported in a garden at Achinreir Barcaldine, North Argyll (Andy Dale).

**24 October:** On Tiree today a dramatic fall of **Redwings** was noted at Balephuill at 15:00-15:15. Some 300 birds dropping vertically out of the sky with wings closed until last moment; in groups from a great height (high cloud) and descending into trees in the garden with a whooshing sound – quite amazing to watch!

Elsewhere on Tiree: the juvenile **Lesser Yellowlegs** relocated briefly with 6 **Common Redshank** on roadside pool near Heylipol Church at 14:10hrs before all flushed off towards Loch a' Phuill; drake **American Wigeon** again at Loch a' Phuill with 3 **Common Goldeneyes**; 15 **Common Scoter** headed south off Sandaig; 1 **Snow Bunting** and 3 **Lesser Redpolls** at Scarinish (Toby Green); 1 **Common Chiffchaff** at Sorobaidh Bay creek; 1 **White Wagtail** at Balemartine; 1 **Greenland Wheatear** at West Hynish and a **Common Chiffchaff**, 12 **Redwing** and 2 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill in the morning (John Bowler).



White Wagtail – Balemartine, Tiree 24 Oct (John Bowler).



Redwings dropping from the sky – Balephuill, Tiree 24 Oct (John Bowler).

**23 October:** The **Great Grey Shrike** is still in the same area nr. Dalmally, North Argyll where it was found on Tuesday (20 Oct). Seen by Simon Pinder around 13:00 onward and still in the area when Jim left about 14:30. Generally 2-300metres away and no closer than about 80 metres. It could go missing for spells of 10 minutes or so....presumably lost in dead ground amongst tree stumps (Jim Dickson/ Simon Pinder).



Great Grey Shrike near Dalmally, North Argyll 23 Oct (Jim Dickson).



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Today at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll: *ca* 160 **Wigeon**, 2 **Red Knot**, 13 **Dunlin** and 24 **Bar-tailed Godwits**. **Wigeon** numbers seemed higher at Add estuary with *ca* 280 and an adult male **Hen Harrier** was also there (John Halliday).

On Tiree today; The drake **American Wigeon** had moved to Loch a' Phuill this lunch-time – 38 **Whooper Swans**, 72 **Tufted Ducks**, 5 **Common Goldeneyes** and 6 **Redwings** also there. Elsewhere: 6 **Leach's Storm-petrels** flew SW past Hynish in 1 hr this afternoon (1 **Fieldfare** and 5 **Redwings** also at Hynish) and 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, 45 **Redwings** and 2 **Siskins** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

Also on Tiree; 18 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** flew south past Hynish this morning, a single **Barn Swallow** was at Sandaig and a **Common Chiffchaff** at Sorobaidh Bay creek (Toby Green).

**22 October:** At last, the weather's turned bad and the sea-watchers are smiling again! A 2 hour sea-watch from first light this morning at Aird, Tiree in wind force 8 with squalls produced (all heading west): one **Sooty Shearwater**, 4 **Leach's Storm-petrels**, one **Grey Phalarope** and 2 juvenile **Sabine's Gulls** as well as 3 **Red-throated Divers**, 45 **Great Northern Divers**, 81 **Fulmars**, 3 **Manx Shearwaters**, 935 **Northern Gannets**, 3 **Pomarine Skuas**, 10 **Arctic Skuas**, 25 **Great Skuas**, 123 **Kittiwakes**, 165 large auks and 52 **Black Guillemots**. Also 1 **Manx Shearwater**, 1 **Arctic Tern** and 2 **Pomarine Skuas** seen later on by Toby Green

Also on Tiree: the drake **American Wigeon** was at **Loch Bhasapol** again this morning but no further sign of the Lesser Yellowlegs; 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** and 1 **Siskin** at Balephuill and one **Common Chiffchaff** at Sorobaidh Bay creek (John Bowler).

Meanwhile a watch at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, 08:30- 14:30 hrs, produced: 9 **Brent Geese**, 3 **Great Northern Divers**, 315 **Northern Gannets**, 29 **Leach's Storm-petrels**, 3 **Great Skuas**, 2,814 **Kittiwakes**, 377 **Common Guillemots** and 2 **Black Guillemots** (Eddie Maguire).



Northern Gannet – MSBO, Kintyre 22 Oct (Eddie Maguire).



Leach's Storm-petrel – over a 'provocative' sea at MSBO 22 Oct (Eddie Maguire).



Leach's Storm-petrel – over a 'provocative' sea at MSBO 22 Oct (Eddie Maguire).

Quieter at the Add Estuary with a single male **Common Goldeneye** along with a slight increase in **Wigeon** numbers to 292 birds (Jim Dickson).





male Common Goldeneye – Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll 22 Oct (Jim Dickson).

**21 October:** Nine **Greenland White-fronted Geese** were at the Ulva Lagoons, Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll this afternoon; the first reported there this autumn (Peter and Val Douglas). On Tiree today: a juvenile **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Corraig Crossroads; adult drake **American Wigeon** and 28 **Barnacle Geese** flying over S at Loch Bhasapol; 7 **Pintail**, 6 **Shoveler** and 2 **Common Goldeneyes** at Loch a' Phuill; 3 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at Sorobaidh Bay and 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, a **Brambling** and a male **Siskin** at Balephuill (John Bowler).



Lesser Yellowlegs – Corraig Crossroads, Tiree 21 Oct (John Bowler).



Lesser Yellowlegs – Corraig Crossroads, Tiree 21 Oct (John Bowler).

Close encounter. The **Nuthatch** that has been visiting a garden at Pennyghael, Mull returned today. After feeding on peanuts it perched on a chimney pot calling, then fell down the chimney to the hearth (lucky no fire in) shook itself and flew into a window! I was still conscious, so it was warmed up and rested for a while. When active, it was taken outside where it flew up onto roof, rested a couple of minutes then flew off (Nigel Burch and Loki per Alan Spellman).

**20 October:** A **Great Grey Shrike** was found sometime after 14:30 today near Dalmally, North Argyll at NN 145 263 (Andy Robinson). Great Grey Shrikes are very scarce visitors to Argyll, with only five records in the past 20 years.



Great Grey Shrike – near Dalmally, North Argyll 20 Oct (Andy Robinson).



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Great Grey Shrike – near Dalmally, North Argyll 20 Oct (Andy Robinson).



There were 106 **Turnstones** but only 3 **Purple Sandpipers** at the Crazy Golf, Dunoon today: the Turnstone numbers are almost twice as many as George has seen there before (George Newall).

Most of the mainland **Argyll WeBS Counts** for October are now in and the September and October counts have been added to the website.

Notable sightings in October included: 34 **Mute Swans**, 10 **Whooper Swans** and 137 **Greater Canada Geese** at Loch Sween; good numbers of **Eurasian Wigeon** (including 81 at Holy Loch, 258 at Loch Crinan, 184 at Loch Gilp and 108 at Loch Sween); 43 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Loch Craignish; 8 **Goosanders** at Loch Crinan; 32 **Shags** and 16 **Grey Herons** at Loch Creran and 35 **Shags** and 27 **Grey Herons** at Loch Etive; 19 **Little Grebes** at Loch Etive and 17 **Little Grebes** at Loch Sween; good numbers of **Oystercatchers** (including 242 at Holy Loch, 107 at Loch Crinan, 250 at Loch Gilp and 141 at Loch Long) and 14 **Black Guillemots** at Loch Creran.

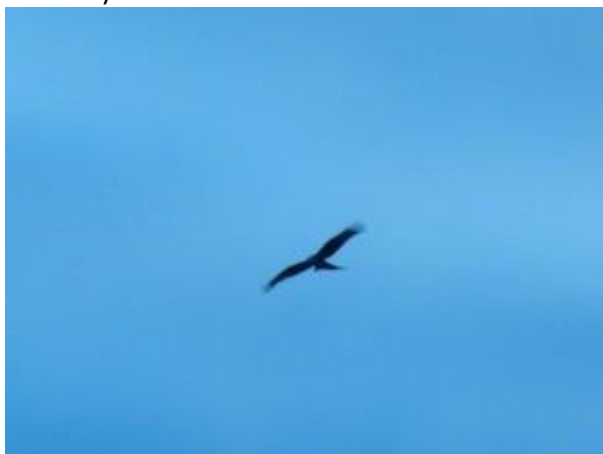
Highlights in September included: 62 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Loch Craignish and a **White-tailed Eagle** at Loch Etive.

**The full table of counts for September & October 2015 can be found under the WeBS Count tab.**

At least 90 **Redwings** and 2 **Siskins** at Colonsay House, Colonsay and 6 **Manx Shearwaters** seen between Coll and Tiree (John Bowler).

The drake **American Wigeon** first found on 14 Sep at Ardnave Loch, Islay was present today: it has been regularly reported since Sep (per Ian Brooke).

**19 October:** A **Red Kite** was seen over Ormsary, Knapdale, Mid-Argyll this morning (Errol Crutchfield). One (possibly the same bird?) was also reported from Cluanach, Islay in the morning (per Ian Brooke) and another Red Kite was reported from Loch Frisa, Mull on 5 Oct (per Alan Spellman – Mullbirds).



Red Kite – Ormsary, Mid-Argyll 19 Oct (Errol Crutchfield).

**18 October:** Two **Common Goldeneyes** and 2 **Little Grebes** on the reservoir SE of Loch Fada, Colonsay (John Bowler).

**17 October:** **Short-eared Owl** and adult **White-tailed Eagle** seen during a walk out to Beinn Shiantaidh, Jura, then 5 **Dippers** and small flocks of **Redwings** along the Corran river and ca250 **Redwings** in the woodland around Craighouse (Mike Peacock).



Dipper – River Corran, Jura 17 Oct (Mike Peacock).

Exceptional weather for the WeBS Count at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll today: birds found included a total of 17 **Little Grebes** and 34 **Mute Swans**, 10 **Whooper Swans** and 137 **Greater Canada Geese** at Ulva Lagoons (Paul Daw).

Also glorious weather for a trip over to Gigha this morning. At the south end of the island Janet and David Jardine had three raptors moving through – flying south out to sea – a **Merlin**, **Sparrowhawk** and a **Hen Harrier**: a nice piece of visual migration. There was also a **Barn Swallow** in Ardminish, a **Purple Sandpiper** with **Turnstones** at Dubh Sgier at the north end of the island and a **Water Rail** at Tarbert.

This male **Pintail** that turned up on a pond near Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll looks like a first winter bird. It's been coming with Mallards for the past few days (Bill Alexander).



Pintail – near Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll 17 Oct (Bill Alexander).



Pintail – near Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll 17 Oct (Bill Alexander).

A very late **Common Quail** was calling in the field edge on the last corner before one goes down to the new hide at Loch Gruinart, Islay. The observer has heard the call several times before and checked it against a recording. There have been previous Scottish records as late as early Nov (Mike Anderson).

On Colonsay today: 2 **Water Rails**, a male **Blackcap**, 3 **Fieldfares** and 2 **Siskins** at Colonsay House and 8 **Whooper Swans**, 2 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** and 2 **Common Goldeneyes** at Loch Fada (John Bowler).

**16 October:** In North Argyll, 30+ **Redwings** were in the fields either side of drive leading in to the Hawthorns restaurant just outside Benderloch and 12 or more were at Port Appin on the same day (Dave Higgins).

**15 October:** A **Little Egret** was seen on the shore at Ardtorna, between Benderloch and Barcaldine, North Argyll today (Dave Higgins).

The **Rose-coloured Starling** first reported on Islay on 20 Aug was still around today and a **Common Kingfisher** was reported from Loch Skerrols (per Ian Brooke).

**14 October:** A flock of around 120 **Redwings** were over Upper Soroba (just south of Oban) late morning today (Jim Dickson).

A **Yellow-browed Warbler** was at Kinnabus, Islay today, as well as a **Grey Wagtail** and the first **Great Tit** of the year! (David Wood).



Yellow-browed Warbler – Kinnabus, Islay 14 Oct (David Wood).

At least 100 **Redwings** at first light post-roost at Balephuill, Tiree – most soon headed south. Also 4 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, 2 **Blackcaps**, 2 **Dunnocks** and 7 **Common Redpolls** there but little else new in the clear skies (John Bowler).

This evening at Ardencaple, Seil, Mid-Argyll 150 **Redwings** and ca10 **Fieldfares** (David Jardine).

**13 October:** At the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre today: 58 **Common Scoters**, 2 **Red-throated Divers**, 12 **Black-throated Divers**, 14 **Great Northern Divers**, 10 **Razorbills**, 7 **Black Guillemots**, 8 Bottle-nosed Dolphins and a Harbour Porpoise. Inland from Lenaig Farm, Kintyre and up the hill a bit – 100's of **Redwings** and a few **Fieldfares** (John Nadin). **Barnacle Geese** could be heard flying over Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll this morning (Jim Dickson). In fantastic weather and flat calm conditions on Islay today: a flock of 63 **Common Scoter**, a male **Long-tailed Duck**, 4 **Red-throated Divers**, 6 **Great Northern Divers** and 9 **Slavonian**

**Grebes** at Blackrock, Loch Indaal and at Gortantaoid – 2 **Hen Harriers**, a **Sparrowhawk**, a **Common Kestrel**, a **Redwing**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and 23 **Twite** (Mike Peacock).



Barnacle Geese – Gruinart Flats, Islay 13 Oct (Mike Peacock).



Slavonian Grebes – Blackrock, Loch Indaal, Islay 13 Oct (Mike Peacock).



Spotted Flycatcher – Gortantaoid Islay 13 Oct (Mike Peacock).

The first **Greenland White-fronted Geese** (9) and **Whooper Swans** (13) appeared at the Oa, Islay today (David Wood).

On Tiree: a **Grey Wagtail** south over Balephuill at 14:50hrs; 12 **Chaffinches** at Balephuill, a **Goldcrest** at Carnan Mor, 20 **Barnacle Geese** flying south at Sandaig at 12:00hrs and 53 **Whooper Swans** and 3 **Pintail** at Loch a' Phuill (John Bowler).

**12 October:** A total of 17,150 **Barnacle Geese** so far at Loch Gruinart, Islay (James How). A flock of 18 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** today near Lenaig Farm (Rhunahaorine),



Kintyre (John Nadin).

On Tiree today: 2 **Grey Phalaropes** headed west off Upper Vault in a big movement down the Minch of 87 **Northern Gannets**, 1,060 **Kittiwakes** and 720 large auks in an hour; 18 **Whooper Swans** headed south over The Reef in 3 groups this morning in 1 hour; 82 **Whooper Swans** at Loch an Eilein; 11 **Whooper Swans** at Loch Riaghain; 18 **Whooper Swans**, 7 **Pintail** and 55 **Tufted Duck** at Loch a' Phuill; one **Common Chiffchaff** at The Glebe and 2 **Goldcrests**, 4 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, 3 **Redwings** and 7 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill (John Bowler).



Whooper Swans – Loch an Eilein, Tiree 12 Oct (John Bowler).



Common Chiffchaff – The Glebe, Tiree 12 Oct (John Bowler).



Whooper Swans – The Reef, Tiree 12 Oct (John Bowler).

**11 October:** On Tiree today: 550+ **Barnacle Geese** south off the Minch 14:00-15:30hrs in groups of up to 120 heading to Islay. Elsewhere, 1 **Great Skua** off The Ringing Stone plus 42

**Barnacle Geese** on the fields there; a **Lapland Bunting** with **Sky Larks** at Balephetrish and one **Goldcrest**, 8 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, 1 female **Blackcap**, 1 **Northern Wheatear**, 6 **Common Chaffinches**, 45 **Goldfinches** and 7 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill. And late p.m., a **Woodcock** and a **Short-eared Owl** at Balephuill (John Bowler).

**Barnacle Geese** trickling in on Oronsay too – 117 first thing today, building to 350ish by the evening. Also 3 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** – otherwise a longing for all those migrants tantalisingly close on Tiree! (Andy Knight, Oronsay RSPB Manager – welcome to our new contributor).



Barnacle Geese off Tiree 11 Oct (John Bowler).

**10 October:** The Polish ringed **Mediterranean Gull** (see Recent Reports 18 Sep for details) was back at Blackmill Bay, Luing today.



Mediterranean Gull – Blackmill Bay, Luing, Mid-Argyll 10 Oct (David Jardine).



Mediterranean Gull – Blackmill Bay, Luing, Mid-Argyll 10 Oct (David Jardine).



On Tiree today: an immature **Ring Ouzel** was seen with 5 **Redwings** near the pumping station at Loch a' Phuill briefly this morning and 18 **Whooper Swans**, 3 **Pintail** and 39 **Tufted Ducks** were also at Loch a' Phuill. Also on Tiree: a **Merlin**, a **Goldcrest**, 8 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, 2 **Blackcaps**, a **Grey Wagtail**, 2 **Common Chaffinches**, 4 **Greenfinches**, 45 **Goldfinches** (roost) and 7 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill; 12 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** still at West Hynish, 3 **Common Chiffchaffs** at Sorobaidh Bay creek; a **Common Chiffchaff**, 7 **Robins** and 15 **Goldfinches** at Balemartine and ca40 **Meadow Pipits**, 4 **Pied Wagtails** and an adult **White Wagtail** on the beach at Hynish (John Bowler).

Four **Little Grebes** (2 adults + 2 immatures) at the Add Estuary today were first seen there by Mike Anderson on 8 Oct. A flock of 21 **Redwings** flew over Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).

**09 October:** A single **Redwing** and four or five **Goldfinches** including a juvenile (feeding on Niger seeds) were in a garden in Dunoon this afternoon (George Newall).

A flock of 18 **Mistle Thrushes** were near Crinan Ferry (Moine Mhor), Mid-Argyll this morning (Jim Dickson).

On Tiree today: one **Goldcrest**, 8 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs**, 1 male **Blackcap**, 1 **Redwing**, 7 **Common Redpolls** and 25 **Meadow Pipits** (flying over) at Balephuill; 7 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at Sorobaidh Bay, one **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** and 1 **White Wagtail** at Gott Bay, one **Northern Wheatear** at Sandaig and 25 **Whooper Swans** at Loch an Eilein (John Bowler).

**08 October:** On Tiree today: 2 **Goldcrests**, 1 **Common Chiffchaff**, 1 male/1 female **Blackcap**, 1 **Dunnock**, 25 **Goldfinches** and 7 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill and one **Northern Wheatear** and 35 **Barn Swallows** at the Reef (John Bowler).

**07 October:** Today at 14:00hrs a **Kingfisher** landed outside Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre – a **first for the Observatory!** (Eddie Maguire).

On the Oa, Islay today: one **Goldcrest**, 8 **Redwings**, 4 **Northern Wheatears** and a flock of ca30 **Redpolls** at Upper Killeyan contained at least one **Common Redpoll** type among Lessers (David Wood).

A flock of ca 30 **Redwings** flying SE over Minard Woods, Mid-Argyll at 08:30 this morning (Paul Daw) and ca 10 **Goldcrests** at Cairnbaan, Mid-Argyll (Jim Dickson).



Common Kingfisher – MSBO, Kintyre 07 Oct (Eddie Maguire).

On Tiree today, at Balephuill: a '**Siberian**' **Chiffchaff** (*tristis*) so far evading the camera, as well as a **Goldcrest**, 1 **Common Chiffchaff** (*collybita*), 1 **Willow Warbler**, 6 **Blackcaps**, 7 **Barn Swallows**, 12 **Redwings**, a late **Spotted Flycatcher**, 1 **Northern Wheatear**, at least 6 **Robins**,

45 **Goldfinches**, 5 **Common Chaffinches** and 7 **Common Redpolls**. Also 7 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at Sorobaidh Bay and a **Blackcap** at Melness, Cornaigbeg (John Bowler).



Common Redpoll – Balephuill, Tiree 07 Oct (John Bowler).



Robin – Balephuill, Tiree 07 Oct (John Bowler).



Redwing – Balephuill, Tiree 07 Oct (John Bowler).

**06 October:** On Tiree today: 13 **Whooper Swans** flying south over Balephuill at 08:30 hrs with another 12 south there at 11:15; 12 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at West Hynish; 4 **Pale-**

**bellied Brent Geese** at Sorobaidh Bay; 8 **Whooper Swans** and a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Loch a' Phuill; 37 **Whooper Swans** and single **Gadwall** and **Pintail** at Loch an Eilein; one **Goldcrest**, 6 **Barn Swallows**, 1 **Common Chiffchaff**, 1 **Willow Warbler**, 4 **Blackcaps**, 4 **Redwings**, 2 **Common Chaffinches**, a **Brambling**, 45 **Goldfinches** and 7 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill and a **Common Chaffinch** and a **Northern Wheatear** at the Glebe (John Bowler). Two **Northern Gannets** heading down the Clyde from Loch Long, Cowal and one sub-adult heading up Loch Long: also three **Common Guillemots** (George Newall).



Gadwall with Whooper Swan – Loch an Eilein, Tiree 06 Oct (John Bowler).

**05 October:** The first 4 **Barnacle Geese** were back on Tiree, at Ruaig, today. Elsewhere on Tiree: 41 **Whooper Swans** at Loch an Eilein and 22 more at Loch a' Phuill; 23 **Barn Swallows** at Ruaig; **Northern Wheatears** at Kilkenneth and Ruaig; a **Canada Goose** at Baugh; 30 **Goldfinches** at Balephuill and 80 **Rock Doves** feeding on traditional corn stooks at Whitehouse (John Bowler).



Whooper Swans – Loch an Eilein, Tiree 05 Oct (John Bowler).



Barnacle Geese – Ruaig, Tiree 05 Oct (John Bowler).





Rock Doves – Whitehouse, Tiree 05 Oct (John Bowler).

**04 October:** The flock of **Greater Canada Goose** at Port Appin, North Argyll was at least 120 strong this morning; it seems to get bigger every year. No sign of any other geese yet round the peninsula, but two very noisy **Ravens** overhead (Mike Anderson).

A **Little Egret** at Fidden, Mull today (David Woodhouse/Arthur Brown).

On Tiree: 6 **Barn Swallows**, a **Lesser Whitethroat**, a **Common Chaffinch**, a **Siskin** and 12 **Common Redpolls** at Balephuill; 3 **Pintail** and a **White Wagtail** at Loch a' Phuill and a **Moorhen** at Sandaig (John Bowler).

**03 October:** On Tiree: no sign of the Baird's Sandpiper at Sorobaidh Bay this morning – just the 9 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** there. Elsewhere, a **Lesser Whitethroat** and a **Siskin** were new arrivals at Balephuill together with 2 **Goldcrests**, 2 **Willow Warblers**, 6 **Blackcaps**, 6 **Lesser Redpolls** and 12 **Common Redpolls**; 3 **Common Chiffchaffs** at Sorobaidh Bay creek and a single **Common Chiffchaff** at Balemartine (John Bowler).



Siskin – Balephuill, Tiree 03 Oct (John Bowler).



Lesser Whitethroat – Balephuill, Tiree 03 Oct (John Bowler).



Lesser Whitethroat – Balephuill, Tiree 03 Oct (John Bowler).

**02 October:** On Tiree today, a juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** at Sorobaidh Bay this afternoon was presumable the Hough Bay bird: 9 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** were also there. At Balephuill: 2 **Willow Warblers**, a **Common Chiffchaff**, 2male/3 female **Blackcaps**, 3 newly arrived **Bramblings**, 6 **Lesser Redpolls** and up to 12 **Common Redpolls**. Also, 8 **Whooper Swans** and 2 **Ruffs** at Loch an Eilein; 5 **Whooper Swans**, a **Gadwall**, 210 **Teal**, 4 **Pintail** and a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Loch a' Phuill; a **Common Chiffchaff** and a **Grey Wagtail** at The Glebe; a **Common Chiffchaff** at An Airidh; 6 **Goldfinches** at Balemartine, 16 more **Goldfinches** at West Hynish and 25-30 more at Vaul. (John Bowler/Jim Dickson). An Autumn Green Carpet and Turnip Moth new for Tiree in the moth-trap last night (John Bowler).



Juv. Baird's Sandpiper (with P-b. Brent Goose) – Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree 02 Oct (John Bowler).



Juv. Baird's Sandpiper – Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree 02 Oct (John Bowler).

**01 October:** A single **Purple Sandpiper** at crazy golf, Dunoon, Cowal (George Newall). On Tiree: 1 **Jay** in off the sea at Baugh in the mist at 11.30hrs and later flew NW over The Reef – the first Tiree record (Janet Hunter/John Bowler) also 1 **Redwing** and 1 **Chaffinch** both new for the autumn at Balephuill plus 3 **Goldfinch** but no further sign of the Yellow-browed Warbler there. 40+ **Goldfinch** new at Vaul plus 1m **Blackcap** there, 2 **Goldcrest** and 1 **Chiffchaff** at The Glebe and 2 **Goldcrest** at Carnan Mor (John Bowler/Jim Dickson/Jerry Wilson).